PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

DURING THE

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

Twenty-Third General Assembly

OF

NEWFOUNDLAND

1917

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and I am satisfied you will join with me in rejoicing at the fact that Newfoundland, the oldest Colony of the Crown, was privileged to participate in this great council. The questions with which the Imperial Conference dealt, will, from time to time, form the subject of legislation by the Motherland and the Dominions concerned.

The Great War, raging now for nearly three years, continues with unabated fury, and has gradually drawn in other countries, until now the United States, hitherto the greatest neutral power, has felt compelled to draw the sword in defence of its liberties, outraged by the German nation. The advent of the American Republic into the struggle will stimulate the valour and heroic efforts of the allied nations for the bringing of the conflict to a successful conclusion, and will materially assist in hastening that end.

It must be a source of intense pride to every Newfoundlander that the participation by this country in the struggle, through its gallant sailors and soldiers, has earned for them undying glory and the recognition by their Sovereign, their commanders and the British public, of the possession by our valiant defenders of the qualities of manliness, courage and devotion to duty that are the birthright of the British people from whom they have sprung. The proud place, won by the men of both forces, has not been obtained without grievous sacrifices of life, and the inevitable accompaniment of heartbreak to hundreds of homes in this country; but, it will be a proud consolation to those who have lost representatives, that they can cherish the heritage of duty well done in the greatest crisis that has ever threatened the civilized world.

The War has necessarily caused changes in every aspect of our Colonial existence, and in none more than in the steadily growing cost of the necessaries of life. My Ministers have appointed a Commission to inquire into the questions surrounding this problem in its particular application to our own Colony, with a view to recommending such measures as may help in minimizing the burdens due to high prices. Apart from this, however, it has been borne in upon the Government that the situation calls for relief to the Civil Servants by an increase in their salaries, and the necessary measures to give effect thereto will be laid before you in due course. In the same way the claims of Education for a substantial augmentation in the grants provided for that service, have been realized by my Ministers, and you will be invited to make an additional grant for that purpose.

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 resultant surplus was applied towards the Colony's war expenditure. Another large surplus is anticipated for the fiscal year shortly to terminate, and it is proposed to apply this to the same purpose.

The Estimates for the several Departments will be laid before you shortly, and will, I am sure, receive your most favourable consideration, as, notwithstanding that they represent a large increase over those of the current year, they have been framed with due regard to economy and the exigencies of the unparalleled situation which now confronts us.

The inequality of the pay of the men of the Royal Naval Reserve, as compared with that of the men of the Newfoundland Regiment, has influenced my Ministers to take measures to remove this anomaly, and your ac-

ceptance will be invited of a measure designed to place the men of both services on the same footing.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

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

The various industries of the country were conducted with more than the ordinary measure of success during the past year, and thanks, in part, to the improved markets for the commodities which we export, the returns secured by our people for the products exported show the greatest advance for any twelve months in the Colony's history. This in turn enabled our imports to be substantially enlarged, with the result that the value of our total trade has increased from Twenty-five Million Dollars to Thirty-five Million Dollars. The present year has opened auspiciously with a successful Seal Fishery, for the fruits of which those engaged have secured unusually high prices. The outlook for the Cod Fishery is an encouraging one. It is earnestly to be hoped that conditions will prevail throughout the rest of the season which will enable this staple product to be exported at remunerative prices. At the same time whilst desiring prosperity, it is important to note that those responsible for the conduct of affairs in the Mother Country, the Great Dominions and the nations with whom we are proud to be allied, have emphasized the need of prudence and economy, both by the State and individuals, and I feel sure that you in your deliberations, and that the people in their personal pursuits, can make no mistake in practising these same virtues, and in that spirit I commend your efforts and theirs to Divine Providence.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the regular and formal work of the session, I think I shall be anticipating the wishes of this House if I propose for your consideration a Resolution of sympathy in the very great loss this House has sustained, and I may add the whole country, in the death of two of its most esteemed and worthy members. Since we last met here, only a few months ago, the senior member for St. John's East, Mr. Dwyer, and one of the members for St. John's West, Mr. Kennedy, have both been called to their eternal rest, and we here in this Assembly are poorer, very much poorer indeed by their loss. Both members resembled each other in many important respects, but particularly in those high ideals of citizenship and the continued practice of those sterling qualities for which they were remarkable. Mr. Dwyer was a member of this Chamber for nearly twenty years. I think it was in '99 that he first came in. He was one of the oldest members of the House. Mr. Kennedy, although associated with the public and municipal life of the city for nearly as long a period, has only been in this Chamber for about nine years. But in those short periods of public life, short as viewed from some standpoints, they had easily established for themselves a name for integrity and honesty in all their public dealings, and were looked upon by their fellow workers for the value of their judgment and the important service which they rendered to the State. Mr. Dwyer had attained a ripe old age, being within a year of eighty years. He had exceeded by ten years the span of life allotted by the Psalmist. Mr. Kennedy had only attained middle age, had not reached his sixtieth year, and had before him a life full of interest and work. Both men had already attained to the height of their profession. Mr. Dwyer had been in the administration of Sir Robert Bond a member of the Agriculture Board, and

the members of this House have often had the benefit of Mr. Dwyer's knowledge when the subject of Agriculture was before it. His farm, situated almost in the city, was in itself a small model farm from which radiated the knowledge to all who wished to obtain it by observation or by willing advice and assistance from its owner. Mr. Kennedy, too, had achieved success, and to seek his monument one has but to look around at the various public and private buildings in this city that reflect the highest credit on his head and workmanship. But it is not merely along these lines and by their professional work that they became marked men. They had established names for themselves in the social life of the town and the entire country. In educational and social work they have both done great service. Mr. Dwyer for nearly half a century had been associated with the industrial, educational and charitable work of the Benevolent Irish Society, while Mr. Kennedy had been for forty years an active member of the Total Abstinence and Benefit Association, and in these walks of life these men had many opportunities of accomplishing great good in the community. The public long ago realized that these were the class of men to whom the public affairs might be entrusted, and that is why when they were called away they were performing the public duties entrusted to them by the constituents of the two districts of this city. We have suffered in this Chamber a great loss in the death of these two members. They were not men conspicuously to the front in all debates of the House and in fact rarely spoke, but when they did take advantage of this privilege, they always had the closest attention and consideration of both sides, and now that their work is done we can all candidly say they contributed faithful service in the interests of the Colony and the town.

And what may be said of them in their public life and in their professional life, might also be said in relation to their private life. It was my privilege to have known both, and I know the members of this House will agree with me when I say that they were ideal brothers, ideal sons, and in the case of Mr. Kennedy an ideal husband. It is not much that we can do to perpetuate their memory. They have done that themselves, but I feel I am expressing the desire of this House when I submit this resolution, to become part of the Journal of this House, and express the sympathy of this Chamber to the relatives of our dead friends. For these reasons I beg to propose the following resolution:—

"RESOLVED—That this House desires to place on record an expression of its heartfelt sorrow at the decease of John Dwyer, Esqr., and M. J. Kennedy, Esqr., for some time members of this branch of the Legislature. Their sterling qualities rendered them a valuable acquisition to the Legislature. Whilst mourning their loss, members of this House desire to convey to their relatives, deep sympathy in their bereavement."

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker, it is a sad duty, but still a duty for one representing this side of the House to join with the Leader of the Government in expressing our condolence with the loss of two of our friends. We have had opportunities of knowing these men, but personally I may say my more intimate acquaintance has been with Mr. Dwyer. But often I had opportunities of observing the attitude of Mr. Kennedy from this side of the House, and I can say that we all endorse what the Leader of the Government has said, and he earned our complete respect for his honesty of purpose and sterling qualities. Mr. Dwyer has been a long time a mem-

ber of this House, and there was something in him which attracted the human side of the House. There was the true Irish wit and humor which radiated from him through this House whenever we were privileged to hear him. Both possessed in a large degree the sterling qualities to which Sir Edward Morris has referred. Equally might it be said of Mr. Kennedy as it has often been said of John Dwyer,—"Honest" John Dwyer. I do not need, Sir, to say more than that we on this side of the House join with those on the other side in taking this motion up as the first business of the session, and expressing the deep regret this House feels towards the relatives in their distress.

The Resolution on being put to the House was confirmed by a unanimous standing vote.

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY.

MR. DEVEREAUX—I rise for the purpose of moving that a committee be appointed to draft a reply to the gracious speech of His Excellency, with which he has been pleased to open the present session of the Legislature; and further, Sir, I would ask the permission of the House to make a few observations in relation to the various matters contained therein.

The opening paragraph refers to an invitation from His Majesty's Government to the Prime Ministers of the self-governing colonies overseas, including India. It is also referred to in the subsequent paragraphs that the epoch-making assemblage of such a character in the center of the Empire was unusual and could only be anticipated because of the fact that the Empire is calling on her children to assist her not only by her physical forces but by her intellectual. Then you have had in the capital city of the Empire the Prime Ministers of the younger nations, in order to give by their experience and knowledge of colonial affairs that assistance expected of them. I hardly can find any parallel in relation to this great epoch unless you go back to Imperial Rome, which in the plentitude of her power had her consuls and her pro-consuls all the world over, as the world was known to them. She has been called and was at that particular period the mistress of the world, and occasionally she did send out to the ends of the earth, bringing in these magistrates or pro-consuls in order to confer with them in the Imperial city of Rome. Today you have—more than twenty centuries later—a greater empire improving in a great measure upon the procedure of ancient Rome, for Britain permits her governors to remain at their post of duty in her colonies, while she asks them to send their Prime Ministers to confer with her in the highest council of the Empire. Often times when the pro-consul was brought back to Imperial Rome it was not as a friend; for occasionally he drew the sword from its scabbard and crossed the Rubicon of citizenship to become her enemy. How different with Britain when the Prime Ministers were called to confer with the leaders of the nation, to exchange sentiments of loyalty, to their King and to take their seats as brothers with the Prime Minister of the Empire and his Cabinet in the Imperial city of London. Amongst those, Sir, I am sure we are proud to acknowledge the fact that our own Prime Minister was one of those fortunate ones, who gave, from his full knowledge and extensive experience in colonial and in parliamentary life, much help to those who are the principal advisers in relation to this war; and we are glad to-day to have him back again amongst us. He went through dangers which we here in this country can hardly realize. He passed through the danger zone,many times and he was on the plains of

France and Flanders, and all because he desired to have an intimate knowledge of the war and because he wanted to find that affairs in relation to our own regiment were right, and in conesquence was sometimes in danger of his own life. I am sure, Sir, we feel proud to be allowed to have a voice in the great questions that are to-day being taken up in connection with the Empire The Great War—how shall I speak of it? How shall I give to you this day the feelings of a British citizen in relation to the war—the Armageddon—that which never has been before, all down through the history of the world. We speak of the Napoleonic wars, and the early wars of the world, but there is no parallel, nothing similar in any way to the battle of the nations. The second paragraph of the Speech from the Throne refers especially to our great democratic neighbor the United States of America having gon in. It is only natural for us to say that it is an anticipation fulfilled, because we know that the great Anglo Saxon spirit of the United States was at one with the British Empire in these fundamental facts; pertaining to the war and we also knew that it was only necessary for her to formulate the best preparation when she would go in gladly and with the same enthusiasm as her great neighbor both of whom sprung from the same ancestry. England would never be in this war to-day but for the fact that she went in to maintain justice and her own honor She went in especially to save the smaller nations, and one for whom she was trusted Belgium; and up to this moment she has maintained cleanly and fearlessly all the standards of morality and honor which have been hers undisputedly for centuries. We are glad, Sir, I am sure, that the United States, our great neighbor, the greatest democratic nation on earth, potential in wealth, numerically strong, kin to us in blood, is in complete accord with the Empire's aspirations. It is not necessary for me to say that we feel that God—the God of battles—is still in control, and the advent of the United States of America into the war was as our ally must give certain hope that we are not only right, but that providence is on the side of England and her allies.

The next paragraph refers to our Boys. It is tinged with sadness, just as it is tinged with glory. It implied, perhaps more than any other paragraph in the speech, what is meant by a British citizen. Here, almost in the Arctic zone, cut off practically from all the great centers of civilization for more than a century and a half yet all our traditions are English, Irish, or Scotch. We gloried in our ancestry, and we always felt that if the time ever came that England needed our help our fighting race would maintain that standard for loyalty and truth which had been maintained since the dawn of our history. The descendents of these free peoples, British citizens, received the call—their country's call, and the result of their pluck and courage can be read in the picture portrayed in Gallipoli. Caribou Hill is but a name, but it shall convey for centuries to come what is possible to be done by the blood—the blood of the Anglo and Celtic races. For, as I have already stated being disassociated for so long a period from these centers from which is drawn patriotism and all the great feelings of the heart and the intellect, Newfoundland has proved that no matter where you place her sons they shall produce the characteristic of the race from which their forefathers sprung. Yes, even in the first sad chapter of the history of this war, and even though our people are small numerically in this Colony, we were there, and not only were we there but we were conspicuous for our bravery

and our pluck and our determination and our devotion to the British flag.

Then let us step over to France. We all remember as Englishmen and as Britishers the retreat at Mons, we can concentrate our memory upon that glorious little army—said by the Kaiser to be contemptible—the nucleus upon which has been built the splendid volunteer army of five millions which we have to-day—Kitchener's Army—that little army called the British Expeditionary force which went over to France in the early days of the war proved themselves to be not only brave but they proved themselves to be the best soldiers that lived. The retreat at Mons will be read of in years and centuries to come,and although it was a retreat it proved more than anything else possibly could that these men held in their veins the proud blood of Englishmen.

Then we come to the Marne where Fochs, the great French General, imitating his master, the Great Napoleon of more than a century back pierced the Germar centre and saved the city of Paris, and not only Paris but France, and gave the first opportunity to the Allies of overcoming the Kaiser and the German army. At that time we were in great danger, and it is only through the genius of Fochs and the bravery of the French army and the spendid courage of the men in the Expeditionary Force, that we are not to-day mourning our brave dead in a German Colony.

After that we had Ypres and then Ypres again; and then we come to the first sad story regarding our own soldiers in France—Beaumont Hamel. Ah! We all remember that; we remember it in various ways; but we all remember it with pride because of the Supreme Self-sacrifice our soldier lads displayed and which we trembled at because we had feared, even in our most optimistic spirit, that our boys who were totally unused to anything like the conditions they must face; but we prayed that they would still maintain that prestige which is the glory of the British people; and they did so, and we are proud of that spirit; proud that we gave such valiant men to the Empire. Even those who did not have the privilege of close relationship with those brave lads were proud of them and gloried in their manly spirit and the land that gave them birth, yet the bitter tears would flow, because we lost heavily over there. These are gone, some are maimed for life, some of the brave boys of that day are lying beneath the soil of France, some have monuments over them—crosses and other emblems—but the memory of these boys will live in the hearts of men, their memory shall not die, for it is imprinted indelibly upon the heart sof those who believe that Terra Nova on that day had done its duty.

Then we have the battle of the Somme,in which our boys were engaged, especially in the Canadian regiments.

Then October 12th where our boys so bravely maintained the prestige of the Flag, and where the brave Donnelly, Clift, O'Brien and many other were taken from us, away to the heart of God; because, Sir, I maintain that a man who loves his country sufficiently to give up his life for it, is so near God that a distinction between the love he has for his country and that of his God is impossible to be determined. I, for one, envy parents and relatives of those who have nobly laid down their lives. Of course they suffer acutely, because nature enforces that, but as time shall pass and assuage their grief, the proudest people in the country will be the parents—the mothers and the fathers—who have given their sons to their country and their God. Therefore I do not mourn,

but I envy the position of many in this country because of the supreme privilege that has been given to them, though grief has been the first effect, the second effect will be an assuagement, and the third will be glory in having such boys to give and to maintain those standards of pluck and bravery that has been our heritage for centuries, they did not become cowards, did not break the traditions of the past, and as I said before in this third period, this proud mother will be able to look up to God and say: "In a few years hence I will be with him."

Now, Sir, the next paragraph is with regard to food supplies ,and I am glad to find that the Government has given some attention to that of late and that we have a Food Commission already. I trust that we shortly shall have an opportunity of seeing, even if the prices of food are not at once lowered, whether it is possible to do so or not.

I am glad also, Sir, to congratulate this House, and especially the Government, upon the surplus, particularly in such trying times; and the Minister of Finance especially ought to be congratulated for his management and financial ability during the last year, surrounded as we are by such circumstances.

I must also congratulate the Government upon paragraph six, with relation to the men in the Navy; upon putting them upon the same footing as the soldiers. That will be a great addition to their pay, and will give them a sense of fair play which, I think, was not theirs before. They thought they were unfairly treated by the Government or somebody, and I am. glad to find that the Government has attended to the matter and has placed them on the same footing as the soldiers.

With regard to paragraph seven, which speaks of our industries and our trade; it is very gratifying to find that our trade has increased so considerably. Ten millions in one year is extraordinary, and especially in times like these; and, as has been well stated here, at present the prospect in relation to our staple industry is good, and I trust and believe that we will, with ordinary economy in relation to our affairs, pass over the next year as safely and as comfortably as we have the present one. Economy is being preached the world over. There are more than fourteen nations to-day on short rations. Here we have not yet found any necessity for such a step; but some months hence it may be necessary to place the country on short rations. If that be so we will have to cheerfully submit to anything that is done, and follow the example of that great and rich America, which has appointed a Controller and Commissioners all over that country in order to economize in food so that she will be properly prepared, even if the war lasts for years, to maintain in a fair standard of comfort her people.

Now, Sir, I move that a Committee be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to His Excellency's gracious Speech.

MR. HIGGINS.—Mr. Speaker, I think it will be apparent to all in this House that the task of one who rises to second the motion that a Committee be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech is made doubly easy this afternoon in that, first, one has to follow after an eloquent and pointed address delivered with that ability that the senior member for the District of Placentia and St. Mary's has become so noted for in this House; and delivered, I think, on this afternoon in a spirit on a line with the Address that is under consideration; and, secondly, the task becomes easy in

that comments upon the speech which we have listened to this afternoon must necessarily be compressed into a very narrow compass.

The Speech to-day might be fairly summarized when called a War Speech, and the Parliament opened to-day, in the midst of a great war is very fittingly opened by an Address such as that to which we have just listened. Usually Addresses from the Throne, speeches of Governors opening Parliaments in those Dominions where self government exists under our form of constitution, are presumed to indicate the policy of the Government of the day; but to-day the people of Newfoundland, and in particular the members of this House, irrespective of Party, are filled, I feel certain, with the spirit of old, that time to which my learned friend, Mr. Devereaux, has referred, when 'None were for the Party and all were for the State." All our thoughts and all our expectations for the future concern the policy of those who are responsible for the Government of the Colony and the conduct of the affairs of the Colony as best befits its taking its proper place in this terrible time of war. The Speech suggests that this particular assemblage has been delayed by reason of what has been aptly termed in the Speech: "An epoch-making Assembly." And. surely, I think, Mr. Speaker, we can feel as members of that great British Empire that the war has at least, though in a sad way and at a great price, given two splendid answers to what was considered by many as a sort of academic problem for many years past. Many of us will remember, long before the murmurings of war were heard, long before there was any sign of this great conflict, how often we heard the theories of those who wondered how that far-flung British Empire would behave under stress. How often we have heard the theory advanced that this great Empire of ours—an Empire greater than ever has been—was becoming too unwieldly, too divided in regard to the situation and ideals of its peoples, to be regarded as a concrete whole which would be ready to rise to a great occasion. How often have we heard of the dreams of the neighboring Dominion of Canada and of the other great sections of the Empire overseas—of their national aspirations and their desire to depart from the Motherland? Now, Sir, if the war has taught us any lesson, if there is anything that is apparent to any thinking man, it is that two incidents have given the answer to those theories. The first was when, as my learned friend has said, that great Empire —an Empire not built for war, an Empire whose constitution was moulded for civilization, for peace, for higher ideals than the savagery which has unfortunately been dominant for some time—which was only able to send across to the assistance of its Allies what was termed, so inaptly as, thank God, it has turned out, "The Contemptible Little Army" of 200,000, sent out the Call of Empire from the Homeland,—that little group of Islands in the Atlantic that represent the Hub of the great Wheel of Empire—there came an immediate response from the conquered land of Africa, from the recesses of the great Indian Empire, from the ranches of New Zealand and the farms of Australia, from the woods and mountains of Canada, and from the fishing hamlets of the Oldest Colony, Newfoundland—all rushing to the defence of the principles that were centralized in that Hub. The "Contemptible Little Army" has grown from a quarter of a million to some five millions. The lines that were to be held until the sons came to the Mother's aid, small at the time, have grown accord-

ingly. And to-day comes the second answer to these theories, when we are told that this session of the Legislature was deferred because of the absence of the Prime Minister of the Colony—at what? At a gathering, again, of all the representatives of these lands; at a gathering which has been the dream of writers for years past. Much have we heard in years gone by as to the future of the Empire as to its form of Government. Much has been written and said as to what place the colonies were going to take under the changing conditions of the world. And the war has answered that question. The conference that has recently taken place is a living example and an illustration of what we may hope for in the Empire of the future. Mr. Speaker, I join with the mover of this Address in saying, and I think members of this House generally will agree with me, that we are all proud that we had representing this Colony at the Conference one who at least might be fairly said to be as good a representative as could come from this Colony. We feel that in the Prime Minister we had one with an unusal experience of the needs of the Colony, of the conditions of our people, of our hopes for the future, and of the possibilities that are in the country; and one who would see that the Colony took its rightful place, first, in regard to its duty in whatever plans or obligations might be decided upon, and secondly, in regard to the reward when the day of reckoning has come and our great Empire looks for compensation for the sacrifices that she is making to-day. And, Mr. Speaker, following along the lines of the mover of the Address, and in the same spirit as to what the war has taught, might say that terrible though the cost which has been demanded may be upon the people of a small country like this, yet the proud place which has been taken by the country through her illustrious dead, through her valiant sons who on sea and land have laid down their lives for the principles which underlie this struggle, is something that in the years to come will be handed down as the greatest heritage that could be passed down by any people to those who came after them.

"There is a tear for all that die,
A mourner o'er the humblest grave,
But nations swell the funeral cry,
And triumph weeps above the Brave."

And in the years of victory to come, when this great Empire will talk of this terrible struggle, none will be more lauded, no names will be more cherished than those who have laid down their lives, who have shown the greater love, who have proven that even in this small Colony, thank God, a race has been produced that is able to come forward and do credit to the highest ideals that the khaki uniform stands for to-day. There are hon. gentlemen in this House, who have cause, from a human standpoint, to feel a pang of pain when reference is made to Beaumont Hamel and July 1st; other hon. members have cause to think with sadness of Geaudecourt and October 12th; and some there are who wil remember Monchy and April 14th; but, Mr. Speaker, in the years that are to come those of us who now think of these places and days with sadness will remember them with pride, because on these days and at these places lives were laid down that placed Newfoundland on the map of the world—the work of our boys in France and elsewhere has done more, we can truly believe, to give Newfoundland a place amongst the Dominions of the Empire than anything else in our history; and whilst this time of stress is on, let us take care that in our deliberations here and in our conduct elsewhere we are not unmind-

that augmentation of the Educational grant is to be made. With respect to any money devoted to Educational Grants, I do not think that it can be asserted at any time that we do not get or that any country does not get more actual return on the dollar or more interest upon its investment in votes for Education than in any other form of grant that the Government may issue; for after all, the future of a country depends to a great extent upon how far its people are educated, and in this country it is a great satisfaction for us to see that there has been an increased vote for Education. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition, when the time arrives will as he has always done in the past, give that measure that support which naturally comes from one who is acquainted with the great need for educational work in a country like ours. I congratulate the Leader of the Government upon this vote. If nothing else were in the Speech from the Throne, those two items alone would naturally give us pleasure and command our attention but, of course, they are lost and dwarfed by the great issues which form the main body of the address.

There is just one word I would like to say with regard to the paragraph dealing with the high cost of living and the appointment of a Commission. Now I recognize that on this point one might naturally be expected to defend or attack the policy of the Government in making such an appointment. Well, it would be improper to make any comments as to what the result of this Commission will be till there is a report from them; but there is one principle that I would like to lay down for consideration of honourable members of this House and that is this: We talk of the easy way in which such a Commission ought do certain things, and we undertake, as we all do in our private life, to blame Governments for an omission in dealing with problems of this kind, but we forget that problems of this kind are presenting the same difficulty and meeting the same awkwardness of handling elsewhere at the present time. So long as business is conducted with profit as a basis you will find that you will have conditions such as exist now. So long as the human mind carrying on business has profit as a base of that business,as the foundation of that business, just so long are people—and it is one of the weakness of human nature—going to take advantage of all unusual conditions—war, pestilence, famine, death of any kind, cruel as it may be, modern business conditions, unfortunately, will take advantage of all these. Now, war profits as such, ought not be made by any person: the ideal conditions of things would be that no person ought to make a profit out of war. No man, whatever his business may be, ought distinctly and purely and simply because of the war alone make a profit, but the difficulty, Mr. Speaker, to-day in grappling with a problem like this in investigating the great field of modern business, is laying down definitely just what are war profits, and for this reason Mr. Speaker,I wish to say and I avail of this opportunity to lay it down as my honest opinion that any Commission, no matter how well constituted—as this Commission is well constituted in the sense of impartiality and lack of bias—is always going to have great difficulty in separating what are war profits simply from what are so-called business profits in the ordinary sense; but whatever the profits may be, whatever the prices may be, the principle remains on the other hand, as I have suggested, that so long as wages rise to correspond with prices it does not matter. A man does not mind the price of a barrel of flour

if he has enough in his pocket to pay for it.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that it is a matter of satisfaction to all of us to notice that action has been taken in the matter of the pay of the Royal Naval Reserve. I feel certain that not alone is this a matter of mere justice, but it is a matter that the country generally, whether interested directly in the results or not, will be gratified has been dealt with. The work of the senior branch of the service—the first line of defence of the Empire—has been such as to deserve at our hands the same recognition as we have been able to give those whose work has been done on land.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to avail of this occasion to place on record, as I feel it is my duty, a tribute in line with what has been said by the Prime Minister as regards the two gentlemen who have passed away since last we met—Mr. Kennedy from St. John's West,and Mr. Dwyer from St. John's East. These two gentlemen, naturally, were more closely associated with me in a political sense than members from districts outside, and I have but to say of them sincerely that all that has been spoken from both sides of the House with regard to them is re-echoed by those of us who have had direct contact with them in district work. In paying a tribute to the memory of my late colleague, Mr. Dwyer, I can say that in spite of his years he possessed a keen intellect right up to the moment of his death and that his enthusiasm in a political contest, if one had taken place a couple of months before his demise, would have been just as great as that of a man many years his junior. His loss to the district is known and felt.

His place in the district is not one which can be filled easily. He was, as has already been said, of that quiet class of men who are quiet in the sense of giving expression to their opinions, but he was known throughout the length and breadth of his district as a trusty and worthy representative. And so was Mr. Justice Kent. I would avail myself of this opportunity of saying that his district, whilst regretting the loss from it, is proud to feel that one whose sterling character, whose honesty of purpose, whose undoubted ability, and whose fine legal mind was suited to the position he now occupies, has gone to the place where these qualities will stand him, and this country, in good stead.

I beg to second the motion that a committee be appointed to draft an Address in Reply, and I trust that the session upon which we are now entering, will be in keeping with the suggestions embodied in the closing of this Speech from the Throne, and especially do I trust that whatever may occur in matters of ordinary routine, in matters of national welfare and the greater issues now at stake, we shall have the harmony that has so far characterized the conduct of all parties in this Chamber.

The past has brought us severe lessons. The war is at present, if ever, in its most crucial stage; maybe the darkest hour before the dawn, but at present, a very black hour. We must feel that the best in us all must be given, irrespective of party affiliations and that if ever there was a time when this must be the one aim, it is now; and we may truly say in the words of the poet:—

"Our fathers' God, from out whose hand
The centuries fall like grains of sand
We meet to-day united, free,
And loyal to our land and Thee,
To thank Thee for the era done,
And trust Thee for the opening one."

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker, in rising I wish to congratulate the mover and

ful of what they have done, of what they have stood for, and that we do not forget the obligations which rest upon us with reference to those whom they have left behind. Let us take care that whatever our differencees may be in ordinary affairs, in matters dealing with our boys of the army and navy the same conduct will be pursued in the future as has been in the past, and that is, that every matter pertaining to their requirements will be dealt with in a way which will show that we recognize the eternal debt of gratitude which we are under to them for all that they have done. And I feel that I am not expressing an idle hope when I say that we shall, because the conduct of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition and of his associates whilst the House was out of session has been such that I have no doubt as to what the attitude of this Assembly will be in reference to any measures in the way of Pension Bills or otherwise that may come before it for consideration during this session.

Suggestion is made in the Speech to-day that the increasing cost of daily living has brought the Government to consider and to submit two measures which I am sure will receive the earnest support of all members of this Assembly. The great problem to-day with regard to the cost of living, is a problem which always confronts students of economics, namely, what is the relation between the wages earned by the people and the prices that commodities are sold at, because it is apparent to the simplest thinker that it matters not what the necessary commodities of life may be provided the people are able to earn accordingly. It matters not to the people or to any of us whether coal or flour has doubled or trebled provided wages can be doubled or trebled accordingly, and, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say here as a principle (and I congratulate the Government upon the example set) that it is the duty of those in charge of the affairs of State to set the example of making the wages of the people correspond with the price of commodities and it is the duty of the State as represented by the Government of Newfoundland to do this as far as may be possible with the resources at its command. It is the duty of the State to set the example to all private employers of labour throughout the country, that wages may be increased and I congratulate the Leader of the Government and those associated with him upon this step at this particular time. I think that the people to-day, and I speak here, of course, particularly as one representing a district of St. John's, who suffer most from the increased cost in commodities belong to two classes. The first being those who are working on a salary and the second a certain class of mechanics. I think it may fairly be said that these are the two classes of persons that are hardest hit by the increased cost of food; and the civil servant throughout the country —particularly those living in the city who have got to bear the expense of rent and coal and the various kind of vegetables that cannot be grown here by them—that these people particularly deserve from this Government, or from any Government, the greatest possible consideration; and for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am glad that even under the unusual conditions that at present prevail, it is found possible to submit proposals such as I understand will be submitted and which I am sure will have the heartiest support of members of this House when they come down.

Likewise, I think it is a matter of satisfaction to members of this House and the country generally to learn

seconder of the motion that a Select Committee be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the gracious Speech of the Governor. The tenor of their remarks and the tone of their sentiments have alike been pleasing and patriotic. Mr. Higgins, Member for St. John's East, characterized His Excellency's Speech as a War Speech. It could hardly be otherwise in these stirring times. The Great War dominates our feelings, inspires our thoughts, and shapes our speeches. It has ever been so. The orators of Greece arose in strenuous times. Pericles was moved by the supreme sacrifice of soldiers fighting for free institutions. Demosthenes thundered against the menace of the Man of Macedon. These struggles also animated the statesmen and thinkers of Greece to work out political problems and organization for the expansion and betterment of Greece. The struggle of the Spaniards to free their land from the Moor made men of mark who ruled the Spanish Main and won a world beyond the sea. Later the mettle of the Englishmen who struggled with the Spaniards for the sea braced up the minds of their fellow-countrymen, inspired a Spencer, a Shakespeare and a Milton, and produced parliamentarians who made Parliament supreme in the State, and has set an example to the freemen of to-day to do for the world at large what these men did for the England of that day. The menace of Napoleon made men of might, who begot children who turned their energies to the steam engine, the locomotive, the power loom, industrial organization and a world commerce and made a state that could bear with ease the death which was staggering those who fought Napoleon. These historic examples should inspire us with faith in the future. Like our soldiers we should not be downhearted, but have confidence in our ability to work out our own salvation, and surmount all the difficulties which confront us at the present time.

In our War Session in September, 1914, I remember pointing to the Union Jack which adorns the bench on which you preside, Sir, and remarking that it was fit and appropriate that it should be there in times such as these, and that it should animate a free assembly of Britons to face the future undismayed. The Cross of St. George calls on us to fight the good fight and put down the dragon of autocracy and oppression. The Cross of St. Andrew reminds us of the brotherhood of freedom. The Cross of St. Patrick calls on us to be as one man in our love of liberty We are all united in the hope and intention that free nations shall people the earth, that free assemblies shall rule free people, and that liberty and freedom shall not pass from the face of the earth.

I join previous speakers in welcoming back the Prime Minister from his visit to London. The invitation to the Prime Minister was not only an honor to Sir Edward Morris, but it was an honor to the Legislature, and to the country. Such an honour should not be lightly given up. So long as Newfoundland remains a separate Dominion of the Crown, the invitation will be repeated. If, however, Newfoundland ceases to be a separate Dominion of the Crown, and becomes merely a province of another Dominion, the invitations will cease, and we shall have lost the proud position we occupy at present.

In regard to some other matters dealt with in the Governor's Speech, we cannot be expected to view them from the same angle as members on the other side of the House. I really cannot join with my friend on the other side in accepting the words of the Speech in reference to one supposed result of the Premier's visit. I cannot join in the words, "Hence the delay in calling together this House, a

delay which I am sure you will regard as amply justified by the circumstances." Now, Sir, I may say that I don't regard that delay as being justified by the circumstances. I don't regard it as being justified at all. This House could have equally met with Sir Edward Morris in London, and got through the business indicated in the Speech. Sir Edward Morris might have been doing his duty in London and at the same time we might have been doing ours here To my mind it indicates that all is not well, and that all the confidence that is supposed to exist in the party on the other side of the House is not really there; that street rumors are not far astray, and that there was another reason why the calling together of the House was delayed, and that that delay, while being put down to the Conference, might easily and reasonably be accounted for in another manner. Now, Sir, I had the honor of a conversation with my friend, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, some time last December, just after he had received this invitation; and in the course of that conversation it was understood that this House would meet early in April. There has never been any explanation or suggestion offered to this side why the House was not called together in April, as it was agreed it should be. I will not go so far as to accuse anybody on the other side of a breach of faith, but at all events the spirit of the understanding was not kept. In my opinion there has been no ample justification given for calling members from avocations on which their whole season's earnings depend, to sit in this House at this time of the year, and I do not think that I should be just to my friends on this side if I did not express the feelings of this side of the House plainly.

I join heartily in the words of the Speech, and in the remarks that have come from my friends opposite, which welcome to our aid the great Republic to the southwest of us. That Republic is a branch of our own great tree, and we welcome them heartily as a liberty-loving people who know what the sacrifices entailed by war mean. No nation has lost more by war than the United States; no nation has ever made greater sacrifices than the United States for what they considered necessary for the unity and liberty of their nation. I therefore join, Sir, with the other members of this House in welcoming to the brotherhood of nations that great Republic, because it stands for resources, for strength, for ingenuity, for organizing power which will be of momentous force and telling effect in determining this struggle. The United States is a nation which has grown at a remarkable rate, and overcome the natural difficulties with which it has had to contend with remarkable skill. It is hard to realize that within the past fifty years that nation has grown four-fold, and that its wealth and its power in developing the resources which go to aid mankind in carrying on the work of life have increased at a far greater rate. The accession of the United States to our side is of the first importance. They have fought in the past that Liberty should not depart from the face of the earth, and the same sentiments which we but recently read in President Wilson's address, were contained in the great address of Lincoln to those who had fallen on the field of Gettysburg. They have again taken up the sword to fight for liberty; and we may reasonably hope that their achievements in the art of war, when they are properly organized, will be as great as those for which they have been remarkable in developing the civil side of human life.

I most heartily join in the words expressed in the Speech in reference to the heroic part played in the war by the sons of Newfoundland, whether sailors or soldiers. Both the previ-

ous speakers referred to the "Old Contemptibles." The word "Contemptible" has now become a proud name for that heroic band of professional soldiers who saved France from ruin, who fought the modern Marathon, who did for France what great poets have spoken and sung of as having been done for Greece in the old days. "The Old Contemptibles" we are proud to call them. They it was who set the high standard of devotion to duty, of heroism and endurance, which have been the goal of those who have followed them. As already indicated, their work was mostly in the way of retreat, the most difficult part for both generals and soldiers to play, but they played it in a way that has never been excelled in the history of the world. And, Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that we note that our citizen soldiers, whether they have come from the Homeland or from the Dominions or the Dependencies of the Crown,have measured up to that high standard and it is with abundant satisfaction that we are able in this House to congratulate the soldiers who went from this land, that not only have they not fallen short of that standard, but they have been recognized as "The Best of the Best." I was glad to hear from the hon. member for St. John's East a reference to the Pension Bill. What these soldiers have done should inspire us to do our duty to them and to their dependents, and therefore I am pleased to hear a reference to that Bill. Of course we have heard of the scheme before; it has been discussed elsewhere, and I think it is an extraordinary thing that reference to it should be omitted in the Speech. I repeat, Sir I am glad the member for St. John's East made a reference to it, for the Speech is silent on the matter. There have been rumours that the Pension Bill is not to be brought in this session. I am glad to see the Leader of the House taking a note of this remark.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I take a note of everything you say.

MR. LLOYD—I regret that my hon. and learned friend did not take a note of the Pension Bill when he was drafting the Speech.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—The matter is being attended to by the Patriotic Association, which is really our War Department.

MR. LLOYD—Then, Sir, I say with all due respect that the Rt. Hon. Premier is derelict in his duty when he leaves a matter of this sort solely to any association or persons outside this House, because no matter who may compose that association, or who those persons may be, they are not responsible in the sense in which this House is responsible to the people. I say, Sir, that it is a remarkable thing that the most important duty of all—the greatest tribute that we could pay to these men—is ignored in this Speech. There is no reference as to what is going to be done for their dependents. Something is to be done for the Naval Reservists; and that is very right and proper. There is a reference to a measure, but I heard a Crown Minister say (and I mention it in order to find out what the facts are) that it is the intention of the Government to increase the pay of the Naval Reservists, but to make no payments until the end of the war. That is to say to throw on the shoulders of those who may succeed my hon. friend the performance of a duty which he is shirking himself. Now Sir, I will be glad to be informed that that I am in error, and that the reference to which I have just made was also in error.

The hon. member for Placentia made a short remark to which I would like to refer. He said: "The Government has given some attention of late to the high cost of living." I took down his words. It was a very caustic reference, but well deserved, though probably unintentional. "Some

attention of late to the high cost of living." What a comment to come from the other side. I say it is a shame, Sir, a disgrace to the Government that this question of war profits was voted down in this House; and now, after 24 months of war, we are told that the Government has begun to think about it. And they have set somebody else thinking, too. When the thinking is all done, something may be attempted. It is the old story of "Wait and See."

We are told a Commission was appointed, but, Sir. we want something done, we don't want a mere dissertation on economics. Two years and nine months ago this House empowered the Government to act in this matter, and nothing has been done all the time until the last few weeks, when a Commission was appointed. What is to be done? Goodness only knows. I feel very strongly on the matter, Sir. and I think that what I say is well merited by the dereliction of duty on the part of the Government. A sop is thrown to Civil Service employees—they are to receive some increase in pay. Will these increases correspond with the increase in the price of flour, the price of coal, the price of pork and beef, or is it simply going to be a little increase? There may oe some difference, Sir, but we will not oppose the increases. As the Government member for the East End has said, it is right and proper for the Government to set an example to employers, but what a reflection he made on the Government unintentionally. He practically implied, Sir, that they have not been doing their duty for some two years or more. As regards education, our attitude will be similar. Increasing these grants will be increasing the wage and salary account, and helping civill servants and schoolmasters and mistresses to fill the bread box. We have been treated, Sir, to references to finance, and the Minister has been praised. I wonder if he feels he deserves it? I see he smiles. I am not going to say, Sir, that he does not deserve it, but should like to put it in another way, and congratulate the Minister of Finance on his good luck and not on his good management. Folks outside of the Colony have put up prices, and these big prices mean big invoices and more revenue. It is not his good management, but the good luck that he has been having which has increased the revenue.

Necessities coming into this country are very dear, and the bigger the prices paid for the goods the bigger the amount of the revenue for the Exchequer. The bigger the cost of things coming in the bigger the duty the people have to pay the Minister of Finance, and he has been very fortunate in having been able to get this without any trouble on his part. I was rather amused, Sir, at the congratulatory reference to increased trade. Now, while we are all pleased to learn that our trade has increased some $10,000,000, I doubt if we have anything to congratulate ourselves about. Take a supposition case. Suppose the price of our flour goes up to $10.00 on the outside and we had 350,000 barrels imported. That would mean the import trade has gone up $3.500,000. Would that be a matter for congratulation? Until the hon. member can analyze the matter and point out what part is due to high prices abroad he is not going to convince me, at any rate, that we have anything to congratulate ourselves about, because it means we are merely sending out a bigger amount of money for what we bought for a smaller sum before. There may be no increase in commodities imported, but we may be simply paying for them.

One good effect of the visit of the Prime Minister to England (I do not

say the only one for I hope he has benefitted in health and strength) is his conversion on the matter of economy. The speech closes by recommending State and private persons to practice economy. Everyone within the sound of my voice will remember that it is not long ago since a different doctrine was preached.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER.—"I maintain still that when economy goes to the extent of turning men out of employment it is not desirable."

MR. LLOYD—Now, Sir, I come to another matter. I have already mentioned, Sir, the curious absence of reference to a pension bill. I would also point out another remarkable omission. We have been treated to trade figures and been told that the surplus of the year will be devoted to war purposes. The Ministers are very disingenuous about this. They forget to tell us that we have been living largely on loans, and they forget to tell us that it is necessary to get another big loan. Why should they be silent on these matters?

Coming to another matter a little nearer home so far as I am concerned, some ten days ago I learned from the public press that I was to be called to a conference on some important matters that had to do with the recruiting of the Regiment. The public were informed that this would be done, but the remarkable thing about it is that from that day to this there has been nothing more about it. A common policy on filling the Regiment was to be come to, and the result was to have been announced at the opening of the Legislature.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I mentioned the matter to you and I outlined how I thought it might be improved. I dealt with this matter to you in the presence of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. LLOYD.—You mentioned it casually but there were no plans discussed. The remarkable thing is that there has been no reference to any such matter in the Governor's Speech, and I am glad that an opportunity has been afforded by this little interlude of giving point to my remarks. There is another remarkable absence in the Speech. It is within the knowledge of all that some Forestry Companies have been organized, and men sent across. Why is there no reference to it in the Speech? Why has it been ignored? A serious phase of the matter is this, that you have to deal with it and get authority for it, and yet there was no reference to it in the Governor's Speech. I have also to call the attention of the House to another very serious dereliction of duty on the part of the Government that is utterly unpardonable, and that is the way in which the Government has acted in connection with the non-appointment to the office of Central District Court Judge. That is a positive scandal. Everybody knows that it is purely party expediency and nothing more that has prevented the appointment from being made. All kinds of tricks have been resorted to in order to postpone the appointment, and we had the scandal of an appeal to the Supreme Court in connection with one of the devices when the Court decided that a Commission which had been issued by the Governor in Council was illegal. And yet in the face of this when all kinds of shirking is being practised by the Government, we are having dinned into our ears from time to time and very properly so, of patriotic duty. As a matter of fact the Government has done nothing else but shirk in connection with every duty which has been placed upon them; they have always put the burden of performance of it upon somebody else. Is it a matter of forming Forestry Battalions? Somebody else has got to do it. Recruiting? Somebody else must deal

with it. Managing the Regiment? Somebody else has got to do it. And so in connection with every matter that it is their obvious duty to deal with. I trust that if the War Conference has had no other result, it will at least have the effect of making the Government realize their responsibilities in connection with this War and cause them to cease placing upon other shoulders the burden of doing things which they ought to do themselves.

Now, Sir, in regard to War measures, we on this side hope to be able to assume an attitude of aid and support to the Government, in all measures that are necessary for the carrying on of the war, and in other measures that may commend themselves to us. But while we will try to play the game with them (and when I say "Play the game" I am speaking figuratively in cricketing language, because that is a well-known simile for doing your duty) we expect the Government to do its duty by us. We have avoided all along using the War for party purposes and party benefits and party interests, and we call upon the Government to do exactly the same in the future. We shall not remain silently if they do not live up to that standard. The reason for this remark is this: We hope that this session will not be a lengthy one. and that whatever measures may have to be deliberated upon will be dealt with with as much economy of time as the importance of the measures will allow; but we are expecting the Government to play the game with us and not use the War for their party interests. We are expecting to hear that what the Editor of the Daily News who has a seat in this House, said in his editorial this morning,when he referred to this being the final session of the 23rd Assembly is correct. I should have made no reference whatever to this matter under ordinary circumstances but there are several reasons why I should. In the first place it is true there is no reference in the Speech from the Throne to a bill for putting off the election, but I have already pointed out other remarkable omissions, and therefore the mere omission is no assurance to us, nor are we certain that the Editor of the Daily News is speaking authoritatively. We wish to know, Sir, whether the Government intends to play the game with us and do exactly as we have been doing in the past—not use the War for party purposes, recognize that this is the final session, and let us know that they regard this session as the last session. I need hardly say more, except to repeat what I have already said, that we hope to aid and assist the Government in connection with matters dealing with the war, as we have done in the past, so that this session may not be prolonged, and it will be with the utmost reluctance that we shall change,if we are compelled to change or in any way modify this attitude in connection with matters that will be brought up this session. Now, Sir, I have done, but I would like to repeat what I said in my opening remarks that no matter how gloomy the outlook may be it is no time for despondency. It is a time of stress and struggle but the sun is breaking through the clouds, and I firmly believe that there are brighter years before us than the Nations have ever known.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a few observations in reply to the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, who has just sat down. Generally, I may say that from the Government standpoint, and viewing the speech as that of the Leader of the Opposition, I do not find any any special fault with

the severity, if I may use the term, of some of his remarks. I want, however, at the very outset, to disabuse his mind, and the minds of the public outside, of any suggestion that in this war the Government has not played the game. It is the first time in three years that I have heard the suggestion. As a matter of fact, from the very proclamation of the war it has been the desire and expressed policy of the Government to share the responsibilities which the war entailed with the other side and the public, so that the carrying on of our contribution to the war could not have the slightest tinge of party politics. If mistakes have been made, they have to be shared and borne equally by the parties on both sides of the House. The Government are merely paying the bills. The Patriotic Association, which has done splendid work, are doing the work that in other countries is performed by paid departments. What the War Office is doing in England, and the Department of Militia is doing in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Patriotic Association, on a small scale, is doing in Newfoundland. They have done, and are doing, their best, and they are doing it free; and the responsibilities for the work of the various committees of that body —the Recruiting Committee, the Finance Committee and all the other cummittees—must be shared alike and equally by members on both sides and by the public outside. The very first act of the Government when war was declared in 1914 was to call together the officers of the only military bodies which we had here, and invite them to a public meeting, over which the Governor of the Colony presided, and at that meeting the Patriotic Association was given birth. Now, wherein has the Government failed to play the game, I do not know. I am on a good many of the committees of the Patriotic Association, and I have never missed one meeting when I have been in town, and I have never heard even the remotest suggestion that there was anything party about it whatever, or any tinge of party politics in the work that was going on. And for these reasons, then, I take issue with my honorable friend and I do not think that he has been just to himself when he stated that the Government shirked any of its responsibilities. There might have been some reason for him to criticize as he has done if we were leading the country to day through this war as a party organization. And I have no doubt it would be fully ventilated in the opposition press and subjected to the criticism of my friends on the other side of the House. But as I have said, the Government is merely paying the bills, finding the money, and the Minsters on this side of the House and the private members of the House have gone down to the Patriotic Association and shared the work down there, and have gone from harbor to harbor and done good recruiting work. They have worked side by side on airplane, recruiting, finance and other committees, and there can be no justification for the charge that they have been shirking. There could be no shirking because there was nothing to shirk. The whole work is in the care of the Patriotic Association and that is true of the pensions. It was never suggested that the fullest and highest pension paid to soldiers in similar dominions, in the Dominion of Canada which is the nearest, would not be the pensions for our soldiers here; and I do not think anything can be said outside if the Government are prepared to pay our men the pension laid down in Canada, and the Government have already stated that at the Patriotic Association and public-

ly. And every soldier at the front to-day, and every soldier returned, and every recruit knows he has all the priviliges and advantages of the Canadian soldier in that respect. And for these reasons there was no point calling on us to put a statement in reference to pensions in the Speech from the Throne. There was certainly no need to put there what has been the settled principle and policy of the Patriotic Association, with the Government behind them, and which has already been publicly announced. Now my honourable friend regretted that he had not an interview with me and that there was no statement in the Speech from the Throne of a matter of very great importance. Well, now, the position is this: When I was about to leave for England, I was made aware that we had only a couple of hundred men at Ayr and I found there something like 700 or 800 men, half of whom were not able to go to the front and most had been there and were recuperating and doing light duty. And I was quite satisfied that some special effort would require to be made here in order to get more recruits and I suggested this in an interview on the Monday after I arrived here, in an interview I gave the Press. In fact, I sent it to all the papers in the city. Nothing was further from my mind when I made the suggestion that some special effort must be made; nothing was further from my mind than the suggestion of conscription. I never hinted it here nor anywhere else, but I said in that interview that I hoped at an early date to take this matter up with the Leader of the Opposition so that if possible we might devise some method to further stimulate recruiting so that our ranks would be kept up and the regiment would not have to be withdrawn. Now that was on Monday, and I was unable to meet the Executive until the following Wednesday and on Wednesday night after my arrival—I lost no time—I brought this matter with other things before the Executive Council and the Council appointed a committee to meet Dr. Lloyd, the Leader of the Opposition, in relation to the question of coalition which involved the other matter. In fact, this was one of the matters which formed a reason why we should make an effort in order to bring about a coalition. Next day, Thursday, was a holiday, and I made an appointment with Dr. Lloyd next day, Friday, and he made it convenient to come and meet me and the Colonial Secretary and then I suggested to him the desirability of coalition and I mentioned to him in the presence of the Cololnial Secretary the desirability of our discussing how recruiting could be stimulated. I never used the word conscription. If the main object of the meeting had been settled it would have been easy to discuss the other matters, and perhaps organize some scheme to appoint some permanent committee to travel in the interests of recruiting. That was on Friday. Dr. Lloyd was not able to get his friends together until the following Monday. Mr. Coaker, he said, was not in town.

DR LLOYD—I did not say any such thing.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Pardon me, I think you did. Mr. Bennett was with me and he will endorse it.

DR. LLOYD—I did not You asked me if Mr. Coaker was in town and I said he wasn't.

RT.HON.PRIME MINISTER—Well, that is the same thing. I asked him if Mr. Coaker was in town because I knew he was the "barrel man" and he had to look him up. He came on Saturday and they had a meeting on Monday. Yesterday, Tuesday, Dr. Lloyd intimated to me that there was

no hope of coalition. That was why I had no opportunity of communi cating to him the new method by which we hoped to stimulate recruiting, but I want to say that the word conscription was never used by me or suggested by me to any person. Now my friend also referred to the absence in the speech of any reference to the Forestry Battalion. That was not mentioned for the same reasons as held good in the Pension matter. The reason it was not mentioned is because it is an accomplished fact. The Patriotic Association at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the British Government formed a Forestry Battalion or it is in course of formation, and there is nothing whatever to say about it. If everything that happens in the course of a year must needs find a place in the Speech from the Throne, it would take instead of a day to open the House at least two or three weeks. The mere absence of such information cannot in any way justify the conclusion my friend has drawn from it. Another point to which he referred touches the question of economy. In the Speech from the Throne to-day economy is suggested, and my honorable friend says that that was not the recommendation of the Government in the earlier stages of the war. The hon. member is in part correct, but he will remember I pointed out that there were two kinds of economy. There was economy which would assist the country and there was false economy. I am glad the hon. member has called my attention to this matter so that I may make the position clear. What the Government feels is necessary is economy in the use of food and all other requirements. Last year I personally know of persons who said to me, I have discharged my help, and I have done this and that, while in the very act instead of helping their country they were unconsciously injuring it. Economy is not discharging help—old servants, taking away the living of a man, leaving his wife and family to go hungry. That is not economy. What I meant then was that employers should as far as possible retain their employees, and thus give the family the chance of living. There are many ways by which a man can economise and yet not keep a dollar out of the pockets of those who have been in the past accustomed to support and who are depending on him. At the same time there are many imported luxuries—which people can easily dispense with—the purchase of which is merely sending money out of the Colony and does not benefit one cent to any person living in the Colony.

Now that is the economy referred to and on that occasion I made the same explanation and I make it here again: It is all very well to economise in the interest of the State and the interest of the individual provided that economy is not injurious and does not seriously damage people at whose expense we economise.

Another point made by hon. friend is this: he takes exception to the statement in the Speech from the Throne that the Colony had increased the volume of its trade last year by ten million dollars.

MR. LLOYD—I accepted the figures.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—He went on to say that that was no test of the prosperity of the country. Well, to a certain extent I agree with him, and the statement is there for what it is worth and no statement of the trade of the country or of any country as regards the volume of its trade can be regarded as a complete measure—a correct measure of the country's trade: because, after all, the volume of trade only represents the imports and exports and it may mean and it does very largely mean

in our case at the present time that the large increase in the value of trade is due to the high prices on the goods coming in—the high price of flour, the high price of salt, the high price of coal and other commodities—but you have to remember this that these articles would not come in if we did not have the quid pro quo to send out to pay for them; and fish at nine dollars helps to swell the volume of trade in this country by paying for the flour. If a man in Petty Harbour or Torbay or Cape Broyle or Bonavista has a hundred quintals of fish and is getting to-day nine dollars a quintal for it (three dollars more than he got in ordinary days) and two hundred dollars a tun for oil, why there is three hundred dollars on that hundred quintals of fish and he does not altogether mind the increase, the exorbitant if I may use the word, extraordinary and unusual increase in the price of flour. These high values on our exports help to swell the trade of the country and to increase it ten million dollars over the year previous, but as I said before, I do not claim here and it is not put in the speech for that purpose,—it would be too absurd. No man, not even the most juvenile member of the public would be misled by saying that that would be a correct test of the prosperity of the country. No one would expect that in normal times, when trade matters were normal as regards imports and exports that we would have a jump of ten million dollars. I never remember it advancing more than one or two millions in any given year and even if you take the country for the last fifty years you will see a gradual increase every year in the volume of trade as measured by imports and exports. Go back to '86, '87, '88, and '89, What were our imports About six millions and our exports were about six millions. The total volume of trade in the eighties amounted to about twelve million dollars in normal times, when the price of flour very rarely varied half a dollar and at a time when the price of fish and oil and other commodities were about the same. Well, what happened since these days. The volume of trade has gradually increased year after year until the year before the War it was double that of the eighties. We have sixteen millions of imports and sixteen millions of exports, thirty-two million dollars.

MR. COAKER—Did you say thirty-two millions before the War? That year it went back.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—It went back the last three years I may tell the hon. member and I thank him for mentioning it. The first year of the War we were short seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in our Revenue. In other words the trade did not import. There was such a feeling of uncertainty the first year of the War that the importers did not import and sold old stock from their shelves that had paid duties, some of it in the nineties, and we had short Revenue. Our imports fell off and our trade went down to twenty-five million dollars. Now it has increased again till it is something like thirty-five millions or about three millions more than any normal year. That statement with regard to the volume of trade is not in the speech to mislead. However, the important point to remember is this that when our imports are increasing every year the exports must also be increasing because you cannot get anything on the other side or on this side unless you pay for it. You can always make certain that when the imports of this Colony are increasing we are using more flour, more pork, more kerosene oil, more luxuries, that we are earning more money, that we are catching more fish or getting higher wages to send away for those imports. The

balance of trade can never be against a country. There must be some way found of paying the bills., It is a mere fetish to talk about the balance of trade being against the country. You will be very quickly wound up and rounded up by the people you are buying from if you are not able to send them something for the goods you order.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to delay the House on this occasion by dealing at length on my visit to England. Before however touching on that subject, I would like to compliment and congratulate the gentlemen who made such excellent speeches this afternoon. They, in common with the Leader of the Opposition, have raised the debate—the character of the debate—onto a higher plane, and it was most refreshing to follow the interesting references, the historical references and their connections so interestingly established between the events of the old days and the events that are taking place to-day; and I say it is a matter of congratulation to us all that on an occasion like this, we have in our midst men who are able to rise to such lofty thoughts and put aside the mere everyday considerations and look at the great problems we are faced with to-day from the standpoint I have referred to.

I am sorry my hon. friend, Dr. Lloyd, should have considered it necessary to suggest that in any way I had promised him or made an agreement with him as to the date of my return to this Colony.

MR. LLOYD.—Not as to your return.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER. —I mean as to the opening of the House. You said I made an agreement.

MR. LLOYD.—I did not use the word "agreement."

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER. —You insinuated I gave some undertaking. What really happend was this. I had hardly returned from England—I only got here in October —when I received an invitation to return. I got the invitation on Christmas Day. Shortly afterwards I saw Dr. Lloyd and explained to him I had to go, and as he very correctly states, I intimated to him that I hoped I might be back about the time he suggested—the middle of April.

MR. LLOYD.—That the House would open.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER. —Yes, that the House would open, about the middle of April. That statement was made bona fide as far as I was concerned. I left here early in February. I had every reason for believing that I would be back and that the Legislature would be opened the middle of April. But I was delayed on the way, I was nearly a week in Halifax, I did not go there on my own motion. I had to go there in connection with my voyage across the Atlantic. When I left I meant to go by New York and it was only when I was arriving at Port aux Basques that I learned that I had to go to Halifax. There I was detained for nearly a week and when I did arrive on the other side it was found that owing to the late arrival of General Smuts representing South Africa and owing to uncertainty as regards the Australian representatives, whose visit became impossible owing to an election, the Conference I was invited to did not open until a month after I arrived in England. The first meeting was on the 20th of March. I arrived there on the 20th of February. That delay of a month is exactly the month that has thrown my calculations out. In other words, if the work had commenced on the 20th of February, the day I arrived, I would have been home easily a month before I returned. I arrived here last Sat-

urday week and would have been here a month earlier but for what happened; but be that as it may I would like my hon. friend to understand that as far as I was concerned, when I made that statement to him as to when the House would open I believed that the House would have opened on that date.

The work in which I was invited to take part has been referred to here this evening by the various speakers and it is not necessary for me to go into it in any great detail. Everyone in this House and perhaps outside of it is aware of what has been taking place in England in relation to the Conference and War Cabinet. It was of a two fold character. First, the representatives of the Dominions and India were invited to England to take part in the deliberations of the Imperial War Cab inet, in other words with the British Cabinet in relation to the conduct of the war, in relation to the terms of peace and in relation to matters after the war. The Cabinet met every second day while we were in England. There were present the Prime Minister of England, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Bonar Law, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Henderson—representing Labour—the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Balfour, and we were advised in our meetings by Admiral Jellicoe the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Edward Carson, as well as representatives of the Army, the Chief of Staff, Sir William Robertson and General Maurice, and Lord Derby, the Minister of War, In addition there was of course the representatives of the Dominions and those of India. They are memorable historic meetings—of great interest lacking in none of those requisites which go to make up great historic occasions.

The representatives of the Dominions were admitted to full partnership in all the discussions. This great privilege, this admission by the British Government of the rights of all the British Oversea Dominions as well as India to take part in the great war councils of the Empire, was merely a return for what they themselves had well earned, because the position that they had taken in the war more than justified their complete and full recognition by the Imperial Government, in relation to foreign matters and the conduct of the war. England has, as has been stated here this afternoon by one of the speakers, accomplished greater things than has ever been accomplished by the greatest efforts of Greece or Rome, because England has accomplished in thirty or forty months what it took thirty or forty years for the German empire to accomplish. In other words, England has performed a miracle, and has added another wonder to the seven wonders of the world. England has raised, trained and equipped and has taken an army of 5,000,000 men to France and brought them back again without losing a man, through the guidance, skill and protection of her great navy. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland and the Empire of India, have sent overseas more than a million men to take part in this great conflict. Nor have they stopped there. They have subscribed treasure and gold, and all, even we, out in far away Newfoundland, have done our part and taken our share of England's burden. As regards our own share, I may tell you that on every occasion from the King down to the lowest peasant in Great Britain all extoll in highest terms and praise the part Newfoundland had taken, not alone her soldiers, but her sailors. On three or four occasions I was a guest of His Majesty the King, both in his historic home

at Windor Castle, and in his residence at Buckingham Palace, and on every occasion he impressed on me his high appreciation of the part Newfoundland has played. He recognized that in a country like Newfoundland, where there was no military spirit, where we had not seen a soldier for half a century, where we were engaged in the arts of peace, where we had forgotten the science of war—as indeed had many other portions of the Empire—not only the greatest spirit of patriotism prevailed but that we had nobly borne our share in the great war that England was waging on behalf of humanity and civilization. We can never go back to where we were before the war. It has been said that Newfoundland has been placed on the map of the world. And all England, the public men of Great Britain and the Sovereign of the great British Empire, have on more than one occasion testified to the splendid work performed by our soldiers and sailors. Not alone our soldiers and sailors, but the whole country, our men and women who suffer in sorrow, keeping up the burden of running the country as well as those who sacrificed their sons and brothers and all who are dear to them. All, all have won recognition for the way we have borne out part in the burdens of this historic war. As I have said, participation in these war councils introduced us to the serious matters upon which the Empire now has to focus all its attention and concentrate all its strength. You can have no idea of the mass of material that had to be considered daily, because the War Cabinet had to be given the fullest information on everything that had been done and was to be done. All the possibilities of peace had to be considered, and everything contingent upon every possible peace—all these questions were considered in detail and for two months almost we were practically engaged carrying on the war, and I am free to say that there is a splendid spirit to-day in England manifested by her public men, by the press, and by citizens of all classes. All exhibit the same spirit, and the sure conviction that victory is certain. We may have reverses. We expect, anticipate and are prepared for them.

It was like a bolt from the blue when the news of the Russian revolution came. No one had any idea that we were so near a complete change of government. You have followed what has taken place, and read the messages every day the past few months. No one can fully appreciate the outcome of that revolution, or the policy which present and future governments may have to adopt there. It was a wonderful thing when hundreds of millions of people jumped from serfdom and slavery to the highest plane of liberty and equality. I hope they may properly use the great power they have won. Older nations know—those who have gone through the mill—that the Russian peasant will have to learn the lessons they have learnt in the past, namely, that the principles of liberty are the only foundations of an empire's prosperity, and that labor and labor alone constitutes a country's strength. It all comes back to this, that all the wealth and luxury around us, our great public buildings, factories, docks, railways, and theatres are merely the result of labor. If you stop working in the mine, if the fishery ceases, if men go idle, there can be no prosperity in the country, the country cannot support its population, and there is no independence, there is no liberty. These people in Russia have jumped from serfdom to liberty in a night, and they will have to recognize the fact that their first duty is to their country, that their

country can only exist as long as they work. They must continue to uphold the principles for which for the last three years, England and her allies have been fighting. It was Russia that England came in to help. England is the helper and friend of France and Russia and the trustee of Belgium, and the war would have been over in a month or two, or three at the furthest, had England remained out of the conflict. Germany would have overrun France. We have heard to-day graphic descriptions of what has been accomplished by the British Expeditionary Force that went over to France. We fight for the freedom of the world. The allies must stand together, else humanity will suffer for centuries to come. We fight that Russia may be free. She cannot go back on her allies. My observations merely tend to prove that if a separate peace is made by Russia it may prolong the war for years, because in the first place it will enable the Germans to purchase wheat from Russia, unless, indeed, it were one of the terms of peace that Russia would not sell to Germany, and, secondly, it would enable the Germans to concentrate all their strength upon the other fronts. Such a peace would be a permanent strain and injury to Russia. We can easily see how important it is that Russia should remain true to her promises, and this is one of the uncertain elements in the war. The other is the submarine. A week before I left England something like sixty ships were sunk. Since then conditions have been improving. Germany's policy is to starve England out. They do not hope to win on the western front, because we are now blasting our way to Berlin, and it is only a question of time, of calculation, when Germany will fire her last shot. But they do not trust to end the war on the land. They trust to starve England into terms of peace, but I do not think they will succeed there, because the advent of the United States more than counteracts any result that either of these dangers may lead to. The allies can get all the money we want from America, and we will get valuable assistance from the American navy, assistance in the shape of destroyers and convoys for food across the Atlantic, so that all risk of England's being starved into terms of peace is practically very remote. The next four or five months will probably witness a bit of pinching in England as far as wheat is concerned, but only in relation to wheat. There is more meat in England to-day than before the war. In September they will have their own wheat crops. The new wheat crop will render the submarine danger less of a menace. The United States have come to the rescue and I think we may safely assume that by next May we will be in a better position to carry on the war, if by that time it is not over. These were the questions that daily concerned us in these war cabinet councils, and I need not say that it was a most interesting opportunity to get right on to the inside history of those wonderful international problems. To learn of our foreign relations from men like Balfour, the Foreign Secretary, to hear naval problems daily dealt with by men like Admiral Jellicoe, straight from the North Sea, where he had for three years been keeping watch and ward in that great marine theatre of war. Daily he placed before us all the problems that confronted the Navy in every detail. It was wonderful to hear men who had for three years been intimate with the greatest workings of the war, discuss each phase, men like the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Long, who represents all the outlying Crown Colonies. But I fear that I cannot on this occasion delay the

House longer, the hour of adjournment having already arrived, but I will avail myself of an early opportunity to do so. I would ask the permission of the House to deal with one other matter before I sit down. The next opportunity this Legislature offers I will take to describe in greater detail a number of local matters I had to deal with when in England, also the questions relative to our troops in France and Ayr. I would like to conclude by reading to this House two letters relative to our Regiment at Monchy.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister read two letters as follows:—

Downing Street,
21st April, 1917.

My Dear Prime Minister,—

I think you will be interested to see the enclosed extract from a letter from General Sir Edmund Allenby. The Newfoundland Regiment are maintaining their splendid record.

Sincerely yours,
WALTER E. LONG.

(Extract from letter from Gen. Sir E. Allenby to Mr. Walter Long):

The Newfoundlanders too did great work at Monchy in repelling a very heavy counter-attack by the Germans. Their casualties were high, but they showed splendid staunchness and fought like heroes. A report from the Divisional Commander reads:

" . . . . .the Germans were advancing and the Eastern defences appeared weak. On this the Commanding Officer and and the remainder of the Headquarter runners, signallers etc., proceeded as rapidly as possible to the south east corner of the town. The C. O. climbing a ladder, saw the Germans jumping into our starting trench. His small party then ran across to the garden fence, losing a few men as they crossed, but getting cover in a sort of ditch. From there they were able to fire all day, at close range, getting the Trench nearly in enfilade and accounting for a large number of Germans . . . . . I have personally commended the good work of this Battalion, and that of the C. O. and his Headquarters in particular. By his promptness and personal bravery he avoided what might have been a very serious situation."

That is very high praise, coming from such a person. I may also say that this forenoon I have learned from the Colonial Secretary that there is information in to the effect that a number of our boys have been taken prisoners. The Colonial Secretary will give the House any information that may be required on this important point.

As I have said on an early occasion I will avail myself of the opportunity of dealing with matters which the Leader of the Opposition has referred to, which time prohibits me from doing now.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. Speaker, I will read the information which I have received. Before so doing, however, I will take this opportunity of referring to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon, relative to the pay of the Naval Reserve. He stated that he had learned in conversation with a Minister of the Crown that the additional pay of the Naval Reservists would not be paid them until after the war. I am not aware if he meant me when he said this.

MR. LLOYD—No, I did not.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I remember on one occasion when the discussion of this matter in connection with the pay of the Naval Reservists was before the Government, that I mentioned there that I was strongly in favor of equalizing the pay of both the Regiment and the Reserve, and also referred to the fact that last year

in Canada they were advertising for naval volunteers and were paying them $1.10 per day with separation allowance. (These men, I may say, could not compare with our men physically at all. They struck me as being a very different type of men.) I represented this to the Executive Government, every member of which strongly concurred in what I had said. As to the payment of these men after the war, never on any occasion, either publicly or private, have I made any such a statement as that to which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has referred this afternoon.

MR. LLOYD—I would like the Government to make a clear statement as to what they propose to do in this matter. The Hon. Colonial Secretary has not yet stated when he proposes to pay these men. He has not said that they were to be paid at once.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I never had any other intention.

On motion the debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

The following notices were given:

Mr. Coaker gave notice of question.

Mr. Halfyard gave notice of question.

Mr. Lloyd gave notice of question.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Death Duties Act, Acts 1914-16."

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Discipline on Ships Controlled by the Admiralty."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies."

The Hon. Colonial Secretary gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Riverside Woolen Mills Limited."

The Hon. Colonial Secretary tabled the following:

Statement of the St. John's Municipal Council for the year 1916.

Annual Report of the Cashier of the Newfoundland Savings Bank 1916.

Annual Returns of the Reid Newfoundland Company for the period June 30th, 1915, to June 30th, 1916.

Report and Financial Statement of the Council of Higher Education for the year 1916.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, May 31st.

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

Hon. the Minister of Finance tabled the Public Accounts 1915-1916.

NEW BILLS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Death Duties Act, Acts 1914-1916," was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Discipline on ships controlled by the Admiralty," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies," 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 Hon. Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act for the confirmation of a contract with the Riverside Woolen Mills, Limited," 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 Hon. Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act for the confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Limited," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

QUESTIONS.

MR. COAKER asked the Minister of Public Works to table a statement showing the amounts expended for repairs upon Public Buildings in the Colony from July 1st, 1916, up to May 31st, 1917, the name of such buildings or where situated and to whom such moneys were paid. Also the quantity of coal supplied each public building at St. John's, from whom purchased, and price paid for same per ton.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg to table part of the information required. The remainder will be tabled to-morrow.

MR. COAKER asked the Right Hon. The Premier to table all correspondence and any Agreements relative to the re-opening of the Howley Coal Seam.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—There was nothing whatever in the way of correspondence in this matter. The matter was brought before the parties interested and the advantages both to the Colony and them were pointed out, but nothing took place that gave rise to any correspondence whatever.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to table a detailed statement showing the quantity of fresh codfish, halibut and salt bulk codfish exported from the Colony from January 1st, 1917, to May 1st, 1917, and the value placed upon the same by the exporters. Also, the number of gallons of refined Cod Liver Oil exported from the Colony from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917, and the value placed upon the same by the exporter.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to table a statement showing what liquor was dispensed by the Acting Controller for medical purposes during January, February, March, April and May, showing the amount for each month. Also, to table a statement showing what flour was imported into the Colony from December 1st, 1916, to May 1st, 1917, and by whom. Also, to table a statement showing the number of men that left the Colony from November 1st, 1916, to March 31st, 1917. Also, the number of men that entered the Colony during the same period.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to table all correspondence, or copies of same, and any agreements made relative to the present service rendered by the S.S. Clyde and S.S. Dundee, also any correspondence relative to the Fortune Bay service since May 1st, 1916. Also, a copy or the original of the Contract entered into relative to the Bay of Islands-St. George's mail service, and the service between St. John's and Cook's Harbor. Also, a detailed statement of cost of Lower Labrador service during 1916.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—The reply is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier to table a statement showing (a) total accepted recruits for the army and navy from August, 1915, to May 31st, 1917; (b) the dis-

tricts to which such belong; (c) the number for each service rejected during the above period; (d) the districts to which such belong; (e) the total amount of war expenditure up to May 31st, 1917; (f) the casualties in the Naval Reserve and Newfoundland Regiment up to April 30th, 1917, defining number killed, deaths from wounds, number unfitted for service and number discharged, number in hospital and number missing; (g) number now fit for service out of the total enrollments in each service and where such are situated.

Rt. HON. PRIME MINISTER—As to this question (a) is being prepared, (b), (c) and (d) are in course of preparation, (e) I beg leave to table this, (f), these facts are being obtained from Captain MacDermott and the Regimental figures are being prepared, and (g) that is also being prepared. I shall be able to provide an estimate shortly. Col. Whittaker is preparing these.

MR. HALFYARD asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House a statement of all moneys sent to St. Jacques, Fortune District, for the years 1912 and 1913, with copies of returns for same, if any have been received.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I beg to table that information.

MR. HALFYARD asked the Minister of Public Works to lay on the table of the House a statement of all moneys from the Main Line, local and special grants allocated from his Department for expenditure at St. Anthony, St. Barbe District, for the years 1915 and 1916.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—That I beg to table.

MR. HALFYARD asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a copy of all correspondence between the Postmaster General, the representative of Fogo district, and the Hon. Colonial Secretary, re the erection of telegraph wires from Gander Bay to Musgrave Harbor, Fogo District. Also, to ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to table a statement showing what money has been paid, and to whom paid, for the storage of telegraph wires at Carmanville and Ladle Cove from December 31st, 1913, to date.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—That will be tabled to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to table the reports of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Colony and on section 33b of the Audit Act.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That will be tabled to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to table a statement of balances of Government accounts in the Bank of Montreal on May 31st, 1917.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That is being prepared.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs whether the grant of money for the office of Judge of the Central District Court has been expended during the past two years in whole or in part; and if so, to name the persons to whom the moneys of this grant have been paid, and in what amounts, and the dates of such payments.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I beg to table that information.

MR. LLOYD asked the Right Hon. the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the Government to make provision this session for a General Election in the Fall.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I do not think the practice would be to make any provision. It is generally charged to Trust Fund.

MR. LLOYD - that provision ought to be made.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I

was speaking of the practice. I am speaking from memory. It is not in the Supplementary Supply. i think.

MR. LLOYD asked the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to abolish the office of Judge of the Central District Court. If not, when this office will be filled.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—That has not been before the Government. As regards the latter part of this question I may say that that is before the Government for consideration.

MR. LLOYD—That is not much information.

MR. LLOYD to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if provision is being made in the Estimates for taking the Voter's List this summer.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The Estimates have not yet been completed.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if provision is being made for the General Election this fall.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The same answer applies to this question.

MR. LLOYD—May I request that these questions remain on the Order Paper until answered.

MR. LLOYD asked the Right Hon. the Prime Minister if arrangement is being made for the revision of the Voters List this summer.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—No arrangements have been made for a revision of the Voters' List. It will be considered by the Government in the regular course.

MR. LLOYD—May I ask that that question remain also until answered.

DEBATE ON MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Before the House adjourned yesterday I referred generally to the question which came before the War Cabinet and I intimated that on another occasion I would say something regarding the work of the Imperial Conference. That Conference, presided over by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and at which all the representatives of the various Dominions, including the Empire of India, took part, followed much along the lines of other Imperial and Colonial Conferences. One of the most important questions discussed was in relation to what may be regarded as the Constitution of the Empire. In other words, as to whether it was possible, and feasible, and desirable that a closer union should exist between the various portions of the Empire—the great States generally known as the Dominions—and whether it can be brought about. Of course, that is a subject which has been discussed for years; it has been the dream of all those who desire a closer union of the Empire in relation to foreign affairs and what is known as Imperial Defence. In the past, of course, the widely scattered portions of the Empire—Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Newfoundland and South Africa, as well as all the Crown possessions and dependencies have really trusted very largely for defence to the Motherland. Practically the whole work of defending the Empire by land and sea has been accomplished by Great Britain, and naturally all the questions dealing with foreign relations have been, to a very large extent, dealt with by the Home Government. Now, it was different. The war had brought all the various portions of the Empire closer together, and they had shown that in a great conflict they were prepared to do their part. Without any solicitation whatever from the Motherland, they had all sprung to arms, voluntarily and at their own expense, sending over a

million men into the various theatres of war, and by so doing they had won the right to full partnership in the Empire. And that was recognized to a certain extent by the British Government when they called the representatives of the various Dominions to the War Cabinet Councils. The Conference, then, sitting apart from the War Cabinet and as a distinct organization, discussed the question as to whether some constitutional scheme or arrangement might be effected whereby each dependency and dominion, whilst preserving complete independence and complete autonomy, in relation to its fiscal affairs, might meet upon a common ground in relation to defence and foreign affairs. Some have suggested that an Imperial Parliament might be established in London in which the whole Empire would be represented, but there are many arguments against that, many difficulties in the way of such a scheme. Others thought that there might be an Imperial Council; but the Conference came to the conclusion that at the present time it was impossible to bring to the consideration of the question that care, attention and time which was necessary to deal fully with so important a matter. Accordingly the following Resolution was passed:—

CONSTITUTION OF EMPIRE.

"The Imperial War Conference are of opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to be dealt with during the War, and that it should form the subject of a special Imperial Conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

They deem it their duty, however, to place on record their views that any such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all existing powers of self-government and complete control of domestic affairs, should be based upon a full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth, and of India as an important portion of the same, should recognize the right of the Dominions and India to an adequate voice in foreign policy and in foreign relations, and should provide effective arrangements for continuous consultation in all important matters of common Imperial concern,and for such necessary concerted action, founded on consultation, as the several Governments may determine."

That, of course, is in itself a complete admission of the position of the Dominions and an assertion of their rights as far as that question is concerned.

Now, another matter of interest which came up for discussion at the Conference, was in relation to Soldiers' graves. France has donated in fee simple to the British Government all the land where British soldiers have been buried, and it is hoped that after the war it may be possible to obtain similar titles, even from enemy countries, to all lands where British soldiers have been interred. In addition to that, arrangements have been made for looking after these graves, and a Commission, with the Prince of Wales at its heads, has been appointed for this purpose. It is hoped that arrangements may be made whereby Great Britain, all the Dominions and India, will be able to annually contribute, in proportion, towards the upkeep of these graves. This is a national matter, and one dear to the hearts of every one of us, and it is, after all, about the only thing we can do, the only recognition we can give to our fallen heroes. I am quite satisfied that every person in the community will be glad to know that the last resting places of those who have fallen will be cared for by this Commission.

CARE OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

"The Conference having considered the Minute addressed to the Prime Minister on the 15th March, 1917 by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, concurs in the proposals made therein, and humbly prays His Majesty to constitute by Royal Charter an Imperial War Graves Commission for the purposes stated by His Royal Highness, and along the lines therein set forth as embodied in the draft charter submitted to the Conference. The Conference places on record its very deep appreciation of the generous action of the French government in allotting in perpetuity the land in that country where our men are buried, and urges that similar arrangements should be made, if possible, in the terms of peace with all Governments—Ally, Enemy or Neutral—for a similar concession in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Africa, and all other theatres of war. The Conference desires to record its grateful appeciation of the work already done by the Prince of Wales and His Committee in caring for the graves of those who have fallen in the common cause of the Empire, and its satisfaction that His Royal Highness has consented to become the President of the permanent Commission.

That the Imperial War Graves Commission be requested to as soon as possible after their appointment and organization prepare an estimate of the probable cost of carrying on the work entrusted to them and to submit the same to the governments of the United Kingdom and Oversea Dominions with their recommendation as to the proportion that should be borne by each."

Another matter of importance was in relation to the establishment of an Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau. That was a matter which was very carefully and very fully discussed; and it was considered that something more than the Imperial Institute which has been in existence now for many years in London, (where all the Dominions and India have courts, where all minerals and other products are exhibited, where lectures are held from time to time, and where most of the Dominion's other products are exhibited, where a great deal of literature is kept and circulated from time to time)—it was thought, I say, that something more than that should be provided, and it was decided that a Mineral Resources Bureau should be established in London, where all the Dominions would have an opportunity of having the minerals of the different countries investigated, and their advantages and uses brought to the notice of intending prospectors and purchasers, or parties interested in industries likely to require them. This resolution was accordingly proposed:—

IMPERIAL MINERAL RESOURCES BUREAU.

"That it is desirable to establish in London an Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, upon which should be represented Great Britain, the Dominions, India, and other parts of the Empire.

The Bureau should be charged with the duties of collection of information from the appropriate departments of the Governments concerned, and other sources regarding the mineral resources and the metal requirements of the Empire, and of advising from time to time what action, if any, may appear desirable to enable such resources to be developed and made available to meet the metal requirements of the Empire.

That the Conference recommends that His Majesty's Government should, while having due regard to existing institutions, take immediate

action for the purpose of establishing such a Bureau, and should as soon as possible submit a scheme for the consideration of the other Governments summoned to the Conference."

In other words, that a body should be established there—a great department that would supervise and take up the whole question of the minerals of the Empire.

Now, there can be no question of the value and importance to Newfoundland of this resolution. We know from our geological reports, as well as from private sources of information that Newfoundland is a great mineral country, and that some day it will probably be quite equal to any other in proportion to its size of the mineral producing countries in the Empire. But the trouble is that we have never been able to induce sufficient men of capital to interest themselves in these mineral resources, for the reason that we have not been able to make our properties attractive. The most of our mines, with the exception of three or four, have not been beyond the stage of a mere prospect. Bett's Cove was operated for years, so was La Manche lead mine. Tilt Cove is practically closed to-day, and with the exception of Bell Island we have very few mines working. There are clear indications all over the country that we have coal in very good seams, particularly the Howley seam, and although private parties and governments of several administrations have endeavoured to develop these coal areas, up to the present time nothing has been done with the exception of what was done by the Reid Newfoundland Co., who only got a certain distance. I say we have a number of valuable prospects in the country, but these require to be worked to a certain extent before people will come in to purchase and develop them. It is not sufficient to go to them with a specimen and tell them we have coal mines. They must be developed to a certain extent by surveying and boring in order to establish the value and quantity of the deposit. We have, not alone coal, but we have mica and asbestos. We have good copper mines besides those which are now closed, and the iron mines at Bell Island and the submarine areas in connection with Bell Island are probably the finest in the world. We now know pretty accurately, and I can inform the Committee, that the British government, the Minister of Munitions, before whom I brought the importance of Bell Isle, and those interested in Imperial matters have estimated and appreciated the importance of Bell Island, and they would regard it as a most serious matter if there was the slightest danger of that property passing out of control of British interests and British companies. These mines are important, not alone from the standpoint of steel and the building of ships, but from the standpoint of munitions and all the industries that require in their construction and equipment that which is turned out as the product and result of these mines, so it is very important for us to know that a bureau dealing with our minerals is to be provided for at a very early date.

Another matter that occupied the attention of the Conference was the future representation at the imperial Conferences of the great Empire of India, and this resolution was passed in relation to that subject:

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA AT FUTURE IMPERIAL CONFERENCES.

"That the Imperial War Conference desires to place on record its view that the Resolution of the Imperial Conference of 20th April 1907 should be modified to permit of India being fully represented at all future Imperi-

al Conferences, and that the necessary steps should be taken to secure the assent of the various governments, in order that the next Imperial Conference may be summoned and constituted accordingly."

As we all know, up to the present time India, with all its wealth and resources and all its ancient civilization, its immense population, has never been regarded in the light of a Dominion. It is not even to-day in its Government a Dominion, though in a sense having Responsible Government, Government in advance of a Crown Colony, nor has it been allowed to take part in Imperial or Colonial conferences, and only on the present occasion was the invitation extended to them. The feeling of those who are competent to judge, who know India and the tribes of India, are all satisfied that there is an unusually strong sentiment in India in favour of the British Empire. This applies not alone to what is known as British India, which is specially governed by the British Government, but to those portions of India ruled by Indian chiefs, and they are in entire harmony with the British Government and Empire, and in this war have done splendid work, not alone in contributing men, but money. Only the other day the Government of India voted £100,000,000 towards the war, in addition to large gifts from the princes, who also sent forces from their own provinces. This is entirely a voluntary movement that has come from these people, because they appreciate since the days of the Indian Mutiny that British rule in India is a wise and just and beneficent one. From an industrial standpoint India does not compare with other portions of the British Empire, nor in the value of its imports or the earning power of its people. The people are blessed by living in a warm climate where they require very little food or clothing, and as a consequence they do not have to work as hard as those who live in other portions of the Empire. India has made wonderful progress and advancement during the last few years, and any person who is interested in India should read of the growth of India during the last few years. The same applies to Russia. The countries in this respect are very similar and have common interests, and it is on this account that I mention Russia. In both countries rapid progress has been made during the last few years, but without much noise or attracting much notice from the outside world. There is going to be a wonderful industrial movement in India and Russia during the next few years, and these countries will open up very large markets for the other portions of the British Empire. Therefore, in view of all these facts the Imperial Conference was satisfied that nothing less than the resolution I have read could be offered the people of India for their splendid contribution in this war. Of course there are difficulties, and always will be, in connection with the varying interests of the British Empire, arising out of language, race and creed. It was only just the first summer of the war when we all read of the case of three or four hundred Indians who were not allowed to land on the coast of Vancouver. They came as emigrants to enter Canada, but it was, I think, a Provincial law which did not permit them to enter. Of course, it is the old story of the white race against the colored race, and that will always be, but I know as a matter of fact that the Dominions concerned are giving the matter every consideration so that some arrangement can be made to get over these difficulties.

Now the next important matter, and one closely allied to the resolution

regarding our mineral resources, is a resolution passed in relation to the development and control of the natural resources of the various Dominions. It is a counterpart of the other, really, and reads as follows:

DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

"Having regard to the experience obtained in the present war, this Conference records its opinion that the safety of the Empire and the necessary development of its component parts, require prompt and attentive consideration, as well as concerted action, with regard to the following matters:

(1.) The production of an adequate food supply and arrangements for its transportation when and where required, under any conditions that may reasonably be anticipated.

(2.) The control of natural resources available within the Empire, especially those that are of an essential character for necessary national purposes, whether in peace or in war.

(3.) The economical utilization of such natural resources through processes of manufacture carried on within the Empire.

The Conference commends to the consideration of the Governments summoned thereto the enactment of such legislation as may assist these purposes."

Another important matter dealt with was the control of imports after the war from present enemy countries, and the following resolution was passed:

CONTROL OF IMPORTS AFTER THE WAR FROM PRESENT ENEMY CONTRIES.

"The Imperial War Conference considers it desirable, with a view to prevent dumping or any other mode of unfair competition from present enemy countries during the transition period after the war, that the several Governments of the Empire, while reserving to themselves freedom of action in any particular respect, take power to control the importation of goods originating in such countries into the Empire for a period of twelve months after the war."

Then there were other matters, such as the bringing home of the troops after the war, in which it was decided that immediately after the cessation of hostilities that the soldiers should be brought home immediately from France or England.

Also the appointment of additional Trade Commissioners. As you are aware we have never had a Trade Commission here, although we have, it is true, the advantage of an occasional visit from the Canadian Trade Commission; but it has now been definitely decided that we, as well as other portions of the Empire, are to have a permanent Trade Commissioner. This will enable the Empire as a whole to know of its resources. We will know what we have to sell and what other portions of the Empire have to sell, and require to purchase.

Then also the question of Naturalization, Patents and a number of other minor matters were discussed. I might sum up in a few words by saying that there was a general feeling that closer relations in every respect should be maintained, and that emigration, particularly of British subjects, should be so dealt with as to keep them within the Empire. It was pointed out that, owing to lack of attention on the part of the various dominions and provinces, as well as lack of attention in England millions had gone out from Great Britain and had settled in the United States and other countries not

under the British flag and the loss was pointed out not alone to Britain of her citizens, but the entire destruction of nationality and patriotism, as most of these people have abandoned their nationality and adopted that of the countries in which they went to live. It is only within the last ten or fifteen years that the Dominion of Canada has grown in population to any great extent. The last century, the nineteenth century, has been said to be the century of the United States. That wonderful country has grown and developed in one hundred years from six or seven millions—roughly the population of the State of New York—up to something like one hundred millions, a growth of one million a year.

And of course that has been added to and augmented by the constant stream of people from Great Britain beginning in the old days right down through the years, every day increasing with the increasing facilities for transportation. If the same transportation and passenger facilities existed between Great Britain and Canada that existed between Great Britain and the United States, the millions that went to the United States would have settled down in Canada, and we know now that you only require to develop the great land resources of Canada and open them up to secure not only emigrants from Great Britain but even citizens of the United States, because before the war there were going over to Canada from the United States not only poor people but well-to-do people and middle class American settlers with the experience of the United States behind them, preferring the attractive features of the prairie lands in the North West. We ourselves have been suffering from the same difficulties for years owing to lack of transportation We have been unable to pay sufficient subsidies for these lines of steamers that can encourage passenger traffic by providing good transportation and painting an attractive picture in order to entice emigrants from the old country, and I have no doubt that when the great marine fields we have, the great fishing fields, fields that require no annual fertilizing, fields that can be reaped without plough, fields that for value of produce and certainty of crop are unequalled in any dominion of the British Empire, are developed and have sufficient capital invested to make them even more attractive,that we too will participate in the advancement which will come from emigration. As to the conference generally the feeling was of unity and brotherhood. A feeling brought about by the common effort and common sacrifice of the war. I look forward, Mr. Speaker, with confidence to the future not only of the Great Empire, but of our own country.

Naturally when I was over, I availed of the opportunity of seeing our troops. I saw a great many in England in hospitals, and also in France and also at Ayr. I made some slight reference yesterday to what I had seen, but I would like to repeat shortly again for the information of this House and the country generally that our troops to the number of some three or four thousand who have been sent across, as well as sailors. have more than carried out our highest hopes and expectations. They have maintained in every position in which they have been placed the very highest traditions of army and navy. The generals who commanded them in the field, and the Commanders under whom they served on the decks of the Dreadnoughts, in the submarines and every other department of the navy, speak in the very highest terms of them and wish for more of them. The press of England, the great dailies, The Telegraph, Chroni-

cle, Express and Daily Mail, have extolled the Newfoundlanders for their bravery and heroism, and it is a great consolation to the stricken homes in Newfoundland to know that their sons and brothers who have fallen as heroes in a mighty cause, have done their duty as men and have won the esteem of the Empire.

Everywhere I went it was the same. From the King down, all spoke in the highest terms of the efforts of the Newfoundland Soldiers and Sailors. That is a consolation for their relatives. That is the only consolation for the stricken parents, brother and sister. The feeling they have done what was right in this great crisis. It cannot be said of them that they did not have the necessary courage. As far as that goes we must all be proud of them. Only recently they have had a very great misfortune. and a great number of killed, wounded and missing have been reported. Every day brings in new assurances that a great many may have been taken prisoners, and we can only hope for the best, but the fact remains that the Battalion at the rront will require every effort on our part to maintain it at its full strength I am glad to understand that recruiting is fairly brisk. With nearly 1000 at Ayr. those here and those coming on, it seems that by a pull together we may be able to encourage the young men of the country to enlist, and so make a special effort to maintain to the end of the war this good work. Of course we have accomplished more than we hoped for. When we started out we had no idea how long this war would last or what it would lead to. When we offered the first battalion we thought we were doing wonderful, but now we have sent nearly four thousand soldiers and half that many sailors. We have had about five thousand men, and I hope that we will keep the numbers up so that those who are in the front lines will not feel that they are being forgotten.

There were a great many other matters which engaged my attention whilst in England, but I don't think I need delay the committee just now to go into detail. One was in relation to salt, about which I was in communication with the Board of Trade here, as well as the Government. It is extremely difficult to get steamers released on the other side, owing to the demands being made on the Imperial Government for steamers for food. Day after day, and week after week ships are being sunk and others are being requisitioned to take their places, and it was only on the strongest representations of the importance of salt to Newfoundland that I was able to get the ships released. I had to point out to the Controller of Shipping that salt is vital to Newfoundland. That whatever else there might be a substitute for, that salt was absolutely necessary. Without that we could not exist, as up to the present time we have not been able to market or manufacture any quantity of fish in the fresh state. I had to point out to him that if we had no salt we could have no fish, no supplies, no importations, no revenue and it meant default of interest on the public debt and the impossibility of carrying on the public service. It was only on the very strongest representations that I could secure the release of ships requisitioned and under the control of the Admiralty. I have represented to the Board of Trade here the desirability of getting in the present season salt for next year, because we cannot tell what difficulties will be in the way next season. As I said yesterday, anything may develop owing to the unfortunate condition in Russia, and every means should be used to secure a full supply (:

salt for next year, for it may be more difficult to get ships next year. A great deal depends upon the success or otherwise of the enemy's blockade by submarines. The losses continue every day and more are being sunk than are being built. It is certain that this cannot continue—but that will take time. Locally here we have been fortunate except for sailing vessels, as we have lost but two ships, the "Annapolis" and the "Stephano." We have not in that respect suffered directly, as much as other countries, but indirectly I suppose we have.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this explanation may be of some interest to the committee and from time to time, as the session may develop I will be able to deal at greater length with the several matters to which I have now but briefly referred.

MR. COAKER—Mr. Speaker, occupying as I do the important position of the leader of a party in this House, I deem it wise at this stage of the debate to make some observations. These observations would not have been made if the Prime Minister in opening yesterday had given information and replied to the questions put in a manner that would have removed all doubt with respect to the point of Dr. Lloyd yesterday. Now we have met here at a very late time for the session. At a time when not one of us has any right to be here. Not a man on this side of the House at any rate, for they have other important duties to be performed now. The time for Legislative duties is in the months of January and February, when there is plenty of time available for discussing all matters. When you hold up the session until June, when any man who has business to do must do it, it seems to me a more important reason should be given for it than has been given. The Governor's Speech says the absence of the Prime Minister has prevented the House from opening. That seems to me a pretty poor excuse. There was no reason why this House should not have met and transacted such business as that set out yesterday in the Speech. Such business as that should not need the presence of the Prime Minister in the House. Apart from that he had an invitation to attend the conference about Christmas, and he left the latter part of February. Why was not the House opened in the intervening month or six weeks? The absence of the Minister has, I say, afforded no excuse for a delay in opening so long as this.

I certainly would have been agreeable to have business conducted before the Prime Minister left for England and I think we might have put all the business through in less than a month or six weeks. At any rate it would have been better to do that than to have things as they are now. Here we have a man like Mr. Jennings whose living is to catch fish. He is taken away from the herring fishery, and he has to leave his work and come up here to attend to legislative duties that might have been done two or three months ago. I do not think it is fair, and the Government should do all in their power to make the session a short one. Instead of that when the Leader of the Opposition asks certain questions with a view to obtaining certain information he is calmly told that there is such a thing under the consideration of the Government as an extension of Parliament, while everybody knows by the law of the land that the Government must go to the country in the fall. If there is such a thing as extension to come up; if the Government is really seriously considering extending their time; if, I say, the Government is taking this position, there can be no hope of an

early close, for though we are busy men, we are prepared to stay here until the last of September, if need be, to defeat their plans. There must be no fooling with this matter, for the Government must go to the country this fall. If they try to force such a measure we will fight it, and oppose it so strenuously that everything must be turned topsy turvy, and I venture to say they will wish they were never in power as a Government at all.

I do not see what the Premier has to smile at in this. This thing is serious. I want to get through the session. I am a business man and I have large interests to protect. I cannot come here and spend three or four months of the busiest time of the season attending to my legislative duties in order to fight such a thing as the Government intimated yesterday they were going to bring before the House. It was late when the session began and we are willing to do what we can to shorten the session. We intend to do nothing to hinder it, but we are not going to consent in any way to the extension of the life of Parliament. If you want your term extended, go to the country and get them to extend it. If you have been justified in your conduct and can show that to the people you might get an extension. What are you trying to do? Do you realise what you are doing? Do you know the serious thing that you are attempting? Do you not know that if you can come in here and bring in a Bill to extend the life of Parliament for one year, we, when we come back after the next election, can come in and extend the term of Parliament for ten years. Do you think you can treat the Constitution like a football to be kicked here and there at the behest of party politics? If any constitutional change is to be made in any country, that change should only be made with the advice and consent of all parties. To do otherwise is to make a football of the Constitution. Last year in Canada when the life of Parliament was to be extended, the Government invited the Opposition to express their opinion on it. The Opposition, after a discussion amongst themselves decided to agree to the extension. If that extension had taken place in Canada without the consent of the Opposition, what would be the conditions there now? They are bad enough in some respects now, but if that had been done they would be much worse. No Government, Sir, without the consent of the Opposition can extend the life of Parliament regardless of the Constitution. The Premier yesterday said that things were serious with regard to our Battalion at the front and that it was very important for the Colony that something should be done in order to keep up our strength at the front. Well, if you are going to extend the Parliament in the manner suggested, then you can make up your minds that recruiting will be a thing of the past. I do not think the Premier, when he made his remarks yesterday, had really made up his mind and had really determined that such a thing as the extension of the life of Parliament was to be considered by his party. However, we take this stand and we announce it now that we intend to stay here and dispute inch by inch every thing you bring before the House if you intend to do this thing. You will not get Supply. You will get no Estimates through. You will get no Legislation through while we have breath or words on this side of the House if you do not make up your minds and assure us as speedily as possible that you do not intend to try and make a football of the Constitution.

The Premier misconstrued Dr. Lloyd's remarks when he spoke last

evening and said that Dr. Lloyd had accused the Government of not giving him a square deal in connection with the war. Now, Dr. Lloyd did not intend to make any such accusation. What Dr. Lloyd meant was that you should act with us as fairly as we have acted with you and not use the war as an excuse for party exigencies to endeavour to extend the life of Parliament. If you have done your duty and can give a satisfactory account to the people, why not have an election. If you are not afraid of what you have done, why not go to the Polls. Anyhow, what has the Government to do with the war? As the Premier said last night, the Government is simply paying the bills. They are not running the war. It is a committee of private citizens who have been expending the money and making all arrangements. The Government simply pays the bills. If anything was to happen to every Minister of the head of the various Departments to-day, the work that has been done in connection with the war will still go on just as well without those Ministers as with them. There is no justification of that kind for extending the life of Parliament.

Now there is no excuse on the line of the expenditure that will be caused by an election, as we are going to have a large surplus. That was indicated last night and there will be no difficulty in finding the money because it will only amount to thirty or forty thousand dollars. If you could take forty thousand dollars and expend it on a Prohibition Plebiscite right in the middle of the war, it is just as easy or easier for you to find it now. There was another thing that the Premier stated in reply to Dr. Lloyd with regard to the question as to a vote being taken for this amount. He stated it was not necessary to take a vote because the expense of an election was always paid from the Surplus Trust Fund. Now, I find that in 1908 that there was an amount in the Estimates for the 1908 Election.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I only spoke from memory. Did you look in the 1913 Estimates.

MR. CLIFT—I do not think it was in the 1913 Estimates.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—My recollection was that in one of these cases, if not in both, the amount was taken from the Trust Fund.

MR. COAKER—I find also from a question put in here yesterday and answered to-day, that although the membership of the House has been depleted by the promotion of Mr. Kent, the deaths of Messrs. Kennedy and Dwyer, and by Mr. Morine withdrawing from the House to live in Canada, that other members of the House have forfeited their seats, although at the present session they take their seats. From the question answered, I notice that my friend the member for Placentia and St. Mary's, has been drawing for the last two years a permanent salary in connection with the office of District Court Judge. If that is not playing with the Constitution and with the Rules of this House, I do not know what it is. There has been $2100 paid to Mr. Morris for performing the duties of the District Court Judge for the last two years. He is really occupying a permanent position in the Civil Service of the Country and yet he comes here and takes his seat and votes on all questions regardless of the Constitution and of the Rules of this House. This position should be attended to by the Government. I do not think that the Premier really intends to trample under foot the Constitution and Rules and procedure of this House. He said to-day, what he already said twelve months ago, that the matter of the appointment

of a District Court Judge was under consideration. That position is vacant. It has been filled in any sort of way during the last couple of years.

There is a man on that side of the House who is available in every way and who should be appointed. Because of some party bickering amongst yourselves you cannot agree upon an appointment. Is that square to the people of this country, is it square to members of this House. Last year when the House was closing the Premier said that the appointment would be made in the interim; in fact that some one would be immediately appointed to administer the work of the District Court. Now I raise my protest against this procedure, and I hope the Government will take some steps to have this matter attended to and save us the trouble of commenting any further on it in this House.

My friend the member for St. John's East, Mr. Higgins, yesterday delivered a very able address, as did also my friend the member for Placentia and St. Mary's, Mr. Devereaux, addresses that were interesting and instructive and which were listened to attentively on this side of the House. I regret to have to question any statement made by my friend Mr. Higgins, because I have a lot of admiration for him, and I was sorry to hear him say yesterday that it did not matter to any man what was the price of a barrel of flour as long as he had the money in his pocket to pay for it. Now that may be political economy, but while the fishermen of this country are willing to pay fifteen dollars for flour and four dollars a hogshead for salt, and forty dollars a barrel for pork if that is its value; they are not willing to pay fifteen dollars a barrel for flour that cost eleven dollars delivered here during last fall and winter; and they are not willing that the seller of the flour, whether wholesaler or retailer, should make four or five dollars a barrel profit where at one time they were content with twenty-five cents. It is all very well to talk about having money in your pockets to pay. A good many in this colony have the money. My friend said it does not matter if you have enough money coming in to meet the increased prices. How about the poor Civil Servants during the past four years. Living has gone up fifty per cent. but they have had no increase. Thev have not had the money in their pocket. Where would they get it?

Now take the question of salt. I understand that salt has been imported during the last couple of years under agreement with the Government, and the selling price fixed under agreement with the Government, and yet every merchant selling that salt is making from fifty cents to a dollar more profit per hogshead on salt than they ever did before.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—There is no agreement with the Government as to the price.

MR. COAKER—That is all the worse, because the Government undertook to protect the people in this matter of salt.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—There has never been any agreement as to the selling price, and right up to this moment there has never been a suggestion that there should be.

MR. COAKER—You made an agreement to protect them in importing salt.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Certainly.

MR. COAKER—If you went so far, why did you not go farther and say: "You shall not sell salt under this arrangement unless you sell it at a price that will not give you a greater profit than you ever made before." Salt is costing $3.30 a

hogshead and the business men of Water Street are charging $4.00 a hogshead and are making a hundred per cent. more profit than they ever made before. It is only nonsense to talk about having money in your pocket to pay for things. People are willing to pay honest values, but they are not willing to give importers one hundred per cent. more profit than ever they made before.

Take the question of coal. Why should coal be $14.00 a ton in St. John's to-day? If the Government had done its duty in providing shipping and if they had taken the sealing fleet and sent them for coal, coal would be selling here to-day two dollars a ton cheaper.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—It would cost five dollars a ton more, and you know that from your own experience. You know it to your cost when you had a steamer.

MR. COAKER—I was not getting five dollars a ton freight on coal. I was then getting $1.50 a ton. If the Premier is honest in his desire to help, let him take off his coat and help that Commission to get down some coal and sell the same. When I was in the United States at the beginning of the war the American Government needed some torpedoes and a Company gave them prices. The Government turned around and said, our experts tell us that these things cost so much money and if you do not make them at this price we will take over your plant and manufacture them ourselves. The Company gave in and the Government saved about two and a quarter million dollars on that order. The same thing happened in connection with the price of copper Copper was selling at thirty-eight cents a pound. The Government said that the mine owners could sell it for eighteen and a half cents, and said if they did not do so the Government would take over the mines; and the mine owners sold it at that price.

Here, however, things have been running on too leniently. The Government has not been doing its duty towards the people. During the last two years a sum equal to three million dollars has been taken from the people of the country in the way of war profits. During last year I venture to say that the average profit on flour sold was $2.50 a barrel; and I assert again that during the past two years three million dollars in the way of war profits have been taken from the pockets of the people of this country.

If action had been taken as, should have been taken ,and as was taken in the United States, in 1914 or 1915, that amount of money would have been in the pockets of the poor people to-day, and not in the pockets of the people on Water Street. Water Street to-day is richer than ever it was in the history of this Colony. It is richer with money that ought to be in the hands of the poor fishermen, but the Government has kept its eyes closed and now that an election is coming on and the time has come for them to face the country in a general election, they opened up a commission to throw dust in the eyes of the people. What this commission has done has been well proved by the report that they have produced in connection with coal. The price is so much. We find we cannot reduce it. That is their attitude. That is their finding. The same, no doubt, will be said with regard to provisions. After everything nad been turned upside down, the Government came and made a request that we should form a coalition government with them, and help them out. Now if the Government had made a request to this effect a couple of years ago, when something might be done, we would have been glad

in your pocket, says the Premier. The fishermen may be getting more money for their fish, but that will not make up for the increased cost of living, travelling and the numerous other incidental expenses which have so gone up. You have to pay $1.40 to-day freight per barrel of flour from Sydney to St. John's, which only three years ago was 15 cents. When we have to compete with an increase of freight in that proportion, the price of fish must rise considerably. Three dollars extra is not enough to make up for that. Besides they are not getting three dollars extra. Before the war the price of fish was $8.00 per quintal. It is only $9.00 to-day. It will have to be $12.00 before the Fall if the people are to get in proportion for what they are spending. The men who export fish, who send it across are the men who make the money in the business.

Referring again to the increase of freight. Last year the Reid-Nfld. Co. increased their rates 200 per cent. What action has the Government taken with regard to this increase? Do the Government think they were justified in this increase? If not, why was no protest lodged? It may be said that they were within the law and their rights. But is there no one in the Colony responsible to the people? The Company should have been approached and if the freights should have to be increased, let them be increased less, not so extortionately. I have a shipping bill here before me of stuff sent to Botwood by railway. A barrel of beef is charged at $1.15 per barrel, where last September it was carried for 40c. A small box of raisins is charged 34c. which last September went for 10c. Does the Government intend to take no action with regard to these matters? Must the agonized people of the country at last turn on their heels and face you. Talk of encouraging recruiting! I marvel when I consider how many brave lads came forth to defend the flag at their country's call to fight for liberty and justice in the face of the treatment accorded to their mothers, fathers and friends at home. The response they made the last four or five months is wonderful to me. It is easy enough to send a dispatch to say that you are sending 150 men per month, but going to England and spending the winter there does not accomplish much in that direction. If the people are wanted to come forward to do their duty under the present voluntary system, you will have to prove that you will not insult the country by making a mere football of its constitution, and keep yourselves in power another year or two.

Now I am sorry I have taken up the time of the House at this juncture and I can assure the hon. members that I would not have done it had it not been for the very unsatisfactory manner in which the Premier replied to the leader of the Opposition. I hope that in view of the few remarks I have made here this afternoon that these matters will be reconsidered and that the Government will find itself able to come forward and make a statement that will remove all doubts and help us to aid them as long as they occupy the position they now occupy. I want to be fair and intend to be fair, if the Government will only allow me. It is not the way for you to allow me to be fair if you intend doing what you have intimated that you are going to consider doing. You will see, if you persist that this session is going to be the longest and roughest ever in this House.

COMMITTEE TO DRAFT REPLY.

The following Committee was appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, namely, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Hickman, Mr. Winsor.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

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 changes in the hours of the day and night," in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary 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 to-morrow.

NEW BILLS.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Allotments of the Pay of Volunteers."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Currency."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Trustee's Act of 1898."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Facilitate Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and the other parts of His Majesty's Dominions."

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, June 1st, 1917.

The House met at 3 of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

PETITIONS

MR. HALFYARD—I beg leave to present a petition from the people of Barr'd Island, Joe Batt's Arm and Tilting in the District of Fogo in connection with mail matters The petitioners, when this petition was signed, were under the impression that the mail service would be performed as in previous years, but conditions have changed considerably, and we have no direct boat going to the district of Fogo from St. John's. They ask that these places mentioned be given two mails a week during the summer instead of one, and that the mail courier be stationed at Joe Batt's Arm or Tilting instead of at Fogo. They also ask that a courier be appointed to connect these places with Fogo, also that a motor boat be provided to connect these places with the coastal boats that call at Fogo. This petition is signed by the Reverend F. E. Law, W. J. MacKenzie, M.D. and about 320 others.

With regard to the summer mail services. If the Government could give these places—that is, Joe Batt's Arm, Barr'd Islands and Tilting—a motor boat, so that the boat could go to Fogo when the Prospero calls there and take up mail and freight, it would relieve the situation considerably that obtains there now. Those that have to send freight by the Clyde or Dundee have to pay very high prices, as we all know, and if the Government would give them a motor boat, trips would only have to be made weekly or fortnightly to Fogo, and it would facilitate them in getting their freight to Fogo,and would save them a great deal of money on the extra freight they now have to pay the Reid Newfoundland Company.

to come and assist them in so much as lay in our power. But now, at the end of their tether, they come to us and invite us to take part in sharing the burdens which have been caused by their own negligence and under their mismanagement. And we cannot do so. The people of the country do not desire that we should. The people do not want a coalition Government at this present period. Public opinion is strongly adverse to any such course. The people see that no good can come of it. But now, we see that such a thing might have been possible a couple of years ago, had it been taken in hand in a proper and seemly manner a couple of years ago. Another matter to which I think reference ought to be made is that no allusion has been made in the speech from the throne in reference to the Forestry Contingent. No notice whatever has been taken by the Government of this battalion. And, further, no authority for any such battalion ever existed in this colony. No law exists to-day authorizing its existence. Everything in connection with it is illegal. No one ever had the rght to come here and do what has been done. The idea of any one making an appeal for five hundred men to come forward and form a battalion is outrageous, when no authority exists. No mention has been made in reference to this. Talk of Constitution or law. As far as the Constitution is concerned, when they want to do anything they do it without considering law or constitution or anything else. I also notice an absence in the Speech of His Excellency of any allusion to a new business about to be established in the Colony, which was well deserving of mention. I think, as it may safely be predicted, that this business may form a new era in the history of this Colony. We are to have in this Colony a cold storage plant established, the object of which scheme is to export fish in a fresh condition. I think at any rate it was by reason of its importance worthy of mention by the Government. It means the investment of a couple of million dollars at least, and the people will not invest in it unless they have a Government assurance of protction. At any rate, we have a right to expect that any such important change with regard to our staple industry, the fishery, would have been referred to by the Rt. Hon. the Premier.

Then, again, as to the Naval Reserve. We find that men in the Naval Reserve are to have an amount paid to them equal to that received by the Volunteers. The sessions of 1914, 1915 and 1916 have all passed away. At each of these sessions we appealed to the Government to attend to this matter without delay. What does it mean now? Why were the Government silent all these years? Why did they allow these men to drift away into the volunteers? Was it not because they were afraid too few would offer for the Regiment? But I am glad that even at the last hour that the Government feel that the Naval Reservists deserve recompense, that they should be paid equally with the Regiment.

Again, very serious things indeed, have been done by the Government interference to Districts without any consultation whatever with the members representing them. The "Fogota" has been taken off her route. No one in connection with this side of the House has been consulted. The men on the Straits Shore have now to spend $10.00 where under the previous system they had to spend $5.00 or $6.00. A man from there must now travel up to Port Blandford and come along by train and spend fifteen dollars where formerly he could come by the "Fogota" for five. Of course this is all right as long as you have money

Now, that applies to conditions that obtain at present. With regard to a winter mail service also, you may think we are a little previous in bringing this to the attention of the Government, but I feel sure that the Colonial Secretary will take notice of this petition and have this request—a very reasonable one,granted. Now, the mail in winter goes by way of Lewisporte. It may reach there on Thursday if weather conditions are favorable. The courier will arrive at Joe Batt's Arm and Tilting on Friday evening, but the courier belongs to Fogo, and he goes right through to Joe Batt's Arm and Tilting, stopping about half an hour, more or less,and then takes the mail, if there is any there, back to Fogo, where it remains until the next Tuesday. This means that the people of these places have no opportunity of answering their letters by return mail, and if they do send it it is lying in the post office or the courier's bag from Friday till Tuesday, when he leaves to go to Lewisporte. Now, if the courier resided at Joe Batt's Arm or Tilting.the people of these places would have an opportunity to answer their mail two or three days later, whereas they now have no opportunity. It only means appointing a mail courier at Joe Batt's Arm or Tilting, rather than at Fogo, and would be no expense whatever to the Government. The wonder to me is that the business men, doctors and clergymen and others in these places have not made this request before. I give these petitions my hearty support, and trust that the Colonial Secretary will take the matter into earnest consideration and grant the request of the petitioners.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a petition from the people of Rattling Brook for a Post Office. The mail at present is handled in a small room in the postmaster's house, and under conditions which are not at all desirable. Last year, some time late in the season, the postmaster's house burned down. The mail had arrived the evening before, and it contained about $600 in cash, sent from the Bank in payment for herring. They have never recovered that loss, and they ask for a Post Office, with a safe, to prevent a recurrence of it. The request is a reasonable one, and they don't want a costly affair. Two hundred dollars would cover it, and prevent a recurrence of any such thing as I have mentioned. I ask that the petition be received and be considered by the department to which it relates.

MR. COAKER—I heartily support this petition, and I especially wish to draw attention to Mr. Jenning's statement that $600 was lost on account of a fire in the postmaster's house. I might say also that very recently we had to complain about the postal arrangements in the bottom of Green Bay. We could not get delivery of papers, and when complaint was made to the postmaster he merely replied that it was none of our business, that he could do as he liked, and that he did not intend taking instructions from anyone except the Postal Department. There is any amount of that sort of thing going on, and the time has come when these people should be given to understand that they have duties to perform to the public, and that they should be courteous to the public.

MR. CLIFT—I beg to support this petition.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker. I beg to present a petition from the fishermen of Trinity Bay, asking that Middle Bay in the Straits be made a port of call for the mail boat. These men are put to a very great inconvenience in the summer time, on account of having to go a long distance to get their mail, and they want the mail boat to call at Middle Bay. There

is no trouble for the boat in getting there, the distance from Salmon Bay being only about six miles, which would not delay the boat very much. I trust the Colonial Secretary will see to this matter, and try to make some arrangement whereby these men will have a better arrangement with regard to getting their mail in the summer time.

MR. HALFYARD—I beg to present a petition from the people of Indian Islands, in the Fogo District, asking that a light be erected on Blundon's Island at the entrance to the harbor. This light would be of great assistance, not only to those who reside there, but for all who have occasion to go there, either by steamer or schooner. Many wrecks have taken place in this vicinity, owing to the lowness of the land there. There are two or three low points at the entrance to the harbor at Indian Islands, and schooners—and in one case a steamer—have gone ashore and valuable cargoes have been lost. There is no need for me to dilate on the necessity of having a light erected at this place. No doubt the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is conversant with all the requirements as aids to navigation on the coast, and if there is any way possible for a sum of money to be found to provide this light I feel sure it will be done. I have much pleasure in supporting this petition, and beg to refer it to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of Sir Walter Davidson, K. C. M. G., Chairman of the Patriotic Association of Newfoundland, May 24th, 1917.

Mr. Clift gave notice of question.

Mr. Jennings gave notice of question.

VOLUNTEERS ALLOTMENTS BILL

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Allotments of the Pay of Volunteers," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

TRANSFER AND MORTGAGE OF SHIP'S BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

CURRENCY BILL.

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

TRUSTEES BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act, 1898," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgment Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if provision is being made in the Estimates

for taking the Voters' List this summer.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Mr. Speaker, I have no reply other than that which I made in reference to this matter yesterday.

MR. LLOYD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if provision is being made for a General Electon this fall.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I have no other reply. The same answer is applicable.

MR. LLOYD.—Nothing has been done.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER. —Everything has been done that is necessary.

MR. LLOYD.—Then I ask Sir, that these questions remain on the order paper until more fully answered.

MR. SPEAKER—The Ministers state that they have answered these questions—that no other answers are possible. Consequently they will not again appear on the Order Paper.

MR. LLOYD—They have not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER.—The Honourable member has his remedy if he is not satisfied with my ruling.

MR. LLOYD.—In this matter Sir, you are, as last session, carrying out the behests of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER.—I shall take notice of that remark of the Honourable member. The expression is grossly irregular and unparliamentary and I rule that the Honourable member must at once withdraw it and apologize to this House for its use.

MR. LLOYD.—I shall not withdraw it Sir.

MR. SPEAKER.—Then I must inform the Honorable member that if he persists in his refusal I shall reluctantly be compelled to name him, for the censure of this House, as disregarding the authority of the Chair.

MR. LLOYD.—I withdraw, Mr. Speaker, any expression, which may be objectionable to yourself.

MR. SPEAKER—And now Sir, if you desire to do so you have the opportunity to appeal against my Ruling on the matter of the Questions.

MR. LLOYD—I appeal to the House against the Speaker's decision.

MR. SPEAKER.—The motion is "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained." On division the decision of the Chair was sustained.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

Second reading of Bill, enitled "An Act respecting certain changes in the Hours of the Day and Night."

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Speaker. In rising to move the second reading of this bill, it is not my intention to delay the House with any lengthy remarks in connection with this bill, because the subject is one that probably has been given as much consideration by the members of this House as any subject that has arisen for many years. It will be remembered that the question of a Daylight Bill was introduced into this House, and in the Upper Chamber a few years ago by the Hon. John Anderson,and at that time it did not receive the favourable consideration of this Branch of the Legislature But Sir, on looking into the facts, it will be manifest that the same condition does not exist to-day in relation to this matter as existed at that time.

The history of the introduction of this measure into the different parliaments of the Empire and other countries, is of a very great length. Its provisions have been discussed and more, probably, has been written on this matter than it would be possible for me to thoroughly review, in the time at the disposal of the House I therefore, Mr. Speaker, desire to confine my remarks to one or two observations with regard to the local

conditions which might and might not be affected by this measure. It is obvious that in Newfoundland a great portion of our people in the summer season are not and will not be affected materially by the operation of this act. The fishermen of Newfoundland rise with the dawn and retire at sunset, and therefore their operations, I submit, will not be affected in the least degree. The same is true of the farmer. The farmer does not wait till 6 o'clock but takes advantage of the early hours, and makes them assist him in putting in as much work as possible. This is necessary, as the nature of the work makes it imperative that a lot of work must be crowded into a short time. The same might be said of a great number of others who are called upon to exercise their duties early in the summer, but the places that will be affected most by this measure are such places as St. John's and other industrial centres. St. John's particularly will be affected and a very large portion of the people who are confined to indoor work during the continuous hours of the day, will benefit thereby. And it is primarily with the object of giving those who are not in a position to avail of the early morning, whose business does not begin until later in the day and are possibly glad of rest that morning offers them so that they might be ready for their arduous work during the eight or ten hours they are called on to perform it. It is desirable that they might enjoy not only the facility of getting to work early in the morning but that they might enjoy the privilege of having more time to spend in the open air in the evening and therefore benefit, both themselves and their families. It is perfectly obvious that the best hours of the day are in the early morning, and that these are the hours which are spent by a large number of the people in their beds. And the fact of having the evening close an hour earlier will not only give an opportunity for refreshment and recreation but also afford facilities to some to assist themselves in tiding over the serious times which are evidently approaching. One can well conceive a young man, married with two or three children, who might have an opportunity of securing or may possess a small piece of land in which they might grow sufficient vegetables for the winter's supply, but owing to the fact of having to continue late at work, he is deprived from giving attention to that piece of land or plot, that he might otherwise be able to cultivate and make of assistance to him and his family. Of course it might be argued that he can do that in the early morning In a great many cases that is done, but in many places the land requires attention more than once during the day. If he does not do that, he has the opportunity of going into the country and getting the fresh air that is so essential to health. Some of our mercantile firms have already adopted the principle, and open at eight and close at five o'clock. They have I believe found it very much more satisfactory both for themselves and their employees. I understand that in Bell Island the time is changed in the mines, and is one hour earlier. This gives the miner an opportunity after the day's work of getting the fresh air or an opportunity of raising crops.

There are very many features of this measure that might be enlarged on, but I don't think there are any very serious objections to the change. I understand yesterday the Hon. John Anderson spoke at length on the history of this measure and its operation, and it would be superfluous for me to further delay the House. The fact that it has pass-

ed with such rapidity through the Upper Chamber shows that it has been favored by the members of that chamber, and without any further remarks I would move that it be now read a second time, and that it be referred to the committee stage on the morrow.

To call attention of the members to the wording of the Bill, I will read it. (Reads Section 1.) In other words, on next Sunday, it will be the action of all people all over the country to change their clocks at 9 p.m. to 10 o'clock.

The next sections merely ratify the alteration. I would move that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Tuesday next, 5th instant, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, June 5th.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. JENNINGS—I beg to present a petition from the people of Salt Pond, District of Twillingate, asking that this place be made a port of call for the mail boat. The nearest port at present is Lewisporte, and the people are greatly inconvenienced by the lack of mail and travelling facilities. Their request is a very reasonable one, and the delay which would be caused the mail boat by calling at Salt Pond would be very small. I therefore trust that this petition will be received and considered by the department to which it relates.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of Ballantyne Cove in Bay of Islands, District of St. George's. They ask for a sum of $600 for the purpose of constructing a road countrywards. At the present time they have no facilities of reaching the agricultural section of their district, and they now pray that this disadvantage be removed. The construction of a road for this purpose is of vital importance to the residents of this locality; and I ask that it be referred to the department to which it relates and bespeak for it the consideration it deserves.

I also beg to present an important petition from the residents of Little River who ask for the allocation of $100 to augment their road grant. They find the present sum is insufficient to keep their roads in the necessary state of repair.

I also beg to present a petition from the residents of South Branch. This is an entirely agricultural section of the country; and has been developed entirely within the past fifteen years. Unfortunately the people are subjected to extreme hardship in the conveyance of their produce to the railway station; and for the purpose of facilitating its shipment they ask that a small expenditure be made for the purpose of constructing a suitable bridge over Coal Brook. I ask that the prayer of the petitioners be acceded to.

I also beg to present a petition from the residents of Codroy, Great Codroy and other places—all important agricultural sections—asking that the House instruct or request the Reid Newfoundland Co. to place an agent at Doyle's Station. Doyle's Station is utilized by these people for the shipment of their produce;

and under the present arrangement they find it extremely inconvenient.

I also beg to present a petition from the people of Bay of Islands for the extension of telegraphic communication to North and Middle Arms. This is in the interests of the herring fishing generally; and the cost of installing a telegraphic service to these places would be very meagre compared to the measure of good that would accrue therefrom. The extension of the telegraph line in accordance with the prayer of this petition would be a great incentive to the herring fishery around this place; and I strongly urge that this matter be taken up immediately.

I also beg to present a petition from Bay of Islands asking that the sum of $1,200 be provided to defray the cost of repairing and realigning a portion of McIver's road and to put the remainder of the road in reasonable repair for traffic. Formerly, the herring fishery around this locality absolutely ceased with the coming into the Bay of the drift ice; but seeing the advantage that would accrue from the more continuous prosecution of the fishery, I managed with the aid of a grant from surplus revenue, to obtain sufficient money to put a road, five and three quarter miles long across the isthmus and since then the herring fishery has been prosecuted up to the first of March. Saturday I telegraphed the people there for information dealing with the volume of traffic that passes over this road and I received the following in reply: "Five thousand barrels frozen and one thousand barrels salted herring landed over Mc Iver's road past winter, if road in good condition much more traffic would have resulted." Besides a continuous daily traffic of salt and barrels, I believe that this traffic can be increased tenfold if this road is placed in good condition. I may state that when I obtained the money which enabled me to build this road, I could not get sufficient to carry the road where I wanted it; and I had to carry the road over the brow of a hill; so that this makes it necessary for a team to be employed to bring herring to the brow of the hill and another from there on. If the sum now asked for is allocated this disadvantage will be overridden; and the one team will be able to make the entire journey.

I ask that these petitions be referred to the various departments to which they relate; and that they receive all due consideration and attention.

MR. GRIMES.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the residents of Bareneed for the placing of a telegraph office at that place. About 1100 persons will be affected by this office and the need for it is very great. At present there is no telegraph office anywhere near that vicinity. The number of people who are interested in this can be gathered from the petition which is very largely signed. The cost of the installation of such an office will be very small, as the telegraph poles pass close by the post office in which the telegraph office can be placed and only a few feet of wire will be required to connect the line to the post office. The cost of operation will not be very great because a little addition to the salary of the postmistress will be all that is required. I trust that the department will give this petition the due consideration it requires. This year the necessity for it will be very apparent as a great many people will remain home and they will have urgent need of such a convenience. I ask that it be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. STONE—Mr. Speaker. I beg to present a petition from Trinity,

Trouty, and New Bonaventure asking for a better service on the South West Arm of Trinity. At the present time a small row boat is in use there; and it is altogether unfitted to convey passengers from the various settlements. The people now ask that a motor boat be placed there. School children are using this means of conveyance continuously; and at times the small boat is unable to carry them back and forth. I therefore hope that the Government will give this matter every consideration. The petition is very large and influentially signed and I trust that the Government will see their way clear to grant the request of the petitioners.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker. I beg to support the prayer of the petition just presented by Mr. Stone. I have received information on the matter from several parties and also from the school boards pointing out the difficulty the children experience in attending school because of the inadequate means of reaching the schools.

MR. PARSONS.—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a petition from Harbor Grace on a very important matter. It reads as follows:

(reads petition asking for bonus for clearing land)

I may say that this petition is signed by 500 residents of Coley's Point, Country Road, Shearstown, Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, and I trust that the Government will accede to their prayer and see that the matter is brought to the attention of the Agricultural Board. My answer to certain questions that arise in connection with this matter heretofore is that the same law which safeguards other enactments can be applied in protection of this. I trust that the petition will receive at the hands of the department every consideration. I beg to refer this matter to the Department of Agriculture.

MR. GRIMES—I desire to support the prayer of that petition because I feel that the adoption of such a measure would be applicable to Port de Grave as well. I have had a number of communications sent to me asking that something be done towards getting bonuses for clearing lands this year, but the matter was referred to the Minister of Agriculture who could do nothing. As has also been said a number of the people are staying home this summer from the fishery. This is so in the district of Port de Grave. Many are staying home in Brigus and surrounding places. These people are all anxious to clear and cultivate the lands round the district, and if they had the encouragement of knowing that they could get a small bonus for doing it, I think without doubt that large tracts would be cleared during the summer. It certainly would be a strong inducement if twenty or twenty five doilars could be obtained. in this manner. I have no doubt whatever that there would be a larger amount of land placed under cultivation in this country than at any time in our history if the government would give the word. I trust that what has been said here this evening in support of the petition will cause the Government to increase this grant.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition, and I might say I think the Government should give their best attention to this matter. It isn't a bit of use for Mr. Withers, His Excellency and others to put articles in the public press and advise people to prepare, as the Germans have said, for "the day". There are lots of people who would have cultivated their land, but they have not had the wherewithal to prepare it and put it under cultivation. I speak of this as one who knows. Shearstown was not long ago but a small

place of about fifty families. Being a progressive village it has grown to be the centre of Harbor Grace District as far as agriculture is concerned. They have worked at the ground and have got out of it as much as anybody could, under the circumstances. The Agricultural Society was formed there some six or seven years ago, and the people have benefitted by having it, and more probably than they have in other places. These people have called on me time and again, but nothing could be done. If the Government would only lend them the money so that they could get implements to work the soil or clear the ground they would be satisfied. All they want in a great many cases is sufficient capital. I think this is a matter the Government should settle down to. The Agricultural Board is all right, but they want the wherewithal. It is not a bit of use having a Board sending out circulars to the people when the people are not able for financial reasons to do what they are requested. It is I know not a bit of good to send them to Bay Roberts and surrounding places. They are prepared to pay back dollar for dollar if they can only get the bonus which this petition asks for. If Mr. Withers and the Government want to see good work done, they should go the right way about it. Not long ago some young men called on me. They had been to the United States working and had saved a little money, but not much. I gave them a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and they went to see him. They came back, however, and said they could do nothing, as he could not help them. It is alright to talk here year after year about what to do, and it is alright for the committee to send out circulars, but what is wanted is action. I venture to say when there was so much talk this year about the scarcity of potatoes, and there being lots in the outports, that there was as great a supply in the district of Harbor Grace as anywhere else. This is a good time for the Government to act, as there are not as many going to the fishery this year as usual and these are desirous of following up agricultural pursuits. It is not because these bonuses were abused some years ago that they should be stopped longer. Why should all the people suffer when the offender was virtually the only one not keeping the rules? Because he spent the money affords no reason why other people should not be allowed to spend it. All should not suffer because of the few. There is the position and the one and only thing to do is to hand over to these people the money so that they may go on with the work.

MR. COAKER—I rise to support the prayer of the petition before the House, but I cannot commend the last speaker now for his remarks. These men have been in the government for the last few years, but have accomplished nothing along these lines. If they had kept this matter before the Government, it might have been found possible long before this to have brought in a Bill accepting their suggestions and encouraged the giving of bonuses both for clearing land and cattle. I would be glad to support any such legislation when it comes before the House, and am sorry for the delay. It is one of the planks of the Union Platform, and one which will be given the best attention as soon as it can be effected by us. If the members on the other side really want to support such a measure, the only thing for them to do will be to vote for it from this side of the House.

MR. JENNINGS.—I have no remarks to make about this matter, but I must say it is rather late to talk of

this for this season.

MR. LLOYD.—I would like also Mr. Speaker, to support the petition. The encouragement of the Agricultural policy of the country is one which must always have my support. I was one of the members of that Patriotic Committee which has been criticized here this evening, as was also the Colonial Secretary and Minister of Finance. That was a committee appointed to take into consideration the possibility of raising more crops. Now I have felt greatly the very position taken here to-day by the various speakers. On that committee I pointed out that I felt we could do exceedingly little, and the mere appending of our names to appeals did not amount to much, but we hoped nevertheless that some good might be done thereby. At the same time I would support any measure providing for bonuses for clearing land, and cultivating land, I would therefore support the prayer of the petition and favor any policy which would bring about the production of more crops, and thus strengthen the resources of the Colony.

MR. WINSOR.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Badger's Quay on the subject of a road. This road is certainly required. The petitioners ask for $150.00 for the purpose.

I also beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Gambo asking for a sum of money to build a road to the Catholic cemetery. At present there is nothing but a path leading from the public road, The people have been asking for some time about this matter. They ask for three hundred dollars for this road. I ask that this petition be referred to the proper Department and that it may have the favourable consideration of the Government.

MR. ABBOTT.—Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in supporting the petition.

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

Public Debt to June 30th 1915-1916.

Statement of Current Account of the Government of Newfoundland for the year 1915-1916.

Balance Sheet of Treasury Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1916.

Departmental Trust Account, Marine Works.

Statement of Teacher's Pension Fund for the Year ending June 30th 1916.

Public Works Trust Fund 1916, Roads, Bridges etc.

Statement of Coal and Water Rates collected at St. John's.

Account 1915-1916.

Railway Arbitration Awards.

Financial Statement of Game and Inland Fisheries Board Jan 1st. to December 31st 1916.

Cash Notes Trust Account 1915-1916.

Death Duties Trust Account 1915-1916.

Colonial Secretary's Trust Account 1915-1916.

Hon. the Minister of Finance tabled.

Report of the Auditor General on the Revenue and Appropriation.

Accounts for year ending June 30th 1916.

Report of the Auditor General under Section 33 (b) for period ending March 31st 1917.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Abbott gave notice of question

Mr. Coaker gave notice of question

Mr. Winsor gave notice of question.

MR. CLIFT asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of all expenditures under the head of General Contingencies, from 30th June last to the present date.

would be very sorry to go back to the former time.

There is one objection that I have and that is to the word "Colonial" time. I do not know why this change of time should be called "colonial" time. The word does not seem to convey to my mind any particular meaning here. The term "colonial time" might refer to any colony. The term is general in itself; and I think if it were called "Summer" time it would be a very much better word. Before the House goes out of Committee I would like to move an amendment changing the word "Colonial" to "Summer." It will have a more distinctive meaning and be in keeping, I think, with the name given to such time in England. I think it is called "summer time" there. I do not only support the Bill because of my experience of its work in other places, but because I think its effect will be beneficial to the community. It would give the people longer twilight as it were and a longer evening in which they could attend to their various occupations. It will give every man a greater opportunity of recreation out of doors in the evening, especially those men whose lives are spent largely in offices or shops. There is everything to be said in favour of this measure and very little to be said against it. With these few remarks I beg to give this measure my full support.

MR. COAKER—Mr. Chairman, if the hon. the introducer of this bill desires to obtain our support to this measure, or the support of the men in the outports, it will have to be entirely altered as to its scope. As it stands I intend to oppose it, and to vote aganist it word for word. If this bill were to apply to St. John's, and St. John's alone, I would have no objection to its passing, but it must not be applied to the outports. Under this bill you seek to alter the time for the opening and the closing of all the public buildings. Now the outport man will look upon this as a measure brought in by men devoid of common sense. They will say that it is brought in by men who had nothing to do but change the hours of the day and the night. The outport men are busy every day to the fullest extent and they certainly will look upon the members of this House who rush this measure through, as men who had nothing better to legislate about and who are devoid of any real interest in the welfare of the country. Last year, we found we had too much light. All our lights had to be put out. Now we come and legislate the other way around. The Importers' Association could have provided the remedy that perhaps was necessary in some cases. They could have passed a resolution to the effect that all shops and offices should open at 7.30 and close at 5. There is no necessity for legislation whatever. I am sure the people in the outports will regard this bill in anything but a favorable manner. They will not be pleased to know that the earliest hours of this session were taken up in passing such a measure as this. I would ask that the mover of the Bill find whether the supporters of the measure will be willing to apply it to St. John's alone. I have every objection to the passing of this measure in any manner so that it is applicable to the outport people. I did not have the pleasure of reading Mr. Anderson's speech. Men who play on the golf links of course may want longer hours of daylight, but I am sure that the outport people do not desire it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Clift, in relation to the name that should be adopted for this time, I think the matter of the name has

very little significance. It does not much matter whether we call the time Colonial time or Summer time. The original idea was to call it Summer time, but for some reason or other the name "Colonial Time" was adopted as better.

As regards the remarks of the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, I regret that he does not see eye to eye with us on this matter. I understand, however, that it was passed in the Upper House conditionally and that it was merely an attempt to experiment for this year and that it was the original idea that next year there should be added to the original bill such amendments as practical operation rendered essential or expedient. It would be awkward for the Importers' Association to effect any change in this matter at all. It is essentially a matter for the Legislature to deal with. The Association has no jurisdiction over the Court and the Banks which would, if they passed a resolution effecting any change in the hours of the day or the night, have a different time to those institutions and buildings which the Association has jurisdiction over. In view of the fact that this bill is in the nature of an experiment, I would ask the hon. gentlemen to reconsider his objections and if we find by experience that any part of the Island is inconvenienced by the passing of this Bill, legislation can be introduced another year to adjust it, but I do not think that it is practicable to pass such a bill for St. John's alone. The railway service would be inconvenienced. For instance a train might arrive at Topsail under such conditions half an hour before it left here. This bill is more an experiment than anything else and it would be impossible to judge of its value if it applied only to St. John's.

MR. COAKER—I think that the Importers' Association could remedy this matter. There is no need for legislation. There is no need to bring the matter before the House. The whole idea of the bill is to provide St. John's with one hour more of day light, which can very easily be done without having recourse to legislation.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Chairman. I would like to say a word or two in reference to this bill and principally to submit to my friend who has just sat down a few arguments, which may or may not appeal to him. The whole idea of the bill is to add another hour to the working hours of any person who choses to avail himself of it. For instance, tonight it will be dark about nine o'clock. Last night it was dark about ten minutes to nine. That is to say, that, although it was cloudy, up to then it was quite daylight. I was walking in the country at that time. Now had this bill been in operation, it would have been daylight until ten minutes to ten. That means to any person in St. John's or in those places outside of St. John's where this bill comes into operation, during the months of July, August and a part of September, that there will be exactly one hour's more daylight for him to work. In other words you take an hour from the morning and add it to the evening. Instead of sitting by lamplight from nine to ten, it will still be daylight. I can support all that the hon. member for Twillingate Mr. Clift has said in reference to the working of this measure in the Old Country. During last July, August and September I was in England when this measure was in force. I never heard a word that was not in favour of it. I was particularly anxious to learn all I could as to the attitude of the people in reference to it, because I knew that it was likely some time or

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—That information is being prepared.

MR. JENNINGS asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines to lay on the table of the House a copy of Petition sent from Stanhope, Notre Dame Bay, asking permission to operate logging camps on Upper Black Island, and copy of all correspondence relating thereto.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I think that it is on its way up. I asked to have it prepared. When it comes I will hand it to the honourable member.

MR. JENNINGS asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works for a copy of returns of expenditures of all Road Grants at Lewisporte during the years of 1915 and 1916.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—That statement is in course of preparation. It should be ready during the week.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary 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.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman. When I proposed the second reading of this Bill the other day I intimated that it was not my intention to make any lengthy reference to its provisions, as the subject was one that has been very largely debated in the public press and in other quarters, and in view of the fact that the Hon. Mr. Anderson in the Upper House on the opening day made a very exhaustive review of the history of this Bill and of its objects which has already appeared in the press, I thought it was superfluous for me to make any lengthy observations. There is one feature about the Bill in relation to our local conditions here that I did not mention at the time because I had not received the correspondence in reference to it, and that was that the Importers' Association at their annual meeting in April of this year passed a very strong Resolution endorsing the enactment of this measure we have before the Committee this evening. The Importers' Association as it is known is representative of a large proportion of the business interests of this community and a Resolution coming from them on this subject, Mr. Chairman, should have much weight with members in coming to a decision on this Bill. I shall not now delay the House any further in relation to it and ask that the various sections be considered.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I am very much in favour of this Bill and I hope that it will meet with the approval of this House. I have not read the Speech. referred to by the Honourable introducer of this measure, which was made in another place by the gentleman who introduced it there. Even if I had read that speech I do not know that it ought to have any influence upon me in arriving at a decision in this place. I do not think it in keeping with the parliamentary traditions of this House that a speech delivered in another Chamber should be referred to in support of any measure before this House.

I had an opportunity, Mr. Chairman, of seeing the Daylight Bill in operation when I was in England last year, and I found that everbody over there was more than pleased with the result of the change in the time. As far as I could find from discussing the matter I should say that the people of the United Kingdom

other to come up for discussion here. It is the second time this bill has been before the House. It did not pass five years ago. I took special trouble to enquire about it from working men, factory hands, fishermen and farmers; all classes of the country, not only people from the large industrial centres, but people from all over the country, were in favour of it and particularly on account of its advantage to the working man. He has an hour every day for recreation. Now he comes home at six and he is generally washed and has his tea or supper as the case may be, at about 7 or 7.15 and the daylight is over at 8 or 8.30, whereas under this measure he has practically a half holiday every day in the week, without lessening his hours for work, and instead of having to sit up by a lamp, he will have in his house daylight from nine to ten o'clock. I think that there can be no possible objection to the measure from this standpoint. As the Colonial Secretary has very properly pointed out, there are many institutions—the Courts and the Banks and others—whose hours will have to be regulated by law, so that if this change is to be made at all, it will have to be by Act of Parliament. I hope under these circumstances that the hon. member will reconsider his objection to the Bill and give it a trial. I am quite satisfied that if this Act is put on the Statute book, not alone St. John's but the Outports will find it advantageous.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman. Nothing that the Premier has said has in any way changed the opinion which I have advanced with regard to this bill. I may go further and say that I believe that this Bill will interfere with the work of the firms who handle fish here in St. John's. If you alter the hour it will mean that men will be turning out to work at 5 o'clock in the morning instead of six. Now, you cannot spread fish at that hour. Usually after June you have to wait until 7 o'clock for the dampness and dew to dry up before spreading fish. And then do you think that the fishing firms are going to take up their fish at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and lose the best part of the day. I do not think that the Bill will suit the laboring man on the wharf at all, and neither will it suit the firms who handle fish, not after June or July at any rate; because, as I have said, you cannot spread fish until 7 o'clock, and what are the men going to do between 5 and 7. There is no reason why this measure should come before the House at all. Its sole aim and object is to give the men who work in mercantile stores and offices an hour more, and that can be arranged by the firms themselves in the same way that Job's and Bowring's have been doing for a couple of years past. As far as applying it to the outports is concerned, that is nonsense. Every man who has work to do in the outports is out of bed by 4 o'clock in the morning in summertime, and he works until it is pitch dark. It is only necessary to get the Importers Association to alter their hours here in St. John's to get all that you want to get under this Bill; there is no necessity to alter the hours so far as the courts, or trains and public utilities of that sort are concerned; and there is nothing whatever to be gained by applying the measure to the outports.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Mr. Chahirman. Being a Bayman myself and representing an old and historic district. I would like to say a few words in reference to the effect which I think this Bill will have in the Outports and what it will mean to the Outport man. In my opinion, the only time it will affect him is when he comes to town. What

the Outport man is looking for is daylight, and as soon as the light is in the sky he is out of bed and to work, and he is in the field or in the boat until dark. But when he comes to town in the Spring looking for supplies, you will find him on Water Street from 5 o'clock in the morning until 9 trying to get into an office to get an order for supplies, and the best part of the day is gone before he is able to do any business. I am sure the hon. member for Twillingate has heard complaints on this score as well as myself. Then, if he wants to get into a Government office for advice, he cannot get in before 10 o'clock, and then, of course, the Water St. office is open and he is down there attending to his business, and when he gets through it is perhaps after 4 o'clock, and he cannot get into the Government office until 10 o'clock the next morning. Of course, it is quite true, as has been said, that there are a lot of people in St. John's who leave their offices early in the afternoon and go to the golf links or to the tennis courts or somewhere else; but they have probably finished their work for the day, and that is their recreation, and they have a perfect right to take it; and they will take it no matter what this House may say. So far as the merchants not being able to put out their fish early in the morning is concerned, there is lots of other work to be done with fish beside spreading it, and they can employ the men in their stores. They have got fish in their stores to be packed and to be drummed, and that can be done in the morning just as well as at any other time of the day. Viewing the matter, then, from the standpoint of an Outport man, I don't think this Bill will make a great deal of difference to them when they are at home, because, as I have said, they are going to use the daylight while it is in the sky; and when they come to town it will help them to get their work done more quickly and get back to their homes again My hon. friend Mr. Clift said that he saw this measure working in England last year. I might say that I was in the Middle West in 1913, in the Province of Saskatchewan, and the daylight bill was in operation there. Of course, the farmers out there are like our fishermen —they don't want any daylight bills; the only thing that they regret is that the daylight doesn't remain for the 24 hours instead of for only 10 or 12. They are up and out in their fields the minute daylight appears, and they sometimes steal a little from the day and work by torchlight, just as we do on the Labrador and at other places. Now, there is another aspect of the matter that should not be lost sight of. It has been said that this Bill would be a drawback to the merchant, but what about the man from Bonavista Bay or Green Bay who is here in his schooner and who is anxious to get home, but who can get away because there is nobody on the wharf early in the morning to help him unload his fish and oil and get his provisions aboard; and who perhaps looses a fine chance and a fair wind home, and later when he does get away runs into a storm and the next you hear is that a steamer has to be sent after him? Now, I have been on Water Street since April not later than 7.30 in the morning, and you would think you were walking through the Catacombs. You would not see a soul until after 8.30, and it is 9 before offices are alive on Water Street; and I think that anything that will help the Outport man to get his work done and to get away earlier than he has been able to do in the past, will be of advantage. The only objection that I have to it is that it doesn't say that the Government offices shall open earlier than they do

at the present time. They are only open for four or five hours; and I think that, particularly in the Spring and Fall, they should be the first offices open in the city.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Chairman. If the bill contained the provision to which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has just referred I should feel inclined to support it. These mornings almost a member's day has elapsed before you can do any business in the Government offices and to any person used to making the best use of the day from dawn till dark, a lot of time is wasted and lost before work begins. Still I fail to see how you can make a board longer by sawing a piece off one end and putting it on the other. It remains the same length, do what you will, and the object of the bill now under discussion appears to be something of that nature.

I cannot see the force of the argument that this Bill is going to benefit the fishermen coming to St. John's for trading purposes. There may be certain times when it would be an advantage to have trade begin an hour earlier in the morning, and there are other times when an hour on the late end of the day would be of much greater advantage. As far as my knowledge of the outports goes they don't care a snap of their finger about this bill. They would consider that we were wasting time which ought to be spent on more important work. Now if it had the power as Joshua of old to command the sun to stand still some of these fine days it may possibly be of some advantage, but otherwise I fail to see its benefits However, if you confine it to the city and find how it works—thus if proved to be an advantage it may be applied generally. I can easily see how a thousand annoyances may arise if all the post and telegraph offices throughout the country have to conform to this bill. Many instances will happen in trying to catch a late mail or send a belated message when those concerned will find the office closed for perhaps three quarters of an hour and I can see possibilities of much inconvenience arising from the difference in time. The bill to my mind will certainly be of no material benefit to the outports and we can ill-afford spending time debating measures of such nature at this season of the year.

MR. COAKER—Just a word in reply to the Hon. Minister, with regard to the opening of stores in the morning. In summer time all stores are open at 6 o'clock. There isn't a store on Water Street that you cannot get into at 6 o'clock. I do not mean, now, mercantile stores, but Retail Stores. The fault is with the offices, and they are not open even at 9 o'clock—very often not until 10. When I was in Grand Bank I found all the business men down to their offices at 7 o'clock, and the consequence is that they have a day's work done before we begin. These people are going ahead by leaps and bounds, but if they were to open their places of business at 10 o'clock it would not be long before they would have to put up their shutters. To these men the measure would not make any difference, and the only people who would be affected are the men in the offices here.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I would like to point out the unfairness of springing on the country a measure intended to come into effect on next Sunday. Folks in the remotest part of the Island would have to try to accommodate themselves to something that at present they know nothing whatever about. I presume, having no knowledge of what the Government intends, but judging merely from the text of the bill, that this law is supposed to come into force

and be effective from next Sunday, although nobody knows anything about it at present; and Government offices are to open and close an hour earlier, without previous knowledge on the part of the people. Now I think, whether or not we agree on the principle of the bill, we must agree that it would be absurd and unfair that people should have to go to telegraph offices, say, and find them closed, or post offices, and not know why. Reasonable notice should be given, if the bill is to apply to the whole country, and it should be made apply from July instead of June. Now, personally I don't care a rap whether this bill goes through or not. I don't take sufficient interest in the bill to support it or even to oppose it, and it seems to me that so far as the outports are concerned they are not very much interested either. I don't know from my knowledge that any outport has asked for this bill, and it seems to me somewhat unfair to force inconveniences on them of which they have no knowledge, and when they have not applied to anybody to have this measure put through. Now, I am in sympathy with the position put forward by Mr. Coaker, the member for Twillingate, it seems to me that it would be far better to have this matter dealt with by the Importers' Association. I don't agree with the views of those who have said that there is any necessity for any legal change. What necessity is there for a legal change so far as the bank is concerned? They close at 3 o'clock. Is this going to affect the banks at all. What difference would it make to the Supreme Court, or any other court. They can meet at the regular hour without any inconvenience whatever. I have a great deal of sympathy with the idea of those who are confined in offices getting out an hour earlier at night for recreation. That is the side of it that appeals to me, but it is mostly a matter that applies to St. John's, and which therefore can be dealt with by a resolution from the Importers' Association to close the offices at 5 o'clock and open them an hour earlier in the morning, thus affording an extra hour for recreation. There is no necessity for legislation, so far as I can see, but if there is, let it be confined to St. John's, and not the outports, who have not asked for it. And in any case, Sir, I do not think it fair to close the public offices throughout the country on such short notice of a day or two. Here it is Tuesday, and it is purposed to make this change for Sunday. Presumably that is why the matter was rushed through. It seems to me highly unfair and improper to rush through legislation, and bring it into force without giving notice of any change or intended change to people who are concerned, and that is everybody in the country. I shall oppose the measure unless it is confined to St. John's, or unless a provision is made to bring it in July instead of June.

MR. GRIMES—Representing an outport constituency, I can quite agree with the remarks of Dr. Lloyd with reference to springing such an important measure upon the outport people so suddenly. The notice of the alteration of time for Post Offices and Telegraph Offices to take effect on Sunday next will give no time to acquaint the people who live long distances from these offices of such drastic changes and many of them do not know that any such measure is seriously contemplated by this House, so as to prepare for such an emergency. The only intimation that they will get—I mean those that live long distances from the offices or who get their mail only once or twice a week—is that, after having travelled several miles over a hard road or rowed as many miles in a

boat, to find the office closed and a notice saying the reason why. Now members of this House know that many fishermen go out fishing early in the morning and when fish are running well put in all the time they can between daylight and dark. Some of them often find it necessary to attend to important matters that require the writing of a letter or the sending of a message regarding their produce and leave it till the last hour before the offices close, timing themselves to reach a quarter or half an hour ahead of time. Now one can readily see what inconvenience and annoyance will be experienced to find their time gone for nought. The office closed ahead of time without being made aware in advance that a change in the opening and closing hours had taken place, I am therefore in accord with the Leader of the Opposition in his proposal that the First of July be the time set for the Daylight Bill to come into effect. I am in accord with the principle of the Bill and can see that to the working classes of St. John's it will confer a benefit not only for recreation purposes, but also for the opportunity it will afford to many who have taken plots of land to cultivate. An hour longer in the evening will give them time for attention to the crops they have sown. To them it is therefore valuable. The outport man it would not affect in the same way he being master of his own time, but that need not hinder the bill being made applicable to St. John's.

MR. TARGETT—I would like to make a few remarks regarding this Bill. I must say, to begin with, that I have every sympathy with the men in St. John's who are confined in close rooms, offices etc., and I have no doubt that it would be very beneficial to them, but I fail to see where it is going to benefit the outports in any detail. It would do more harm than good, and I don't think it is fair to spring a thing like this on the outports before they know anything about it. Next June would be plenty of time—not July of this year, but next June. They would have plenty of time to discuss it next winter, and see whether it is best or not. To my mind, it would be very unfair to spring this on the public at the present time, and I should think we have business which is more important, instead of wasting our time on this. Under the circumstances, I don't feel like supporting this bill.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I think from the remarks that we have heard from the members of the Opposition we can conclude that there is not very much in the contentions they have put up as regards the operation of this bill in the outports. As I said in my opening remarks, the outport people practically have the daylight bill in operation all their lives. A great majority of them rise earlier and retire earlier than the people in the City; and for that reason I do not think this bill is going to have any effect upon them. What effect is it going to have upon the telegraph offices in the outports? These offices now open at nine in the morning and close at eight in the evening. Under this bill they will open at 8 in the morning and close at 7 in the evening. All the offices will open and close at the same time. And as the contention has been that most of the outport people do most of their business in the early morning, the earlier the offices open the better. I contend that it is essential to have legislation on this subject. Even in St. John's we could not operate such a scheme without legislation. For instance, take the case of a boarding house in the city with an arrangement like this operating without Legislative sanction. Some of the boarders would come in for dinner at 12,

some at 1, and some at 2; there would be confusion all the time. Mr Jennings has demonstrated very clearly that the outport people will not be very much concerned; he practically said they were not interested in it. Mr. Piccott said much the same thing. Dr. Lloyd has not strongly opposed it; neither has he strongly supported it. But a representative of a city constituency is very much interested in it. I feel very much interested in it because I feel it is going to be of great benefit to my constituents But it is not possible to operate it without legislation. If you try it, you will have one hour in the city and another hour in the outports; and as a consequence you will have all sorts of confusion. Your telegraph and post offices will be all confused. As I pointed out before, there does not seem to be any tangible argument that is going to convince me that it is going to have any effect on the outports whatever; if it has an effect it will be a beneficial one. The outport people are early risers and they retire early; and they will profit by this. The Act is practically experimental. Probably after we have it in force for a year we may find room for improvement or we may abolish it altogether. I think we are quite safe, though, in view of the fact that in most parts of the British Empire they have this Act in force to-day. They have it in France; they have it in Germany; and as the Premier pointed out, everybody is pleased with its operation in the British Empire. I would therefore ask the members to allow this bill to go through in its present form as the idea is that it is entirely of an experimental character. It is not going to do any harm in the outports; in St. John's it will do an immense amount of good; and I as a representative of St. John's would request that we vote for this measure as at present constituted. If it is of no benefit to the outports it will be of inestimable benefit to St. John's. At least it is worth trying.

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Chairman, as regards the principles of this Bill I would support it, but as has been already pointed out the difficulty is in the working of it. I think it will be unworkable in a great many instances. Those who have spoken in favor of the Bill used arguments that have been absolutely refuted by those who oppose it and they have based their arguments on the unworkability of the proposed Act. Mr. Jennings, the member for Twillingate, has very aptly told us that you cannot make a board longer by cutting off one end and putting the piece you have cut off on the other end. With regard to the outport people doing business here, it is quite true that sometimes it is to their advantage to have the opportunity of commencing their business an hour earlier in the morning; but it is also at other times to their advantage to be enabled to get to the Custom House an hour later than they would if this Bill were in force. And sometimes it has often happened that delays through a late transmission of business have saved them from dangers and loss through stress of weather. Nothing can be gained by putting on an hour in the morning and taking it off in the night. The real object of this Bill is to better the condition of those who work in close offices or stuffy shops, or rather those who work in offices or shops, because whether their business brings them to close or stuffy places makes no difference to the object of this Bill, which is to better the condition of such working people. I think if the matter were left to the Importers' Association the object would be achieved without difficulty, because the people in their employ are

those who will be affected most. No fisherman, no working man, no ordinary day laborer will receive any good form the passing of this Bill. Another thing to which I object is the manner in which this Bill has been sprung upon the Legislature; it has to be taken up, passed, and brought into effect within three or four days. The residents of many places will know absolutely nothing about it. Many will hear the church bells ring an hour earlier next Sunday morning, and they will imagine it is the fire bell. I would support this Bill if its operation were postponed for six months so that the people in the outports would have the opportunity of debating the advantages of the enactment, but I cannot support it in its present form.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman; a thought has just struck me about this Bill. On the opening of this House, Mr. Coaker, told us that we were going to be kept here until September. Now I think if that is the case there is nobody in Newfoundland whom this Bill will benefit more than the members of this House. We would be enabled to come here earlier and get out earlier, and be able to go to the golf links, or the tennis club and spend a few more hours in enjoyable recreation. For that reason if for no other, I think the House should be unanimous in its support.

MR. LLOYD—I appreciate now why so many members of the Government support the bill. Surely you cannot expect members on this side to do similarly?

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Chairman, I have lived in the outports and ought to know the practical side of it. I have been in the fish business all my life and have often been about my work at 4, 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning; and I do not think it will have the least effect on the outports. But if we have one hour in the outports and one hour in the city then it will create confusion. I do not think the outports care one pin about it. I understand the clerks and office men around St. John's would like to have this Bill in operation as it is in other ctiies; they would like to get off an hour earlier in the evening to take their recreation; and I do not think we should object to giving them this privilege when it would not affect the outports. No man can tell me that it is going to affect the outports; but it will if you have different hours in the city and the outports, for that would create confusion. As regards the fish on the wharves and stages, I know you cannot spread fish in the mornings before the flakes or stages are dried; but you can give it an extra hour in the evening; and that would give the laborers the chance of earning an hour's extra pay. I think it would be wise for this House to pass the Bill and give it a trial. Some other year if we find it does not suit, we can throw it out.

MR. LLOYD—I move that the word "June" be stricken out and the word "July" substituted. I have already explained why. It is proposed to put this Bill into operation practically without notice that it is coming into effect. It practically means that a Bill, making radical changes throughout the Island, is coming into effect with absolutely no notice.

MR. GRIMES—I second that.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY —Mr. Chairman, I quite appreciate the contention of the Leader of the Opposition that the time within which to give notice of this Bill is very short; but I think it would lose its effect entirely for this summer if you made it July. A whole month of summer would be gone and the object lost. I think most of the large localities know what is going on and

would be prepared on very short notice to accept its operation. We have facilities to-day by which within very few hours we can tap the whole of the Island by telegraph, railway or steamer. I would undertake to say that within the time prescribed notice of its coming into operation can be sent throughout the length and breadth of the Island—at least to nine-tenths of the people—before next Sunday night. I sincerely think it would be a mistake to do that. It would defeat the measure if you would consent to let the matter stand over until July. For these reasons I would have the Bill stand as it is. In less than two hours the whole country could be told by telegraph of the passing of this Act, and govern themselves accordingly.

MR. LLOYD—The Hon. Minister may possibly send notice of this to telegraph operators, but he would certainly not even reach the Postal Officials by Sunday night, and though he reached the Postal Operators, he could not reach the people. There are a great many places and people it will be impossible to reach. There are very many places where the people at this time of the year are not going near any post offices and it will be utterly impossible to reach them within any reasonable time, and surely not before Sunday.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Some it won't reach before July. They will not be affected.

MR. LLOYD—I have no objection to the object of the bill. I think the object of the bill is an admirable one and commendable in every way. The only trouble is that you are going about it in the wrong way. You ought not to go about it in a way that prejudices others.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman. The leader of the Opposition has pointed out very clearly the objections to this bill, and it should not come into effect before next June. You cannot possibly have the various settlements informed before that time. As an illustration I would point out Roach's Line in Port de Grave district. This place contains about twenty-five families, the greater number being distant from the Post Office about five miles. They do not always have occasion to go to the Post Office every day. Now the Colonial Secretary says, the only persons to receive the notice of change in time will be the Telegraph Operators. What about the Post Offices, And what I have said of Roach's Line might also be said of Georgetown, where there are sixty or seventy families, in all about 250 people or more. The nearest Telegraph Office is five miles distant. What time will they be made aware of the change of time, and move their clocks on. The same would apply to other portions of Port de Grave and I have no doubt but to all the other districts. I cannot agree with the Colonial Secretary when he says that the large settlements represent the larger number of people. They do not. They represent only the minority.

MR. HALFYARD—I also wish to make a remark in connection with the statement of the Colonial Secretary that the whole country could be made aware of this bill within 24 hours. Now if you could judge that statement by others he has said about this bill, he can hardly wonder why certain members cannot support the Bill. When are they going to let the people of Carmanville know about the Bill? Will they send messages through the wires that have been lying there since the fall of 1913, nearly four years ago? What about Ladie Cove? Will they use the wires stored there? They certainly cannot communicate with them. They have been there ever since that year, and have not yet, and cannot now be used. How

are the people of Fredericton, Ladle Cove and Carmanville going to learn of this measure? There are a great many people around this section of the country who cannot be reached by telegraph, and the only way to reach them is by sending letters via Port Blandford or Lewisporte. There are a great many other places which might be mentioned, where this Bill will not be known of until after it has been in operation here for over a month. If this Bill was of such great importance, we should have called the Legislature together and have had it discussed months ago. I beg to support the amendment that June be changed to July.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman, I think I was one of the first members of this House outside of the introducer to offer my support to this measure, and I have heard all that is to be said by the hon. members on this side against the measure. But, Sir, I have not yet heard any argument that changes my position with regard to the desirability of passing this measure. I am very sorry indeed to have to differ from some of my colleagues, and it looks to me as if this was developing into a party question, and even though I were to feel that, I may still have to differ with my colleagues on this side of the House. I feel that my duty is to support the measure because I believe in it. I do not fear for one moment that anybody, even in the remotest part of the country, is going to suffer very much, or at all, by reason of this change of time. Within twenty-four hours of the passing of this act, 95 per cent. of the people of the country will know that it is passed and all that they have to do is put on the clock or their watches one hour and work on the time as it will appear from the clock or watch. That is the only difference and I do not think it is going to effect anyone very seriously. I cannot therefore support the amendment before the House.

The amendment was lost.

MR. COAKER—I beg to propose the following amendment as a subsection to section 1: "This section shall only apply to St. John's." It appears to cover the position as desired. As a matter of fact I asked the mover of this Bill to modify it, but he refused to have the Bill amended at all. He would agree to no concession whatever. Now the outports do not want this Bill, and they will not thank you or this House for wasting an afternoon on such a matter. They have not asked for it. Never has one petition been presented asking for it, and yet in spite of that the honorable the mover of this measure is prepared to have this matter brought in and enacted to become effective next Sunday before notice even has been given. If you think this is satisfactory to the outports and their representatives, I think it is not.

Do you know that the people of this country at the present time are not in a state of mind to put up with conduct such as this from the people in St. John's. They have more serious questions confronting them. You do not take any measure to bring to book the people who are taking $5.00 on a barrel of flour and 50 cents on salt, but you are prepared to come here and give all this time to a petty scheme of this nature. This is what the people kick against. If this is what the House is going to waste its time at, I wish I was not a member of it. I would rather be saved the humiliation of having such a thing said of me.

The Amendment on being put to the House was lost.

On motion of Mr. Clift "Summer" was inserted instead of "Colonial" time. Subsequently, however, the term was changed to "Newfoundland."

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 to-morrow.

DEATH DUTIES' ACT.

Second reading of Bill to Amend the Death Duties Act.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. The first section of the Bill provides that the property of any person who dies while on active service in either of our branches, either the Royal Naval Reserve or the Newfoundland Regiment, shall be exempt from death duties. The second section provides that the property of a native of Newfoundland who dies while on active service as a member of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces, shall be exempt from death duty. I feel that this is a measure that will be acceded to by everyone in this House. My only hope is that there will be very few cases where it will be necessary to avail of this Act, but if cases do arise it will be some small recognition of what we owe to those who come under these provisions and those whom they leave behind. I do not think I need say anything further, Sir, in relation to the Bill, and I beg to move the second reading.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the motion for the second reading of this Bill. I may say that this matter has been considered by the Finance Committee and a small Committee was formed to take up this matter of soldiers' wills and the cases of soldiers who died leaving property; and one of the difficulties of administering or taking probate was the question of the payment of death duties; and we found on investigation that while the Government were willing to do what they could and not collect the duty that the Courts did not feel that it was their duty to give letters of Administration or Probate except under the usual circumstances. It was then agreed by that Committee that a draft Bill be prepared by the Attorney General and after being sent to the Executive Council that I should have the honour of looking it over before it was brought to this House. Now I presume that was overlooked. No doubt it was purely an oversight that it was not done. I know that it was not the intention of the Attorney General; because he last night discussed the matter with me and he assured me that before the Bill was printed I should have an opportunity of going over it. I only point this out in order to say that attention should be paid to matters of this kind. I do not take any exception to the Bill. It is most desirable that we should do anything we can so as not to put to any kind of distress the relatives or next of kin of beneficiaries of those who have given their lives to the country. I give my hearty support to this measure.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I can assure the hon. member that I had no idea of this. I could have seen to a copy being sent had I only known.

The Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Death Duties Act, Acts 1914-1916," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

ADMIRALTY SHIPS DISCIPLINE BILL.

Second reading of Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Discipline on ships controlled by the Admiralty."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—This bill has been drafted at the request of His Majesty's Government and deals with ships chartered to, be-

longing to, or requisitioned by the Admiralty. It incorporates certain sections of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and the dispatch asking for the passage of this bill from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Bonar Law, points out that the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act and the ordinary law were found inadequate to cope with these difficulties and that cases have occurred in British ports which have rendered this measure necessary. There can be no possible objction to this measure as it is already the law in England where they are very careful indeed about creating new statutory offences and no doubt very good reasons justify its coming into force. I beg to move the reading of this bill.

MR. LLOYD—I beg to second that. I think this is a measure which will commend itself to the house. Offences like drunkenness may cause conceivable delays, which in time of war, may have serious results.

The Bill entitled "Ant Act respecting Discipline on Ships Controlled by the Admiralty," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to morrow.

FIRE INSURANCE CO. BILL.

Second reading of bill entitled "An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—This is a small local measure, whose object is to compel Fire Insurance Companies to send certain returns of losses and so forth to the Inspector of Police. I understand that this year four or five such companies refused to send any such statement. As the statistics are very important and their existence of importance to the city, I think the companies can have no objection to giving the information required. I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

MR. CLIFT—I would like to ask the Premier what the exact object of this measure is. I understand that the purpose of it is to require insurance companies to submit statements of their losses and so on, but what are we to infer from that? What would be the object of having these lessons furnished to the Inspector?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—One important reason is in order to enable him to make an annual report of the statements, showing exactly the nature of the losses, the name of the assured and the locality of the property, the nature of the property damaged, appraised damage, claim on company, etc. All these are important matters and may affect the risks taken by Insurance Companies in certain parts of the town. The part of the town also is a serious matter as it effects the water service problem, and drainage, and so on. I think myself that it could have only a salutary effect on those who contemplate making a raid on the Fire Insurance Companies.

MR. CLIFT—I was only enquiring because I had no idea whatever of the scope of this bill. I was aware that the Inspector General had requisitioned certain information from certain Companies in this city which they refused to submit, but I did not understand whether or not the object of this requisition was for the purpose of ascertaining how much the Insurance Companies were making out of their business in this city with a view perhaps to having the rates reduced. If this is so I do not think that it is a fair measure.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "Ant Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

TRANSFER AND MORTGAGE OF BRITISH SHIPS BILL.

Second reading of Bill "An Act to restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— This is also a measure drafted at the request of the Imperial Government. It is only to continue in operation for the duration of the war, and, indeed, after reading the bill one can see that it is to a large extent a war measure. The draft is a consolidation of the Imperial Acts of 1915-1916, on the same subject, the sole difference being that in the Imperial Act the approval is vested in the Board of Trade, acting on behalf of His Majesty's Government, whereas in this bill, it will be noticed that that power of approval is vested in the Governor in Council. It is not likely that bona fide applications under this Act will be refused but where there are good and sufficient reasons, it has been thought advisable to have the power to deal with any possible emergency that may arise.

The Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships", was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS. BILL

Second reading of Bill entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is as its title states, "An Act to facilitate the reciprocal enforcement of judgments, orders and awards in Newfoundland and other parts of the Empire." I shall not trouble the House to read the Bill at this stage, but would merely say that it is on all fours with the measure that has been passed by the other Dominions, and we have been asked by the Imperial Government to enact it. When we go into Committee, I will table a memo. from the Home Government in relation to the Bill. It has been prepared with a view of giving effect to a Resolution passed by the Imperial Conference in 1911, and will be of very great advantage, I think, when it becomes law.

The Bill entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Rt. Hon the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Ratifying a contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands."

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

WEDNESDAY, June 6th, 1917

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

PETITIONS.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the people of Charlottetown, B.B. The petitioners ask for the sum of $250 to repair and extend the road from Charlottetown to Port Blandford. Charlottetown, Sir, I may say, is absolutely cut off from the outside world If the people there want a doctor, they must go over to Port Blandford a distance of six miles or cross Clode Sound to Bunyan's Cove a distance of 1½ miles and then travel to Musgrave Town which is about 6 miles before they can get any communication. The Government some years ago spent some little money on this

road but nothing had been done since. I think that Charlottetown has been greatly neglected, and I hope the Government will look into this matter. I would ask that it be referred to the Department of Public Works. Also a petition Mr. Speaker, from the inhabitants of Lower Island Cove asking that $100.00 be granted to repair the bank which was damaged by a washout. This bank is in a bad condition. I saw the place myself, and know whereof I affirm. I hand this over to the Department of Public Works.

MR. WINSOR—I beg to support these two petitions. I can vouch for the need of the prayers of the petitioners being acceded to. I hope the Government will see its way clear to make this grant.

MR. TARGETT—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Hant's Hr. asking that the wages of the courier between that place and Heart's Content be increased. The pay at present is too small. The courier must needs keep two horses and his salary is not great enough to allow him to afford it. I beg to support the prayer of the petition and hope the Government will see its way clear to accede to the demands of the people.

MR. PARSONS.—On behalf of the Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of Carbonear South asking that a sum be allocated for repairing the road there. The road is a part of the main road. They think the sum of $80 would be sufficient to repair it and ask that that amount be given. The road I may add Mr. Speaker will be convenient not only to the people of Carbonear South but also to all the inhabitants of that neighbourhood. I would ask that this petition be referred to the department of Public Works.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—I beg leave to present petition from the inhabitants of Trout River, Bonne Bay. The petition had been sent to me as the member for the district is absent. It is in relation to Telegraph matters. The residents of Trout River ask that it be extended from Bonne Bay to Trout River, a distance of 10 to 12 miles. The petition was very influentially signed by about 100 members of the two districts. I know the place and know that it will be a great advantage to have a telephone or telegraph connection at Trout River. I have referred this matter to the Department of the Colonial Secretary to see if anything can be done in this connection.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a number of petitions from various parts of the district requesting allocations for repairs of roads, bridges, wharves etc. One from Twillingate asking for a sum of money to repair the Ferry Wharf at Jones' Cove, Main Tickle; one from Pilley's Island for deepening a channel leading into a pond; one from Head's Hr. asking for a grant to complete a road to Card's Hr. and also that a ferry service be given in that neighbourhood; one from Card's Hr. to repair a bridge and road connecting two islands; one from Exploits for repairs of bridge connecting two islands, and also asking for an inspection of the pier of said bridge with a view of putting a concrete foundation in the near future instead of the wooden structure there at present; also one from Summerford, asking for a regular line grant for the road leading from that place to Friday's Bay. This is an important road and needs to be kept in repair; also one from Norris' Arm asking for grant to build a road to church and cemetery. I have personal knowledge of most of the mat-

ters referred to in these petitions and I hope the Government will find it possible to grant the requests. I ask that the petitions be received and referred to their separate departments.

MR. HALFYARD—I beg leave, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition from the residents of Hare Bay in Fogo district. Petition is signed by a large number of the inhabitants and asks that a well be sunk in that locality. They say there is no well there at present and they have to bring water from the mainland. In the spring of the year owing to the ice and slob it is sometimes difficult to procure water for drinking purposes. I hope the Government will be able to accede to the prayers of the petitioners. I would ask that the petition be received and referred to the department of Public Works. Also, Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from Change Islands, Fogo district. The petition is chiefly and really from the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army recently started work there, and they are asking that a road be made to their hall. They say the sum of $120 will cover the needs and I hope the Government will see their way clear to grant the request of the petitioners. The road will be very useful both to the Salvation Army people and to other residents of the place. I would ask that this petition be referred to the Department to which it relates; also a petition from the people of Cape Cove in the district of Fogo, asking that a sum of money be allocated for the building of a road there. The people there find it nearly impossible to get to and form Tilting. Clergyman and doctors, as well as the residents of Tilting and Cape Cove are greatly inconvenienced, and I hope that something will be done to remedy these matters. The petition is very largely signed and I would ask that it be referred to the Department to which it relates. Also a petition from Indian Islands in the District of Fogo asking that a telegraph office be erected at Indian Islands. They set forth that the wires might be brought from Seldom Come Bye, which is the nearest place and is a distance of only 7 miles. Indian Islands has become a very important place but the people there are very greatly inconvenienced by lack of communication with the outside world. There is no medical doctor stationed at Indian Islands, and owing to the lack of telegraphic communication the people are oftentimes greatly inconvenienced, in fact I have reason to believe that the absence of quick communication with a doctor has often caused great suffering and in some cases the loss of life. This is not a new matter. I think it has been brought to the attention of the Government on previous occasions for consideration. It would entail the expenditure of a sum of money. I do not know how much. It is a matter that should receive earnest consideration and I give it my heartiest support. I beg to refer it to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. STONE.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Ireland's Eye in the district of Trinity asking that a telegraph office be erected in that settlement At present it is a very isolated place, and at certain seasons of the year the people cannot get back and forth to the mainland, and therefore a telegraph office is imperatively necessary. This petition is very largely and influentially signed and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant the request. If I am not mistaken I brought this matter to the attention of the Government last year, but it has been neglected; but I trust it will now be attended to. I would ask that it be referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

QUESTIONS.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER —I beg to table the information asked for by the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, in relation to the Volunteers. I also beg to table information in reply to a question from the honourable member for Twillingate, Mr. Jennings.

MR. ABBOTT asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House an itemized statement of all expenses in connection with His Majesty's Customs in Bonavista district during the years 1915-1916. to date.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS.—That is being prepared.

MR. WINSOR asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount of coals supplied to each Lighthouse in Bonavista district in 1915-1916, by whom supplied, and at what price per ton.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I beg to table the information.

MR. COAKER asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier (a) A statement showing the cost per ton ex ship of the load of Cadiz salt recently imported by the Government per S.S. "Dunholme" and at what price per ton it was sold to Job Bros. & Co. (b). If the salt was offered to other firms, if so, to whom, and what offers were received from such.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER —There was no salt imported by the Government at any time.

MR. COAKER—I beg to say that in the Customs Returns the steamer is entered in the Government's name—salt imported by the Government.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—That may be. I don't know what is in the Customs Returns. The Government heard of it for the first time when the question was asked. Further I may say that all the salt imported has been imported in the regular way by the salt merchants. The Government had nothing whatever to do with the importation.

Mr. Abbott gave notice of questions.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Bill 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 it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message informing that body that the House of Assembly had passed the Bill sent up with some amendments in which the concurrence of the Legislative Council was requested.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

To His Excellency Sir Walter Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander in Chief in and Over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

May it Please Your Excellency:

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

R. J. DEVEREAUX,
R. MOULTON,
W. J. HIGGINS.

Assembly Room, June 6, 1917.

On motion this Report was received and adopted.

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks.

MR. SPEAKER—There is no motion before the House.

MR. HALFYARD—I wished to speak on the Address in Reply.

MR. SPEAKER—The Address in Reply has passed. However, if the Hon. member is desirous of addressing the House, I will entertain a motion for the adjournment of the House to enable him to do so.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled: Annual Report of the Registrar of Birth, Marriages and Deaths for year ending Dec. 31st, 1916; Report of the Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1916; Report of the Auditor General on Municipal Accounts, 1916.

DEATH DUTIES BILL

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Death Duties Act, Acts 1914-1916."

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 consideerd 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.

ADMIRALTY SHIPS DISCIPLINE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act respecting Discipline on Ships controlled by the Admiralty."

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.

TRANSFER AND MORTGAGE OF SHIPS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled. "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships."

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.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions."

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 Hon. the Colonial Secretary was given leave to withdraw from the order paper the Bills entitled respectively: "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Riverside Woolen Mills, Limited." "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Limited."

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

NEW BILLS.

Rt. 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 relative to the Confirmation of an agreement for Steam Service on Bay of Islands.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law respecting Copyright.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woolen Mills, Ltd., and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Ltd.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, June 7th.

PETITIONS.

MIN. OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Conception Harbour, Colliers and Turk's Gut, in reference to the extension of the road known as Roach's Line, which was built a good many years ago through the District of Port de Grave. I think it starts from the main line near Clarke's Beach, or between Clarke's Beach and Brigus and leads into the country. It leads to a place called Maher's Station or Maher's Siding. For some years past there have been quite a number of the inhabitants of Conception Harbour, Turk's Gut and Colliers located in that neighbourhood known as Maher's Siding. I think they originally went there with the intention of going into the lumber business. At present there are some mills in operation there. Since starting operations there they have cultivated a lot of land from time to time, and the settlement has grown to such an extent that there are now a number of families there. They have no road facilities. They have no way of getting in and out of the settlement except by the railway. In conjunction with this petition I believe that my friend, Mr. Grimes, has a similar petition to present from Brigus District. The extension asked for will only amount to a couple of miles. This petition is very largely and influentially signed by the people of the settlements I have referred to. It seems to me that there was a road built in connection with Roach's Line through Colliers some years ago. It was known as Whelan's Road. My hon. friend, Mr. Morris, who at that time had something to do with the allocation of public moneys in that District, will no doubt know something about it. The distance, I understand, to construct a road to where both roads meet is not very far. I have no doubt that with the support of my friend, Mr. Grimes, that when we make a special appeal to the Government when the additional funds are being allocated that even if we do not get enough to construct a first class road we will at least be able to construct some kind of a road from Maher's Siding. I hope that the Government will give this matter favourable consideration and I ask that the petition be referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from Port de Grave—largely signed from the lower sections of the District—making the same request as that contained in the petition just presented by the hon. member for Harbour Main. The advantages of this road, as pointed out by the petitioners, are

that there are two saw mills located at Maher's Junction which the people have great difficulty in getting timber from, and this road would facilitate them in getting the timber out at any time of the year and particularly during the winter season. It has another advantage in that the opening of this road would enable them to get firewood, fencing and boat material all through the year. At present they have to go on what is known as Hodgewater line to get this. For some years they have been cutting here and the distance they now have to go is considerably greater than ten years ago, the wood being cut out. The opening of this road to Maher's Junction will shorten the distance for them considerably and will be a great advantage. As Mr. Woodford pointed out, the cost of this road will be small, as it goes through a portion of the country where it is easy to make a road. I think the distance is about five miles. The petition is largely signed by the people of Brgius, Goulds, Cupids and Georgestown. I trust that the Government will give it the consideration it deserves, and I ask that it be referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. DOWNEY—I should like to say a few words in support of the petitions presented by Mr. Woodford and Mr. Grimes. I happened to be working in that locality when Roach's line was constructed, and I was over the locality many times. It goes through a very fine section of country and its extension will, I think, be of very great advantage to the Bay. There has been a great agricultural development in that section during the past eight years and any money we can spend as an incentive for further developmet will be money well spent. The whole section through which this road goes is not entirely desirable from an agricultural standpoint, but a great deal of it is very desirable; and the small expenditure that this road calls for will be money well spent.

MR. STONE—I beg to present a petition form the inhabitants of Lancaster asking for the small sum of fifty dollars for the construction of an agricultural road in that section. I think the Government should give this petition the consideration that it deserves. The petition is signed by a number of people. If the Government want to encourage the people to go into agriculture I think they cannot do better than by giving them roads to get to and from their lands, I hope that the petition will receive the consideration of the Government and I ask that it be referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. WINSOR—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of St. Brendan's asking for the sum of $120 to construct a road. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the proper department.

MR. COAKER—I beg to prresent a petition from Duggan's Cove and Harbour Deep in the District of St. Barbe asking that the telegraph line be extended from Conche to Great Harbor Deep. The distance is about twenty five or thirty miles. If the Government decides to extend the wires from Conche to Harbour Deep the wires would come through Englee, a very large and thriving settlement; and I presume that when the finances of the Colony will justify the expenpenditure on telegraph extension this matter will receive the attention of the Government, and something will be done to grant the prayer of the petition.

I also beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Herring Neck, which prays that the sum of three hundred dollars be granted for the purpose of the opening of a canal between the Wallett and Burnt Harbour

This petition which is very largely signed would if granted be a great benefit indeed to the people referred to in the petition, and it is my earnest hope that something may be done either from Special Grants or from grants from the district to enable the objects of this petition being performed. I also beg to present another petition from the inhabitants of Norris' Arm which prays that the sum of six hundred dollars be allocated for the purpose of building a new road. At present the railway is the only means of getting around from place to place and of course the risk that women and children undergo in so using it, is one which ought not to continue in the best interests of the people. I sincerely trust that this petition will receive the consideration of the department to which it relates.

MR. TARGETT—I beg leave to present a petition from the people of Hant's Harbor, who request that the sum of forty or fifty dollars be allocated to that place to enable them to build a road. A great deal of the land is under cultivation at that place and the need for a road is very pressing and merits the attention of the department to which the petition is addressed. I sincerely hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant the prayer of this petition.

MR. JENNINGS—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of the south side of Norris' Arm, who request that a sum of money be allocated for building a road around that part of the settlement. I was thinking when petitions were being presented from some of the southern districts, asking for grants for agricultural roads, how much better they were off with regard to roads than Twillingate district, where in any of the newer settlements they have no roads at all. The place from which this petition comes is in that condition, and I ask that their request may receive the consideration desired from the Department of Public Works.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of the Government Analyst, 1916.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Clift gave notice of question in relation to report of disturbances at Twillingate.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Speaker, in giving this notice it occurs to me that perhaps the hon. the Prirme Minister might be able to afford some information at the present moment as to the state of affairs at Twillingate. The matter in question is one of some urgency. In fact, I understand that there has been quite a disturbance in that part of the Island. As far as I can learn, from newspaper reports and elsewhere, the flag was torn down off the Court House and trampled upon.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Beyond what I have seen in the evening papers, I have no information. It is barely possible that the Department of Justice may have something. I will make enquiries and table any information I may receive. I will make enquiries immediately and the information may arrive this evening.

MR. LLOYD—With your permission, for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House to the matter, I propose moving the adjournment of the House to consider the matter referred to by Mr. Clift. If it is more convenient to defer it till later this evening I am quite willing to do so, but I should like it to be discussed this afternoon as it is a matter not only of gravest public importance, but of extreme urgency. I do not think there can be any doubt that there has been a disturbance of public opinion in Twillingate. I can assure the House that already efforts

have been made to alleviate any feeling not in the public interest. I learned about 1.30 to-day that Mr. Fox, a solicitor, had left by train for Twillingate to continue a prosecution and also that a squad of policemen had been sent down by train. It is impossible to say what contingency may rise before we meet again. The purpose of my motion is to consider whether steps should not be taken to allay any such feeling in that place. If it would be more convenient to the House, I will ask for the adjournment at a later stage.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I have no objection to the proposal of the hon. member. I might say that the Leader of the Opposition has already mentioned the matter to me and I have assented to his proposals. I have telephoned to the Department of Justice and the Attorney General will send up any information which he may have.

MR. LLOYD—With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw my motion from the House, for a time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I beg to table answer to Mr. Coaker's question re reservists and volunteers.

COPYRIGHT BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Copyright Act 1911" was introduced a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM SERVICE. AGREEMENT RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relating to the Confirmation of an Agreement for Steam Service on Bay of Islands.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER—These resolutions, as the Committee will see, are proposals for the purpose of confirming an agreement made between His Excellency the Governor and Mr. Edward Barry of Sunnyside, Bay of Islands in September last, in relation to the Bay of Islands Coastal Service or the Bay Service. This agreement was entered into as the result of a public tender, publicly called for in the regular way, and which was given to Mr. Edward Barry as the lowest tenderer. The service was in operation the whole of last summer and from all that I can learn has given complete satisfaction. When the contract of 1898 was made providing for the Coastal Service on the Great Bays no provision were made for Bay of Islands or indeed Bay St. George, and although they have the regular Coastal boat operated by Bowring Brothers under contract from the Government, which goes fortnightly there, and also have, in recent years, ships such as the Seal, calling there and the daily service by train, yet there are a great many places outside of these which are not connected in any way whatever either with the train or these terminal points where the large coastal boats touch. This contract is one of justice long deferred probably by reason of other claims all over the country and I think it is a measure that will give satisfaction to everyone in those portions of the country which have any connection with Bay of Islands. For the last ten or twelve years we have had various small services there beginning with the usual motor boats but of course they have not in any way met the de-

mands of this section of the country and even the present service is to a certain extent limited because the Government was bound to consider public funds, but all said and done, I think it will give satisfaction and meet the requirements of the place.

MR. LLOYD.—I would like to call attention to the matter of freight rates under this contract. As this House knows, these rates have advanced very considerably since the war, and I would like to find out whether these rates are based on rates as they were before the war or otherwise. Apparently the steamer is to run five days a week, the other day being spent in cleaning up. The main point that I have in mind is this, that we are now apparently confirming a contract made during war time, and for a considerable period hereafter. The point on which I wish to be satisfied is that as we now are confirming this contract which is to extend for seven years,, shall we be called upon after the war to pay the abnormal rates that exist to-day? In other words, is it desirable for us during a state of war to confirm a contract for an extended period? The answers to this question must, as the House will readily see, govern the course we are prepared to take on this matter.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Chairman, I think the point raised by the hon. member is well taken, and I will be very glad to furnish him with all the information which lies in my power. The position he has stated in reference to this contract came up last year, and I remember being in consultation with Mr. Downey, the member for the district, he having a very full knowledge of the place and settlements and the character of the rates, and he was satisfied that those rates were prewar rates; that practically no increases were being made. At the present time I have not all the information in this connection with me that I might give the House, but perhaps the member for St. George's who I notice is in his place in the House will be able to give us some information.

MR. DOWNEY.—For the information of the member I might say I have been connected with shipping both while I was a young man, and now. I have been engaged both here and in the United States in connection with shipping. While in the United States I was in the service of the Anglo American Dry Dock Co. having control, and I have served many times as a Lloyd's Surveyor in Newfoundland and the United States, and I think I am not overstating when I say I should not expect a steamer of the character of the "George I." burning, as she does, so much fuel and, fulfilling, as she is so well, the work, in that Bay, to do this work more reasonably. At the present time I think she is doing the work very reasonably, as the service is exceptionally good, This is the first efficient service this district has had, and I do not think that the cost is too high. Not alone is it a benefit to St. George's, but Fortune Bay, Burgeo and even Placentia and St. Mary's and the other districts in the fall of the year will derive great benefit from this service. The service is now I think as good as one can get there.

MR. CLIFT—This is the first time I have seen these resolutions, but I am not disposed to consider the subject matter of them until, and I think I might reasonably ask that, we have had tabled in the House the original tender and also any subsequent correspondence in relation to it, and also whether the hon. member who has just spoken, the member for St. George's, had anything to do with any negotiations which brought about the

contract, and if so to what extent and what was his capacity in the matter. Was he acting as the member for the district, in the interest of the Government, or was he acting as expert in the matter.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Chairman, I may say I was actively interested in this matter, but my interest was solely with the object of securing as many tenders for the service as I could, so as to enlarge the Government's sphere of selection. I was absolutely devoid of any personal interest in the matter except in so far as my capacity as member for the district necessitated. I may say that I secured by solicitation not only the tender which was afterwards accepted, but all the tenders which were made.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I might say I anticipated the request of the hon. member for Twillingate and I now beg to table the accepted tender, the original tenders and all the correspondence in connection with this matter. As to the capacity in which the member for St. George's acted in this matter. I think it is the practice for members to interest themselves in affairs connected with their districts, and I feel quite sure that that was the capacity in which Mr. Downey was acting. Now the point taken by Mr. Lloyd has hardly been answered, which is, how did these rates, the rates in that contract, compare with ordinary rates, and generally speaking, if they were pre-war rates, or pre-war rates with a reasonable increase. I will make inquiries, and see how the present rates compare with rates for past service, and have it ready for the next discussion of the matter. All this may be afterwards discussed when we are in committee, and I suggest this merely for the purpose of advancing the measure one stage.

MR. CLIFT—I don't see how this will advance the measure. If the resolution were read, discussion may arise on various sections, and we may gain information useful to us. I am not asking to have the measure delayed, but I don't see anything to be gained by reading a few sections, except that they may bring up points which are important.

MR. LLOYD—I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we take up a couple of sections, and advise the House that we have made some progress. If we stop at number two you may be able to inform us on section three, as to how it has been arranged, etc. Is that agreeable?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes.

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.

ADJOURNMENT MOVED TO DISCUSS TWILLINGATE INCIDENT.

Mr. Lloyd moved the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing the reported trouble at Twillingate respecting the prosecution of certain persons in connection with pit props.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House adjourn for the purpose of considering the matter I have referred to. I think it is within the knowledge of the members of the House that incidents of an unfortunate and regrettable character have taken place about Twillingate. It has been stated in the public press that certain persons have improperly taken pit props and were advised by parties in St. John's to do so. It has been stated that the parties referred to include two members on this side

of the House—one Mr. Jennings, member for Twillingate, and the other, myself.

The implication is that we, members of this House, members of a law making assembly, have advised fishermen and have advised pit prop cutters, to disregard the law and take it into their own hands, and the consequences of that advice were the pulling down of the flag, the insulting of the magistrate, and the flouting of the law of Newfoundland. I bring this matter up because I am personally concerned, first of all as a member of this House and second as the leader of the Opposition of this House. and I wish to make it plain, that so far as I am concerned I am not a party to any disorder, that I am not a party to any flouting of the law. that I am not a party to an insulting of magistrates or any desecration of the flag. I think you will remember that I have referred to the flag that adorns your desk as a great emblem of liberty under law and I would be the last person to countenance any disregard of law. But, Sir, I have had some connection with part of these incidents, and I want to make clear what that connection has been.

Two days after Victoria Day, that is. May 26, a message was placed in my hands. I purpose reading it. It was not addressed to me, but to Mr. Coaker. It was from Twillingate stating that a number of men had taken pit-props in the spring, that there was a prosecution afoot, and asking what was the law of property in pit-props. Now, that message was sent on the holiday, May 24, and did not reach my hands until Saturday the 26th. I want to draw attention to the fact that this was the first occasion on which I heard of the matter whereas the message itself makes clear that the taking of the pit-props had occurred in the spring, months before, and therefore could not have been taken under any advice from me. I did not understand the facts of the matter, and I could not give any advice, as the facts were not before me. What I did was this: I sent a message back, quoting the section of the Act dealing with timber, a section of an Act that had been passed by this House in 1915. The message was quoted word for word from the Act. I had no knowledge of the facts, and all I could do was to send the section referred to. That was on Saturday. On Monday morning, the 28th of May, I found on my desk a message to me—the first that had ever come direct to me regarding the matter—dated the 26th. It had arrived at my office on the 26th, just a few minutes before six o'clock, after I had left, and I did not get it until Monday morning, the 28th of May. I was asked to go to Twillingate. This was months after the taking of the pit props. I replied stating that as the House opened two days later, on Wednesday, I could not go, and I named another counsel with whom they could make arrangements direct. I knew nothing at that time as to any facts about the matter. I then went to see Mr. Coaker, and found him in consultation with two Mr. Williams', who were really the principals in this matter, and they were consulted as to the best means of getting over the trouble. I sat down with them, and we talked the matter over. What had happened, I discovered then from Mr. Williams, was that the previous Tuesday, four days before I got into communication, Mr. Fox had been sent to prosecute, that on Saturday one man had been prosecuted and fined ten dollars and costs, and that another man had been summoned to appear on Saturday but the case was adjourned till Tuesday in order to get a lawyer to defend him. Mr. Coaker then sent a

message to Mr. Phillips, the Chairman of the F.P.U. at Twillingate, to the effect that he was arranging with Mr. Williams to try and get a settlement of the whole trouble. This is Mr. Coaker's message:

"If all will return pit props to Mr. Martin's agent there at places he fixes suitable for delivery no further action will be taken by him to punish anyone. Pit props taken if watchman on duty is illegal. Do best to arrange on above lines and see Fox the lawyer, who is advised as above by Martin (Martin was acting in conjunction with Williams). See no riot takes place as I can probably arrange satisfactorily.

W. F. COAKER."

Later on Saturday last, another message was sent:

"What the result of my message re pit-props. Martin arranging to issue writs against all concerned if delivery not made as suggested my message. Trouble will surely follow. Wire full particulars."

To that message there was no reply.

I want to point out that so far as Mr. Coaker and myself were concerned, we did everything possible to allay excitement. So far as the original taking was concerned, I knew nothing whatever about it until the summonses had been issued; and after the issue of the summonses, everything that could be done was done to prevent disturbance and settle the trouble.

I understand that there was considerable irritation, which was due to the fact that these fishermen thought that their birthright, as they regard the 3-mile limit, had been violated—and violated after this House had done all it could to preserve that heritage for them.

The next cause of the trouble is that after this House passed a measure in 1915 prohibiting the export of pit props cut green from the 3-mile limit, green timber was cut on the 3-mile limit and piled ready for exportation.

I am putting these facts plainly so as to give the House the fullest information, so far as I have obtained that information and in order, first, to point out that internal feeling prevails and that indignation is rampant, and, secondly, that we have not in any way countenanced the flouting of the law or the insuting of the flag.

What I would ask is that the Department of Justice go slowly in this matter, and instead of aggravating the trouble—and I know they will not willingly aggravate it—that the Leader of the Government or the Minister of Justice will do all they can to avoid further trouble. I feel that the Leader of the Government, who is one of the senior members of the legal profession and has had much to do with the Department of Justice, will know the wisest procedure to adopt in this matter, and I move the adjournment of the House in order that the whole situation may be carefully considered, and some course adopted to calm public feeling and settle the trouble.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker. In relation to this matter I may say, as I have already said, that up to last night I had not heard anything at all about it. In fact, everything that has been stated here this afternoon has been entirely new to me; I did not know that there was any trouble or disturbance. I shall immediately take the matter up with the Attorney General. I have sent for him, and when I have seen him I may be able to give the House some information on the matter. As regards the personal aspect, and as regards our friends on the other side of the House, I am quite satisfied

that they would be the very last to countenance anything such as has been suggested here this evening. This is my own view, and I think the view of every member on this side. It is difficult to believe that the insignia of the law was flouted or disrespectfully treated in any way. This country is ruled very largely by the respect which the people have for the law, and not by the physical force behind the law. There is probably no better illustration than this country offers in that respect. Here we have 250,000 people ruled and governed by a handful of policemen, and no matter where the King's Writ goes it is respected and obeyed. In the most remote sections of the country the word of the policeman is obeyed and the decisions of the courts are respected and carried out. As regards this misunderstanding, whatever has led to it I hope that it may be easily cleared up and explained; and I am quite satisfied, as far as the Department of Justice is concerned, if they are in any way moving in the matter, that prompt and early steps will be taken to bring about a friendly settlement, and a fair and a just settlement. I hope that those in this country who are interested in sending abroad public dispatches will make no reference to this incident, because abroad it may be misunderstood. If we read to-day of the British Flag being treated in Australia or New Zealand or Canada, or any other part of the British Empire, in the way in which we were told last night it was treated in Twillingate, without any explanation, well, we would think it very strange. I hope that the incident will not go abroad, because it would have a very bad effect upon the good name of the country and its people. It is quite evident that there is some misunderstanding at the bottom of this affair, and I hope that the matter may be quickly arranged, so that there may be no further trouble.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker. As it appears to be generally understood that I am somewhat implicated in this matter. I wish to avail of this opportunity, with the permission of the House, to briefly review the situation as I am acquainted with it. And in order to do that I must go back to the year 1915. That winter, in the district of Twillingate, the industry of pitprop cutting began to assume the serious proportions which brought it under our consideration. On my way here I saw the possibilities it may reach, and also the effect which it might have on the district if carried on under the conditions which then appertained. The people of the District were feeling very serious over the matter, and I, with others, was expected to endeavor to bring about measures which would have the effect of preserving the little timber which was left down there and which was being encroached upon to such an extent. During that session I introduced a very brief bill in connection with the right of property in timber, which bill passed this House with scarcely any comment whatever. It went to the Upper House, where the length of time was extended from twelve to eighteen months, and came back here, and this House concurred in altering the time. Also, late in that session, the Government passed a bill prohibiting the exportation of green timber cut on the 3-mile limit. We hoped and believed that that would meet the difficulty and prevent any further cutting of this timber, which was so badly needed in the fisheries. Now, I am not exaggerating the conditions with regard to our timber; I never have; I know the conditions down there as well, I think, as anybody in the District; and I know the feelings of the majority of the people regard-

ing this matter, and when I have stood here in my place in this House and dealt with this matter I have been sincere. But what happened? I don't wish to cast any insinuations upon the Government with regard to this matter—I don't know that they had anything to do with it—but I do know that during the summer of 1915 whenever I mentioned the matter—especially to any intending contractors—that the 3-mile limit was to be respected and that no pit-props were to be cut on it, I was met with a sarcastic grin, as if they knew better. By and by in the fall we heard that camps were going to be erected on the 3-mile limit and that men were going to cut. We wondered where they had got their authority, but it was just as well to be talking to a stone as to any of them. The feelings of the people were not regarded; they went on ,and even the limits that were reserved under the provisions of the Saw Mills Act were not respected. They came down within 8, 10 and 12 miles of the outside headlands and cut timber.

On my arrival here in 1916 I brought this matter to the notice of the Government and asked for information; and I found that somehow or other, owing to the deceptive representation of matters from the contractors, they had pulled the wool over the eyes of the Government and secured permission to cut and all around the shore you will find that all the timber has been cut. That is the position and that is the reason for this trouble. The people in the District of Twillingate consider that that timber was illegally cut and I want this House to understand that this was the reason they acted as they did. At the same time I want the Government to understand that I never advised it. Last year there was a prosecution of two or three parties due to this at Lewisporte. I am told by the father of one of the boys that they were hauled before the court and forced to go without a bite to eat the distance of thirty miles. Afterwards the party to the prosecution wrote a very strong letter to the Twillingate Sun, in which my name was referred to and I was blamed for advising the people to do this. The letter also contained a very serious insult both to myself and to the people of the district. I replied to that letter, quoting the law as regards property in timber, thinking that was the strongest base one could build on, and stating that I had nothing whatever to do with the matter. Since then I have received but one communication with respect to this matter. That is all that I have heard of it since. Not one man has approached me. The one letter I received was from a man living in Twillingate. He asked me if I would advise him on the matter. I could do nothing more than to quote the law as I have quoted here and Dr. Lloyd here to-night; and I further said I would not be responsible for the act of anybody who meddles with that timber. That is the last I have heard about it. I am not responsible for anything that has been done, but I may say that the feelings among the people are very intense and something will have to be done. I regret that legal proceedings are about to be taken. I think it would be far better to give these people a chance to think over this matter, and I think that in the end everything will be alright. How can the country expect to get recruits when things like this are going on? How can you expect the Twillingate men to come forward when you send supposed servants of the Crown down there to haul them before the Courts at this season of the year. The people have not time now to attend to such things as this.

They want to be doing something to get $15.00 to pay for a barrel of flour, and the other commodities which have gone up in like manner. I trust the Government will consider this matter and stay proceedings. This is in my opinion the only way to bring matters to an amicable settlement.

MR. COAKER—The hon. member, Mr. Jennings, has very clearly stated the case for Twillingate. The House will remember that in 1915 and 1916 we urged that nobody should be allowed to cut green timber on the three mile limit. Laws were enacted accordingly. Subsequently certain parties were permitted to cut green timber contrary to law. I know the circumstances as I visited the District of Twillingate just in the height of the cutting season. I found piles of pit props stretched along the coast for miles and miles. Every stick that was worth cutting had been cut down The whole limits have been cleaned up, and every stick that was of any size has been cut. Some of this timber was eventually placed in booms to be ready for shipment when steamers arrived. Steamers were not available. Gales of wind came and that timber was driven away when the booms broke. A number of people went in the bays and picked up a lot of this timber, and it is estimated that about 500 cords have been drifting about. Of course, I am not going to deny that timber had been taken, as probably when taking the drifting timber, they also took some that was piled on the shore. They were under the impression that this timber was illegally cut, and under the act quoted by Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Jennings this afternoon, they were justified in so believing. The root of the whole trouble is the feeling that has been aroused, because the heritage of the people had been illegally destroyed in the interests of sub-contractors and pit prop buyers, as Mr. Jennings says, even areas reserved by the Crown Lands Act were destroyed to supply pit props. Comfort Cove which timber was reserved for fishery purposes, being the only green timber area within a radius of 15 or 20 miles from Twillingate and Exploits, has been the scene of their operations, and every green stick of any value has been cut, but all of it has not yet been exported. As to the reference that has been made to the un-British acts of the people, no man who knows the people of Twillingate will believe such a story as that published by the "Telegram." The people of Twillingate are the most law-abiding people in the country, and I accordingly cannot believe any part of the story so unwisely circulated about the residents of that town. I do not believe any men in Twillingate attempted to insult our flag, and I believe the whole story has been concocted for the purpose of arousing ill-feeling against the people of Twillingate.

Dissatisfaction exists, and very great and serious dissatisfaction at that, and the feelings of the people must be appeased. You must not do anything to aggravate the matter. Not only does this matter affect the town of Twillingate but it affects the whole of Twillingate district, from Cape John to Horwood, Dog Bay. The prosecution of these men ought not to have been permitted at this time. One was fined $10 and costs, and the costs reached the sum of $50, which meant a fine of $60. This was too much to be endured under the circumstances, and the feelings of the people were so aroused that one hundred men made up their minds that no one else should be fined. This matter was referred to me, and I communicated with the Chairman of the F. P. U. Council at Twillingate, intimating a settle-

ment which Mr. Williams and I had agreed to. I awaited a report from the meeting that was held to consider it. Not receiving any report I telegraphed on Saturday night asking for a report.In reply I learned that though the Executive agreed, nevertheless the Council had not determined to accept the offer made to return the wood. I wired to them again and told them they should carry out my suggestion if they wanted to prevent further action by law. What I want to impress upon the Premier now is to prevent these policemen from reaching Twillingate. If they go there and make an attempt to issue a writ or arrest any of the men there is going to be trouble. One can't say what might happen. We do not want anything flashed along the wires that may be adverselv taken as reflecting upon a British Colony. Let these people have a few days to think and they will see the wisdom of a settlement such as has been proposed to them, and will be willing to return the wood and so settle the matter.

Do not provoke them any further. I was sorry indeed to hear that a squad of police had been sent this afternoon and I acquainted Dr. Lloyd and asked him to call the attention of the Government to the matter. I did all in my power to persuade the people to settle the matter in a friendly way, but I have not at present succeeded. I am very glad indeed to hear from the Hon. the Prime Minister that he will do whatever is possible to stay proceedings, and I hope this matter will end without any further unpleasantness. If you leave the matter with us for another week we will probably be able to arrange it so that all concerned will be satisfied.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Speaker, as one of the representatives of the District of Twillingate, I would like to say that I knew nothing whatever about this matter until I saw it in the newspaper last evening. Several days ago Mr. Williams spoke to me and said there was trouble down there over the pit prop question and I advised him that the proper course was to go to the Minister of Justice and let the law take its course. I was amazed when I saw by the report in the paper last night that the people were so infuriated with the judgment against one of the men who were charged with taking pitprops that they went so far as to tear down the flag from the Court House. I could hardly believe it and do not believe it now. I have represented the district for some seventeen years and I do not know of any people who are more law abiding and who have more respect for properly constituted authorities than the people of Twillingate. If this has been done it was done by some irresponsible person and not as the act of any number of people. It is a most regrettable occurrence, and in writing to a friend in Twillingate this morning I said that if this were true and if there were many persons concerned in it, it would be an everlasting disgrace to the town of Twillingate. I can quite understand from what has been said by Mr. Jennings that the people, knowing that the three mile limit was reserved and that it was unlawful to cut green timber for exportation felt that, if, in defiance of that law, persons were allowed to cut pitprops for exportation, it was time for them to protect their own interests. The law, as it appears from papers tabled last session, was to some extent repealed by Minute of Council and permission was given to certain parties, under representation made to the Government as to the necessity of providing means of employment for people who were represented as being in danger of

starvation, to cut on the three mile limit. Even that does not justify the action and as one of the representatives of the district, I have no hesitation in stating so from my place here in the House. If an open defiance has been shown, then the law must be put in force, the majesty of the law must be at all hazards upheld. I concur, however, in the suggestion that before steps are taken to prosecute offenders, if they have offended, some effort should be made with a view to arriving at a more amicable settlement taking into consideration the fact that they believed that they had certain rights over what is known as the Three Mile Limit.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER —Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House, I would like to say that since this matter was brought up, I have had the advantage of a consultation with the Attorney General and I find that the Department of Justice knows nothing whatever of the incident referred to, has no information in relation to it; and further that the Department has nothing to do with the police who have gone to Twillingate. They have gone down in relation to the civil action taken, the solicitor for the parties interest having called upon the Head of the police to assist the magistrate and have the law carried out, but in no way is it connected with the incident referred to last night. I have asked the Attorney General and he has undertaken to see the head of the police and request him to wire the police as well as those on the way to prevent any further aggravation of the trouble.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I have listened with a great deal of attention to-day to the information that has been given about this matter of Twillingate, more especially as to what has been said by Mr. Jennings about the matter and also by Mr. Coaker. He said by representation to the Government there was a Minute of Council providing that people might be allowed to cut pit-props on the Three Mile Limit. Well, of course, that really clears the Government of any responsibility, to my mind; and we have often by representations from people been asked that caribou may be killed out of season for the poor fishermen, and I think I said here last year that that word "poor" in our laws is the curse of the country. We are not poor. We have the finest country in the world and the finest people but we take advantage of that word more especially the politicians. Some, it is true have not all they would like to have, but still there are lots of people in this world who are not as well off. I have no doubt that those who cut the pit props were fishermen, and when they were doing it, they knew they were doing wrong. It was the very land they had asked Mr. Jennings and others to protect and when that protection was given them, they went and got the agents to make this plea that they are starving for food and then the Government of course, (politics again) granted them the privilege to go and break the law which they made here in the House of Assembly. That is where we get into trouble all the time. If we make a law we should stand by it and put people there to see that the law is carried out.

Now, I notice that the Premier has said the police have gone down there. Now, the police going into a place like Twillingate where there has been, perhaps, a little racket, is like showing a red rag to a bull. My idea of dealing with these matters is to keep the police out of the way and not let them go in, but to call them right back to St. John's. I know something about these things. I have

been in one or two kickups over in the town of Bay Roberts and we had all the police in St. John's over there at one time and it was very fortunate that the police hid themselves away somewhere and I think the people of Twillingate are somewhat of the same stamp. I think if the police are re-called and the few down there are left to deal with the matter it will quieten down. It is too bad that they should have torn down the old Flag that we think so much about and which is costing our boys, and many of them boys from Twillingate, their lives to-day to uphold. Of course,this report may not be true. These newspapers give out reports like this without investigation and then an incident like this gets abroad to the outside world and the people outside think that we are pro German. I think that we should recall the police at once and advise the Magistrate to be very lenient with this case and also advise Messrs. Williams Bros. that they should not go further at the present time, and I am sure if they call off their dogs, there will be nobody there to make trouble. No doubt, as Mr. Coaker has said some of these pitprops have been adrift and have been picked up by people and our fishermen look at anything they pick up in the water as their own. I remember when Dickie Bros had a boom in Groswater Bay, Hamilton Inlet, which burst, thousands of logs came down the river and the fishermen got enough to keep them going for the summer with firewood. I am sure that if the police were called back that this matter could be easily settled.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker. I am pleased at the conciliatory disposition shown by the Government after consultation with the Attorney-General. At the same time there is one aspect of the case which I am sure tends to aggravate the situation. What, I understand, has actually happened is this: One man was fined, as Mr. Coaker has pointed out. Another man named Eli Frost was up before the Magistrate on the same action and the case against him was adjourned till the following Tuesday in order to enable him to get counsel. He could not obtain counsel because the communication did not get to the transmitter here until the Monday preceding the day of adjournment. In the meantime an arrangement was made by which the whole matter was dropped, and it was hoped that no further steps were to be taken. I understand that the purpose of Mr. Fox's going down there is to continue the prosecution of Mr. Eli Frost. Now this is not a civil action nor a departmental prosecution. The information was not laid by the Minister of Justice or the Government but by the owners of the pit props. These policemen have been sent down to guard Mr. Fox. What we immediately have to consider is whether or not influence should be brought to bear on these parties who countenance these proceedings, and see if an amicable settlement cannot be made. The present step is unfair. This man has no notice of what is going on and has no chance of getting counsel. He has no chance of communicating with anyone. When he did try to get counsel an arrangement was made by which the matter was to drop. Now, without notice to anyone it is sprung on him again. These prosecutors are not clear of blame themselves. They are prospective trespassers on the law. If my information is correct they have been obtaining green timber cut on the three mile limit, although the law forbids its exportation. I do not say that that justifies in any way improper conduct on the part of the fishermen. But I do say that these parties are not free from blame themselves. They have been, I

am informed, getting timber from the three mile limit for the purpose of exportation, although such exportation is illegal. The justification that a Minute of Council granted them permission to cut is utterly invalid so far as exportation is concerned. Under these aggravating features the Government should endeavour to use its influence and co-operate with the Opposition because I think by the influence of the Leader of the Government and the Attorney General this matter can be adjusted. There have been many circumstances in connection with cutting pit props that have incensed the people of Twillingate. I am aware of this from my practice. There are many men who have been engaged in this pit prop industry who have not received the wages they have earned. I have discussed this aspect of the matter with the Minister of Justice. To-day he told me that he had a conversation with the Solicitor of this House, with a view to having brought before the Legislature some means by which a lien should be given these men on the pit props that they cut, so that they may not in the future lose as they have in the past wages that they have earned. There is another case where they have been hardly treated. There have been quite a number of instances brought to my notice, as those mentioned by Mr. Coaker, where booms have broken and pit props have floated away. These have been collected by fishermen. These fishermen have been forced to give these pit props up without remuneration for their labor, as under the English law there is no such a thing as salvage save from the wreckage of a ship. These unfortunate circumstances have affected quite a number of men in Twillingate. I have done my best and others have done their best in order that something may be done, and when discussing the matter with the Attorney General, I understand that he was prepared to act in conjunction with others in bringing before this House some provision in the way of quasi-salvage so that when these fishermen salve pit props they may obtain remuneration. I think in view of all these circumstances I can rightly and justly ask the Government to co-operate and bring about a more amicable state of affairs between the parties in this connection. I am glad to learn that as far as the Department of Justice is concerned, there is no official confirmation of what has been spoken of this afternoon as a regrettable incident. There has been no insult to the flag in connection with this dispute. I must confess that I was astonished to learn that people who had always been so law-abiding should have been publicly charged with such an offence. I sincerely hope that something may, and indeed I feel sure that it will, be done to allay the intense feeling which prevails and calm the excited state of the public and bring this untoward incident to a common sense settlement.

MR. F. J. MORRIS—Mr Speaker I am sure the Leader of the Opposition has conclusively proved to the satisfaction of the House this afternoon that the incident, which according to the newspapers had assumed such serious proportions, was nothing more than mere strife between the owners of pitprops on the one hand and the holders of them on the others. I think that that may be described as the condition of things in Twillingate at the present time. Of course the insulting of the flag, if it be correct, is the most serious aspect of the situation. But the Premier has stated the Department of Justice has had no word of any trouble and the police have not been sent down to

Twillingate because of any breach of the peace, as we had first understood. They were sent down there to enable prosecutors in an action against some parties to recover the possession of pitprops, under a judgment they had obtained to put an execution into force according to law. Now this, I think, is a very inopportune time to send policemen to Twillingate to put a judgment of the Court into effect. If, as Dr. Lloyd has stated, the defendants asked the Court for an adjournment until they could procure counsel, as they were undefended, I say it is a very fair application and should be granted by the Magistrate. In the first place a violation of the law has occurred in taking the pitprops, but was there not a violation of the law in cutting pitprops on the 3-mile limit? The parties may plead permission, but there is no tribunal or body in this country that can give any man or company legal permission to break the law of the land. It may be expedient sometimes for administrations to sail close to the wind, even to connive at a violation of the law under certain circumstances, especially as, in this case, the fishermen themselves have benefitted by the cutting of this green timber on the 3-mile limit, yet the contractors, if they export this timber, which of course they intend to do, will be law-breakers, and the fishermen believe that they really have no right to this timber because the cutting on the 3-mile limit was illegal in the first instance, as the stuff cut was intended for exportation. Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances we should not send a squad of police down to assist these parties in putting a judgment of the Court into effect, as local constables can be sworn in for this work. I think that we should do everything in our power to allay any trouble which there might be. I have been in Twillingate many times. I know the people of the district, and I agree with the hon. member, Mr. Clift, that there are not more law-abiding people in any part of the country. There may be a few erring ones everywhere. I think it ought to be suggested to the head of the police force, by the Department of Justice, the desirability of withdrawing these policemen from Twillingate, telegraph to them to return, and also telegraph the Magistrate not to hear this postponed case until this difficulty has been gotten over and public opinion allayed. This in my opinion is the way to deal with this matter.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Speaker: I feel very much pleased at the attitude of the Government towards the matter under discussion here today, and I merely rise now for the purpose of referring to a remark made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I think he said something to this effect, that the people of the district of Twillingate requested permission from the Government to cut this timber. That, Sir, is an erroneous impression, and how it has arisen I am not aware. The people of the district of Twillingate did not request the Government to cut that timber. It is quite true that a number of men engaged in the cutting, but the great majority of those were young men who were not in need and who were bitterly denounced for their action by the people generally. Also a large number of those who engaged in that work came from other districts, and that made the feeling all the worse. The cutting of this timber is a serious matter for the district of Twillingate. Firewood is one of the necessaries of life for the fishermen, especially now with coal at the prohibitive price at which it is selling to-day, and a large majority of the people, living on the outside,

are entirely dependent upon the bays for their supply of firewood. This is particularly true of Twillingate, where there is not a junk of firewood to be got. All the people living on the Island of Twillingate have got to resort to the bays for their firewood, and this is consequently a serious matter for them, so that it can easily be understood how strong the feeling of the people is over the matter. Then again I would like to refer to the season of the year in which this matter has been brought up. Just a few days when I left to come here the herring fishery had begun. Owing to easterly winds and sea and bad weather generally, the herring fishery was delayed up to a few weeks ago. Now the opportunity has arrived for the people to earn something, and they want to use every hour. And I am very sorry to see in one of to-day's papers, I think, that four poor fellows have met a watery grave in trying to carry on this business. It is a very serious matter for those people to find themselves held up by law and not allowed to prosecute the fishery at this season. The harvest of the sea doesn't wait for man or mortal, and if you don't take advantage of it when it offers you may never have the chance again. There is another thought which has occurred to me in connection with the article which appeared in the Telegram. I don't see why the Telegram should not be compelled to come forward and give the names of the parties from whom it received its information—its very misleading information. I have seen a copy of the Twillingate Sun, which says, that some miscreant performed this action by night. Well, are all the inhabitants of Twillingate to be blamed for the work of one rascal. As the hon. member for Placentia has said, you will find some rascals in every district, but is the whole population of a district to be blamed for the work of one person. This is a serious aspect of the case, and I trust it will be dealt with by the Department having charge of the matter.

On motion, Mr. Lloyd was granted permission to withdraw his motion.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL.

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 Bill sent down entitled "An Act Respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night" without amendment.

KNITTING AND WOOLEN MILLS RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd and Newfoundland Knitting Mills Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, In moving the House into Committee, I wish to point out that there are two contemporary resolutions on the Order Paper, and I suggest that they be considered at the same time. The first refers to an agreement between His Excellency the Governor and the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd.; the other is an agreement with the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Ltd. Both agreements are similar in character, except that they provide for different articles of woolen manufacture.

The ground work on which these agreements are founded is the Act passed on the 22nd March 1910, en-

titled, "An Act Respecting the Encouragement of Woolen Manufactures." This Act provides for the remission of duties, bonuses on wool that is imported or raised for the manufacture of woolen goods, etc. Up to the passing of this Act very little had been done in the way of the manufacture of this class of goods. The first effort of any proportions, I think, was made by the Royal Stores, who established a mill at Riverside near Brigus. This industry did not turn out as satisfactorily from a financial standpoint as the promotors could desire, and it was ultimately sold out to the Company referred to in the agreement which is now before the Committee, namely, the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd. In the year 1911 a large enterprise was entered into in St. John's by a Company known as the British Woolen Mills Ltd. This company contemplated going into the manufacture of woolen goods on a very large scale, and it erected a very extensive premises in the west end of St. John's. Unfortunately this enterprise met with a very serious setback at its inception, owing to the incapacity of the gentlemen who had been engaged as the Manager of the business. It was subsequently discovered that he did not have that knowledge of the business which he represented himself to have when his services were engaged, and the result was that after a very few months of unsuccessful endeavour the business had to close down.

Another reason for the closing down of the business was that it was under capitalized at the start. There was not sufficient capital invested in the business to make it a commercial success. It was on this occasion that the shareholders of this Knitting Mills Company represented to the Government the serious setback they had received and stated that a large additional capital was required to get this going again and make it a success, and that if no encouragement greater than that given could be extended by the government the industry would absolutely become closed and no further effort be made. After considerable discussion and consideration of the matter, it was agreed between the Government and the company, which had then assumed the name of The Newfoundland Knitting Mills Ltd. that the Government would give a guarantee of 5% on the capital invested. This resulted in $70,000 additional capital being invested in this enterprise, and events have proved that the guarantee then given by the Government was justified. This company has now been working for several years and very successfully,has given a large amount of employment, and has turned out a class of goods second to none on this side of the water. In fact, it is an industry on which we look with pride When this guarantee was given by the Government, the Riverside Woolen Mills Co., which is presided over by Mr. Macpherson, made representations to the Government that they would be unduly discriminated against if such a guarantee should be given to one and not to another. The Royal Stores business was one that had failed to realize the expectations of its promoters, for some reason similar to that in the instance quoted, but they contended that they were then in a position to make the business quite as successful as that of the other company, and pointed out that it would be unfair and detrimental to their success if they were discriminated against in this way. The Government realized that although it might be possible for two industries on the same lines to exist and continue at the same time, still, they did not feel justified in granting an agreement to two distinctive parties for the manufacture of the same

goods, because they thought it might turn out that there was not sufficient market here to keep both industries going. Some considerable delay was experienced in coming to a decision on the matter, but it was finally agreed that the Newfoundland Knitting Mills should manufacture one class of goods such as knitted clothing and the Riverside Mills another class of goods, such as blankets etc., thereby covering the whole trade, in part by one and in part by the other. This was a mutual agreement between the parties, and in view of the fact that the success of the one was already demonstrated, and to keep faith with both parties. the Govenment decided to give an agreement such as you have before you. I don't anticipate that the Government will ever be called upon for a dollar ,because as I have said,both companies are in a flourishing condition. But we should keep faith with them, and it would be manifestly unfair to give one company an agreement and not the other. Even if we should have to pay part of the subsidy the money would be well spent, because these concerns give a large amount of employment in the direction that we must look to in the future to augment the great loss of earning power which this country, as well as every other country, will have sustained through this great war. It is beyond question that the earning power of this country to-day has received and will receive a very serious setback through the loss of her noble sons who have rendered their lives and become unfitted to earn a living.

I strongly recommend this resolution to the favorable consideration of the Committee, and I feel sure that you will agree with me that we should show faith in this enterprise, give both an equal show, and put both on an equitable basis. I therefore move that this resolution be adopted.

MR. COAKER, Mr. Chairman, I have always had a considerable amount of confidence in the local industries of the colony, but after reading the resolution presented for consideration this afternoon, I think that there is very little benefit to the colony in those industries which have to be protected on the lines laid down. I consider that any Company getting together to undertake the manufacture of an article of goods in this colony that cannot proceed satisfactorily with their business without asking from the Legislature such concessions, would be very much better done without. I believe in helping local industries to a certain extent, and I agree entirely with your suggestion of guaranteeing these men a 5% return on the capital invested. I believe that everybody of men willing to invest money are entitled to something, and I willingly concede that they are entitled to a guarantee of dividends for a cetrain number of years. But I cannot agree, and I see no reason why any man who studies the condition of the country should agree to having any companies formed in this Colony which come forward and ask us to bind ourselves for a period of twenty years, not only to guarantee a protective duty of 35%, but a bonus of 5% on their raw material. Now, we who know anything at all about the history of the Ropewalk know that they did have a hard time for the first few years, but they have since paid out more money to people who invested in it than any other concern in the Colony. This Company has accumulated money in galore, and at the expense of the fishermen of the Colony, for twenty years or more. Give them protection for a certain length of time, and if they cannot get along without help after, say, ten years, why let them go to Hong Kong. Down

in Catalina. we are investing $250,000, and we are backing up that investment with another $400,000, to carry on the business, and we don't come to the Legislature to ask for a single cent. What is the use of taking twenty cents out of one pocket and putting it into the other? You will give this Company twenty cents, and to pay it you will take forty cents out of the pockets of the fishermen of the country. You will bind the Legislature for the next twenty years, and the burden will have to fall on future governments, to give these men a protection of 35%, an enormous amount on woollen clothing, which should be sold at the least possible price, and bear the least possible duty for revenue. Every man must have protection as far as inside clothing goes, and we ought not to raise a great amount of revenue from such goods. I believe that if we pass such a law as that it will take every bit of grit out of every man in the Colony, so far as investing money is concerned. He will say, "You have given so much to that concern—how do you expect us to invest until you give us similar concessions?" You are going to bind yourselves for twenty years, and then if you reduce the duty you have to make up the difference to this Company. I don't know who is the father of this resolution, but it certainly must come direct from the Company. You might as well say right out, "We will give you anything you want," and the thing is done. It is most unworthy of the Legislature in this Colony, and I cannot support the resolution. I would willingly consent to have 5% guaranateed these men upon the amount invested, but I would give them no further protection whatever, and I say, don't dream about binding the future governments of this Colony for twenty years for a protection of 35%—don't dream about binding them. This Colony, Mr. Chairman, cannot remain as it is to-day.

Newfoundland is going to take a step forward for we have up to now been asleep in Newfoundland. Newfoundland is teeming and abounding in possibilities enough to make it the most properous Colony in the Empire. Instead of 200,000 people we should have a million. We would go ahead wonderfully if we were protected as we ought to be. No government out to bind future governments. We should not fetter men who will come after us and who may have opportunities that we do not dream of, that our present actions may oppress. This legislature is not always going to be composed of men who have interests in these concerns conflicting with the interests of the public. The day is coming when you will have half a dozen towns such as St. John's. Newfoundland is only now beginning to realize her position in the world. If a man came to me, while I were Premier, and asked me to support a company in the way you support these companies, he would have to get out. I should not tolerate for a moment such a state of affairs. Give new industries the same as anyone else and no more. If you give any more than 5% as a guarantee, which is what you have given the dock in Hr. Grace and the Company now starting in ship-building, then you will find yourselves up against it. These men ought to be ashamed to ask the Government to protect them to such an extent. If they were business men they would be ashamed to come in here and have the fishermen's clothing taxed 35% for the next 36 years. With regard to the raising of wool, it is a different matter. If you can start a sheep raising industry, give it not only a bonus on the wool raised but on every sheep that they produce. Sheep

raising can be successfully carried on in Newfoundland, I spent fifteen to twenty years in proving that. I spent the best part of my life raising sheep. After any amount of set-backs, after many years of hard experience, I have come to the conclusion that here in Newfoundland, we can raise sheep successfully. It can be done. Give the man who starts it a big bonus on wool. Give him a recompense for every sheep he can raise. But do not bind yourselves as you are binding yourselves in this Act. The Company, I presume, will start in raising sheep. We ought to be thankful for this. There is no reason why such a proposition should be condemned, but do not go and bind yourselves in this way. Do not allow 5% for twenty years on all the goods that they are going to import. I hope to see half a dozen mills such as this. There is Catalina, Burin, Grand Bank. I would say that it would pay every man in this House to go and take a visit to such a settlement as Grand Bank. Grand Bank I may say is not going to remain as it is to-day. In ten years time it is going to be as large as Harbor Grace. It would be better for you to give facilities to the industries of the produce of the ocean, that enrich the country. The public do not want favours. Treat the whole thing on general lines. You made a mistake the year before last, when you gave the company at Bay Bulls such concessions. They have spent much money there and built their plant, but you will find that unless they can make the business pay on a sound business basis, they will have to shut it up. Every man who starts such an industry deserves protection. Give him so much on capital invested. If they are not content with that you will find in the long run that the Colony would be better without them. I strongly protest against this section of the bill. I do not believe that the consideration that was necessary to be devoted to this measure was paid by the men responsible for it.

If you have no knowledge of these things, you should have some man who does at your control so that he might advise you on these matters. The Government is not expected to know enough about matters of this kind to make a contract concerning it with people who know the whole business inside out. They should be very fully advised before giving this matter consideration. You want to go carefully in connection with matters such as these, for do not think for one moment that the people of the North are going to place a million dollars or more into their business unless they feel safe about it. Do not think that the people there are going willingly to be content to see you turn around and give concessions to those who ought to be able to get along without them. If they weren't they would not be in business at all. I would advise the Government to take these matters into consideration again. Make a general act wider in scope, so that other companies may have the same privileges. These businesses are already established, and are doing well or they would not be here at all. They are both making good money. Both of these mills have made as much as twenty-five per cent. The war has put them on a solid basis. The war came just in time to make a success of their business. There are no imported goods available and their goods are being introduced. They made a fairly good effort to turn out a good article and their lines have kept up to the standard. There is no reason now why we should guarantee anything. These people will get five per cent. If this was a new concern or new concerns just starting up it would be different as they would be engaging

some two hundred employees at their risk, but these Companies are, as I have said, fully established and why should we give them now any further concessions. I hope the hon. the mover of these Resolutions will submit this matter to a Select Committee who could fully consider the matter and consult with the parties interested. It is not right that these people should be allowed for twenty years to pay twenty-five per cent. dividends yearly and the colony should be bound to allow this. If you carry out this thing in the shape it is in here, it will mean that these concerns in ten years will be paying a dividend of forty or fifty per cent. and you will be helpless to pass any legislation to protect public interests. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I protest against the passing of this bill and I hope the suggestions made will be observed by the hon. the introducer and something will be done to help on in a little way this and all other companies without, however, prejudice to the country.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Chairman, I would like to say just one or two words in rely to my friend, Mr. Coaker. In the first place I am glad to see that he supports the Resolutions before the chair, especially the question of the guarantee, as I consider that is the most important section of the Bill from the Colony's standpoint. Under the resolutions we agree to guarantee five per cent. for a certain number of years on the capital of the Company actually invested up to $100,000. Now in my opinion, that is the important section of the bill, having regard to all the circumstances, both past and future. On the point made by him as regards this matter not having been considered fully, I may say the Government has had it before them at various times during the last four years. This matter has been fully considered by the Government, and it was only after the most careful study and consideration, when all the principles involved were carefully looked into, that this measure commended itself to the Government. Now the hon. member was not happy in illustrating as a case in point the Ropewalk. He pointed out that no industry should be encouraged and that an industry that had to come to this House was of no value and should not be encouraged or assisted. Now as a matter of fact I think there is no industry in the country to-day that is of such an advantage to the fishermen and to the country as the Ropewalk, and the best proof is this, that the Ropewalk has no protection of any kind. Ropes, lines and twines come into the country to-day duty free, or at least up to a year ago they did. Since the war the duties came back. Any rope, lines and twines came in duty free. Now the time was when the Ropewalk not only had a bounty, but it had a protective tax on lines, ropes, et cetra, and yet when that tax was removed, notwithstanding the importation duty free of the foreign article, the local article was used. Was that industry worth encouraging? Has it not to-day justified itself? Why, I can remember the howl that was raised when the Bill came into the House for the first time. I remember because I was a reporter here at the time. I remember when Sir William Whiteway introduced the Bill creating the Ropewalk, that there was a great deal of opposition because the country was binding itself to a bounty of $8000 a year, and in addition there was a heavy duty on rope which was additional protection, and that was given for a number of years. Now after being operated for five years, the Ropewalk was burned down, and the Government, finding that everything

was working satisfactorily, provided that the bounty be continued for a further period and they were paid the Government bounty by the Thorburn and Winter administrations that followed and given a protection for a number of years until Sir Robert Bond's administration put lines and twines on the free list and they remain so to-day, and the best proof that the Ropewalk is appreciated in the country is, notwithstanding the free importation of the foreign article, the fishermen buy the local article. This is although they are prejudiced against the local article, for there is always a prejudice against the local mnufacture. I have made enquiries from fishermen all over the country and find the people ar› buying rope and twines turned out by the Ropewalk as against the imported article. At the same time it is a great convenience for the merchants as with a factory near them they do not have to keep the large stocks they used to, and they have consequently more loose money to turn into other channels. The fishermen can also benefit in that their orders can be filled immediately and cheap. The very best illustration that could be given in support of this measure and the worst against it, is the illustration of the Ropewalk.

Now with regard to the protective duty of 35 per cent. In these resolutions we say that for twenty years the present duty will be maintained at 35 per cent. Now the hon. member does not suppose for one moment that that taxation is going to be lowered on these goods. He does not believe and nobody does, that this is taxation in the ordinary sense of the word, and as the word is applied in other countries. We collect $400,000 from the people and we hand it back to them again for education. We collect revenue from the people and we hand it back to them again. All the moneys that are collected go right back to the people again, except the interest on the public debt and even the money the interest is paid on has been spent on public utilities. Now twenty years is a very short time in the life of a country. It is a very long period in the life of an individual, and I submit that it is very unlikely that any legislature that will meet here will be called upon to reduce the present rate, on woolens, but even if it be reduced it can be reduced as provided in the resolutions by making it up to Company, and that is only reasonable if they come here, because it will take large and expensive operations to make this industry pay. I doubt if you can have factories in every town and village as the hon. member has stated, as the cost of the necessary machines and overhead expenses would make it impossible for the Companies to secure and pay dividends; but in a small company like this, if the cost be reduced as much as possible, it has a chance to make something out of it.

As a matter of fact the Companies have not in the past called upon the Government for the 5%, and that in itself shows that they are in the way to make a profit. This may be no test because there has been but a very small importation owing to protective tariff of thirty-five per cent. Without these conditions it the scarcity of tonnage from England of late years, and we have a would be more difficult to secure a dividend.

The other concession is five per cent. on all the wool they raise. Now would not this legislature be glad to have to pay a bonus on one million pounds of wool at the rate of 6 per cent. Think of the work which would be involved in raising one hundred thousand sheep, and that would only mean $5,000 to raise $100,000 worth

of wool. Just fancy the number of sheep and their value to St. John's, Twillingate, Bonne Bay and Bay of Islands, or any other place. I say, Sir, the amount of labor expended on $100,000 worth of wool in order to call upon the Legislature for the five per cent. bonus would be an institution that would bring in more than $5,000 to the Government. You can get no labor introduced in this country that will produce $100,000 that won't give you back $5,000 in dutiable goods, and in addition to that then you will have the new industry which is another consideration. So that all around I do not think you can have any more extensive or valuable business proposition than that offered in the present resolutions. I do not think any of the things suggested by my friend are likely to come true.

The main point, however, for which I rose was on the point of the charge that this measure has not been duly considered by the Government. I beg to inform the member that this matter has been considered by the Government during the last three or four years and only after that consideration, being fully assured that the country would get a good article in place of the shoddy article it is now forced to import, so that in future we will be able to wear one shirt where we have now to wear five.

MR. GRIMES—I believe with the other members of this House who have spoken upon this resolution that we want to encourage new industries as much as possible without injuring the interests of the people. If we look at the conditions about us as well as elsewhere, in Australia, United States or Canada, we will find that the industries here and there have been fostered by the Government, which has helped to build up industries that have been employing a great number of people and conferred great benefits on them. In dealing with the matter before us the Prime Minister states that the important part of the contract is the five per cent. that is to be guaranteed. I do not think so. The important part is not the five per cent. guarantee to the company, but the fifty per cent. to be collected from the people as a result of the favor embodied in the resolutions. You give the companies protection of a duty of not less than 35 per cent., which at the present time with the surtax amounts to 38½ per cent.. five per cent. on raw wool bought here or imported and a five per cent. on the capital invested up to $100.000. This makes 48½ per cent. Now the important things to the people is that whether these companies are making 25 per cent., 35 per cent., forty-five per cent. or 100 per cent. on their investments, you are binding the country to a protection of 48½ per cent for 20 years. Now, Sir, I consider that period is too long. Twenty years is too long. By all means encourage these industries for two or three years longer. It has been pointed out both these industries are established. One paid last year 7½ per cent. and the other 10 per cent. and you do not know the amount of money that they have passed to the reserve, but it has been said by some that it was a considerable amount $10,000 or $12,000. The injustice seen in the resolutions is the fact that they are to get all their raw material free as well as the 48½ per cent. protection, while other industries had to be established without it. Take the clothing factories of the town for instance: The Newfoundland Clothing Factory, the British Clothing Factory, the Perlin Factory and the Frelich Factory. They have not had any government protection to nearly compare and they have succeeded, and some have paid as high as forty per cent. dividend and

bonus combined. I listened to the Colonial Secretary as he outlined the principle of the bill and the circumstances which gave rise to it. He said that at first the company failed through mismanagement, but that since then they have been coming along fairly well. If that is the case, why should they have greater protection than any other company operating in this city or outside it. If the Government is going to give protection of this kind it should say: "We want a half interest in the company, so that the Government may share the profits as well as you, and it would then prove a benefit for the people," but the Government instead allows the full control to go to men interested in these concerns in order that they may reap all the reward of the benefits conferred by this contract. The Premier also made a statement that the taxation in this country is merely a collecting of money and passing it out again to the people. This is a very pretty way of putting it, but not altogether correct.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Why?

MR. GRIMES—Explain how the money comes back to the people?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I referred to education as an illustration. Perhaps you would give us an opposite illustration.

MR. GRIMES—Well, if you are going to protect these companies to the extent of 48½ per cent., when it is possible they may make forty, fifty or a hundred per cent., are you not granting them a preference? You are giving them a concession which the people do not get, in other words, you are looking after the Companies' interests more than the interests of the people in affording them a chance to make these dividends. Will the people get 48½ per cent. benefit? If there was a clause in the resolution which said: "When your dividends amount to ten or twelve per cent., we will withdraw these guarantees or a portion," it would be reasonable, but you do not say this. The protection must go on just the same, no matter how much dividends may be paid, and I say, Sir, that these resolutions were not framed in the interests of the people, as much as in the interests of the Companies. Now I want to be plainly understood this afternoon. I do not object to anything which will help in establishing a local industry. Give them assistance until they get on their feet, but once they get on their feet, the guarantees should be withdrawn.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker, a word in reply to the honorable member for Port de Grave. As regards the two points in this bill regarding protection, I think they are already the law of the land, and might be available to-morrow by the other factories whom he refers to as having been discriminated against if they chose. The honorable member pointed out how the clothing factories had started operations here without any protection being given them. Now, as a matter of fact, he knows that they did have this same protection when they started. He went on to say that they are getting 38 per cent.

MR. GRIMES.—What I mean is this. You allow these companies to get in their raw material duty free, but the clothing companies have to pay duty on theirs.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—My point is this. The clothing companies have the same protection of 35 per cent. and further, they have the same bounty of 5 per cent, because every dollar collected goes back to the public the day after it is collected. We collect $400,000 for education and hand it back to the people next day. Where does the money come from for our police, our light

houses, the relief of the poor, our hospitals, roads and bridges etc. We don't want to put out our light houses, to close our schools, hospitals,our courts of Justice, and just as long as you desire to have these and all other necessities of civic life and decency and citizenship, so long must there be a duty of 35 per cent on something.

MR. COAKER—But not on woollens.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER.—It matters not on what the duty goes. Take it off his back, if you will, and you have to put it on what he eats, or to do it any way you like, but anyone who is nursing the delusion that you can have in this country five millions spent on public utilities without taxation is only fooling the people, and it makes very little difference whether it is on lines or twines, on food or clothing, bread or cheese, pork or flour. In fact, you might remove all taxation to-morrow and collect all the revenue on exports, but you have got to get the money somehow. Some person may say it is a pity to encourage this company by giving them a protective duty for twenty years. If you take off the taxation on woollens you only put it on something else? We are dealing with facts, and there is no one in this chamber who believes that there is going to be any government who will take the duty off woollens, unless we desire to close the schools and the lighthouses and let the bridges go down. There is not a day that petitions are not presented for necessary works such as these, and we can't give them to the people because we haven't got enough money. The people want more schools and we haven't got half enough, nor quarter enough to pay the teachers we have at present. We are losing our best teachers every year because we can't give them a living salary, and it is the same with all our public works. Our light house keepers are all poorly paid—salaries which keep them living from hand to mouth, and we haven't got the money to pay them any more. It is idle to talk of cutting down certain forms of taxation, because the revenue has to be collected somehow or other.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an observation on this matter before we adjourn. We have had a most eloquent discourse on how utterly impossible it is to make any reduction on this tariff of 35 per cent for the next twenty years as regards woolen goods. It has been most eloquently set forth, and yet the very section in the resolution contemplates the possibility of doing so.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER.—This section provides for the possibility of reducing this tariff, because it is in the province of all wise legislation to provide for every possible contingency. That doesn't say it is going to happen. You have made no discovery whatever.

MR. LLOYD—Except the discovery that you have been fooling this House.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—It is not parliamentary to say that I have been fooling the House.

MR. LLOYD—Well I will withdraw that and put it in a more charitable form by saying that you have been fooling yourself; but in any event, it is perfectly clear that if it is reasonable for men to sit down and contemplate the reduction of this 35 pe. cent tariff when drafting the contract it is perfectly reasonable for men on this side of the House to stand up and discuss the possibility. My remarks generally I will defer until another occasion.

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 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.

Mr. Abbott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the table of the House a statement showing (1) the number at present receiving the Old Age Pensions; (2). the number of applications for pensions which have not yet been granted; (3) the number put on the list April 1916; (4) if it is the intention of the Government to increase the Old Age Pension Grant, if so, to what extent?

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Premier the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Death Duties Acts 1914-1916." was read a third time 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.

DISCIPLINE ON ADMIRALTY SHIPS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Premier the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Discipline on Ships controlled by the Admiralty." 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.

TRANSFER OF SHIPS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Premier the Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships," 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.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Premier, the Bill entitled "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions." 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 His Excellency the Governor would receive the Address in Reply at two forty five of the clock on to-morrow afternoon.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until half past two of the clock on to-morrow afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, June 8, 1917.

The House met at half past two o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that in accordance with the intimation received His Excellency the Governor 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.) W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

PETITIONS.

MR. MOULTON.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Channel, who ask that a new bridge be built there. Considering the expense that this work would necessitate I am afraid that the funds of the district would not be able to meet this present case. The petition is signed by Rev. H. J. Read and many others of that place. I would ask the Government to see if they can see their way clear to help us in this matter. It will take $1500.00 or $2000.00 I beg that it be referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bonavista. The petitioners ask that the sum of one hundred dollars be granted to erect a public wharf or a landing place in that locality. I understand that the water there is very shallow and a landing place is very necessary. The petitioners also ask that 100 dollars be granted for the erection of a public road on the south side of the harbour. This road is absolutely essential as it will serve to connect the south side with the other side, and as Troy Town is chiefly a farming settlement this road will be a great advantage to the people residing there. These people also ask that Try Town be connected with Glovertown by telephone. The distance between these two places is not very great and as the Telegraph poles run nearby the expense of giving them telephone connection would not be very much. I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Sailor's Island and Flat Island, Bonavista district, asking that a Postal Way Office be placed at Sailor's Island. Both petitions are largely signed. I hope that the government will find its way clear to accede to the petitioners' request. I now ask that they be referred to the departments to which they relate.

MR. WINSOR—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Dog Cove near Saint Brendan's who ask that a postal office be erected at that place. I think that this is a very necessary thing, Mr. Speaker, and one which would immensely benefit the many people who have signed this petition. I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Poole's Island praying that the sum of $250.00 be granted to repair the wharf there. I also beg leave to present a petition from Port Blandford asking for the erection of a bridge at Muddy Brook North West Arm. Two years ago the bridge at that place was destroyed by flood and nothing has been done since. The people have to use the railway track at that place to cross the river there. It would require the sum of one hundred dollars to effect this object and from all that I can learn on the subject this amount is a very reasonable one. I also present a petition from Brookfield on the same matter. This also is a very deserving matter and one which I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant. I beg leave to present these petitions to the Departments to which they relates.

MR. LLOYD—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Burgoyne's Cove, Clifton, Britannia and other places. The prayer of the petition is that the sailing craft at present operating at that place be changed to a motor boat. They state that they have suffered much incon-

venience. I think that the traffic of that place requires a motor boat. I beg leave to refer this petition to the department to which it relates and hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant the prayer thereof.

I have also another petition from the inhabitants of Belle View. This is signed by the priest and nearly all the inhabitants. The prayer of the petition is that telegraph communication be accorded to that settlement. I may say, Sir, I have had some correpondence on this matter within the past few months, and I promised to bring this matter to the attention of the Colonial Secretary, but I asked first that the sense of the locality be secured and placed before the House so that the Colonial Secretary and those with him might be able to appreciate the matter.

I have also a petition from Little Heart's Ease. This is a request for $150 to make a road between Little Heart's Ease and Little Harbor. It is within the knowledge of every member of the House that during the past few years there has been very great trouble in connection with roads. The roads have been extended considerably, and the consequent cost of the new roads has made great cuts in the moneys allocated. I have had occasion to bring this matter to the attention of the Government and I must say whenever there was a matter of urgency and the special grant was exhausted, something has generally been done.. In presenting this petition I realize the difficulty in connection with some of the large districts of the Island where for many reasons very great difficulties arise, in that there are so many roads and of great length to be kept in repair with the limited funds available for this work. I would ask that the petition be referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. STONE—I have very great pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition. I hope the Government will see its way clear to accede to the request of the petitioners.

MR. STONE—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Trinity East, Port Rexton, Champneys and English Hr. The prayer of the petition asks the Government to take immediate action to safeguard the people who are continually getting their cattle killed by the Bonavista Branch Railway, many of them have lost their cattle by the train running over them, and to make matters worse, when the party who unfortunately loses his cow or horse writes the Company regarding same the only compensation they get is sometimes a letter from the Company telling them that after they investigated the matter they find that the Company is not liable. There the matter ends and the poor man or woman unfortunate enough to lose the cow or horse must let the matter drop. Therefore, the petitioners are asking the Government for protection. The petition is very largely signed, which certainly can show the Government the necessity of them acting at once. Trusting that this matter will be given every attention, and I ask that the petition be received and passed over to the Department to which it relates.

I also ask leave to present a petition from the Society of United Fishermen. The petition is from St. George's Lodge, Ireland's Eye; St. Paul's Lodge, Trinity; Unity Lodge, Trinity East; Bonavista Lodge, Bonvista. This petition, Mr. Speaker, is also in reference to a Telegraph Office being erected at Ireland's Eye. This shows very clearly, I think, the necessity of a telegraph office being put on that Island, and coming from such a representative body as the United Fishermen, will no doubt have

some effect. I do not think it is necessary for me to deal further with the matter, as I presented a petition a few days ago dealing with this. I trust that the Government will consider this matter and during the summer a telegraph office will be erected there. I ask that this petition be passed over to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

DR. LLOYD.—I beg Mr. Speaker to support these petitions. I would take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the House to the very unsatisfactory treatment that is afford ed owners of cattle and horses killed on the railroad by the 1901 Railway Act. The protection afforded is most inadequate. It must be within the knowledge of members of this House, and particularly to legal practitioners who are constantly having this matter brought to their notice, that in nine cases out of ten there is no legal obligation on the part of the Company to make compensation in case of cattle being killed. In some of the cases unprovided for, the Government has paid compensation. But I think no definite principles to rule these cases have been adopted by the Government. I do not ask that additional liability be put on the Company whose obligations are clearly laid down in contract ratified by the Act of 1901 that relates to this matter, but something ought to be done. It seems to me that a select committee might consider this matter and make some recommendations to the House and lay down some principles in connection therewith. As this matter has frequently been before the Government, perhaps they will advise the House as to the best way out of this difficulty. I thank you Sir, for allowing me to speak at such length in support of a petition. I recognize that it is not the practice, but I think this matter is of sufficient importance to justify my trespassing on the time of the House.

HR. TARGETT—I beg to support the prayer of the petition.

Mr. Grimes gave notice of question.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM SERVICE RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relating to the Confirmation of an Agreement for Steam Service on Bay of Islands.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—When this matter was before the House yesterday I was required to obtain certain information in relation to the schedule of rates—passenger and freight rates—under this proposed contract. I asked the Deputy Colonial Secretary this morning to have a statement made of the rates charged for a similar service in the Bay of Islands, also to have a comparative statement made as to how these rates compare with similar rates in other services, for instance the Fogo service and the western service, and I find that there were no authorized schedule rates for service prior to 1914. The rates for the last contract, 1914-15 are the same as in the new one, or in other words, there is no increase and the comparison with rates on the Fogo service eight or ten years ago and the Bowring western service show that these rates are very much lower.

MR. LLOYD—Does that cover the subsidy?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—No; that is slightly different. The last service was, I think, $180, and this is $200, but this is a much better boat, faster and better equipped.

Unfortunately, I gave Mr. Clift the correspondence yesterday and I have not got it with me. It is in the tender. Regarding the comparison between the two boats, I would ask the hon. member for Bay St. George to give the fact.

MR. DOWNEY—I may say, Mr. Chairman that until the present contract there was practically no steamer service on the bay. The Ubique(?) was the original boat. It was built for a motor boat, but it was found that her size was rather great for the small engine, so they secured an old steamer boiler instead. At the best the boat was a mere apology for a bay steamer. You could scarcely go below deck. Her carrying capacity was very limited, and she wasn't a steamer at all to all intents and purposes.

Sections 3 and subsequent sections then read.

MR. LLOYD—I beg to ask who is Mr. Edward Barry, with whom the contract is made.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I understand he is a resident of Bay of Islands.

MR .DOWNEY—The company is a local one, and Mr. Barry is the manager and master of the boat, and a resident of Bay of Islands.

MR. LLOYD—What is he doing there?

MR. DOWNEY—He has been a fisherman all his life and a schooner owner and master.

MR. LLOYD—Putting the question in plain form, is he engaged with Messrs. Gorton Pew & Co.

MR. DOWNEY—No, he is not the same man at all.

MR. LLOYD—So far as I can judge, I dont think the contract is objectionable. The ports of call are fairly ample for a day's work, and while I am not a good judge of the matter, I think the subsidy is not unreasonable. The principal reason I wished to have further information regarding the rates and the subsidy, was to see whether or not these were war rates, or what might be called reasonable ante-war rates. It would be unfair to inflict on the colony for seven years an obligation to pay rates that were not reasonable in all the circumstances, but so far as I have been able to find out there is nothing unreasonable in the rates and therefore I do not raise any objection to it. I would like, however, to ask in connection with the arrangements for carrying the mails, who is to have the custody of the mail bags. Apparently there is no provision for a mail officer, and I don't know whether the master is to be an official of the Government or how the matter is to be arranged. I note under section 6 that, "The steamer shall carry all mail bags and mail packages of every descripton delivered to the master or other officer appointed." Evidently the owner is to make these arrangements, and that is hardly sufficient. We ought to know how this will be carried out and in whom it will be placed, and how the safety of the mails can be assured. I do not mention these things in any spirit of carping, but merely to get information as to how the safe custody of the mails is being looked after.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—The practice in the past has been, I understand, in services of this kind, where the boats are small, that the purser takes charge of the mail, getting a receipt for it from the postmaster, this receipt being sent in by him to the Postmaster General. This receipt is the voucher for the getting of the subsidy. However, now that this point has been raised, I see the importance of it, and I will take it up with the Colonial Secretary and the Postmaster General and see that somebody will be responsible. There should be some responsible person on board. It

may be that arrangements could be made with the captain or purser. The service would of course be a small one and I should suppose the mail service would be small.

MR. LLOYD—I would ask just what the phrase: "So far as concerns" in reference to the last two years means. I have seen it in all the contracts that have passed through here, but I have not yet any information as to what it means.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I take it that if the ship is lost during the first five years the Contractors will be bound to replace her. If, however, she is lost within the last two years, the contractor need not go to the expense of replacing her, but may throw up the contract.

MR. DOWNEY—I think that is the idea. It would be unfair to ask the contractor to replace a ship with but two years to run on the contract.

MR. HIGGINS—I would take it that the obligations referred to are obligations of the contractor owing to the contract, and that it is understood that if during the last two years the ship should be lost, the contractor has the option of replacing her and fulfilling the obligations, or he may forfeit the subsidy and the contract as if it were discharged.

MR. LLOYD—I have no objection whatever to the insertion of this phrase. I just wanted to know what it meant.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Resolutions and recommended the introduction of a Bill to give effect to the same.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and the Bill entitled "An Act ratifying a Contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands," was then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

KNITTING AND WOOLEN MILLS RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd. and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I raise no objection to the encouragement of this or any other industry by a reasonable guarantee to the company undertaking it. Therefore,to the clause which has just been read I do not take exception. Indeed, I would go further, and be willing to support a more liberal guarantee than is offered in that clause, if that more liberal guarantee were substituted for some of the remaining provisions of this agreement which to my mind are highly objectionable, and which, if they are permitted to remain, will make it imperative, so far as I am concerned, to vote against the ratification of this whole contract. If I understood the Colonial Secretary, who has charge of this Bill, aright, I take it that this company were not promoters of this movement. It was thrust upon them by the fact that another company were seeking and were likely to obtain encouragement from the Government, and they considered that they would be placed in a false economic position if that other company secured this guarantee and they did not. Now, that is one of the objections which I take to this Bill. I would be more willing to support a general Bill offering the guarantees mentioned, or even greater guarantees, to any company that

might be formed to carry on the woolen industry. The position as we have it at present is this, that we are offering this inducement to this company not because they want it, and not because we want to give it, but because they found themselves in a position of being unfairly competed against as a result of inducements which it was understood the Government intended to offer a competing company.

It has been said, Sir, that the Government objected to giving the guarantee to both companies as originally constituted, with like objects, that is, both manufacturing the same class of goods; and that an arrangement was arrived at under which this company should take up the manufacture of knitted goods, and the other company goods that were not knitted, and that they should thus divide between them the industry. Now, to my mind that was an unfortunate step for the government to take, because what little protection the purchasers would have by reason of competition between the companies was taken away by this action; and I think that no government should lightly interfere to take away competition in the case of industries of this sort any more than in the case of food. In this country woolen goods stand in practically the same position as food, so far as being a necessary of life is concerned; and it is not even narrowed down to the position set forth by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Coaker), when he spoke of the hardships on the fishermen by being forced to pay the high prices which will appertain because of the continued protection of 35 per cent. for the next 25 years. It affects not only the fishermen, but practically everybody in the island. The fact that we live in a cold climate, and that cold climate continues for almost nine months of the year ought to make the government hesitate before doing anything which will tend to make it harder for the people to cloth themselves, except by paying exorbitant prices. Now, the matter of clothing in this country is not in a satisfactory condition. Indeed, it is in a most unsatisfactory condition, so far as the purchasers are concerned. It may be good enough for the dry goods men who sell the goods; it may even be good enough for those who are employed in the Dry Goods stores; but it is exceedingly unsatisfactory so far as the general consumers are concerned. We are getting nothing but shoddy stuff—no matter whether imported or manufactured here. We are not getting good material and we are paying extraordinary prices for it. There is not a householder in the country but knows that the prices paid for woolen goods and such like are astounding prices and in the face of these astounding prices and the rottenness of the materials it is alarming that this protection should be chained and fastened upon the people for the next fifteen years, and so far as the duties are concerned for 20 years. I have already said, Sir, that I do not object to the encouragement of local industries, and I think this House should encourage them, but it should be careful that this encouragement does not make heavier the burden which has to be borne by the general body of the people; and it should not lightly deal with matters that affect the food and clothing of the people. We are not living in Central Africa, in the Mediterraneau, or in the Southern States of America, where clothing matters little We are living in a climate that is semiarctic for the greater part of the year, and woolen clothing is absolutely essential to the people. Now, I wish it to be clearly understood that so far as the guarantee is concerned, I have no objection to it; I am willing to support that part of the contract; but I

am not willing to support the extraordinary features of it.

I want to note them briefly at the present time. Take section 3. I am dealing with the Riverside contract. We are told that under this contract it is contemplated when the Company shall satisfy the Government that it is able to supply the local market with blankets, cloths and yarns which shall not be greater in price and equal in quality to the same goods imported from abroad, the Government agrees to procure the imposition of a duty of not less that 35% upon the value of all such goods imported into the Colony and to continue such duty for the term of twenty years. Now what is the particular meaning of that clause I do not know. So far as I can find out it only affects yarns, for at the present time I am assured that the rate of duty on blankets and clothes is 35% and the duty on yarns is 20%, and what you really mean is this: As soon as this Company can satisfy the Government that they can produce all the yarns that the local market requires and of as good a quality as can be procured from abroad, then the Government undertakes to raise the duty on yarns from 20 to 35%. But it goes further. It is giving an undertaking that the duty shall be continued for the next twenty years. That is the only reading you can give on the section, that the duty on blankets and clothes which is already 35% shall be continued for the next twenty years, and an undertaking will be given as soon as the Govenment is satisfied that this Company can manufacture in such quantities that it will be able to supply the needs of the market with goods of a quality and price equal to the imported article. A lot was said here yesterday about the impossibility of anyone honestly believing that for a great many years to come there would be any reductions of taxation that is at present levied under our tariff. Now, I would be long sorry to hold any such opinion. I do not agree with the Premier that there is no hope of such a reduction. I do not agree with the Premier when he says that what we are doing is merely taking the money from the people and handing it back. Unfortunately, we are taking a big lot of money from the people and handing it over to holders of debentures in England. Practically one fourth of the money so collected is not handed back to the people here at all. It is handed over to those in England to whom we owe money and the ratio for our total revenue of the amount of money handed over to people in England is growing greater from year to year, and therefore it is that we must regard anxiously any matter of taxation and not consider it in the light that it really matters nothing, and that it is merely taking money from one pocket of the people and putting it back into another pocket of the people.

A good deal of it sticks in the hands of the machinery of the Government. A good deal of it goes to the payment of officials, and a good deal does not get back at all. I have hope, Sir, that we may see such a growth of industries in this country that we shall be relieved within the next twenty years of this burdensome taxation of thirty-five and forty per cent. The whole trouble is this, that our population is small compared with our coastline and as compared with the officials who have to be placed all over the country because of the scattered nature of the population; and with the school grants as they have now to be administered because of the scattered nature of the population. A good deal of that money, a good deal of those duties collected, is expended owing to the present scattered

nature of our population. There is good hope that with the growth of new industries and with an increased population these overhead charges will be much reduced, and it will be possible to bring down that thirty-five or forty per cent. very considerably. I object to this section with regard to this Company, because we bind ourselves not to make such a reduction, and I think it is a most injudicious practice on the part of any Government to come in and bind future Legislatures for a long period like twenty years so that they may take no steps whatever with regard to the tariff.

I find that this section is followed by a worse stipulation. This stipulation contradicts the position put by the Leader of the Government that no one in this House could reasonably believe that there would be a change of duty in the next twenty years; because in the very next section this contingency of the reduction of duty is contemplated. The Leader of the Government said that the Government must provide for every possibility. But it is not the Government in this case who provides for every possibility; it is the Company, the clause is not in the interest of the Government, but in the interest of the Company. It is not a provision put in to give anything to the Government, but a provision put in to give something to the Company. This clause is about as objectionable as any clause that could be put before this Assembly. The clause to which I refer is that tariff legislation shall be procured, I presume if necessary, and shall in any case be continued for twenty years, if the Government are satisfied that the Company can fill the needs of the country, so far as quantity is concerned, and so far as price is concerned. But what happens if the Government is not satisfied? We would naturally expect that if the Government is not satisfied the Company should receive no benefits. But under this section we have the extraordinary position that in any event, whether the Government is satisfied or not, the present rate of duty, if changed and if reduced, shall be beneficial to the Company in a remarkable degree. If the Government are not satisfied they are not doing these things and if the Government proposes reducing the present duty on blankets from thirty-five to twenty-five per cent., and the present duty on clothing from thirty-five to twenty-five per cent., even if the Government are not satisfied that the Company is producing these things at a proper price they here give an undertaking that if there is a default on the part of the Company in doing something they are actually paid for making the default. The meaning of that section is very indefinite; but the only reasonable construction to be put upon it is this, if a reduction in duty on blankets from thirty-five per cent. to twenty-five per cent. is made, then that ten per cent. reduction is not to benefit the people (it may benefit a purchaser) but the ten per cent. is to be handed over as a cash payment to the Company. That is the most reasonable way of construing it. If the duty on cloth goods is reduced from thirty-five to twenty-five per cent. no matter how the Company may have failed to satisfy the Government, then there is to be an extra cash payment of ten per cent. on something. I presume the ten per cent. will mean that the goods will be taken at their recognized value, their invoice value, and ten per cent. is handed over to the Company. Another construction is that if there is a change of duty, an equivalent to what the Government loses in revenue is to be handed over to the Company. It is a most extraordinary clause. It is certainly a most

improper clause, and it is a clause which ought not to be considered favourably by this House. The section says: "In the event of the rate of duty which is now in force upon goods of the kind or class manufactured by the Company being reduced at any time the Government agrees to give to the Company an equivalent to the amount of duty so reduced." What the equivalent to the amount of duty is, it passes the wit of man to understand; because I do not believe for one moment that anyone knows what it means or what it is intended it shall mean. But as I said, take the most reasonable construction and it is that if there is a tariff reduction on these articles of ten per cent., an equivalent of this ten per cent. shall be paid to this Company over and above any other benefits they receive. But this is to take place in any event, whether the Government is satisfied in the previous clause or not. That is a matter to be considered further. It should be defined or abrogated entirely in the enacting part of the bill. Now as to section five, I have no great objection. It seems to me only reasonable that a new industry should have this advantage. And the enlargement of the Company's factory and plant means a benefit to the country. I do not think that it would be wrong to give free admission to any raw material such as mentioned in section (b). Now as to section six. I do not care about the form in which that is put. I do not like that section. I would like the whole matter to be in the form of a guarantee, not in the form of a premium. But as between section six and seven, (and the whole bill has a good deal of sixes and sevens about it) I fail to understand why both these clauses should stand there. If it was the intention of the Government to encourage the raising of sheep, why section six is there I do not know. I admit that I can understand section seven being there, as encouragement is given the manufacture of goods made of wool raised in the Colony, but I cannot understand why the same premium being given for goods made of wool that is grown here as of wool that is manufactured here, and that practically means that you are doing all you can to promote the importation of wool and not the raising of sheep in the Island. On these grounds I am more strongly opposed to both clauses six and seven standing in and if I had my choice of the two sections, I would ask that section six be struck out and that section seven remain. Now in this general review I will repeat the position that I have taken with regard to this measure. I raise no objection whatever to the clauses dealing with the guarantee of five per cent. I repeat that I should have no objection to that guarantee being at a greater rate that five per cent., providing that the other objectionable features of the agreement were eliminated. I must also emphasize again the fact that this bill or this measure, this contract which is now before the House and under consideration, has been forced on this Company by the Government itself. The initiative does not come from the Company but from the Government itself, from the dealings of the Government with other Companies. It comes from the Government in forcing them into the position of competing with favoured Companies and from the Government offering them the same inducements as they offered other Companies. And by these inducements they have eliminated any possibility of the reduction of local prices by eliminating competition. I say that these objectionable features are further aggravated by the fact that the articles with which the agreement deals are clothes, and clothes are as essential as food to

the people and I repeat every step should be taken in this legislature not to do things that will force up prices but to do everything that will keep the prices as low as possbile, for the consumers are already taxed and overburdened. Instead of giving them relief this bill fastens and fixes the price for the next twenty years. Therefore in its present form I cannot support this bill and I shall further refuse to support it until all the radical amendments I have dwelt upon shall have been made.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition in his opening remarks referred to the fact that this agreement was forced upon the Company by the Government. I presume that he means the schedule which we are now considering and that the reason that it was forced on them was because, before this particular agreement was made, agreements were made with other Companies in the same manner and the Government was bound to grant equal advantages to all. But I think that I pointed out in introducing these resolutions that both those companies were in a financial quandry. The Riverside Woolen Mills, which was formerly the Royal Stores Ltd., had abandoned operations owing to the fact that they had not sufficient capital for the Company to go into it on the comprehensive scale that would enable them to make it a financial success. When the British Woolen Co. Ltd. started they were also undercapitalized and through the mismanagement of the manager it was alleged that the business could not be operated successfully. A large number of shareholders were interested and they saw the possibility of a total loss of every dollar that they had put in. Representations were made to the Government, which followed a policy that it had always championed, namely, the encouragement of local industries, in every direction, and upon these representations and an undertaking to put seventy thousand dollars more into the business, if the Government would give a guarantee of five per cent for twenty years, the Government, after mature consideration, (I was not a member of the Government at the time but I am sure that the matter received mature consideration), agreed to the proposition as set forth by the parties. Now when the Riverside Mills Ltd. discovered that it was possible that they could get the same protection and guarantee they also made application to the Government. They reorganized the Company, put additional capital into it, and re-equipped it. Their capital was not as great as the capital of the Knitting Mills. It was considerably less. They made application to the Government for a similar contract. Almost all the provisions in this present agreement are provided for under the Act 1910. The name of the Act is "An Act respecting the Encouragement of Woollen Manufactures 1910" under the provisions of which the present Bill is drawn and the hon. member will find that nearly all the matters he has referred to are already the law of the land. The Act 1910 was passed rather for the encouragement of small companies than otherwise if I remember rightly. but has not been availed of to any appreciable extent. I don't agree with the hon. member when he says that clothing in this country is more expensive than it is in other countries on this side of the water.

MR. LLOYD—I never said that.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You stated that the goods sold in this country were shoddy, and were not worth the money which was paid for them.

MR. LLOYD.—Certainly. But I did not say that "on this side of the water." I was not comparing Newfound-

land with America.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Well, I am going to compare them. You must speak of things as they are in this part of the world. We are not living amongst the cotton mills of England.

MR. LLOYD.—No, but we are living under a tariff that is going to endure for twenty years.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You will find that in whatever part of the British Empire you may be within the next twenty years you will be living under just as great a tariff with respect to this article.

MR. LLOYD—I don't agree with you.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I submit that it is impossible for any persons here to successfully state that a tariff of 35 per cent. on clothing is a higher tariff than that in any part of the British Dominions on this side of the water.

MR. GRIMES—I would like to say that in Canada the tariff is 27 per cent on woolen manufactures.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I don't know what the tariff is, but I do know that clothing in Canada is from 20 to 30 per cent. more expensive than in Newfoundland.

MR. GRIMES—On goods imported from the United States.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—What does it pay coming from the United States?

MR. GRIMES.—45 per cent.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Exactly. The reason why the duty is so low coming from England is because they give England a preference. The duty from the United States is 10 per cent. higher than you have here to-day.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Now, I submit Mr. Chairman, that there is nothing in the argument that we have just heard as regards the class of goods or the price of goods; in these respects, I contend, the people of this country have nothing to complain of. I also affirm that the duty of 35 per cent. on clothing is not merely a protection for these companies, and they are merely asking us now to leave the tariff as they found it. They come in good faith and they start this industry, but they don't want to be at the caprice of any Govenment that might come in and might want to put them out of business, or that may not have the same feeling towards local industries that the present Government have. In my opinion the people who put their money into any industry in this country should be protected to the fullest extent.

MR. LLOYD—Against future Legislatures?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Do not all contracts bind future Legislatures? It would be absolutely absurd if a Government should only make a contract for the term during which they held office. As I have pointed out, Mr. Chairman, there is nothing in these contracts outside of the guarantee of 5 per cent., to which hon. gentlemen on the other side have no objection. The other guarantees are practically all contained in the Act which I have referred to, namely, the Act of 1910. I repeat that the establishment of those industries fill a great want in this country, and particularly in the city of St. John's, where, as I pointed out the other evening, the bread-earners have gone in very large numbers to fight for their King and Country, and the homes of a large number of them are kept up and supported by the women members of their families, who get lucrative employment in these institutions; and what affects St. John's, I take it, affects the greater part of the Island. I have every sympathy for the fisherman in anything that is a burden to him, and I have every

sympathy with any effort that can be made to give him cheaper clothing and cheaper food; but at the same time we must remember that he is not more worthy of consideration than the labourer or the mechanic or the farmer. They are all producers, and all helping to build up the country, and I take it that it is not putting any undue burden on the fisherman to ask him to pay the same tariff on his clothing that he has been paying in the past . I don't want to delay the Committee, Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to point out that the agreements which we have before us contain nothing of a far-reaching character that is not already the law of the land, apart from the guarantee that is provided for.

MR. HALFYARD.—Mr. Chairman, I wish to make one or two remarks on the Bill now before the House, chiefly from a humanitarian standpoint, which has been referred to in a very forcible manner by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Lloyd. I quite agree with all that has been said as to the position which we should take in connection with the encouragement of industries in this country; but then there are two sides to the question. We are not here to legislate for the protection of an individual or a class at the expense of the majority of the producers of the country. As has been pointed out by those who have spoken on this side of the House, Woolen clothing is essential to the health of those who live in this country. The great spread of the disease known as Consumption, which affects so large a part of our population, may be traced to three causes: Not appreciating fresh air; poor clothing; and poor food. Now, I am not claiming that what I am saying originated with me. As a matter of fact, it was impressed upon me about nine years ago—I think, in 1908, at the time the great Anti-Consumption propaganda was started in this country. At that time a Teachers' Convention was held here in St. John's for the purpose of getting those who were interested in the welfare of children and who had charge of their instruction, to take an interest in matters affecting public health. Dr. Keegan addressed the Convention, and this is partly what he said while speaking on the subject of clothing: "I would like to touch on the errors of clothing as a predisposing cause of delicacy, a cause which lessens vitality, reduces the power of resistance, and renders children particularly liable to bronchial disease which is the fore-runner of Consumption."

The Right Hon. Premier in his remarks said that this industry will be the means of causing a good many people to dispense with three or four Shirts because of the superior quality of the article which will be manufactured. Now, I hope his prophecy will come true. The reason why our fishermen, laborers and others wear so many shirts is because of the shoddy material that is used in making up their clothing—the fleecelined article, and probably something worse than that; and when in cold weather a man works so hard that he perspires freely, within an hour afterwards he is chilled to the marrow of his bones, because his under —clothing does not absorb the perspiration; he might just as well have on a piece of tarpaulin or a dishcloth. Therefore, it is essential to the health and the well-being and comfort of the laboring classes of this country, whether fishermen, farmers, firemen or whatever they are, to have flannel or woolen underclothing. It is necessary in this climate—a lighter flannel in summer and a heavier in winter—something that will absorb the perspiration and a non-conductor of heat. The tem-

perature of the body under normal conditions is about 98.6; the temperature of the air rarely exceeds 85; so that the temperature of the body is higher than the surrounding air. Therefore what is wanted is something that will keep the heat in the body, and nothing will do that so well as woolen clothing. That is one reason why I would oppose that section under which the Government proposes to grant the concession of 35 per cent. upon the value of all woolen goods imported into this country. You should take the duty off woolen goods instead of putting it on. If we are prepared to sacrifice the well-being and health of the population of this country in order to secure the success of an industry which may give employment to a thousand persons more or less, then I think we are acting very unwisely. We are defeating our own purposes by doing something which is detrimental to the welfare of the inhabitants of the country and something which will tend to keep the population down.

If you pass this bill you are doing something that will prevent the people from providing themselves with an article of clothing essential to their health, and if we view the bill from that standpoint alone we will certainly vote against it. I would ask that section 3 be eliminated or cut out altogether, and also section 6. All parties are one in the opinion that encouragement should be given to the raising of sheep. What encouragement does this bill afford to any company to get their wool in this country rather than to import it. It may be to the advantage of this company to import all their wool, but there is no encouragement for the people to raise sheep. It would be better if you gave people a bonus to raise sheep—then you would be doing something for the good of the whole country. Therefore, I would support the cutting out of that section altogether. Now the excuse set forth by the Hon. Colonial Secretary for this bill is that there is one already on the statutes of a similar nature, passed in 1910. Now if we made a mistake in 1910, that is no reason for repeating it. We are living in a more enlightened age and we should be very cautious what we do now. Perhaps when that bill was brought before the House in 1910 the same consideration was not given it that is being given to this bill. When I glanced at this bill at first I thought it just an ordinary one giving encouragement to industries, but when I heard others speak about it I began to consider it; and I am sincere in the remarks I have made regarding the great evils that would result from the keeping of woolen goods out of the country. The majority of the people cannot afford to buy woolen goods to-day, and as they want to keep up appearances they will buy something of a shoddy nature such as is commonly sold. Outer garments are only a matter of show, and do not need to be particularly good to safeguard health, but good underclothing is essential to our health and comfort; and from that standpoint both sides of the House should consider the matter. Not only should we hesitate to tax an article of this kind out of the country, but we should use every inducement possible to get it from any source that will give it to the purchaser at lowest possible cost. I don't believe it is the object of the shareholders of this Company to be the means of doing anything that would cause the vitality of our people to become low, or to decrease their energy or their value as citizens, but that is exactly what would be the result of taxing woolens in this manner. We are liv-

ing in a semi-Arctic climate, and even in summer time the climate is very variable, with different degrees of temperature every hour in the day. Therefore, in the case of children especially the best flannel or woolen goods should be provided and put on the market at the smallest possible cost. But instead of this, we are taxing it out of existence and subsidizing what may be a shoddy article. There is nothing whatever in section 3 which will guarantee the Government that we are going to have any superior article. Companies don't invest money for the good of their health, or apparently that of the community either, but to make money. Do you think they are going to have such a superior article—a woolen article—that will satisfy the people in every particular. They will use material that will appear very good perhaps, and they will sell it at the highest possible cost. It is a matter of business with them—buy as cheaply as you can, and sell at the highest possible figure—and that is just what they will do. There is evidence of that all around us in connection with the food situation. It is only a matter of business—whether the people live or starve—and whether you appoint commissions or not it is all the same. The merchant says: "I bought low, but I will sell to get all I can." It is a matter of business—and this Company will be just the same.

With regard to the tariff, the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister said yesterday "that we shall always have a duty of 35 per cent., that we are only collecting the revenue and handing it back to the people again, and that the duties must be kept on." Well now, I hope we shall live long enough to see the same happy position as we experienced in 1913, when the duties were taken off. I am sorry that we are not in a position to do so now, although a general election is pending, but I daresay the people will understand the circumstances under which we live and excuse us for not taking off the duties just now. We had really intended to do it, but circumstances are such that it is impossible at present. Now, I don't believe it is the intention of the Government to keep up the present exorbitant duties on the necessaries of life, and I hope that we shall live to see a change in the tariff; and that this clause here, clause 4, which binds all future legislatures for the next twenty years to give a bonus of ten per cent. will not materialize. But, if the duties are taken off and this contract goes through that is what you will have to do.

Another thing the Premier said is that the bill was under consideration for three or four years. Now, that just shows that it wasn't so easy to have all the clauses of this bill passed by the Government when they were considering it. They could not come to an understanding. Perhaps some of the members of the Government considered the matter as we are considering it now—that the country cannot afford such concessions and that it is not to our best interests that a certain class be protected at the expense of the rest. Perhaps, also, they had read some treatise on the value of warm clothing, such as the address given by Dr. Keegan before the convention of teachers at St. John's in 1908. Therefore, after so long considering it, it seems questionable that another opportunity may occur to the present executive to draft such a bill. That is the view I take of it, that being so long under consideration with it and that all the members were not reconciled and hesitated to ask the Legislature to pass such a measure.

I hope after what has been said now that this Committee will hesitate to pass this bill in its present form. Encourage the shareholders by guaranteeing them 5 per cent. or 7 per cent. on their investments if you wish, but don't protect this Company at the expense of the welfare, the happiness, the very existence, of the great body of producers in this country.

MR. LLOYD.—Since the Colonial Secretary sat down I have had an opportunity of going through the Act which he referred to, and I wish to make a few remarks in relation to it, first of all dealing generally on a few points. Now I have already said that the condition of the fisherman, farmer, laborer, and everybody is the same, with regard to woolen clothing, and I don't see why the whole community should suffer in order to give employment to a few girls, even if they are sisters of soldiers. That is putting it a little absurdly. Why should the parents, the sons, the daughters, the mothers of five thousand soldiers and sailors suffer. Are they not entitled to consideration as well as the few girls employed in St. John's. I am not raising the question of St. John's or elsewhere, but my point is that we are fastening on the people of the whole country for the next twenty years a tariff already excessive. The Colonial Secretary is indignant because I used the term "shoddy." I know, from my own experience that a lot of it is shoddy. I know good woolen clothing, good linens, good calicos. I have lived amongst it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—If you want good clothing in St. John's it is only a matter of paying for it. Pay the price for good clothing and you will get it.

MR. LLOYD.—That is just the trouble. I have asked for the highest priced goods here, and had them split within a week of wearing. I have asked for the best linings to be put in overcoats, and found them worn out within a week, under the elbows I am right in talking shoddy stuff.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I have not had that experience.

MR. LLOYD.—Well, I have had that experience, and I have mentioned within the hearing of people in this House before that there is a lot of shoddy stuff protected by these tariffs. In regard to clothing, boots and shoes, I have said "I will not quarrel with your prices, give me the best goods you have got." It is far cheaper to pay the highest prices, provided you can get the good article, but when you pay the high price and do not get the good article, then you are entitled to draw attention to this matter of shoddy clothing. Now Sir, in speaking of this, I do not wish it to be understood that I am casting any reflection on either of these two companies. I am not speaking of underclothing, but of stuff which is put on the markets here, no matter where it comes from. I have been in warehouses in Manchester, and have seen what is called the "Colonial article" made up for the colonial market, and recognized as shoddy. I know something of these warehouses. I know something of the putting up of this stuff. There is a lot of shoddy sent to the colonies. There are towns that manufacture nothing else but shoddy. There are millionaires whose fortunes have been made on nothing else but shoddy, in Yorkshire. A good deal of that is sent to the colonies. My objection is to paying the price for a first class article and getting shoddy.

We are told by the Leader of the Government that some three or four years have elapsed since this bill was first considered and that it was not considered only shortly before the opening of the House. We are further assured by the Colonial Secretary

that even before that the matter was up and considered. Why then was it in slings for so long? If these companies have been able to exist for four years why is this bill brought in Is it a fact that they have been paying low dividends? Is it a fact that they have not been able to put by any reserve? No, they have paid high dividends and have put by a good reserve, and in spite of these facts we are asked to give them these concessions. Is it a fact that the President of one is a member of your own Government? Now Sir, the Colonial Secretary was somewhat disingenuous in referring to this bill. He told us that but for this guarantee clause the Act is the same as that of 1910. He was silent as to the fact that every one of the points to which I have been making the strongest objections were not in this Act at all. I say you are not fair with the House.. Practically every objectionable feature of this bill was not in the act of 1910, and every point in that act has been put in more objectionable form in this agreement. Now Sir, what is in the Act of 1910. A premium for wool raised in the country and manufactured here. A premium for wool imported here, and the premium is 5% in both cases. The premium in this agreement is 5%. So far this and the act of 1910 are alike. But in the act of 1910 there is a clause which enables the Government to continue the premium for ten years. This bill is for twenty. You do not disclose to the House this difference. You say every feature was the same. I tell you, Sir, that the objectionable features of this bill are not in the Act of 1910, and every objectionable feature in the Act of 1910 has been put in more objectionable form in this bill. In the act of 1910 the Government has to pay a premium for ten years. Here it is twice as long. You did not mention this to the House.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I gave you the opportunity of discovering it for yourself.

MR. LLOYD.—Yes, you gave me the opportunity, and I am taking full advantage of it. I would still point out that you have absolutely misstated the facts to us. Now, Sir, the bulk of my remarks was directed to the fastening on the country of a tariff of thirty-five per cent. for twenty years, should this Company satisfy the Government that they, the Company, can supply the quantities of goods and the quality of the goods needed at the right price. If the Company has once satisfied them, the Company has the protection for the rest of their contract time. As to the reference to this in the 1910 Bill, I may say it is not there. That is one of the most objectionable features of the Bill. The hon. gentleman agrees with me, so I am taking this opportunity of showing him there is a very great difference between the two bills, showing that the Government had not reached then the state of iniquity they have reached to-day. They had not then reached the same depth of degradation they have now. These were the days of their innocence. These were the days when they had not learned so much how to take advantage of such contracts. But I say, I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am not reflecting on any member of the Government in this House. I wish it to be understood in that spirit. But then we come to an even worse clause. (Reads clause refering to equivalent to be given for any reduction of duty.) That is not in the act of 1910. If there is any objectionable features in this bill, it is certainly this one. There is nothing in the act of 1910 to suggest anything like this. No matter what the Companies are doing, whether they are satisfying the needs of the country or not. No matter what dividends

they pay, even if they are paying 60% and putting another 40% by, if you reduce the duty to 20% this Government proposes to make a present of this amount or an amount equivalent to the amount reduced. Why is this there? There must be some reason. Who is going to fix this amount, and on what basis? The Judge in Court will have to settle this, and he will say that it is put there for some purpose, and that it was to protect the Company. Some payment is to be made, and that payment is equivalent to the amount of duty so reduced. Whether it is the amount of revenue not collected, or whatever else it is, the Government must make a present of it to the Company. That is one construction. Another construction is that if you reduce the tariff by ten or fifteen per cent. on value, evidently invoice value, that you undertake to make a gift of this money to the Company, and that no matter how the Companies stand. It makes no difference how well the Company is getting on, what dividends are being paid, what reserves are accumulating. You still bind yourselves to these payments. The point I wish to deal with is that that objectionable clause is not contained in the act of 1910.

Now, Sir, going into matters of minor importance; in reference to the free entries. (Reads clause dealing with this). In the act of 1910 there was a clause much the same. It reads: "All machinery imported in to this Colony, except such as can be manufactured in this Colony, for the manufacture of the aforesaid woollen goods, shall be exempted from the payment of duty." It is much broader under the agreement than under the Act, because under the Act there is a limitation. If machinery can be made in the Colony, it does not come in duty free under the Act, but under the agreement it does, whether it can be made in the country or not. But that is not the only case where free importation is allowed under the agreement when it is not under the Act of 1910. The free importation under the Act of 1910 is limited to machinery which cannot be made in the Colony. Under this Act it includes all machinery, whether made in this country or not, also some raw materials. Now there was nothing about that in the Act of 1910. Therefore, Sir, I think I have succeeded in pointing out that instead of this measure being the 1910 Act with an additional guarantee, it is the 1910 Act with the addition of the guarantee together with the wholesale addition of some very objectionable features. I cannot conceive, Sir, why this agreement has been introduced at all. These Companies have had a fair start. They have had the advantage of war conditions. They have had the advantage of high freight rates, scarcity of tonnage, and the difficulty in getting stocks of woollens abroad. They have had the advantage of this protection for nearly three years and they are doing well. They are in no difficulties. We have heard the Colonial Secretary on their history but he did not tell us anything about how these firms were doing to-day. It is not a fact that they were hard up. I, Sir, would have not the faintest objection to an agreement which gave them a guarantee up to seven per cent. if all the objectionable features were cut out, because it would mean that the country would not be called upon to pay anything, and there would be no hardship to the country unless the Company was hard up; but under these resolutions the country may be called upon to suffer no matter what condition the Companies may be in. It would be far better to guarantee seven per cent. and cut out the objectionable features, and simply have to pay when the Companies are not doing well than have to pay all the

time no matter how well the Companies are doing.

It will be for these reasons that I cannot give my vote to confirm this agreement so long as these objectionable features are allowed to remain there. If, however, they are nullified by the resolutions and the agreement is limited to a solid guarantee, such an agreement will have my hearty support because I do not object to encouraging industries, but they ought not be encouraged in this objectionable form.

MR. COAKER.—I have also had a considerable amount of confidence in the local industries of the Colony, but after reading the resolution presented for consideraton this afternoon, I am inclined to think that there is very little benefit to the Colony in industries which have to be protected on the lines submitted in the resolutions now before the House. I consider that any company that undertakes the manufacture of an article of commerce in this Colony that cannot proceed satisfactorily with their business without asking from the Legislature such concessions would be very much better done without. I believe in helping local industries to a certain extent, and I agree entirely with your suggestion of guaranteeing these concerns a 5 per cent. return on the capital invested. I believe that every body of men willing to invest money in local industries are entitled to some aid, and I willingly concede that they are entitled to a guarantee of dividends for a certain number of years. But I cannot agree, and I see no reason why any man who studies the condition of the country should agree to having any companies operated in this Colony come here and ask us to bind ourselves for a period of twenty years not only to guarantee a protective duty of 35 per cent. but a bonus of 5 per cent. on their raw material, and a 5 per cent. guarantee on capital invested. We who know something about the history of the Ropewalk are aware that they did have a hard time for the first five years, but they subsequently paid out more money to people who invested in their shares than any other concern in the Colony. This company has accumulated money in galore, and at the expense of the fishermen of the Colony for 20 years or more. Such concerns should have protection for a certain length of time, and if they cannot get along without help after say ten years, why let them go to Hong Kong. At Catalina we are investing $250,000 in a mercantile outfit, and we are backing up that investment with another $400,000 to carry on the business, but we have not come to the Legislature to ask for a single cent's aid. You will give this company 20 cents and therby entitle it to take 40 cents out of the pockets of the fisherman of the country. You will bind the Legislature for the next twenty years, and the burden will have to fall on future Governments, to give these men a protection of 35 per cent., no matter how anxious the people might be to secure woolen inside clothing at the cheapest rates. Every man should have protection so far as inside clothing goes, and we ought not to raise a great amount of revenue from such goods, as the health of the people should be of first importance. I believe that if we pass such a law as this before us it will take every bit of grit out of every man in the Colony, so far as investing money in ordinary companies is concerned. Similar companies will say: "You have

given so much to that concern, how do you expect us to invest in other concerns until you give us similar concessions." You are binding yourself for twenty years to a tariff of 35 per cent. on goods those concerns are manufacturing and then give them a premium of 5 per cent., and if you reduce the duty on such articles you have to make up the difference in proportion to the reduction made to this company. I don't know who is the father of those resolutions, but this cerainly must have come direct from the Woolen Company. If so they have little to be proud of. You might as well say right out: "We will give you all you want irrespective of the public interests." The passage of such an act will be a crime on the part of the Legislature of this Colony, and I cannot support the resolutions. I would willingly consent to give a guarantee upon the amount invested, but I would give them no further protection whatever, and plead to you not to bind the future Governments of this Colony for twenty years, by a protection of 35 per cent. This Colony, Mr. Chairman, cannot remain as it is to-day. Newfoundland is soon going to take a step forward, for we have up to now been asleep in Newfoundland as regards its development. Newfoundland is teeming and abounding in possibilities sufficient to make it the most prosperous Colony in the Empire. Instead of a population of 250,000 people we should have a million. We would prosper wonderfully if we put forth our best efforts, broadened our ideas and gave up protecting the few against the many. You should not fetter men who will come after you and who may have opportunities that you have not realized. This Legislature is not always going to be composed of men who have interests in moneyed concerns which come in conflict with the interests of the general public. The day is coming when you will have half a dozen towns such as St. John's in the Colony. Newfoundland is only now beginning to realize her position in the world. If a man came to me, if I were Premier and asked me to support a company in the way you support these companies, he would soon realize that he made a mistake. I should not tolerate for a moment such a proposal. Give new industries the same aid you have given others and no more. If you give any more than a guarantee on the lines you give the dock in Harbor Grace and the companies now starting in shipbuilding, then you will find yourself up against it as regards prospective industries. These men ought to be ashamed to ask the Government to protect their interests to an extent proposed in those resolutions. If they were business men of the right stamp they would be ashamed to come in here and ask to have the fishermen's clothing taxed 35 per cent. for the next 20 years. With regard to the raising of wool, it is a different matter. If you can start a sheep raising industry, give it not only a bonus on the wool raised but also on every sheep that they produce. Sheep raising can be successfully carried on in Newfoundland. I spent fifteen to twenty years in testing that problem. I spent the best part of my life stock raising. After any amount of setbacks, after many years of hard experience, I came to the conclusion that in Newfoundland we can raise sheep successfully. Give the man who starts sheep raising a big bonus on wool, and for each sheep raised.

But do not bind yourselves in this Act by giving the company all the bonus. Do not allow a 5 per cent. bonus for twenty years on all the wool they will import. I hope we will have half a dozen woolen mills in operation in Newfoundland 20 years hence. Catalina, Grand Bank, Curling, Harbor Grace, should have woollen mills. I would say that it would pay every man in this House to visit Grand Bank. Grand Bank, in my opinion, will not remain long as it is to-day. It would be better for you to provide better facilities for the industries that take from the ocean the wealth that enrich the country. You do not appear to regard such industries with the same interest you shower on the woollen mills already established. Treat all those concerns alike on general lines. Confer no special favors on any. You made a mistake the year before last when you gave an American company concessions. What you gave that concern you should have made general to all. They have spent much money there and built their plant, but you may find that inexperienced management won't make a business pay although such favors as you gave are enjoyed. One may fail and another succeed, yet you put all the eggs in one bucket. Every one starting such an industry deserves protection, not one only, which but debars others from entering the same business. I strongly protest against most of the sections of those resolutions. I do not have that the consideration necessary was devoted to this measure by the men responsible to the general public. Surely some of you will stand by the people and protect public interests.

If you have no inner knowledge of such matters you should have some man who knows at your disposal so that you could be properly advised on these matters. The Government is not expected to know all about matters of this kind, and should be on the alert when dealing with people who know the whole business inside out. They should have been very fully advised before giving this matter consideration. You want to go carefully in connection with matters such as these, for do not think for one moment that the fishermen of the north are going to place a million dollars or more into their business without asking for concessions, and be willing to give such companies as these such generous aid at the people's expense. Do not think that the people will willingly be content to see you grant concessions to those who ought to be able to get along without them.

I would advise the Government to take these matters into consideration again. Draft a general act wider in scope, so that other companies may have the same privilege. These concerns are already established, and are doing well. Both are making good dividends. Both of these mills have paid good dividends and carried profits to a reserve fund. The war has placed them on a solid basis. The war came just in time to make a grand success to their business. No imported goods were available and their goods were introduced and the market purchased them entirely. They made a fairly good effort to turn out a good article and their goods have been kept up to the standard. There is no reason why we should guarantee them anything. If this was a new concern just starting it would be different, then all would be anxious to establish such, but these companies are, as I have said, fully established, and why should we give them now such special and valuable concessions. I hope the hon. the mover of these resolutions will submit this matter to a Select Committee who could fully consider the matter and consult with the parties interested

and protect all interests. It is not right that these concerns should be allowed for twenty years to pay twenty-five per cent. annual dividends at the expense of the people, and be given a monopoly. If you pass these resolutions in their present form it will mean that these concerns in ten years may pay a dividend of forty or fifty per cent., and you will be helpless to pass any legislation to protect public interests or reduce their profits. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I protest against the passing of these resolutions, and I hope the suggestions made will be observed by the Hon. Mr. Bennett, the introducer, and something will be done to protect the public interests while ensuring a square deal to the companies concerned.

The hon. the Colonial Secretary in speaking to these resolutions this afternoon referred to us as conducting this debate in a partisan manner, saying he anticipated such opposition. Now that is just what I am not doing. I do not believe that any member in this House is actuated by partisan feeling on this matter. So far as I am concerned, I believe this bill would be disastrous as it stands. It contains many clauses which are very objectionable. Those objections have been pointed out to-day by several speakers. If you want to do your duty to your country to-day, your one course is to remove the objectionable clauses of this bill, clauses which in their present state have as their one object the making of the rich, richer.

And no matter what the opinion on the other side may be, I assert as I believe, that that bill is aimed only to make men who are rich, richer, and by the clauses of that bill as they are at present, you are fastening on future generations a measure that makes it impossible for any Government coming in to do anything whatever to ease the burden in connection with the tariff on underclothing that ought to come in, if possible free of duty, in order to preserve the health of the people.

Is there not one man on the Government side of the House that has the courage and pluck to demand of the PrimeMinister that this Bill must be altered? Surely one man will be found to do so. If two or three men on the Government side would stand up and say that that Bill should not go through, it would not go through. Are you going to be honest with the people? Will you be honest with yourselves? Will you bind your consciences in such a way? I want to see this industry protected. I am quite agreeable to that, and in fact I want to see every industry protected. I am quite willing to have them guaranteed not only seven, as suggested by Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Grimes, but even eight per cent. on their paid up capital, but I do not want to see any of these other clauses there. If this bill goes through, and it looks as if the Government is going to try to force it through; I say if this bill goes through in its present form, it will be because the members opposite won't do their duty to the people.

You are not, some of you, interested in this bill's going through as it is. There are men among you that want to do their duty to the people they represent. You have no interest in this bill and you ought to be able to stand up and say it is not in the interests of the people. There are men opposite who are as worthy of their seats in this House as any in the country. They know the people and the country's requirements. Won't they do their duty now and save our people from the outrage proposed in this Bill.

Let this thing go to a Select Committee and if you appoint two or three members from this side of the

House you can appoint three or four from your side, and you will find that all will be able to come to an agreement in this connection that will protect both the company and the people. Do not think for a moment that we on this side of the House want to see anything done to injure this industry, but as I have said; or as it has been said, if this measure goes through, the value of the shares in these companies will go up fifty per cent.

I know men on Water Street who have told me that shares in these companies were nearly impossible to secure. They are considered gilt-edged on the street, and have not only been able to add greatly to their reserve, but have paid handsome dividends. Give them eight per cent. on the investment to supply the goods required. This ought to be ample security for the money they have invested and are going to invest. What more is required.

I know that I have stated on five hundred platforms in this Colony that the duty on these articles is too high, and that in my opinion they ought to be lowered or cut off altogether. The F. P. U. Conventions have always passed resolutions against the high duty imposed on these articles, and one of the planks of the platform of the Fishermen's Protective Union and the Liberal Union Party is that if we ever get a chance these duties must be adjusted. Good clothing everybody knows is a necessity in such a climate as ours, and accordingly should not be taxed any more than absolutely necessary, and neither this nor any other Government should for a moment contemplate fastening such a taxation on the people of the country. In this case at any rate it is not needed. As has been already said we are willing to make the guaranteed dividends eight per cent., and with this guarantee are they not protected against any dark clouds that may appear in the next 15 years? How many of the brave men who perished off the mouth of Trinity Bay on March 31st, 1914, would be alive to-day, had they but been sufficiently supplied with that necessity—common inside clothing—you are to-day discussing, and the duty on which you are fastening on the people for the next twenty years? Are you going to do this thing and make this unfair agreement for the next twenty years? It has been stated that this thing has been three or four years under consideration. More shame for you. If I were on the other side of the House I would be ashamed to confess such a thing. There is nothing in it but what aims at paying dividends of thirty or forty or fifty per cent. which will come out of the pockets of the people of this country. As I have already pointed out this session, you will find men on the other side of the House ever ready to get up and defend the moneyed interests and we find men to defend those resolutions. Why? Because the money interests are behind them. You do not find them pleading for a reduction in the prices of articles of food or freight grabbing. We have not heard a word from the other side of the House against the man who has placed $5.00 a barrel on flour and took it from the poor people who had to buy flour this spring. I have not heard a voice raised against those, but now we find men ready to defend these Resolutions, which will make gilt-edged shares probably worth about fifty per cent. more because you will assure them good dividends for the next twenty years. I am sincere in this matter. I would be only too glad to support any resolution that you bring in to encourage any industry, but there must be reason in the proposals. When that bill was before us last sitting in connection with the

Bay of Islands contract we did not object. I had gone over the correspondence and tenders, having taken the trouble to take the papers tabled home and perused them when most of you were in bed. I certainly came to the conclusion that the contract was a most suitable one. If Mr. Downey were in the House now I would congratulate him for his efforts, energy and fairness in connection with the the contract because to him I attribute whatever good is in it. He has protected the people and has not allowed any contractor to get any undue profit or secure any unfair advantage.

Now, what I ask is that steps be taken to alter that resolution. It is not right for you to bind future Governments. If we have an election this Fall and we put a policy before the people including a reduction on woolen goods, and the people return us, do you think any private interest, no matter what it may be,should prevent us from carrying out the wishes of the people in that respect. If you go to the polls and beat us, all right. You can then carry out your own policy; but if we come back, leave us free to carry out the wishes of the people. It is quite right what the Premier said that certain taxes must be raised. We know that expenditure must be met, but then there are other directions in which these taxes could be raised. We all know how necessary it is that people in this kind of a climate should be able to procure clothing, to keep them warm. Is it not the duty of the Government to look after these things? It is better to tax other articles than to have a man shivering for want of clothing. There is many a dollar that could be raised for the revenue in other directions than on inside woolen clothing. Once more, I say that I hope that some one on the other side of the House will protest against this measure. We can do nothing more. If the Government intends to put this thing through it can only be prevented by some one on the other side of the House raising his voice in reasonable protest and asking that further consideration be given the matter. Now certainly there must be some with humane feelings on that side of the House and I trust they will prevent the Government from adding this crime to the many crimes they already have to answer for.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Chairman, I want to say one or two words in reply to the hon. member who just sat down. There is a remark that was made in the opening of his speech in which he accused me of stating that members on the other sdie of the House were treating this matter from a partisan standpoint. He must have misunderstood me or the meaning of my remarks. I never accused any member on that side of the House or any side of the House of treating any subject from a partisanship spirit because I think it is the duty of every member who sits in this House to arise on any occasion and treat any subject according as his conscience or judgment dictates. Because a man belongs to this party or that, to the Government or the Opposition, does not deprive him of his liberty of speech or his liberty of voting on any subject in any way he thinks fit. That is the principle that I have always maintained and I think it is a sound one. Now another remark made this afternoon to which I take exception was when he said that men got up on this side of the House and pleaded for these institutions or companies because of the interest they had in them.

Mr. COAKER—No, I did not say because of the interest you had in

them, but because of the interest you had in their shareholders.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Your remarks were ambiguous. They were capable of the construction that members on this side of the House were interested in these companies.

MR. COAKER—I do not know that any member on that side of the House has one cent interest in these companies.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I want to put myself on record because I think that outside of the Prime Minister and myself no other member on the Government side has spoken on this subject. I want to put myself on record that I have not any interest one way or the other in the Riverside Co., or the Knitting Mills Co. I have never had a dollar in them nor do I expect to have a dollar in them. I think I should be subject to the discipline of the House if I were to get up and introduce a resolution in connection with anything in which I had a personal interest. I would not vote on a matter in which I was personally interested. There has been an occasion in this House when matters were before the House when I would not attend at the debate because I happened to have some special interest in the matter then before the House. I am not even interested in the people who are shareholders in this business. They are not even friends of mine. The individuals who are associated with these resolutions and agreements are not friends of mine and I have very little to thank them for so far as my interests are concerned, because I have been interested in industries, one of which was practically wiped out and I have never received from the country or the Government or anybody else one cent redress for what I lost. I took it that it was the will of the people and that that particular industry should no longer exist and that was sufficient for me. Probably some of the people who are interested in these industries were instrumental to a great extent in bringing that about. Therefore, I can hardly conceive my being interested in putting forward their interests. I am more interested in the country and in the employment of the people and in getting employment for those who could not work at any other work. Where would St. John's be to-day but for the industries that have sprung up in the last twenty years. It saved St. John's, because every one of us, including the hon. member for Twillingate, can look back when many of the men of St. John's spent most of their time around the street corners and many of their families were in absolute poverty because the men were only earning about seventy cents a day, picking up a day's work, now and again, rolling flour and shovelling coal and such like. That has all passed away. These men have gone to work. The homes to-day are in a much better position than they ever were before and that is due to a great extent to the employment given the girls and boys and men in these factories. Why, in many cases to-day the best breadwinner is the girl of the family. She very often brings home more returns than her brother or her father and it would be an inspiration if members of the House could go up to the Knitting Mills and see the clean employment provided there and see the wages that the girls bring home to their families every Saturday. It is not the men to-day who are earning all the money in St. John's. The women are earning a great deal of it and that is due to the opportunities they have to obtain decent, clean and honorable employment, and anything I can do to foster that effort I will gladly do it, because I

think it is my duty to do anything that will make for the happiness and prosperity of our people. It is not true that the tax of 35% is an injustice on our people. If those Knitting Mills were not there those taxes would still have to be borne and our people would be paying 35% on imported goods. The 35% is merely to give protection for these industries against overflowing competition from outside. I daresay, hon. members will appreciate the fact that in pre-war days these industries in Canada and the United States marketed their overflowing output in this country at lower prices. We cannot expect people to invest capital in industries in this Colony while subject to that competition.

MR. COAKER.—Can't you protect them with a guarantee?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Your guarantee should not be given in connection with an industry that is liable to come to disaster and wherein you will have to pay an indemnity. The trouble about industries in this country is that the market is so narrow that we cannot get people to invest money because of the limited field for the conduct of their business and because as I have already pointed out, the overflowing products from very large industries in Canada and the United States. Naturally, in any contract there are features that may be objectionable. I did not say that this contract is perfect. I do not say that the Government have everything on their side any more than the other parties have everything on their side. It always takes two to make a bargain. I want to emphasize the fact that as far as having any personal interest in these resolutions, that is totally incorrect. In view however of the late hour I beg to move that the Committee rise.

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.

TRUSTEES BILL.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act of 1898." was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER.—This deals with section 51 of the Trustees Act 1898. The matter was brought to the notice of the Attorney General that it was necessary to make some slight alterations in the law dealing with compensation for Trustees. Sec. 51 is as follows: The bill really says that the word "Shall" shall be substituted instead of the word "May". Formerly the Court decided what was a reasonable amount but in any case they never exceeded 5%. But this bill was drafted on the same lines and following the enactments on the subject in Nova Scotia. The Act was submitted to the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General had several consultations with the Chief Justice about the matter, and the result is embodied in this bill.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of Minister of Agriculture and Mines for year ending June 30th 1916, together with detailed departmental reports and returns.

NEW BILLS.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Bonds issued under "The Loan Act 1916."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 3 George V. Chapter 10, relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation."

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday next, 11th inst., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, June 11, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Moreton's Harbor, asking for a grant of money to make a road over a hill at that place. I have particular knowledge of the need that this petition sets forth, and I have very much pleasure in giving it my support. I also ask leave to present a petition from Chance Harbor and Bridgeport, asking for a grant. A line road was constructed there some years ago, but it has fallen into disrepair owing to there being no regular grant to keep it up. The petitioners ask that a regular grant be allocated for this road, so that it may be kept in repair. I ask that these petition be received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Burnt Head, asking for the inauguration of a daily mail service at that place. At the present time the service is tri-weekly, though the number of people who reside at Burnt Head warrants a daily service. There are a number of other localities with a smaller population who have a daily service, and I think the Government should in fairness give Burnt Head the same advantage as these other places. At the present time the mail goes to within two miles of the settlement, to a place called Cupids, and it would merely mean an expenditure of an additional $40 or $50 a year to the Courier's salary to have the service inaugurated. I trust that the Government will give due consideration to the request of the petitioners, and I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. ABBOTT.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Hollett's Cove and Squid Tickle, asking for telephone connection, and also that Squid Tickle be made a port of call for the Dundee. These matters are absolutely necessary and need immediate attention by the Government. The petition is very largely signed by the inhabitants of those two settlements, and I have very much pleasure in according it my support. I ask that it be rereceived and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Little Catalina, in the district of Trinity, asking that a sum of $200.00 be allocated for the purpose of building a farm road. There are quite a number of people at Little Catalina who are greatly interested in agriculture, and many of them are interested in this road. I trust that the Government will do all in its power to accede to the request of the petitioners. The petition is signed by John Dalton, the Chairman of the Road Board, and a number of others. I hope that the matter will not be overlooked. It is a very important one to the people down there, and I think that the Government should take it up immediately.

I have another petition which perhaps it would be as well for me to read to the House, as it not only deals

with matters pertaining to the district of Trinity, but the district of Placentia and St. Mary's is also concerned. (Reads petition). Now, a petition of a like nature was presented last year, and I think the Government promised to have the matter attended to and a station put at Come By Chance. I hope that this matter will receive every consideration at the hands of the Government. There is no place there at which freight can be stored. There is no kind of shelter there for travellers, and it is time that something were done in this respect. I ask that the petition be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker. It will be within the memory of the House that petitions similar to that which has just been presented have come before it during the past few years. The inadequacy of railway facilities in that section is notorious, particularly as regards the storing of freight at Come By Chance. The Colonial Secretary might tell us how the matter stands. I think last year he took it up with the railway company, but nothing has been done to remedy conditions. This is a particularly important matter and a large number of settlements are interested. I would ask the hon. members for Placentia to emphasize the need which exists in this connection at the present time.

MR. DEVEREAUX.—Mr. Speaker. As has been stated here already, the House was asked last year to do something in relation to these stations. They have, I think, been placing some along the line but have not finished them, and unfortunately Come-By-Chance is one of those which has not been finished. I have been given to understand that the work has been done as rapidly as circumstances will permit, and there are circumstances which have delayed it, particularly the making of such improvements as were outlined. There are one or two stations in my own district which are unfinished, such as Villa Marie—and others—Sound Island has the steamer and utilizes her more than any other conveyance, and therefore the need is not so great for the people of Bay Bulls Arm. Nevertheless I coincide with the remarks made by the honorable leader of the opposition in relation to this petition.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Speaker. I might say that when this petition was under consideration last session I wrote the Reid Nfld. Co. strongly endorsing the petition and asking them to give the matter their immediate consideration. I received a reply which gave me to understand that the matter had been taken in hand, and as I heard no further from them until this moment I was under the impression that it had been dealt with. I will immediately take the matter up again, and insist on their having it attended to.

MR. TARGETT.—Mr. Speaker. I beg to present a petition from Winterton in the district of Trinity, asking for an extension of a road. I may say that the inhabitants of this place number about a thousand or over. They are a very industrious people and would like to do all they can with regard to agriculture, and they have a lot of land, but they can't get to and from it without an extension of the road. There are about 114 people interested in this road, and I trust the Government will see its way clear to grant the amount of money asked for to do the work.

MR. TARGETT.—I beg to present a petition from the people of Hant's Harbor asking that the road leading to Custard's Head be repaired. Last year a high tide washed this road away right in to the cliff. I daresay some of the members of this House

are aware that the South Side of Hant's Harbor is a very hilly place, and the roads leading down are very narrow. Last year owing to the high tides the road was washed away, and the people find it very difficult to get a road there owing to shortage of money. The grant is not sufficient to repair this road, and therefore the petitioners are asking for $100,00 if possible, to do the work. I trust the Government will see its way clear to grant $100.00, and I would refer the petition to the Board of Works.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Speaker. I have much pleasure in supporting the petition.

MR. WOODFORD.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of the South Shore of Conception Bay, asking that a country road be constructed from the main road, the locality to be selected by the people. or Road Board. They ask that a thousand dollars be granted for this purpose. There is plenty of valuable agricultural land, turf, bogs of all descriptions, and timber in that neighborhood, and if a road were constructed this valuable land would be available. The people are a very industrious class and deserve this concession, and with the high price of coal have not sufficient fuel in the winter months to keep their homes warm. Therefore, this road would be a great boon to them. The petition is very largely signed, and I trust that when the time comes round the Government will see its way clear to grant a portion, at any rate, if not the full amount. I have much pleasure in giving this petition my hearty support, and beg to refer it to the Department of Public Works.

MR. DEVEREAUX.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of St. Albans, Bay d'Espoir, Fortune Bay on the subject of the Beaver Laws. The petitioners ask to be allowed to kill beavers from the first of October until 1st December in each year. The reasons for this request is that they do not fish, but are engaged in the Fur Trade and lumbering consequently have not the chance of procuring high prices for their products as the fishermen do in regard to fish. The fur and lumber trades have not improved very much, and petitioners find it difficult to live owing to the very high prices of food and the cost of living in general. I have much pleasure in giving my hearty support to the prayer of the petition and ask that it be placed in the Department to which it relates.

REPORT TABLED.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of Public Schools under Salvation Army Boards to Dec. 31st, 1916.

HOSPITAL BILL.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Act 6 George V. Chapter 10 entitled "An Act Respecting the General Hospital."

Mr. Halfyard gave notice of question.

Mr. Coaker gave notice of question.

Mr. Clift gave notice of question.

LOAN BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting bonds issued under 'The Loan Act 1916" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

R. C. EPISCOPAL CORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to amend 3 George 5 Chapter 10, relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation." was introduced

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

QUESTIONS.

MR. GRIMES asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House statements of (a) the number of reels of moving pictures the Board of Censors have passed for exhibition here since their appointment. (b) The number of reels they have refused to be exhibited here and why; (c) What standard they use in censoring reels. (d) To table all reports which have been made to the Government by this Board; (e) To table a report of their method in censoring the moving picture shows generally; (f) To say if any complaint has been made to the Board re any picture, and if anything has been done as a result.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In reply to the question regarding censorship of moving pictures, I may say that after the passage of the bill last year a board of censors was appointed, consisting of Dr. Fraser, Mr. Chas. Hunt, and the late Mr. Kennedy. They were appointed and given power to censor moving pictures, but until recently, since the death of Mr. Kennedy I have had no communication whatever with the board. They did not make any report, and they did not make any regulations, and they evidently did not take up the work in a regular systematic way. A few days ago I received a letter from Mr. Hunt asking that regulations be passed regarding the powers of the Board to engage help and to organize a system for the censoring by the Board of these pictures. I have not had an opportunity of discussing this matter so far, but hope in a very short time to have the matter taken up and some system inaugurated. In their letter they say that during the past year there have been only one or two pictures to which any objection could be raised, but under the proposed regulations there will be a strict censorship kept and a regular record made of anything objectionable I don't think I can add anything further. There was no correspondence, and no records, and the board has evidently up to the present not given the matter the attention desired, but no doubt every attention will be given in the future.

MR. GRIMES asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement of the monies expended by the Government in connection with the Citizens' Coal Committee and the Coal Problem of January, 1916, and a note of any outstanding and anticipated expenditure, if any.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE & CUSTOMS—The answer is being prepared.

TRUSTEES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act of 1898."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: Under this Act it is proposed to confer on the Judges of the Supreme Court the power of dealing with compensation to be allowed trustees. Under section 51 of The Trustees Act 1898, there is provision by which trustees may be allowed such compensation for their services as may appear to the Court to be just and reasonable. Under this section it is doubtful what the powers of the Court are and what the Judges would do under certain circumstances. This Bill is the result of several conferences between the Judges and the Attorney-General; and I believe that its

adoption would set all doubts upon this question at rest.

The following is the section proposed to be substituted for section 51 of the Trustees' Act 1898:

1.—Section 51 of The Trustee Act, 1898, is hereby repealed and the following is substituted therefor:—

51. (1).—Trustees as defined by this Act may be allowed, over and above all actual and necessary expenses, such remuneration as may appear to the Court or a Judge thereof to be adequate to their services, and the Court or Judge may apportion such remuneration among trustees as may appear just, according to the labour bestowed or the responsibility incurred by them respectively. The total remuneration shall not exceed one twentieth of the realized value of the assets. Where all the assets shall not have been realized, the Court or Judge may either order further realization or allow remuneration in respect or the unrealized part to any sum less than one twentieth of the value thereof.

(2).—Where an estate is less than $1,000 in value, the Court or Judge may allow such remuneration as it shall think adequate.

2.—Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the compensation of the Registrar of the Supreme Court when acting as a trustee shall be governed by the Rules of the Court.

There is a special power under the Trutsees' Act by which the Judges have authority to make certain rules dealing with matters in which the Registrar of the Court becomes official trustee or the trustee appointed by the Court. I beg to move the adoption of this Bill.

Section 1 read and adopted.

Section 2 read.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Government why the Judges have merely power to allow compensation under this Bill and why it is not made imperative.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman, except as regards the limitation of the amount to be allowed as compensation, this section is practically the same as section 51 of the Trustees Act, 1898. The first Bill suggested that it be made imperative by inserting the word "shall," but now it is the same as the section under the '98 Act, except that there is a limitation of the amount of compensation to be allowed. I know the Judges have carefully considered it and have been discussing it for the past fortnight.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman, I thank the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Government for his explanation. Might I ask him to defer the further consideration of this Bill until to-morrow?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Certainly.

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 motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on to-morrow.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the

House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "Ant Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman, when the Rt. Hon. the introducer of this Bill gave notice of his intention to bring it in a few days ago, I asked him if he would be good enough to allow it stand over until I could have the opportunity of ascertaining what the practice was in Canada in reference to Fire Insurance Companies making such returns there. Since then I have obtained the information desired and I find that in Canada, while the Dominion Government does not require Companies to make such returns, yet generally speaking, in the various Provinces they are required to make returns to the Provincial Governments, and in that way the total losses that are paid throughout the whole Dominion are ascertained by the authorities. There are I find certain Insurance Companies doing business in Canada as well as in Newfoundland which are not regularly licensed Companies or which are not represented by agents. That is to say they do not hold licenses under the Provinces or under any authority in Newfoundland, but come in and affect insurances direct and not through agents. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that there ought to be in this bill a provision by which persons who are insured in these unrepresented Companies should be required to make the return of the loss. There are now some forty other companies doing business in St. John's or represented in St. John's and doing business, but we know that there are a number of Companies whose head office may be in New York or London, who are doing business in St. John's or other parts of Newfoundland, but who have no agent here, and I think some provision ought to be made in this bill whereby persons insuring in those Companies would be bound to make the required returns to the Constabulary Department. Unless there is some provision in the bill requiring the insured to make returns, there may be quite a few losses occurring in this city or in any town in the Island that would not be reported at all. I would also point out how manifestly unfair it is that these outside Companies who do not appoint agents here should be permitted to come in and do insurance business without being obliged to pay the same fees and taxes that the ordinary licensed Companies do. It is a manifest injustice to the Companies that pay taxes to have other Companies unrepresented by agents come in and write up business without paying any taxes. I submit that any return made under this Act whereby the Companies would show the amount of their losses every year would on the face of it be misleading. Not misleading so far as the statement is concerned, but misleading to the general public. The Companies may show, for instance, the total of their premiums received in one year to be, say, $400,000, and the losses may appear to be about $100,000. That would look as if the Companies had made a profit of $300,000, that would only be for that particular year. The next year they might be either one way or the other. There may be a profit and there may be a loss, and unless one had some means of procuring the total premiums and losses for a given number of years, say five or ten years, and make an average, he would be unable to estimate the profit or losses made during these given years. I thought possibly that one of the objects of this Bill was to bring about some means by which Insurance Companies

should be induced to lower their rate of premiums, and every measure having such an object I would be only too pleased to support. I think I could speak for Insurance Companies generally if I should say that the desire of the Fire Insurance Company is to do business at a lower rate. A Company would accept business at a low rate rather than it would at a high, for the reason that the lower the rate the smaller the risk. The desire of Companies always is to do everything they can to so improve the class of risk as to bring down the rate to the lowest possible figure and make the risk as small as possible. It is not a wise thing always to be legislating in reference to Inurance Companies, unless one has before him all the reasons why such legislation should be brought in and unless one is prepared to bring before the Legislature some expert knowledge as to the effect of such legislation. Now I have in my mind at the present moment, legislation that was passed here some nine years ago in relation to Life Insurance Companies whereby Life Insurance Companies were required to deposit with the Government a certain reserve before they could receive a license to do business, and they were required to add annually to that reserve as business increased.

Presumably that was done for the protection of policy holders in Newfoundland. The policy holders in Newfoundland, naturally, when such a law was passed would think that under that law they were getting protection against the insolvency of these Life Insurance Companies. Now, I do not think that was the fact at all. I do not think that any such protection was given them because if it was given them and if the policy holders in this country were protected to the extent of the reserve that is being put up by this country, then some of the policy holders in some other part of the world where the Companies may be doing business must suffer to that extent of such deposit. If the Newfoundland policy holders were made preferential to policy holders in other places, then there is something rotten about a system that places one class of policy holders in a better position than other classes. However, I mention that incidentally, because it shows how careful one should be in dealing with matters of this kind. It is a matter that I felt very keenly about at the time, because I had a personal interest, inasmuch as it meant the withdrawal from this Colony of a Company for which I was agent and it also meant the withdrawal from this country of several other large Life Insurance Companies.

So far as this measure is concerned I have no objection to offer to it. I am sure that Insurance Companies in general will be only too pleased to furnish the desired statement for the information of the police. The only objection there would be is the possibility of the figures getting into the hands of persons who may not know their true significance and who may have created in them wrong impressions as to the profits of any Company doing business in the Colony. Of course, we know that no Insurance Company would continue very long in business if it were doing business at a loss any more than a company doing other business.

This is not a measure, however, designed for any other purpose than that affording information for the benefit of the police authorities, but at the same time I would like to bring under the notice of the House and the Committe the fact that while the Bill calls for Companies having agents here to furnish these statements, yet it makes no provision to get a statement from a large number of Companies that are doing business

without agents. I think it would be desirable if a section were drafted in the Act requiring persons insuring in Companies not represented by agents here, to make a return of their losses. It would have a beneficial effect and do justice to the Companies which are represented by agents here.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman, I think the proposal of the hon. member is a very good one and the Bill would be far from complete if the amendment which he suggests were not inserted. I was not aware until he spoke that there was any Company doing business in the Colony that had not a resident agent.

MR. CLIFT—Quite a number.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—The object of this Bill to a great extent would be frustrated and destroyed if we did not get at these people, in fact at every one doing business; and with a view of carrying out that suggestion I will ask the Committee to rise in order that a section may be drafted to meet the suggestion so that we may have a return which will embrace all the insurance in operation in this country.

The hon. member referred to the fact that this Bill does not deal with the question of insurance rates; in this he is quite correct and it may not be out of place if I said one or two words in relation to that matter. I am very pleased to hear one who is so thoroughly familiar with Fire Insurance and Life Insurance speak in favour of a reduction of rates. There is no doubt about it that people in this country, not alone in St. John's but all over the Island, are paying very high rates as compared with other cities and other countries. Now a very small reduction in the present rates would be appreciated, and the whole expenditure of recent year as regards improved water service for the purpose of increasing our fire fighting powers would be met if we had a small reduction. Within the last fifteen years we have expended some hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve the water service at St. John's, and concurrently with this our fire insurance premiums have advanced. I do not know what the figures are, but I should be very much surprised if the Companies doing business within the Municipality did not collect somewhat in the neighbourhood of four hundred thousand dollars a year in premiums.

MR. CLIFT—That is the total collection for the whole Island.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Well, assume that they collect three hundred thousand dollars within the Municipality. A reduction of ten per cent would be thirty thousand dollars, and that would more than pay the interest on the total expenditure for our fire improvement water service. It is quite true that there is nothing in this Bill dealing with that matter. It is not possible to have anything in it. The only way a reduction in our insurance rates will be effected is by bringing home to the insurance companies, as our citizens are now endeavouring to do, the advisability of making such a reduction Only a few months ago there was a public meeting called by the Mayor of St. John's in the Board of Trade and we had a report made in the presence of the Board of Fire Underwriters, Insurance Agents and I think some parties who were here at that time endeavouring to outline the improvements recently made in the fire risk here in the Municipality. I think it was then contemplated that we might ask for a reduction of twenty-five per cent.; but up to the present time nothing has been done. It would be inadvisable to do anything here in this class of legislation; because it is one of these matters that would have to be fixed to a great degree by negotiation. We cannot drive these

Companies out until we get other Companies in here to replace them, and reputable Companies at that. Every one must remember the fire of 1892 when the whole of the East End of St. John's went up in smoke. On that occasion we had a loss of about twelve million dollars and we only recovered about five million dollars insurance. One Company alone, I think the Phoenix, paid something like half a million dollars. Rates at that time were nothing as high as they are to-day. The same may be said to a certain extent of the outports. There, of course, the risk is a little different; because only in a few of the principal outports have we any water service, but even there it must be remembered that owing to the isolated detached character of the houses, hardly any two being together, the risk of a general conflagration is practically nil; and I think if the insurance Companies would look at the thing from the really equitable standpoint they would not demand such high rates in the outports. I never remember, outside of St. John's, Hr. Grace and Carbonear, anything in Newfoundland for the last hundred years approaching what may be termed a conflagration. In one or two cases there have been an amount of property destroyed; but as I said the houses do not join each other in the outports, nearly every man being his own proprietor on his own land. There were one or two other matters referred to that do not require any reply and I shall be glad to have a section drafted dealing with the suggestion of the honourable member by making it illegal for any one to transact business in this Colony without an Agency or else to have the definition of the word "Company" embrace any person transacting insurance business and calling upon them to furnish returns. I think that would be preferable to doing anything to drive out the Companies. I think the more Companies we get the better. Competition amongst various companies always brings reduced rates. Even though they have no agency here I think without doubt it would be better to have them here. I think none of these resolutions can affect companies doing business here.

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

CURRENCY BILL.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Currency." was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Owing to the shortage of silver coin of the Colony application was made to the Treasury authorities in London some few months ago for a new issue. As it was decided to add a new coin, the twenty-five cent piece, a new Proclamation by His Majesty was necessary. The last Proclamation was in 1870. In 1895 our present law was passed, making the British sovereign worth four dollars, eighty-six and two-third cents, instead of four dollars and eighty cents, as formerly, but no Proclamation was issued by the Crown at that time. Evidently it was an omission. As is well known especially to the trade, there has been of late a very great shortage of silver here, notwithsanding the fact that nearly one million dollars of silver has been imported within the last twenty years. We were unable to procure any new coinage in England, owing to the war conditions, and we had to fall back on

having it done at the Mint at Ottawa. When I was in London this winter, I took this whole matter up with the Treasury, and they pointed out that though there is some difference in weight between the Canadian and Newfoundland silver, it was so slight as to be of little or no importance, especially as silver coins are only tokens and are not like gold coins, whose bullion value is equal to their mint value. The difference, however, was sufficient to prevent the coins being minted at Ottawa without new dies or apparatus. As it was more convenient to have the silver minted at Ottawa than at London, the Treasury advised that the weights be made uniform, that is, that the Newfoundland coins be made equal to the Canadian. For example, the Canadian fifty cent piece contains 180 grains of silver. The Newfoundland fifty cent piece ought to contain 179 grains and a fraction, according to the Act of 1895, and should have contained 181 grains and a fraction under the earlier law. The issue of the fifty cent piece just minted and at present in circulation, contains 180 grains exactly, the same weight as the Canadian coin.

In order to overcome these difficulties, some slight changes in our local Act of 1895 were suggested, and the present Bill incorporates these changes and replaces the old law. In reality, however, it is a substantial re-enactment of the 1895 Act, with important changes and improvements, nearly all of which have been suggested by the Treasury. Otherwise the changes in the Bill are practically verbal, except in Sec. 11, wherein it is made an offence to counterfeit bronze or copper coins, as well as gold or silver, and in Sec. 4 power is taken to use other materials than bronze or metals, in order to provide for the coinage of nickel if the Colony should desire at any time to do so. This latter amendment is suggested by the Treasury. The Bill was to have come into operation on March 29th, as His Majesty issued the Order-in-Council, authorizing the new coin, on March the 30th.

I now propose to explain to the House, section by section, the exact changes in the law, and the meaning of the various sections of the Bill now before the Legislature.

Section (1) No change.

Section (2) The word "gold" is inserted in the first line before "sovereign," and the words "shall continue to be legal tender without limit." These words may be regarded as surplusage, but they make the law absolutely clear, they have been a legal tender under the old law, and this is continued, and the words "without limit" are added for the purpose of strengthening the legal meaning.

Section (3) Embraces sections 3 and 4 of the old Act, with the addition of the words "bronze coins" and the words "shall continue," as in the preceding section.

Section (4) This is new and is suggested by the Treasury, and replaces Section 7 of the old Act.

Section (5) The only change in this is that "Order-in-Council" is suggested as a better phrase than "proclamation." This, too, is suggested by the Treasury. The words "this Colony" are suggested instead of "Newfoundland," and "without limit in this Colony" are also new and make the meaning clearer. The word "divisions" instead of "halves" is used, as there are $2.50 American gold pieces.

Section (6) The only change here is "Order-in-Council" instead of "Proclamation."

Section (7) New, suggested by Treasury. It simply means that our gold, silver, copper and bronze coins heretofore imported into this Colony shall continue, and shall pass current and shall be legal tender.

Section (8) Suggested by Treasury. At any time other coins may be issued by the Treasury of any other metal. It is intended principally to cover nickel coinage should that ever be decided upon.

Section (9) Provides that no gold, silver, copper or bronze, except it be English, United States or our own gold, shall be legal tender in Newfoundland.

Section (10) New, suggested by Treasury. Replaces section 11 of old Act, simply deals with coins that have been illegally dealt with.

Section (11) Same as old law.

Section (12) Same as old law.

MR. LLOYD—I support the second reading of this measure. There seems to be very little difference between the proposed bill and the law as it now stands. It is merely a matter of changing the value of the gold sovereign from $4.80 to $4.86 2/3, and of making an adjustment of silver and bronze coins which was omitted to be made in 1898.

MR. COAKER—Will this clash with the War Measures which made Bank notes legal tender?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—In no way.

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

COPYRIGHT BILL.

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

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker: This Bill is introduced for the purpose of providing the necessary local machinery to carry out the Copyright Act which was passed here some years ago. It will be remembered that the Imperial Act was approved of and passed into law here, I think in 1912. The Bill that we have now before us is submitted to the House for approval at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The first section provides:

(Quotes section.)

That and the sections which follow will be in substitution for sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Imperial Act. The following section deals with the procedure of the Minister of Finance and Customs. Section 3 provides that all the powers conferred on the Board of Trade by the Imperial Act, shall be vested in the Governor-in-Council. That is really the whole bill. I presume there is no objection to it.

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

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM CONTRACT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the bill entitled "An Act Ratifying a Contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

The remaining orders were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, June 12th.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. DEVEREAUX—I beg to present a petition from the residents of Point Verde, in the District of Placentia and St. Mary's, for a sum of money for the purpose of building a bridge on the Glendons Cove Road and one or two other places. The

sum asked for is two hundred dollars. This petition is largely signed, amongst the names being those of W. F. O'Reilly, Magistrate of Placentia; Patrick Breen, Jas. Breen and Thos. Rowe. These roads are very useful indeed, and two of them are fishery roads which the people use in early morning before daylight to get to their boats. Therefore, it is very necessary that these roads be kept in proper condition, and this bridge is an important one. It is actually out of repair for more than two years, and I trust the House will give the matter the serious consideration it deserves. I beg to refer the matter to the Dpartment of Public Works.

MR. MORRIS—I have much pleasure in supporting the petition. I know the locality mentioned, and I know the desirability of having these roads kept in good condition. The road referred to is, I think, the one that the public must travel over when going to Point Verde Light House. If the bridge over the river is not built the Light House will be isolated. I trust in view of the importance of the repairs asked for that the amount will be allocated by the Board of Works without unnecessary delay.

MR. WALSH—I, too, have very much pleasure in supporting this petition, and hope that it will not be, like very many petitions brought into this House, subjected to a brief inspection and then find its way to the waste basket.

MR. WINSOR—I beg to present a petition from the residents of Salvage Bay in the District of Bonavista, for a sum of money to build the middle of a road. This road has two ends and no middle. Some twenty years ago there was a good road there, but since then it had to be abandoned. The beach has been used for a road since then. The beach is now washed out somewhat, and now the sea flows into the bank, and the people can't get along there. The road is also very convenient for getting manure from the beach. The petitioners ask for $500 for this road, and I trust the Government will allocate this amount for it.

MR. CLIFT—I beg to present a petition form Josiah Goodyear and others in Grand Falls, asking for an allocation of $250 for the purpose of repairing and extending the road at the settlement near the Station. This is an agricultural settlement, and the people are very badly off for roads. I have very much pleasure in recommending the prayer of the petitioners, and I know the great necessity there is for repairs to roads in that locality as well as the opening up of new roads. I would also ask leave to present a petition from Herring Neck, in the District of Twillingate, asking for $350 for the purpose of repairing the public wharf there. Also, a petition from James M. Rideout of Northwest Arm, Green Bay, which place is now called Burlington, asking for a sum of money for repairing roads in that locality. The petition sets out that the amount now granted for that purpose is altogether insufficient and I hope the Government will be able to grant the prayer of the petition. I would ask that these petitions be received and referred to the several departments to which they relate.

GENERAL HOSPITAL BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Act 6 George V. Chapter 10, entitled 'An Act Respecting the General Hospital," was introduced and read a fist time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

QUESTIONS.

MR. HALFYARD asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs what became of the confiscated goods

held by the Customs at Belleoram and taken from a schooner last winter,commanded by Captain Fudge. If sold, who purchased, and at what prices. Also to table an itemized statement of all goods confiscated and all correspondence in reference to the matter with the Sub-Collector at Belleoram. Also, was the fine of four hundred dollars paid?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The answer is in course of preparation.

MR. COAKER asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier to lay on the table of the House a statement of the expenditure of all monies for the years 1915-1916 and from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917, on account of street widening at Carbonear.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—This will be tabled next sitting.

MR. COAKER asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of all expenditure of monies by the Herring Fishery Board for the years 1915-1916.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House a statement of all parties owing his Department fees on boilers to the amount of $390.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the Table of the House a detailed statement showing who owed $1,511.00 to Postal Telegraph Department at the end of June last, for messages.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This was tabled.

MR. COAKER asked the Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of all moneys paid from his Department for washouts for the years 1915-1916.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—This will be ready in a few days.

MR. COAKER asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of all moneys expended by the Board of Agriculture during the years 1915-1916, and from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—This is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the table of the House a statement showing to whom was $1,250,00 paid for signing bonds last year.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The answer is in course of preparation.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the Table of the House a detailed statement of all moneys expended on account of public health for the years 1915-1916, and from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of all money expended on account of tuberculosis for the years 1915-1916, also from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This is being prepared.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement showing death duties paid into the Treasury during the years 1915-1916, also from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The answer is in course of preparation.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of bounties paid for shipbuilding in the years 1915-1916, also

from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917, also a detailed statement of all money spent on account of s.s. Fiona for the years 1915-1916, and from July 1st, 1916, to May 31st, 1917.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is being prepared.

MR. CLIFT asked the Rt. Hon. the Premier if he can procure certified copies of the Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of the Riverside Woollen Mills, Ltd., and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Ltd., for the past two years, respectively, of each of the said companies' business years.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—This information will be available to-morrow.

MR. CLIFT asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if any goods have been admitted free of duty, either to the Riverside Knitting Mills Co., Ltd., or the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Co. under agreement recently entered into by the said Companies with the Government, and, if so, to lay a statement of same in detail on the table of the House.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—This also will be available to-morrow. All these returns are at the Department of Customs and will be tabled.

MR. CLIFT asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Custims to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of all expenditure made on account of the Dominion Royal Trades Commission up to the present date.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The answer is in course of preparation.

TRUSTEES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act of 1898."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to this Bill. The only objection there could possibly be is in that word "may." I would suggest that it be changed to "shall."

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 Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: In relation to this Bill—dealing with the returns to be made by Fire Insurance Companies—it was pointed out by the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Clift, that there was a class of insurance being carried on here by underwriters who live outside the Colony and who have no agents here; and to make this Bill operative and have it carry out the intention of those who proposed the legislation, it will be necessary to provide machinery by which these parties can be controlled. Under the first section of this Bill—defining the word "Company"—this class of underwriters is covered; but there is no machinery for taking proceedings against them in this Bill should they fail to furnish the information required. You will notice the definition in the Bill is as follows:

"1.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the word

"Company" means an incorporated Company, or an individual underwriter, or a firm or group or association of underwriters, transacting the business of insuring against fire the owners of property situate within this Colony."

That clearly embraces all classes doing insurance work in this Colony; but a failure to make the returns required by the 4th Section can only be dealt with where the Companies have agents here or are resident here; but it was thought that when this Act becomes law, the two or three companies who are doing business here will not seek to evade its provisions; and there will be no necessity for inserting in the Bill any powers to deal with them should they assume a contrary attitude. Of course one can understand that very different machinery would have to be inserted in the Bill in order to meet the default of foreign insurance companies who transact business in this Colony without any resident agent here or any company who is not represented here. I suggest to the hon. member as to whether he does not consider this proposal meets his objection; and if we find after the Bill is in force that information is not given, we can amend the Act to meet the case. If not, we will defer the further consideration of this Bill and have the necessary amendments made. I understand that there is very little insurance of the class referred to done in the Colony, except at Grand Falls and Bishop Falls, where, I understand, the whole of the plants in these places is insured outside the Colony by Companies who have no agents here, and with them it is a mere question of transmitting the policy and obtaining the premium. There are a few Companies here who are doing this sort of work on a small scale.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman, I have no desire to press for any amendments to be made to this Bill for the purpose of correcting the evils I have complained of; but I would point out to the Premier that the Companies that he referred to that are carrying insurance in Grand Falls and Bishop Falls are mutual companies who have no agents in this country; but there are other companies—regular insurance companies—who are transacting business in this City, covering considerable property on Water Street, and also other companies carrying on business covering property of the Anglo American Telegrapn Co. at Heart's Content and at other places. Perhaps it would not be convenient to deal with these companies during the present session; and I have no objection to the bill going through as it is.

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.

CURRENCY BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act Respecting the Currency."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question or two. Is it purposed to continue or abandon the coining of gold, and further, is it the intention to abandon coins of twenty cents value, and if so, are steps being taken to withdraw them?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman, I may say that no action

has been taken in relation to either. The chances are that the twenty-cent pieces will practically pass out of our currency. The question has not arisen.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, have you come to any decision?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—No.

MR. LLOYD—Do you intend to coin any more 20-cent pieces?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Even that has not been considered; but it requires some consideration, because in this country there are a great many things sold at twenty cents and this coinage is very convenient.

MR. LLOYD—However, you say there has been no decision on this matter?

RT. HON .PRIME MINISTER—No.

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.

COPYRIGHT BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend the Copyright Act, 1911."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman,a difficulty may arise under this section. (The section dealing with trial of offences before a Stipendiary Magistrate.) At the present time the public is suffering from the fact that we have no Stipendiary Magistrate in St. John's, and we have no knowledge when such a Magistrate may be appointed, perhaps never. A practical difficulty may arise here in the same way that a practical difficulty arose under the Prohibition Act.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I suggest that the section be altered to read, "a Stipendiary Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace."

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 to-morrow.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM CONTRACT BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act ratifying a Contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—Might I ask the Colonial Secretary if the care of the mail is committed to a person who is sworn, such as an official of the Post Office?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—In the case of steamers of this kind the mail is usually under the care of the Captain or the purser. The mail is not of sufficient magnitude to warrant the appointment of a special mail-carrier.

MR. LLOYD—I would suggest that provision be made that the mail be put in charge of a sworn carrier.

MR. COAKER—Are you going to allow people who are not sworn to carry these mails?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the enquiry of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I may say that I have communicated with the Postmaster General who says that these mails are usually in the

care of the purser who is sworn. He does this on behalf of the contractor who agrees under his contract to look after the mails, and he is sworn by the Postmaster General.

MR. LLOYD—I would move that the schedule be adopted in view of the fact that it has been considered while the House was in 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.

VOLUNTEER FORCE BILL.

Second reading of Bill, "An Act respecting the Volunteer Force of the Colony."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, I must ask that the second reading of this Bill be deferred until Monday. There is no question about the section dealing with the extension of the Act for another year, but there are one or two small matters under consideration by Committees, and they have not yet agreed upon them.

LOAN BILL.

Second reading of Bill, "An Act respecting Bonds issued under the Loan Act of 1916."

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, this bill is for the purpose of confirming the bonds issued under the Loan Act of 1916. It will be remembered that under that Act there was an authorization to raise $5,000,000 either in this Colony, England or the United States, to pay off an indebtedness to the Messrs. Glyn Mills Currie & Co., and an overdraft at the Bank of Montreal for $750,000. The whole of that $5,000,000 was raised last year in the United States, and after the money was raised the parties sent a special agent down here, who pointed out to the Government that it would be in the interests of those giving the money if we were to give them an Order in Council agreeing to confirm everything that had been done; and this Bill is for that purpose. It will be noticed that the Section says:

1.—The Order in Council, dated July fourth, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, made pursuant to the powers granted by the Loan Act, 1916, and authorizing the issue of bonds of the Colony in the aggregate principal sum of Five Million Dollars, and the bonds issued pursuant to the said Order in Council, are hereby in all respects ratified and confirmed: and the said bonds and all the provisions therein contained are hereby declared to be binding and legal obligations of the Colony according to their terms; and the obligations represented by said bonds and all payments in discharge thereof are and shall be exempt from all present and future taxes imposed by the Legislature, including any Newfoundland income tax.

Now, that was the provision asked for by the parties advancing this money, and it was thought by the Government that it would not be objectionable for the reason that it would be unlikely that any tax would be placed upon these bonds by the Legislature during the short period for which the loan would be current, namely, three years. The money was only raised for three years; one year has already passed; and the loan will be repayable at the end of another two. "And the payment of the interest and the principal thereof shall be made in time of war as well as of peace, and without consideration of the holder's nationality being that of a friendly or hostile state, and without requirement of any proof in

that regard."

I think it will be seen that these terms are not objectionable and are not unreasonable. It was pointed out to the Government that the giving of the order sought for would probably have the effect of enabling those who were floating the bonds to do a little better than they would otherwise be able to do, and in that way improve the credit of the Colony. We were really giving nothing, and there was no reason why we should not accede to their request. Of course, it was altogether unnecessary, and was entirely voluntary on the Government's part, as there was nothing in the loan agreement calling upon us to do anything of the sort. As a matter of fact, the loan had been raised without any preference whatever to this order; but the parties who were putting the loan on the market—"listing it," as it is termed—considered that this order would have the effect of improving the chances of getting a higher rate for the bonds, and, of course, of improving the Colony's credit. It was a new market for Newfoundland; we were practically unknown there; and it was thought desirable to take this step. This Bill now before us is for the purpose of carrying out and making legal the undertaking given by that Order in Council.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this reading be deferred in order that we may have an opportunity of studying the matter—looking into the Act of last year, the Order in Council, and the Bill now before the House. No doubt the Prime Minister will table the order?

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Certainly.

Second reading deferred accordingly.

R. C. CORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend 3 George V., Chap. 10, relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation," was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out on the first reading of the bill, it is merely to give the Corporation power to mortgage. At present I think they have that power, but there may be some doubt about it. They have the right to sell and to lease, but they desire also to have the power to mortgage their property if they so desire.

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

SUPPLY.

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

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

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, June 13th, 1917.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs tabled statement of Death Duties for year ending 30th June, 1915-1916 and for 11 months to May 31st, 1917.

Mr. Winsor gave notice of question.

SUPPLY.

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

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Cus-

toms, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS.— Mr. Chairman,—On the desk of every Hon. Member will be found a copy of the Estimates for the coming fiscal year. They show a grand total of $4,556,222.56, against $4,164,972.33 for the current fiscal year, this represents an increase of $391,250.23.

This increase may seem at first sight an unusually large one, but it is represented by charges, every one of which I have no doubt will be accepted by the House as entirely legitimate.

The first and the most important of these increases is a sum of $111,883.10 for additions to the salaries of the lesser officials of the Civil Service, a step rendered necessary by the increased cost of living. The Government has had countless appeals from Civil Servants of all classes for increases, but felt that, however deserving the claims of the higher officials for such relief, this could only be afforded, in the present circumstances of the Colony, to the poorer paid officials, and it fixed $1200.00 as the highest salary to come within this arrangement. Moreover, it planned this augmentation on a sliding scale, beginning with the poorest paid of all, that is to say the officials getting $200.00 or less, and to these we give an increase of 50%. In the front of the booklet on each Member's desk will be found a printed statement showing the scale, which is as follows:—

$ 200.00	50%	$100.00.
300.00	35%	105.00.
400.00	30%	120.00.
500.00	23%	115.00.
600.00	18%	108.00.
700.00	14%	98.00.
800.00	10%	80.00.
900.00	7%	63.00.
1000.00	5%	50.00.
1100.00		50.00.
1200.00		50.00.

The salary of every official in the Public Service coming within those classes will be found in its proper place, set out at the new figure, and it will, therefore, be unnecessary for me to make any further reference to them in this statement.

The total amount of these changes involve, as I have already said, roundly, $112,000.00.

For years past it has been a matter of much comment that the provision made for permanent and casual poor was insufficient, and as the burden of existence bears perhaps more heavily on them than any other class in the community, we decided this year to increase the vote of $135,000.00 by 50%, making it $67,500.00 more. In the same way we have added to the grant for the various Orphanages the sum of $6,280.00. Representations were made to us by the heads of the various denominations, asking for this amount,which is made up in this way. Hitherto the annual grant for each inmate of the Orphanages was $40.00. The Government was asked to make it $1.00 per week, or $52.00 per year, and the Government agreed to this proposal.

Hon. Members will readily admit, I think, that the task of maintaining growing boys and girls in these institutions on $1.00 a week from the State, and what may be derived from private sources, will not even now be an easy one. Similarly we augmented the vote for Charitable Societies by adding $1,000.00 to the grant for the Halifax Institute for the Blind, $200.00 to the Convalescent Home near the General Hospital, and $300.00 for Grand Bank Hospital. Hon. gentlemen will remember that representation was made from both sides of the

House for this increase for the blind school which means $250.00 each for our patients from this Colony, instead of $200.00. These items mean roughly an addition of $75,000.00 for Public Charities. The third large item in our increased Estimates of this year is one of $79,000.00 for Education. Each Member will find on his desk a printed copy of the Memorial presented to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council in January last by delegates from the Education Commit tees of the several denominations, setting out the claims of this service for increased financial aid, in order to render it really efficient, and the Government has granted the full amount asked for, with very slight modification, as follows: We reduced the vote for Administration from $3,000.00 to $1,000.00, feeling that if economy is to be practiced anywhere, it should be in this branch of the work, and we have increased the vote for building from $5,000.00 to $10,000.00. We have done this because when $10,000.00 is divided amongst the various denominations, it will not be much over $3,000.00 to the largest, and when this, at the present high cost of building material, has to be spread over a number of school buildings, it will not go very far. The amounts are as follows:

Education General	$37,000.00
Sparsely populated localities	10,000.00
Sup. or High Schools	3,000.00
Colleges	3,000.00
Pupil Teachers	3,000.00
Administration	1,000.00
Augmentation (essential) .	5,500.00
Augmentation, (sought) ..	6,500.00
Buildings	10,000.00

We shall be asking the House to vote a further War Loan of $1,250,000.00 which the Imperial Government has arranged to place temporarily at our disposal; this will involve an additional interest charge of about $60,000.00, but we are not asking for any additional provision for interest on this account, because the regular vote for interest, $1,420,558.88 includes an amount $64,112.67 that was short voted last year, and as there are loans unraised, the total interest of which will be $61,576.66, this unused sum will meet the interest on this new War Loan.

The next large item representing an increase of this year's Estimates, will be $60,000.00 for War Pensions. Up to the present claims for War Pensions have been made out of War Loans, but in as much as this will be a permanent liability, we propose to put it in the regular annual charges against the Colony. I have had an Estimate prepared by the Pensions and Disabilities Board, and it shows that we may count upon an outlay of $5,000.00 per month for the next fiscal year. The total outlay made by the Board for January was slightly over $4,000.00 and there will, of course, be steady additions to it as more injured and ailing soldiers return, and as the cases from the Navy come to be dealt with. So far the Admiralty is dealing with Naval cases, but under the arrangement by which we undertake to put the sailors on the same footing as the soldiers, adjustments in a lot of cases will have to be provided for.

"The Admiralty at present pays pensions to the widows of men who have died on Active Service, and makes allowance to other classes of dependents also. These amounts are supplemented by help from the Patriotic Fund under an arrangement by which the Pension Board will ultimately reimburse the Patriotic Fund for these outlays and regard them as payments on account of pensions. Meanwhile, the Pension Board is in correspondence with the Admiralty with a view to getting full information as to the number of cases with which the Ad-

miralty is dealing and the amounts which it is paying. Disabled naval men back from the war are being handled in the same way, and shortly it is hoped that the Pension Board may be able to begin the work of dealing on a definite basis with all the naval cases."

Hon. M. P. Cashin,
Queen's Road,
City.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose number and amount of Pensions as requested by you at last evening's meeting.

Widows, 17	$6,263.39
Orphans, 1	56.00
Soldiers, 224	15,564.73
	$21 884.12

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. C. OKE,
for Secretary.

There are certain salary increases by Minute of Council,the details of which I will be glad to give any Member who desires them as we go along. The first really important change in the Estimates, apart from the three or four outstanding votes already described in detail, relates to the Lighthouse Department, where in addition to salary increases of roughly $14,000.00, we have to provide some $20,000.00 addition for maintenance. Hon. Members will readily understand how this arises, the increased cost of all necessaries, fuel and light, and every item required for the upkeep of these places, showing a substantial advance in cost.

Under head of Marine and Fisheries, page 41, it will be seen that we make three increases, $5,000.00 in the grant for Game and Inland Fisheries, $3,150.00 for Fishery Board expenses, $3,450.00 for Cod Liver Oil expenses. I might explain that the vote of $15,000.00 now made for the Game and Inland Fisheries Board as against $10,000.00 last year, is in response to a very urgent representation by the Board that if this amount is not furnished, all the work done for years past will come to naught. In the years before the war this amount was realized by License Fees paid by hunters and fishermen from abroad, but since the war this source of revenue has been lost. The need for protection is, however, greater than ever before, because recent investigations by the Board have shown that our caribou are rapidly declining. The provision made for the Herring Fishery Board is necessary in order to give proper effect to our plans for carrying on this industry on the large scale that the war has made possible by opening to us great inlets in the American market. We will be partly reimbursed by the fees that will come back to us for Herring Fishery Inspection. The next vote for Cod Liver Oil Inspection stands on or about the same footing. I might add in connection with these votes that these services account for certain increases and new votes in the item of salaries for the Marine and Fisheries Department on page 7, namely, Mr. Dee, Inspector of Lobster Propagation, from $720.00 to $1,000.00; Mr. Badcock, Secretary of the Herring Fisheries Board, new vote, $1,000.00; Cod Liver Oil and Herring Inspector, Mr. Coil, $1,200.00; Cod Liver Oil Inspector, Mr. Siminson, $1,200.00; Mr. Morgan, Lobster Propagation and Herring Inspector, $1,000.00.

We next come to Postal and Telegraphs, page 53. This shows an increase of $46,000.00, of which in round figures one half is for increases in salaries along the lines already explained, and the balance made up as follows, $30,000.00 for mainten-

ance of Telegraph Lines, with some smaller items totalling $3,000.00, while on the other hand there is a reduction of $10,000.00, partly due to the withdrawal of the Allan steamers, which saves us nearly $16,000.00.

Our next vote is Customs, which shows an increase of $33,000.00, of which $23,000 is represented by salary additions, and $10,000.00 for Customs' Refunds.

Hon. gentlemen will observe the basis on which we have dealt with this question. We have tried to give greatest advance to the poorest paid officials, recognizing that a man with a salary of $200.00 has to find for himself and his family the absolute necessaries of life, just as the better paid official has, and that the latter is not entitled to a liberal provision of help from the State at this juncture, because many of the articles on which he will use the higher salary are articles on which he can economize, whereas nobody can economize, or can be expected to economize on the food and clothing absolutely necessary to keep body and soul together. For the same reason we have stopped at salaries over $1,200.00. While there is no doubt that some of the officials drawing over that amount cannot make the two ends meet, we have to remember on the other hand that the claims of the great mass of the civil servants are much more pressing, and that the same is true of men similarly circumstanced all over the country in private employment. The burden presses heavily mostly on those who have only $1.00, $2.00 or $3.00 per day to support their families. When a man gets $4.00 or more every working day, with the certainty of a pension at the end of his years of service, we feel that however much we may recognize that his claim is reasonable, we cannot give him any advance, when we remember the thousands of fishermen around the country who have to pay out of their hard earned dollars salaries which these officials enjoy.

In this brief review I have endeavoured to explain to the House the principal changes that have been made, and I am hopeful that they will meet with the acceptance of gentlemen on both sides. I propose now to rise the committee, and ask leave to sit again on Thursday, when I shall be prepared to make further explanations on any points about which more enlightenment is sought. I ask the committee to vote the several sums included in this volume. I move that the committee rise, and ask leave to sit again on Thursday.

MR. LLOYD—I do not want to delay the rising of the Committee, but I wish to ask a question which may be answered to-day or to-morrow. There is a scale upon which increases of salaries have been made; and I presume that it is upon this that the estimates are based. But the Minister has referred to increases made earlier by Minute of Council. Now, what I am asking is this, are these percentages given on the same basis to those who had increases during the year?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—In one or two cases where increases were made nearly a year ago there have been increases made according to schedule. There are only one or two cases and we will deal with them as we go along. The increases are based on the voted salaries of last year. In one or two cases during the year the Government gave increases of ten per cent. We did not figure this increase on the ten per cent., but on the voted salary of last year.

MR. LLOYD—There is quite a number of men who during the year have had increases of nineteen or twenty per cent.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—There are only one or two cases. The general principle is that the increase is based on the salary voted last year.

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.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Grimes asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House the name of the compiler of printed sheets of "Latest War News" sent to Postal Telegraph and Post Offices throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and also to state the total amount that has been paid from Jan. 1st, 1917, to May 31st, 1917, in connection with the same.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I may say that for the last two or three years, a daily message has been sent from Saint John's by telegram to different telegraph offices, which is compiled by Mr. McGrath, for which he receives $200 per annum. Some time ago Mr. Blackall made representations to the Patriotic Association that a great number of post offices at the more remote places, where news of any kind rarely reached, if a daily message was sent it would benefit the people and probably encourage recruiting. I was present at the meeting and undertook to make arrangements for the daily compilation of the war messages to be sent throughout the Island. I may say that up to the present time no claim for compensation has been made by Mr. McGrath, but which, I have no doubt, will be made upon the basis I have before referred to, viz., $200 per annum.

Mr. Halfyard asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary if it is the intention of the Governmnt to extend the Telegraph wires from Gander Bay to Musgrave Harbour via Carmanville and Ladle Cove. If so, what time will the work be started.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—The reply to this is embodied in the report made by the Postmaster-General, which has been tabled. The matter, I may say, is before the Government, but nothing has as yet been decided. I am unable to state what the decision of the Government on this question will be.

Mr. Halfyard asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if provision is being made in this Year's Estimates for the sum of two hundred dollars, for the ferryman's salary at Change Islands.

MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I may say that no provision has been made.

Mr. Abbott asked the Minister of Public Works to lay upon the Table of the House a copy of returns for one hundred dollars allocated from his department in the year 1913 to Mr. Thos. Blundon of Brooklyn, B.B.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—The reply to this question has been tabled.

Mr. Stone asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing (1) The number at present receiving the Old Age Pension in Trinity District, also give name and age of each person. (2) The number of applications for pensions which have not yet been granted. (3) The number put on the list since April, 1916, for Trinity District.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I believe that the hon. member has his answer on this question.

TRUSTEES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act, 1898," 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.

FIRE INSURANCE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies" 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.

CURRENCY BILL.

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

COPYRIGHT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Copyright Act 1912" 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.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM CONTRACT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the bill entitled "An Act Ratifying a contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands." 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.

WOOLEN AND KNITTING MILLS CONTRACTS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions relative to the confirmation of an agreement with the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd. and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.— When the House was last in Committee on these resolutions it will be remembered that certain objections were taken by hon. gentlemen on the other side to certain features in the resolutions then under consideration. In particular it was strongly represented that the duty of 35% on the manufacture of woolen goods should not continue in future and I at the time endeavoured to point out that the 35% duty then in existence was not placed on the tariff at the time these resolutions were formed but was a duty that had existed for some years previous and was the law of the land. One or two other exceptions were taken to the agreement and the committee before coming to a conclusion on the matter decided to rise in order to give the matter further consideration. Now since that time I have had an opportunity of discussing the matter more fully with members of the government and it is my hope that the amendments which I propose

to lay before the Committee this afternoon will meet with the desires of the Opposition and their full acceptance.

I think it is a matter upon which we are all agreed that the establishment of local industries deserves encouragement, which is a policy that no doubt will commend itself to every Government and every branch of the Legislature. I also think that it is an accepted fact that the establishment of such an industry as we have in the Knitting Mills and the Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd. is most desirable for the welfare of the colony, as their establishment would mean considerable employment for that class of people which otherwise would find it difficult to procure labor and employment. It can also I think be shown that since the war broke out the fact of having these industries established in the colony is decidedly advantageous, as they contribute a supply of materials which the difficulties of the tonnage question would possibly make precarious. I have had the opportunity of discussing the situation with the manager of one of these concerns, and from the information I have had from him I am more than ever convinced of the great advantage such an industry may prove. It is quite natural in a country such as this, which cannot be called agricultural, to an appreciable extent, that to secure supplies of such goods may at any time become an impossibility. The inception of these companies must eventuate in the production of a larger supply of wool, and indeed since these companies have come into existence the amount of wool the country has produced has enormously increased. Four years ago it was not possible to get more than 5% of the amount of wool required for our local manufacturing companies, and to-day I understand we can secure twenty or twentyfive per cent of local produce. The companies have been a decided advantage, not only in giving employment, but in raising a new product which would not otherwise exist. It has been admitted that it is extremely difficult to secure these articles in many lines since the outbreak of the war, and what is true in a general way is particularly true in this. It is extremely difficult to secure goods of the class that we have under consideration, and I understand that the prices that are charged here are less than those charged in Canada or America in similar lines of business. That I think is an argument that will impress the honorable members of this Assembly, as it proves directly the advantages that these companies bring to the country. We must consider that this line of goods is in great demand, and used largely in the way of cheap clothing and underwear. One line, I am told, that has been sold in this country for $3.80 per dozen was sold in the U. S. A. (the cheapest country in the world) at $4.25. Another line which is sold at $7.00 per dozen here is sold in Canada at $8.00 and in America at $7.25. In another line where the local price is $17.25 the Canadian price is $18.50, and it must be remembered that the class of goods manufactured here is in every way equal to the imported article. One of these concerns pays out forty thousand dollars in labor, an amount which it can readily be seen, could support eighty families at five hundred a year.

The price paid for wool here is greater than that paid in Canada or the United States. In Alberta, one of the greatest farming districts in Canada, where they have gone in very largely for sheep raising, the price paid for wool is 30 to 35c. per lb. The same wool is bought here by these two companies at 40 to 45c. per lb. Of course, wool, being a bulky article, would, if imported, cost

a very large amount for freight, and could not probably be landed for less than the amount now paid; but at the same time this shows that the people who are selling their products to these companies are being fairly dealt with. No advantage is taken by these companies of the fact that they have control of the business; on the contrary, they are competing more or less in this respect, and a fair return is given for the articles which they purchase. It was pointed out the other day, and in the opinion of a great many rightly so, that we should not create a monopoly, or continue a protection that would enable these concerns to make very large and very handsome profits. That position I am perfectly in accord with, because if these concerns are allowed to make large profits, these profits will have to be paid for by the working classes. The position in that respect is unanswerable. Nobody would advocate for a moment a protection under which these companies could make very large profits at the expense of the general public. As a matter of fact, from the returns of these companies for the last four years it would appear that the first year the Knitting Mills paid about 5 per cent—they just escaped calling on the Government for any portion of the guarantee. Since then they have done better, and last year, I think, they paid a dividend of somewhere in the neighborhood of 7 per cent., besides probably putting something into reserve, but I think the outside profits last year would not be above 10 per cent.

With regard to the propaganda that has been inaugurated to encourage sheep raising in this country, I understand that the concern of which I am speaking spent a considerable amount in informing the people of what was required and giving them useful information as regards the care of sheep so that the best wool would be produced. They practically circularized the whole country, and especially those portions from which they expected to get some returns. The statement that I have just made shows that that propaganda has borne good fruit, and they were able to get from 20 to 25% more wool than when they started.

MR. LLOYD—When was that statement issued?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY. There is no date on it, but I understand it was some time in September, 1916. The first statement was issued in June, 1916. I trust, Mr. Chairman, that in view of those facts the committee will see its way clear to accepting the resolutions which I have already brought forward, and as we go along I will explain the amendments which we have agreed upon.

MR. LLOYD.—Are the amendments printed?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—No, but I have a sufficient number of typewritten copies made to go around.

MR. LLOYD—I would suggest that you review the amendments now, so that we may have an opportunity of considering them. It might save considerable delay later.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes, I will do that. Section 3, then, which provides for the imposition of the duties on this class of goods, to the extent of 35 per cent. for 20 years has not been altered; but the following has been substituted for section 4 of the original resolution.

"Resolved that notwithstanding anything contained in section 3 of the agreement in the schedule hereto,the Government should not be bound to continue the duty of 35 per cent. in the said section named after any year in which the company has earned a

profit of not less than 15 per cent. per annum upon its present paid-up capital."

Section 6 will also be taken out,and section 8 will be amended as follows:

"The premiums mentioned in paragraph 7 hereof shall be paid to the Company upon the production of satisfactory affidavits setting forth that wool so raised in this Colony has been used in the aforesaid manufacture."

That refers to the bounty on wool raised in the Colony. There are no other changes, and I would move that the first section be read.

MR. LLOYD—There are a number of new points here, and while the Government have had full opportunity of considering them, we on this side have had no opportunity of giving them any consideration at all. I think this matter should stand over until we have had an opportunity of going in to it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I might say, Mr. Chairman, that I have no desire to rush the thing through. The matter has already been considered. We discussed it fully the other day, and the only change which is proposed now is that the Government takes the option of removing the duty when these companies shall pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on present paid-up capital.

MR. LLOYD—I mean to say that the Hon. Colonial Secretary and his colleagues on the other side have had a full opportunity of discussing this matter amongst themselves, and I think the same advantage ought be afforded to us.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I would be sorry to try and force the matter. If the hon. member on the other side wishes to have it deferred ———.

MR. LLOYD—That is what I am asking.

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.

R. C. CORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 3 George V. Chap. 10, relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation."

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.

LOAN BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the bill entitled "An Act respecting Bonds issued under 'The Loan Act, 1916,'" was read a second time.

MR. LLOYD—I have had an oppportunity of reading this resolution, and I can readily understand why this new legislation is being asked for. It asks for privileges, or rather for obligations to be assumed that are not provided for in the Act of 1916. It asks that there shall be no taxation on bond holders, which is not provided for in the Act of 1916. However, I don't think it is anything to which we should take exception. Those who, on behalf of the British Government went to raise a loan in the States were met

with similar demands, and they had to be conceded. Therefore it is not surprising that our Government, when raising money in the States should be met with a demand of a similar nature.

I notice, however, that this loan is a short period loan—for three years. I take it that the Prime Minister, when dealing with this matter, was unable to get a ten-year loan, as he contemplated when the Loan Bill was before the House. The loan was to be for a period of ten years or less, and it is very much less, seeing that the term has been reduced to three years. It will be necessary to deal with this matter again in a short time, but it may not be any hardship on the country, and in fact may be an advantage, because at the present time moneys are being raised under war conditions, and when it is necessary to raise another loan the rates on money may be less.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Replying to the honorable member, I may say that the short period was taken in preference to the longer period for the reason just suggested by him, that very likely within three years, or certainly when the war is over money will be cheaper. As regards the conditions that are asked for confirmation here, these conditions were asked after the loan was entirely completed. The gentleman who came down with the temporary bonds put it to the Government that it would assist them very greatly in floating the bonds at a high rate if these guarantees were given, but none of these things were considered or suggested until after the loan had been raised and the contract signed, not in fact until a month afterwards. It was thought by the Government that these were conditions which could not injuriously affect the Colony and on the contrary would be a benefit. We were giving nothing and probably assisting the credit of the colony.

The bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

Thursday, June 14th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from Mr. William Whelan, Medical Doctor at Codroy Valley, asking that he be appointed District Surgeon. During the past few years Codroy Valley has had at least five doctors, but none could be induced to stay owing to financial reasons. There is not enough practice there to maintain a doctor, and Dr. Whelan is beginning to feel the pinch. The people are very anxious to have him remain and have petitioned that he receive this appointment, as otherwise he will have to leave. I would ask that this petition be referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary, and trust that it will receive the attention which its importance merits.

MR. DEVEREAUX.—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Arnold's Cove, in the District of Placentia and St. Mary's on the subject of telegraphs. Arnold's Cove is the connecting link with many places in Placentia Bay, the inhabitants of which come there to join the railway, and oftentimes they have great difficulty in getting in touch with St. John's and securing

medical men and clergymen. The petition is largely signed by the inhabitants of the place including the Rev. Dean Shorter. The distance from the Railway Station to Arnold's Cove is only a few miles, so the expense would not be very great. I would ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates. Also Sir, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Trepassey, in the same district, asking that the sum of $1000 be allocated for the purpose of building a road from the town of Trepassey to the lighthouse. The land intervening between the lighthouse and the town is good agricultural land, but it is impossible to have this cultivated with the present road facilities. The petition is very largely signed by between four and five hundred signatories, showing the desire of the people is in favor of building this road. It is signed by the Rev. William O'Flaherty, Magistrate Giovanninni and other prominent people of the place. I have very much pleasure in presenting this petition and would ask that it be received and taken into favourable consideration by the department to which it refers.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, I have very great pleasure in giving my heartiest support to the petitions just presented by Mr. Devereaux, the first in connection with telegraph connection at Arnold's Cove, and the second in connection with the road from Trepassey to the Light House. Arnold's Cove is so situated that it is as it were the centre of the settlements there, and if the office were established, all the other nearby places would share in the advantages. Arnold's Cove has the proud distinction of having sent a greater percentage of recruits than any other settlement in the British Empire, and I think for that reason if for no other these people should be given the serious consideration of the Government. I hope the Government will see its way clear to establish a telegraph office at Arnold's Cove, as well as at other places that require it. In connection with the petition from Trepassey I have also very great pleasure in giving it my support. Any petition presented to this House with the object of opening up agricultural land ought to receive the sympathetic consideration of this House. I hope the Government will also be able to give this matter their serious consideration and have the road built. The amount asked for is by no means an extravagant one.

MR. CLIFT—I beg to present a petition from Peter Mooney and other residents of New Bay in the Electoral District of Twillingate, asking that a sum of money be allocated for repairing a public wharf at that place. I have very great pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition and I hope the Government will be able to grant the request. Also a petition from William Pittman and others of Triton, in the same District, on the subject of the enforcement of the Dog Act. Also a petition from A. Sansom and others of Friday's Bay, asking for the sum of $150 in connection with roads at that place. I would ask that these petitions be received and reefrred to the Department to which they relate.

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Joe Batt's Arm asking for the sum of one hundred dollars to provide a road to certain houses. The road is known as Decker's Road. It is stated by the petitioners that it is absolutely necessary that this road should be repaired and improved. The petition is largely signed and I give it my heartiest support. I ask that it

be referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. STONE—I ask leave to present a petition from certain residents of Winterton, Hant's Harbour, New Perlican and Heart's Content, now fishing in the Straits of Bell Isle at Greenley Island, asking that that place be made a port of call for the S.S. "Ethie." Greenley Island is about three miles from Blanc Sablon and these people have to go that distance for their mail. If the request of the petition is acceded to, it will be a great convenience for these men. I beg to give it my support and I ask that it be referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. TARGETT—I beg to support the petition.

MR. HICKMAN—I beg to present a petition from Jabez LeGrow and other residents of Broad Cove asking for a sum of money to build a launchway at Cripple Cove. There has always been a launchway at this place for the fishermen to haul up their boats; but it was carried away last year. I ask that the petition be referred to the proper Department.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Halfyard gave Notice of Question.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, to lay upon the table of the House all correspondence in connection with the erections of the second saw mill at Three Brooks, Lockers Bay; if any license has been asked for; and if it is the intention to grant any license.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I have already tabled that information.

MR. JENNINGS asked the Hon. minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement giving all particulars covering the expenditure of $38,071.00 paid the Newfoundland Produce Company on account of Home Defence, 1915-1916. Also statement giving all particulars covering the expenditure of $25,193.00 paid Reid-Newfoundland Company for the same account during the same period.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That answer is being prepared.

R. C. CORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 3, George V. Chap. 10, relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation," 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.

REPORTS TABLED.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled: Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending June 30th, 1916; Report of the Agricultural Board for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1916.

SUPPLY.

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. CLIFT.—Mr. Chairman, before we proceed any further with the vote in Supply I think that the Minister ought to have laid upon the table of the House the reports of the various departments in connection with Supply, and I submit we cannot intelligently consider these estimates until we have the information from the various De-

partments which is usually contained in the reports laid upon the table. It is required under the Acts creating the several Departments that the Ministers shall table their reports within fifteen days after the House is in session. I do not remember any being tabled. For instance, we will be called upon to consider the Estimates of the Post Office Department, and up to the present moment I do not remember having seen the report of the Postmaster General. I do not think it has been tabled, yet we are asked to consider the Estimates in connection with this department. I hope that before we reach this vote we will be given an opportunity of seeing the Report of the Postmaster General.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I have the report and will table it now. I was waiting for copies but they have not yet come.

MR. CLIFT—We cannot be expected to deal with the Post Office Estimates till we have seen this report. The same thing applies to the Department of Agriculture and Mines. I have not seen that.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I tabled that three or four days ago.

MR. CLIFT.—I do not think the report from the Board of Agriculture has been tabled, nor the report of the Marine and Fisheries Department.

I may say, Mr. Chairman, that, speaking generally, the increases that have been made in the public service do not commend themselves to me. I think that the increases have been made upon an entirely wrong basis. It seems to me as if the Estimates were taken up hurriedly by the Government and with a stroke of the pen certain percentages were granted to certain officials under the Government whose salaries are twelve hundred dollars and less . I see that the increase in salaries of $1,000 is 5 per cent., while in salaries of eleven hundred and twelve hundred the amount added is exactly the same as salaries of $1000. Now the point that I desire to impress upon the Minister is this, that it is manifestly unfair to increase a salary of two hundred dollars by fifty per cent, whilst a man getting five hundred is only getting an increase of twenty-three per cent., and a man getting a thousand only five per cent.

It would be interesting to know the principles upon which the Minister was working when he arrived at this system of per centages. In introducing these measures here yesterday the Minister said:

"Hon. gentlemen will observe the basis on which we have dealt with this question. We have tried to give the greatest advance to the poorest paid officials, recognizing that a man with a salary of $200 has to find for himself and his family the absolute necessaries of life, just as the better paid official has, and that the latter is not entitled to a liberal provision of help from the State at this juncture because many of the articles on which he will use the higher salary are articles on which he can economize, whereas nobody can econonize, or can be expected to economize on the food and clothing absolutely necessary to keep body and soul together. For the same reason we have stopped at salaries over $1,200. While there is no doubt that some of the officials drawing over that amount cannot make the two ends meet, we have to remember on the other hand that the claims of the great mass of the civil servants are much more pressing, and that the

same is true of men similarly circumstanced all over the country in private employment. The burden presses heavily mostly on those who have only $1.44, $2.00 or $3.00 per day to support their families."

I would like to know how many civil servants are supporting a wife and family on two hundred dollars per annum. I do not know of any. If that is the principle upon which the Minister is working, then I must say that he is entirely wrong. Supposing a case exists where a civil servant is receiving a salary of two hundred dollars and is supporting a wife and family upon that amount, how much better off is he with three hundred dollars? It is just as impossible for a man with a wife and family to live on three hundred dollars as on two hundred. As I said before, I do not think that it will be found that there are many such officials in the public service. Perhaps there are some officials in receipt of this sum but I think that it will be found that these are, generally speaking, young men, perhaps just entering some department or else probably doing some other work as well. To expect a man to support a wife and family on this income is absurd. Nor is the princple fair in other respects. You will find, I expect, in the estimates a number of officials with small salaries, $200 and under, given an increase of 50 per cent., whereas a man with a salary of $800 or $1,200 receives a considerably smaller percentage. It might be and it is just as hard for some men to struggle along with $1,200 or $1,500 as it is for the man receiving $500. It depends entirely upon the position he occupies. Until we get further information we are only grouping in the dark and cannot possibly come to any satisfactory conclusion. I am sure that if such a system as now proposed is adopted and increases are made upon the principles now laid down by the Minister, it will create untold dissatisfaction throughout the whole public service. Not only will it create dissatisfaction but I firmly believe it will go further and create demoralization. I have said before in this House that I regard this Civil Service as the most important asset in this country. The proper administration of the affairs of the Government in the details of all its departments is essential. It must be well and efficiently carried out if we are to have full satisfaction and economy. If a man is not sufficiently paid his heart cannot be in his work and when he knows that juniors under him are receiving substantial increases, while he is perhaps passed over altogether, it can only make him more dissatisfied than he otherwise would be. I think the suggestion to increase the salaries in the manner that the Minister now proposes to increase them is going to have a very detrimental effect upon the entire service. I feel sure that the Minister has not given this important matter that consideration which it deserves. I should further like to know if, before making these increases, the Government took the trouble to obtain reports from the various heads or deputy heads of the several departments, because I do not see how any Government can sit down at a Council Board and increase the salaries of the Civil Servants without having the proper information from the respective departments about the several officials and their duties such as the deputy heads of the department only would be expected to know. Until the basis upon

which these estimated increases are made has been explained, I am unable to assent to the votes.

MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS.—Just a word in reply to the honorable gentleman on the other side of the House. It is not my intention to ask the Committee to pass these measures without supplying the House with the necessary information. All the principal reports have been tabled, the Auditor General's report, the Postmaster General's report, the Public Accounts, the Fisheries Report, the Minister of Agriculture and Mines report. Any others that have not been tabled will be attended to next sitting.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I did not have the advantage of listening to the remarks of my colleague, but I have had the advantage of hearing the reply of the Minister of Finance. I am somewhat surprised to hear that this matter of the increase in the pay of the Civil Servants was before the Government for so many months. I am surprised to learn from the Minister of Finance that the matter had not been hurried, but that it had been carefully considered, and what has been done was the result of deliberate thought. In going through the scale the only excuse that I could imagine for some of the discrepancies was that it was the result of hurried effort—of a decision that had been arrived at a comparatively late date and then placed in the hands of some official who had no means of taking special circumstances into account, with the result that the matter came before us in its present form. I say that I am considerably surprised to learn from the Minister that this decision was arrived at after mature consideration, because if that is so then the discrepancies are absolutely without excuse. In my mind I had formed ready excuses and favorable excuses for the Minister because of the hurried manner in which the work had been finalized, but if it was done after careful thought the excuses are not so ready to hand. For instance, Sir, in reference to this scale. With the main principle that the greatest increases should be given to those less able to earn for themselves and less able to face the increased cost of living, I entirely concur; and so far as the scale has been drafted with that object in view, namely, of taking greater care of those able to purchase the necessities of life at the present high figures, I cordially support it. But, Sir, when you come to look the scale through, you find that that has been lost sight of in a number of cases; and to some of these cases I would like to draw attention and ask for some explanation of the discrepancies. I am sorry the Minister is not here.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—The Minister has been called away on a very important matter. He will be back in a few minutes, and in the meantime I am taking notes for him, so that he will be able to deal with the hon. member's remarks.

MR. LLOYD.—I would like to hear how the Minister would answer these cases in the light of his statement that the scale has been drafted with a view of giving the most necessitous cases more consideration and a more liberal increase than the less necessitous ones.. Now, Sir, one of the greatest increases in the whole service is to a civil servant who receives the largest salary in the service, with the exception of the Judges.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—What case is that?

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Hall.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—That case is not referred to in the scale at all.

MR. LLOYD.—Well, I am going to refer to it.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I thought you said that you were referring to the scale. That is the impression you gave the House.

MR. LLOYD.—I am referring to cases outside the scale as well. That is obvious, because the scale does not deal with salaries over $1200 and this is very much over $1200.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I gathered that you were giving us to illustrations of discrepancies in the scale.

MR. LLOYD.—Well, I am now giving an instance of a case being dealt with outside the scale, and on an exceedingly liberal basis, and I am asking for an explanation as to the grounds upon which Mr. Hall's salary has been raised from $3,163 to $4,000.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—That was under an agreement which he had with the government of Sir Robert Bond.

MR. LLOYD.—That may be a sufficient explanation, but the increase now appears in the Estimates for the first time and it is accompanied by no explanation. That is a case outside the scale, but there are also cases within the scale. Take the cases of the salaries of Mr. Simonsen and Mr. Coyell, which have been raised from $1000 to $1200. According to the scale the new salaries should have been $1050.

HON. MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Simonsen's salary is $1200 and so is Mr. Coyell's. These salaries have not been raised.

MR. LLOYD.—I might point out in answer to that that the man who ought to know all about it—the Auditor General—says quite differently.

HON. MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I don't know what the Auditor General says.

MR. LLOYD.—Oh, but I do, and that is the difference. The Auditor General points out in his report under Section 33 B, under the head of "Salaries increased without Legislative Authority and on Executive Responsibility." that Mr. Simonsen, Cod-liver Oil Inspector, has been increased from $1000 to $1200.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Simonsen was employed by the Government at a salary of $1200, which he got until he left. Mr. Coyell was also employed last year at a salary of $1200 and expenses. Mr. Simonsen was employed two or three years ago, until he left the country and when he came back he was given the same salary.

MR. LLOYD—That doesn't alter the fact, which still needs explanation that the Auditor General puts down a salary of $1,000, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries asserts that he is getting $200 more.

MR. PICCOTT—The Auditor General knew he was getting $1200.

MR. LLOYD—Then it is something that ought to be explained. It does not clear up the matter.

MR. PICCOTT—It clears it up so far as the estimates are concerned.

MR. LLOYD—But still the Auditor General is the Auditor General and should know what he is talking about.

MR. PICCOTT—Yes, but he is not infallible.

MR. LLOYD—No, he is not infallible, but as the fallibility is usually on the other side, we are inclined to be sceptical.

Now, another curious thing about this scale. I have no doubt that the scale was made up on what was considered a fair and honest basis, and I believe justice was intended—that the meritorious nature of the service of civil servants should be met by a salary enabling them to live. I don't doubt this for a moment, but I say,

there are a number of curious cases in regard to the matter. For instance, I find that the Inspector General, under the old estimates, used to receive two salaries—one, $2,000.00 as head of the Police Force, and another $400 as head of the Fire Department. I find that he now receives $2,400.00 as head of the Police Force, and that the $400 salary has been dropped. I think this was the proper thing to do, but although it was the proper thing to do, it means that he gets no increase, because his salary is over $1,200.00. How it is then, Sir, that the Deputy Minister of Justice, who, I understand, is also a member of the Commission of the Lanacy Board, gets $2,000.00 as Deputy Minister of Justice and, because his salary is not increased, gets a $100 increase on his salary as a member of the Lunacy Board. It is evident that this matter has not been given the careful thought which was said it had been given, when, in one case, the man who gets his salaries consolidated, loses, and on the other hand the man who gets two or three small salaries gets an increase on them. Take another case, Take the case of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. His salary is above the limit, and no increase is given him, but he draws a small salary of $50 as attendant physician at the Poor Asylum on which he gets a 50% increase. So, we have this position, that because the two salaries are separate, a man receiving over $1200 under two heads gets an increase, whereas anyone getting over $1,200 in one salary does not share in the increase. I have spoken, Sir, of the case of the resident physician at the Lunatic Asylum, who is also attendant physician at the Poor Asylum, receiving a small increase on his smaller salary at the rate of 50%, because his salary was not consolidated. That is why I brought up the case of the Inspector-General, whose salary had been consolidated and the increase lost. But there is another curious case, which shows how little care is being taken in these matters. On turning to the Auditor General's report of unauthorized increases, I find that the salary of Dr. Duncan, instead of being $1,700, as in the estimates, is $1,850. The increase of $150 is not shown at all in the estimates, although the report of the Auditor General is that he has been receiving $150 extra during the year. More than that, in turning to the other salary, Dr. Duncan's salary of $50 for attendance at the Poor Asylum, I find it has been increased by $100, making it $150, so that, instead of his salary being $1,775, according to the estimates laid before us last year, he is actually receiving $2,000. Yet these estimates purport to show increases according to scale. It is evident that these estimates did not receive the care and consideration which the Minister says they did. Another rather curious circumstance in connection with the scaling of salaries. Take the case of an employee of the service who was engaged within the past twelve months, practically at a new salary that is fixed in the year and apparently fixed on the scale that was suitable. Take the case of the Deputy Registrar of Deeds. He has gone into the service within the past twelve months. Last year, when the estimates were before the House the vote was $400. Then, after the House closed a gentleman was engaged and given $900, which was apparently adequate remuneration for a competent man. I have nothing against his competency, and I believe the money was well spent, and I am not objecting a bit; but he agreed with the Government to take this office for $900, an increase of $500 over what had been paid, and although this salary was

fixed on war conditions and within the twelve months, he comes in on the new increase. There is something curious about it. Another matter. I find, on referring to the Auditor General's report that the physician of the General Hospital has been drawing $500 for upkeep, although the estimates show the old figure of $300. Now, I am bringing up these matters to find out exactly how many discrepancies there may be. Very likely I haven't got full knowledge of the matter, but the principle seems to be that where there are a number of salaries given to a man, and the individual salaries come within a certain limit, he gets his increase regardless of his total salary.

Now Sir, I do not think that there is any care given such cases as that. There must be quite a number of officials who are drawing double salaries. If the salaries were consolidated they would get either no increase or an increase at a much smaller rate. They are far more fortunate because their salaries are divided up than their brother who is receiving a consolidated salary. I think these matters ought to be taken in consideration and if the merits of the case are dealt with consolidated or aggregated salaries should be dealt with not on the principle that men are drawing a number of salaries, but on the principle of how they are able to live and what the aggregates are. I make these remarks in order to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to these matters, in order that these matters may receive some adjustment.

I did purpose to make some remarks generally on expenditures, but I think this is a matter that ought to be specially dealt with and cleared up as soon as possible. I would very much like to have a statement tabled showing whether there is an agreement between Mr. T. A. Hall and the Government on the subject of an increase of salary.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—There is an agreement.

MR. LLOYD—With reference to the public debt, the Hon. Minister has already intimated that he is willing to furnish any information that is desired; and before I make any remarks thereon I would ask him to furnish some information in relation to a statement he made yesterday bearing on the public debt. He proposes, he tells us, to introduce a bill to raise another million and a quarter loan for war purposes. He also states that he has made no estimate nor put any special amount in for the cost of that new loan, inasmuch as there are a number of loans or balances of loans, with the authority still outstanding, but loans which have not been raised; and the interest authorised thereunder has not been utilized, and it is estimated that this unutilized interest will meet the cost of the new loan. I would then ask him to furnish a statement showing the loans authorized, or the balance of loans authorized, which have not been raised, the interest on which would make up the amount which he intends to transfer to the new loan. There is another point which I would like him to explain and it is this: how long does he estimate this new war loan will last? So far as I can judge, all the old war loans are practically exhausted; there is not very much left of them so far as we can discover from the Bank balance on May 31st last. The $30,000 to the credit of the Newfoundland Regiment allotments, the $64,000 to the credit of pensions are amounts which will disappear more quickly; and beyond what there may be included to the credit of that Exchequer Account there is nothing to the credit of war loans. Therefore I take it—but I stand open to correction—that

all the previous war loans are exhausted. Now that being so I would like to know how long the Hon. Minister estimates this new one will last It must appear that if the war lasts another year the million and a quarter dollar loan will not meet war demands. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a fact that he has not dealt with and that is that out of the new war loan you will have to pay back-pay of the Naval Reservists on the new scale,—which will take quite a considerable sum, that is, their back-pay up to date; and then from now on out of your war loan you will not alone have to pay the soldiers but the increases to the Naval Reservists. It is apparent that if the war last another twelve months your surplus revenue will have to be exceedingly large to allow you to carry on without another loan, because your million and a quarter loan will not last another year. That brings me to another point which we will deal with further on when we get to the vote and that is in regard to the increased vote for education. As far as I am concerned I stand to support that vote. I have had no opportunty of going through the estimates eo see exactly what they stand for. When we get the vote we shall have a chance of going into it more carefully and dealing with it at greater length on another occasion. So far as the vote for military pensions is concerned: that will receive favorable consideration from this side of the House. Speaking generally on expenditures—I have not been able to go through the estimates suficiently to satisfy myself as to whether the aggregate vote will cover the actual expenditure of next year. There have been short votes for many years past; but there has never been so short a vote as last year. The over-drafts on all spending accounts have been abnormal. I have the statement furnished by the Minister showing the bank balances up to May 31, 1917. I find the Colonial Secretary's department has overspent its grant by $25,000. Contingies account is out $53,000, Department of Customs, $11,000; Finance Department—a smaller amount —$9,000; The Department of Marine and Fisheries goes away out of sight. I am, however, glad to know the Minister of Marine and Fisheries thinks he has done good work with it.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I do not think at all about it.

MR. LLOYD.—I know there has been a number of abnormal demands on that vote last year. For instance, the south side of Trinity Bay has required special attention; the marine works have had to be particularly attended to and much damage was done around about there which necessitated extra outlay by the department. And what applied there applied also elsewhere. Thus, this department overdrew or overexpended a large amount—$78,713.73; and besides has drawn on this year's account for something like $9,000. There is an item here dealing with Money Orders. I would like some explanation re the $68,000 covering this and why it is there. I said the expenses of the department of Marine and Fisheries were right out of sight; but I was forgetting for a moment his colleague—the Minister of Public Works. I find his account is overspent by $99,474.67. Now all this points clearly to a phase of the situation that needs consideration, namely, that when estimates are put before this House, the tendency is to have short estimates; and although last year there was an extra special district vote for public works and marine works, yet we find that even that did not meet the bill. During the past few years the length

of roads has been increasing and marine facilities are being multiplied with consequent increases in upkeep and repair; and when you have the fact before you that for several years the special grants have been exceedingly low and that there has not been, with the exception of last year any surplus special grant for a number of years to devote to these purposes,you can easily understand why these two departments have had to overdraw their allowances.

Altogether, I do not know that the total account of receipts and expenses is unsatisfactory. I think it is satisfactory. Of course much money in the way of loans has been raised, but the balance shown on May 31, was something like $1,200.000. It looks like a big balance; but that is an illusion to imagine we have that balance to the good because more than half of it will have to be spent on June 30th to meet other charges on the public debt. That interest comes out of it at the end of this month. Then again we have a large number of credit votes earmarked for particular purposes. These are not liquid assets at all and cannot be used in paying off overdrafts on other accounts. Roughly, as far as I can judge from the accounts matters come out somewhere about square. The statement is satisfactory to that degree; but it must be remembered that while we are coming out fairly square, the expenditure is entailing an enormous burden on the people. There is an abnormal amount of interest; there have been abnormal charges that the people find hard to bear—even those of us who are a little bit better off than others find it difficult to make the two ends meet in our daily living. Therefore reverting to remarks I made when I rose to my feet. I can sympathize with a scale that on the face of it was intended to deal more liberally with the smaller salaries than with larger salaries. Now, Sir, in the opening days of the session I referred to a matter which I intend to refer to again to-day. The Committee is entitled to know whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in Legislation postponing the election. There is in the estimates no provision made for taking voters list or holding election. The reason given for this is that this provision has been omitted on other similar occasions. As my friend, Mr. Clift stated in 1913 there was no estimate made, but I think that now the attention of the Government has been called to this matter,something ought to be provided. In 1908 a vote was made for the public service to cover an election in the fall. The House has now been in session for over a fortnight. This matter has been drawn to the attention of the Government repeatedly and now I think that at this juncture we are entitled to know what is going to be done. Whether a general election is to be provided for or if it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to extend the term of the present assembly.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Mr. Chairman. Just a word in reply to the hon. gentleman who has just sat down. His criticisms are I think very reasonable this afternoon. I agree with him that a few discrepancies may occur here and there. I stated in introducing the Estimates that a few errors may be found, and would be corrected as we went along. The honorable gentleman has pointed out two or three salaries which are not according to schedule, and these will be adjusted as we pass on to them. He referred to the Inspector General's salary. There is no alteration in this vote, it is only a transfer of $400.00 from the Fire Department to the Police Department,the total is the

same, this alteration was asked for by the Justice Department. He also asks for an explanation of the Interest Account on page 4, concerning which I stated in my remarks yesterday that provision was made for a loan of $1,225,000.00 from the British Government coming to us 1st July. If you look down the Interest Account you will see it totals $1,420,558.88. Under heading B will be found the loan of $5,000,000.00 which was raised last year in the United States. With this amount the following loans were paid off: The Loan under Volunteer Force, 5, George V. Cap. 8, $491,582,-43 @ 3½%; the loan for $512,280.70 at 4% and under same Act $1,000,000 @5%; making a total of $2,000,000.00. Under Act 6, George V., Cap. 22, Public Service, $500,000 @ 5%; loan from Montreal Bank for Construction and improvement of Public Buildings, Extension Telegraphs and Erection of Light House and Fog Alarms, $360,-000.00 @ 4½%; loan from Montreal Bank under Act 4., George V., Cap. 23., on balance of Railway Loan, $973,-333.33; and also under Temporary Loan, erection of light houses, fog alarms, $100,000.00 @ 5%. All these amounts were paid from the $5,000,-000.00 raised in the United States last year. In the Interest Statement you will find $973,333.33 unraised, this was authorized under Act 4, George V., Cap. 23., @ 5%. We also have a balance of $135,350.00 unraised under the Loans I., George V., Cap. 32; and under the Act 2., George V., 17, for Extension of Telephone System there is an amount of $150,000.00. If you take these amounts you will have something like $1,280,000.00; the interest on this is included in the total interest amount of $1,420,558.88. That interest will not be called on this year, and we purpose to take that amount to pay the interest on the Loans that we have arranged to get from the British Government during the coming fiscal year. At the present time we are paying the war expenditure out of the surplus of $400,-000.00 from 1915-1916. At the end of June the war expenses will owe the Exchequer Account $350,000; out of the loan for $1,250,000.00 arranged for we are going to take back that amount, that will leave the $400,000.00 surplus from last year intact, and according to the Auditor General's statement, we will have a surplus of $700,000.00 this year. These two amounts will total $1,100,000.00. The honorable gentleman also asks if we intend to give the increase to the Naval Reserve. I beg to say in reply that the matter is being adjusted. Commander MacDermott has taken the matter up, and is having the figures prepared for the Government, and it will take some time, no doubt, before the Government can hope to have that statement furnished, as these payments go back to 1914, the opening days of the war. These payments will be a charge on this new loan.

With reference to Mr. Hall's increase of salary. When Mr. Hall was engaged by the Bond Government to come to Newfoundland, there was an agreement that he was to come for a specific sum, and after he had served a certain number of years, and satisfied the Government that he was all that was represented, his salary was to be increased to the amount placed in the Estimates to-day.

With reference to the amount in connection with Canadian Money Orders, that balance is cleaned up every three months, I think the Money Orders from the United States are payable every three months, and from Canada every month. I am glad to hear the honorable gentleman telling the House that he is fairly well satisfied with the Estimates.

Mr. COAKER—Mr. Chairman, I do

not propose to digest the estimates to-day but I want to make a few remarks in connection with some of the matters. I think you are going to spend a great deal more money than you are asking for . Estimating it on your expenditure the past year as appears from the accounts and the Auditor General's statement you will find that you will be out two or three hundred thousand dollars. For instance in connection with the vote for ship building, you ask for $16,000.00. I have no hesitation in stating that that expenditure will reach $50,000.00 by the end of June, 1918. There are three thousand tons of shipping building at the present time, and that at $16 a ton will be $48,000. The vessels started last winter are not yet ready for the bonus, but in the early months of next spring you will find a number of vessels and the least you can expect to spend is $50,000.00.

I do not know whether the Report of the Fisheries Department has yet been tabled.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES—I will table it to-morrow.

MR. COAKER—What about the Report of the Agricultural Board.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have tabled that.

MR. COAKER—Now I notice that though the Minister was very eager to inform the House that the Government had decided to grant increases in small salaries, he has overlooked one important service, and that is the Courier Service. If you are going to increase the salary of the man who is getting two hundred dollars to three hundred dollars, you cannot expect the mail couriers to be satisfied to continue to get two hundred dollars.

MINISTER OF FINANCE—There has been no provision made for increases in the Courier Service; because that is by tender.

MR. COAKER—I know that and I do not expect you to increase every tender; but you might put in an allowance of thirty or forty thousand dollars, because I fear that a great many of the couriers will refuse to carry the mails without they get an increase. They will expect the same increase as has been made to other small salaries in the service. The least allowance you ought to make is twenty or thirty thousand dollars.

Now you are planning a consumption campaign this year. You are again voting $24,000. You have a new sanitarium. You must maintain and operate it. Having that new sanitarium you will find that you will have a great many applicants for admission and you will not be able to do anything with the same vote of twenty-four thousand that you had last year.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—Last year there was a dropped balance. It went to construction account. The total on construction account was something like twenty-five thousand dollars.

MR. COAKER—This year you will need thirty thousand dollars instead of twenty-four. If you are going to do any good you ought to be prepared to take in as many people as possible and any money you devote to this ought to be money well spent.

Now we have a vote of $60,000 for pensions. This is the first time this House has ever had to consider such a thing as war pensions. I am not satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that the gentlemen in charge of those pensions are doing their work satisfactorily. I have had a letter to-day from one of the returned soldiers who has come back totally disabled. He is here in St. John's at present and is unable to work. He is the only son of the family and his father is a paralytic and unable to earn anything. This young

man has been awarded a pension of eight dollars a month. Now the other day I heard of a case of a discharged soldier who tried to join the Foresters, and who is in receipt of a pension of twenty-four dollars a month. The name of this young man who is totally disabled is Higgins. His father and mother are unable to earn and are totally dependent upon him. I have his letter here which I shall read to the Committee.

(The Honourable member here read the letter referred to.)

Now I bring this letter to the attention of the Premier, because I am sure there is no one in this House who would be a party to treating any of these men unfairly and this certainly is not proper treatment for this man.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that this expenditure of sixty thousand dollars ought to be under the control of someone directly responsible to this House. It is not fair that outside men without any responsibility here should have control of this money. We have no control over these men. They may be all right; but we in this House should have some direct command over this expenditure.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I would like to say to the honourable member that this is the intention. Nothing will be done except with the approval of the House and anything that has been already done will be subject to revision by this House.

MR. COAKER—That will be satisfactory as far as we are concerned.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—These payments made to-day are only payments on account. They are all subject to revision by this House, and if it wishes it can increase every pension.

MR. COAKER—I notice further, Mr. Chairman, that under the Contract with the Reid-Newfoundland Company we are called upon to build fifty miles of railway each year. Since 1914 very little railway construction work has been done.

I do not know what the Government will do if it so happens that they are faced with a breach of contract in this respect. There has been no correspondence. You are under contract. The circumstances at the present time prevent you from carrying it out. If you only had a letter from the Company that we could see, it would be more satisfactory to the House. It is not a business-like way of doing things. You are not able to carry out your contract yet and you have made arrangements about it, but no correspondence has taken place. I asked last year if there was any correspondence and you said there was not. I do not want a claim against the Government arising at some future time, a claim which we could not provide for or prevent.

In going through the Auditor General's Public Accounts I came across some expenses which struck me as somewhat out of the way. I may say that I have not had time to go into these reports yet. But in looking over them one thing in particular struck me as rather odd; certain legal expenditures of the Audit Act, and other matters in connection with Cairn's Estate which come to a very large total. Now I must ask the Minister of Finance and Customs to give me an explanation of these expenses| Our friends on this side of the House would like to have an explanation. They think that the lawyers are in receipt of rather large fees, in connection with these matters|. Another omission from the estimates that we did not expect to see is the absence of provision for the salary of the District Judge. We have been hearing the last two or three days that

the Government party is anxious to appoint Mr. F. Morris to this position. So far we do not know what action has been taken. This grant has been there in the estimates for several years. It is not expected that our friend will take this position at the salary named, $2400.00, and it is generally understood that he is to get an increase. We would like to see this matter squared up. We would like to see a proper provision made for it in the estimates. Make provision for a salary adequate for the amount of work that this position entails. If you cannot get a man of legal standing to accept it for $2400, raise it to a necessary figure. We on this side of the House are debarred from making any suggestion. It is purely a matter for the Government to take up. I hope that it will soon be taken up by that side of the House and that we shall have a proposal to that effect. I shall be sorry if the day comes when Mr. Morris shall be relegated to that position, because I like to see his smiling face across the House. I will be sorry not to have such a generous, gentlemanly man on this side when I shall be across where he is now sitting. He has always been a fair opponent and never struck below the belt. We ought to have an explanation, I think of the delay in settling this matter. Representations have been made to the Executive to settle the matter. We over here desire it. No one can have any objections. He would be a very nice opponent we admit and I would like to see his smiling countenance over here in the opposition. There is again one other matter that I would like to refer to.

The matter referred to by Doctor Lloyd was the question as to whether or not the Government was going to consider the question of extension of Parliament. It is not fair to the country, fair to your friends, fair to us who come in here to perform public work, that you should refrain from saying one thing or the other. The time is come for you to say definitely what you are going to do. If you cannot tell us to-day, tell us when you can tell us. The country demands that this information should be supplied. 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. If the Government had come to us in the earlier stage of the war we would have done all that lay in our power to assist them in such a crisis, but three years have gone by, three years in which we have not been considered at all, and as far as you are concerned your time is up; the time has come when you must either prolong parliament or make up your minds to go to the polls. And it is now that you ask us to come and accept the burden of your responsibilities. Three years ago we would have been able to face the difficulties of Government together. Had anything serious arisen, we could have combined to do the most advisable thing. Personally, I expected that times would be a great deal harder than they have been. Only at the last do you come in here and ask us to aid you in clearing your skirts of the responsibilities of your term of Government. On the 18th of August, 1914, four or five days before the War Session opened, I published the following article. (Reads article from "Mail and Advocate".)

This is the position that we take. We made proposals which were not accepted. If they had been accepted at that time, a coalition government would surely have been formed. But the Government allowed the time to pass, and then, just previous to the time when an appeal to the country

should be made, they come in and ask us to co-operate with them; and we say: "You are too late now.'. I hope, in view of those facts, that the people who are giving this matter serious consideration wont blame us for not being patriotic enough to come forward in such a crisis as the Colony and the Empire is now confronted with, but that they will place the responsibility upon the shoulders which should rightfully assume it.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee rise at this juncture, in order to permit the members on this side of the House to digest, so far as possible, the matters that we have been discussing in connection with the Estimates, and to take into the consideration the replies of the Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs. If that is done, we would be more ready at our next meeting to help pass some of the Estimates. There are others that we may like to discuss, in the spirit that the Hon. Minister of Finance has assumed this afternoon; and we hope that when we are dealing with those matters in which we do not see altogether eye to eye with him—because we believe that some of these votes are not as they ought to be; that there are discrepancies—he will meet us in that same spirit. I would ask that the Committee rise, and that we take the Estimates up again at our next session.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Mr. Chairman, in reference to the statement made by the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, in connection with the complaint of Thos. Higgins. I am a member of the Pensions Board, and judging from Mr. Higgins' letter to Mr. Coaker, and the remarks thereon of that honorable gentleman, one would think that an injustice had taken place. It may be, but the position that we are in as a Pensions Board is this: We were appointed by the Patriotic Association, the Pensions Board appointed four Physicians to examine each soldier as he came along, and act upon their report. The Pay and Record Office is just two doors away from here, and it struck me that I may ask for Mr. Higgins' papers and get the facts of the case. Here they are: This young man Higgins reported to the Pensions Board, was examined by Doctors Tait, Frazer, Macpherson and Burden. As soon as a soldier reports for examination he is sent to these Doctors, and upon their finding the Pension is allowed. In cases of total disability 100 per cent. is given, which to a Private means $40.00 a month, this is graded down by the Doctors to 20 per cent., which means $8.00 per month to a Private, and for less than 20 p.c. he is given gratuity in a lump sum of not more than $100.00. Now, according to the report of the Medical Board on the case just mentioned by Mr. Coaker, according to his papers this young man was boarded March 21st, and Doctors' report reads as follows: "Small scar over right lower leg, another over right thigh—quite healed and causing no disability. Walks well, with a stiff leg. Estimated disability 20 per cent." This certificate was sent to the Pensions Board from the Doctors, and they accordingly gave him the prescribed amount of $8.00 per month. The Pensions Board have really very little to do with the amount of the Pensions, as they are guided by the recommendation of the Doctors who examine the patient. If the Doctors recommend 100 per cent. or 20 per cent. disability, there is nothing left for the Board to do but to find accordingly. If, as Mr. Higgins, according to his letter to Mr. Coaker, finds that he is not treated properly, I recommend that he should apply again for re-examination to the Pensions Board, if so I think his case will be adjusted satisfactorily. I will

hand these papers to the hon. member for perusal, and would ask him to return them just as soon as he is finished, to the Pay & Record Office.

MR. STONE—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word in reference to this case in reply to the hon. Minister. I may say that the first I heard of the case was on yesterday, and last night I paid the man a visit. I am not prepared to say just what the Medical Board has done, or what report they have handed in, but I am prepared to say that Lance Corporal Higgins is certainly in a disabled condition since his return ,and has not been able to do any kind of work. I believe that the Board or the Committee did find one or two jobs for him, but he was not physically abie to perform the duties. I think the first position he got was in the Munition Factory, which he had to give up because he was not able to stand upon the leg. Then they got him another position at, I think, Mr. Robert Templeton's, but that was also work of a laborious character, which he was unable to perform. The next position that he got was the one which he was filling when he literally fell down on the street and got broken up quite a little—with the Horwood Lumber Co. His work there was, I think, spelling lumber upon his back, which he was not able to do. He is now in a very poor condition, and I really think he is deserving of very much more than $8.00 a month. It must also be remembered that this man's father is paralysed, and has not been able to do any work for a number of years, and this boy has been his only support; so that the position now is that the two of them are disabled, and who is going to support them? Surely you cannot expect this chap to support himself and his father on $8.00 a month. The lad is now staying at the home of Mr. Taylor, and when I called last night Mr. Taylor told me a pitiful story about him. I am sure that this Committee will do all that they can in the interest of this unfortunate young man, and that they will see that he gets all that he is entitled to.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman, it is very unfortunate that this case should have arisen, because if it gets abroad it may have a very bad effect on recruiting, as it might appear that somebody in authority did not do everything that might have been done in the case under consideration. Now, I think, generally speaking, everybody will admit that there is nothing too good for those men who went from here to defend this country and the Empire, and we will always err on the right side by being a little too liberal with them. It is perfectly inconceivable that any intentional wrong has been done in this case. I am quite satisfied that there will be no difficulty whatever in having this man's case reconsidered. Of course, as the Minister has pointed out, the Pension Board have to be guided very largely by the Doctors. The Board is not bound absolutely by their decision, but on the question of disability they have to be very largely infuenced by the Medical Report, and it can hardly be conceived that these Doctors would be in any way prejudiced against this man.

As I have already pointed out this evening, this pension matter has not yet been finalized. The Pension Board are merely preparing a scheme for submission to this House in relation to the principles that are to guide us in granting pensions. There will, of course, be various classes There may be 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 different classes of pensions that we shall have to vote, beginning with large amounts and going down to small amounts; and in this matter we shall have to be guided very largely by the medical men, otherwise it would not be fair to the pensioners themselves nor to the Colony who are asked to put up

the money. I am very sorry that publicity has been given to this matter.

But now that the matter has been brought up, I say there is no difficulty whatever in having it immediately inquired into. I desire to congratulate the members on the other side of the House for the good spirit evidenced here this evening. All the speakers have what I consider fairly criticized the proposals of the Minister, and some of the speakers have been generous, and my friend who has just sat down in relation to these matters has been very fair and reasonable. Therefore I think it only fair that I should reply to the question asked by Dr. Lloyd. I did intend to reply earlier only that other speakers intervened—That in relation to the question of the election. I don't admit that it is relevant to the matters we are now discussing, but I will waive that consideration. I have nothing further to add to what I have said on the matter earlier, except this, the Government have not yet passed on the question, but they will do so at a very early date, and as soon as that is done I will communicate immediately with the House. Now it may be said, "Why don't you decide immediately on this matter, and say whether you propose having an election or not." The answer is that it is so important a matter that it would not be fair to the country, or to the House, or to the Constitution, or viewed from any standpoint, to summarily deal with the matter. But I will say that from all sides it is borne in on the Government that we should not have an election. The press of the country—not the press supporting this party—are all but unanimous that we should not have an election. I find scarcely anyone outside of this House, who has the interest of the country at heart, who does not say: "You ought not to have an election." However, I am not to anticipate what decision the Government may arrive at, and therefore it is not necessary to give any reason, but this I will say, that I can find no one who is disinterested outside this House, and who has the interests of the Colony at heart, in favour of plunging this country into the throes of an election at the present time. Now, for these reasons we are giving the matter every consideration before hurriedly deciding, and at the very earliest moment I will communicate to this House the intention of the Government. Further I need hardly inform the House that the election cannot be postponed, and that there must be one this autumn unless the House decides otherwise. Unless an act of Parliament is passed by this Legislature, legal and constitutional in every sense, extending the life of this Parliament, the election must go on. But I might suggest that in the meantime, there can be no possible objection to going on with the Estimates, and passing those votes which are not controversial, so that we may get over a certain portion of the work. We have now been a fortnight in session, and we should endeavor to push legislation as far as possible. and now that the most important matter is before the House, and it will take a great length of time to discuss these votes, I would suggest that we go on for a short time, and pass on the votes which are not controversial.

MR. LLOYD—This matter of an election is a very important one, and we will not go on until it is settled. Therefore, we have no other position to take but to fight the Government from now on.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—We were told that in the beginning—that you intended to fight the Government. We were treated to that

the very first day of the session, and now you say again that you will fight the Government. Very well, we will accept the challenge, and you will find that we are as well able as you to fight. But I strongly object to your using such an offensive word.

MR. LLOYD.—And I object to the remarks you made.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—At least I did not use offensive language.

MR. LLOYD.—You stated that no one in this country, who had the interests of the country at heart, would give their assent to a general election at this time.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Pardon me, I said I find no one, outside this House, in favor of an election. I was only speaking of the people I had come in contact with. I was only speaking of the people I find, outside this House.

MR. LLOYD.—I think, Sir, that the leader of the government is going to get a rude awakening if he imagines that because he has got some support in St. John's that he has got the country behind him. I think, Sir,you will find that the country as a man is determined to have the election. Every word that he utters shows that he has practically made up his mind on the matter. The very fact that we have been waiting for the past fortnight for some announcement, without receiving it, is a sufficient indication of the attitude of the Government on this matter. We are not prepared, Sir, to allow these estimates to go through while this matter is in an undecided state. We are not prepared to allow you to hold on to the Government simply because you have got a majority. We are not prepared to allow you to put these votes through as easily as all that, in order that at the last moment, you can bring in an extension bill, and, by that majority, force it through within a short time. The estimates are not through, and we shall fight on the estimates until you tell us what you are going to do. It is apparent from the remarks made on this side of the House that we were prepared to deal fairly with you. In my opening remarks this session I said that the Opposition would in no way take any party advantage, but neither do we intend to let you take any party advantage; and that is exactly the position you are laying before this House—that you are going to take advantage of the country because you have a few more members than we have. Not that the country wants you. The country wants to be rid of you. We are not willing to give the Government an opportunity of making up its mind. They have had plenty of time. There has been no hurry. This is a matter they have been considering for months past, practically for the past twelve months, and not a matter that has been forced on your attention just now. You knew this was your last session under ordinary law. You knew you had to violate the very Constitution itself to get an extension to force on the country something it doesn't want. We are prepared to give the Government an opportunity. We will give them an opportunity, but we are not prepared to let the estimates go through and then find ourselves in the position of having an extension bill forced through because of your majority. No, Sir, we are going to make a stand now. I say still, with a reasonable spirit, if you wish to have a few days to make up your mind, let the estimates stand over, and if you make up your mind to have an election, we will aid you in putting them through as early as possible. But if you intend to bring in a Bill to put off the election, we will fight you.

MR. COAKER.—I should like to make a few remarks in answer to those made by the Premier. Now, I

want him to consider fairly this matter. He says he does not know of any opposition outside this House to an extension of the Government's term. Suppose we present to you a petition signed by twenty thousand men, would you be convinced then?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—No, certainly not. It might be like some petitions we have seen here before.

MR. COAKER—We have presented petitions, signed by thousands upon thousands of the people, begging the government for certain necessary things. What has been done? They have been treated with contempt. What would be the result if we presented this petition? It would be treated with contempt also.

But if you are not afraid at the present time, go to the country. If you think the people are going to sustain you and not us, go to the country then and let the people decide, and if they are against us, so much the better for you. Do you think it is fun for us to stay here week after week at this time of the year when we have our own important duties to perform? I have 100 men working at Catalina on our plant there, and I should be there attending to my business; but instead of that I have to come here and attend to duties that should have been performed last January. 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 reasons sufficient to have the election 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. It looks to-day as if this war were not going to end as soon as some people think. Are you, in prolonging the life of your Government, prepared to have the country upside down? Do you want to have a revolution in the country? Are you as a Government going to defy the very principles for which our soldier lads are fighting to-day in France? Our volunteers are battling to-day for liberty, freedom, 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 the 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 the country is going to suffer; you are going to abstain from holding an election at the proper time—this Fall; the principles 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 want to do something the people do not want done. A very critical period is facing this country. If the war continues for another two years and you have an election you are going to have the adjustment of conditions that appertain to the very well-being of our people to face. And, apparently, it is

during that crucial period that you wish the country to enter the maelstrom of an election. Was such a thing ever heard of? You asked for a coalition the other day because you found yourselves helpless. 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? The question will have to be answered by the Executive; theirs is the responsibility. If the Executive are prepared to upset conditions in this country, to start an agitation that will shake the country to its very foundations, (oh, you need not laugh, it is no laughing matter), let them deny the people the right they demand. I tell you there are parts of this country to-day that are ready to fight to make the Government carry out the wishes of the people and to put them out of power. I have met a number of men this year who have said to me: "You must fight to have an election this year." With whom does the Premier come in contact; amongst whom does his associations bring him? A few men on Water St Does he come in contact with the fishermen? I know what I am talking about; and I know the people want an election. I want you to do things fairly. I want you to go to the country this fall. Do you think that with all the work that I have to do that I am yearning to go over on your side and assume more responsibilities? I would prefer to have a seat on this side of the House. I do not envy those in power on the other side. I appreciate all that it means to them. But if the people say to me, "you have to go in office," then I will go and do my duty. And if I fail it will be only right to put me out. All the country has its eye on you. Every man that has gone across the water from our shores has his eye on you, watching your every movement. If you defy the people now, where are you going to get recruits? Where did you get recruits the past year or so? Now mind, I warn you in all sincerity as a man who wants to do right and who will be fair and square, that if you attempt this thing you are doing the sorriest thing that has been done in Newfoundland for the past fifty years. The decision rests on your shoulders; the responsibility must be yours.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

WOOLLEN AND KNITTING MILLS CONTRACTS RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woollen Mills, Ltd., and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Consideration of new section 4 of Schedule.

MR. LLOYD—We have not passed Section 3 yet. I do not know if we have passed anything.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—We will go back to Section 3 if you wish.

MR. LLOYD—We have not passed it at any rate.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I asked where we stopped and I was told section 3. We will now start at Number 3.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I think a little more thought might have been given to that. I take it that this section is to be read with the next section.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes.

MR. LLOYD—Now, Sir, you have this peculiar position that you have got to have both companies paying fifteen per cent. before you can do this, because it would be unfair discrimination otherwise. I appreciate that there are two companies, but under this arrangement you purpose to treat the two companies in a different way. That was the very objection of the Woollen Mills to your action before, that you purposed to treat the two companies in a different way. You proposed to protect one company, to give the first a monopoly while you put the other out of business. The Woollen Mills did not need this protection. They were not anxious to have it until you asked them. They do not want it to-day. They ask it now in self-protection. The other Mill will have a monopoly if they do not get it. But what I want to point out is this, that you have to treat both companies alike, and can take no action until both companies are getting fifteen per cent. You say you can discriminate in duties. How is it possible to discriminate in duties. If the duty to-day is 35% it is either 35% or it is not. But, Sir, that is not my main objection. It is the old matter of keeping on the duty for 20 years. It is that it is absolutely unfair to compel the consumers of this country to pay higher prices for wearing apparel than they otherwise would pay. It is outrageous to say this tariff shall be kept up until these two companies are earning 15 per cent. Yesterday the Colonial Secretary told us about high prices in the States and in Canada. Why should comparison be drawn with the poorest conditions of another country, and we be told we ought to thank our stars we are not as bad. What are the facts? The question is not what is done in Canada or in the States. The question is, does this measure mean the keeping on of the 35% tariff for all these goods. Then the story is told about the girls who are earning wages at these companies. It is a well known fact that the bulk of the money taken in does not go out in wages. Look at the profits. Look at the profits for the last year. Look at the gross profits and compare them with the wages, and then appeal on behalf of some girls in the factories.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—They live in the wrong portion of the country to suit you.

MR. LLOYD—The hon. gentleman is simply astray. Now, Sir, I raise all these objections to this measure on the ground that it takes away from this House the right of reducing duties and making such a reduction as would enable low prices to be given. I was met by the observation that I do not represent the right place, but I may tell the hon. member that although I am not a member for the West End and he may say I am not very much interested, the hon. gentleman forgets that I have a very large interest from this side of the House in the District of Brigus, and that people working in the Woollen Mills live in Brigus and not in the West End, and therefore observation shows that he was making a snappy remark, false and not to the point. Now, Sir, I object to the Bill in the interest of the folks of the West End, in the interest of the folks of Brigus, even though some be employed in these factories, because it takes away from this House any chance of reducing all duties on these goods and therefore any chance of having low prices for them for twenty years, be-

cause that proviso is practically worthless. For the reasons I have stated make it compulsory on the Government that the two companies make fifteen per cent. before these duties can be raised. Why should people have to pay larger prices to pay shareholders fifteen per cent? Why should the people suffer and get relief until other people get 15 per cent? What peculiar legislation to bring into this House, a House which is supposed to represent the people. This is legislation in the interest, not of the people, but of the few shareholders of these companies.

Now, Sir, as far as I am concerned I shall oppose this section entirely. I shall vote against it. As a matter of fact I do not understand the proceedings at all. Here is supposed to be a contract that is already signed and agreed to by two parties, and this proposal is evidently to be tacked on to section four in the middle of the contract. Surely there is something wrong with such a proceedure and this ought to be cleared up.

Now then, in the matter of the elimination of section four of the contract. I concur that it is to be negatived. I therefore do not need to say anything further in that connection. The same applies to Section 6. So far as Section 5 is concerned, I do not care very much about that sub-Section "B." At the same time I have no desire to offer any strenuous opposition.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Just one word, Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member, but the point is this. I would be the last in the world to insinuate that my hon. friend intended it, but the criticism of Section 3 has not been fairly put before the House. Now, as a matter of fact, when this section 3 becomes law there is nothing whatever to prevent all woollen goods being put on the free list immediately, and my hon. friend knows that. All this talk about a 35% duty doesn't mean anything I say, and if that Section were brought before the Supreme Court tomorrow, that is the interpretation, and the only one, which could be put on it. I would not say it is an attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the public, but it looks very much like it. What are the facts, the protection of 35% only begins to apply when the Company is able to satisfy the Governor in Council that they are manufacturing as good an article and as cheap an article and a sufficient quantity to supply the whole market. Does anyone believe that this is going to happen?

MR. LLOYD—Well, why is it put in, then?

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—That is another question and is not to the point. I am construing the Section and I say that the Section is not operative and does not begin to apply at all until the company is able to come to the Government and say: "We have carried out our contract. We are making as good an article as can be imported and as cheap as can be imported. We are supplying the whole market." If that day ever arrives that any company or companies are in a position to come to this or any government, ten, twenty or fifty years hence, and are able to say and able to prove, and satisfy the Governor in Council that they have fulfilled these conditions, then is there any objection to keep on the duty? Is not that what we want when our own people can make as good and as cheap an article and can supply the whole market? Ought we not to make it prohibitive to bring in any similar article? This Section was put in to give the Company as much encouragement as possible, but is really giving them no protection. The Minister of Customs can come in to-morrow after we have passed this

bill and place those goods on the free list. Just as soon as this company can satisfy the Governor in Council, as I have said, then and then only are we to put the duty on and keep it on. Now the amendment proposed by the Colonial Secretary is an additional safeguard and goes on further to say that should the day arise when all these conditions are fulfilled, we need still give them no protection if they are making over fifteen per cent. What more do you want? This is sure to satisfy the people. Every possible safeguard as regards the public is provided for in that bill.

MR. LLOYD—You have not made any conversion, sir.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—I am not the first missionary who has failed; and some have not only failed but been eaten.

MR. LLOYD—What I wish to say is this. While the leader of the Government is satisfied that we have provided for to-morrow, he does not provide for what is going to happen to, day and to-morrow, and when a Government is satisfied to sign an agreement such as this, they would probably be very easily satisfied on other matters. Once satisfied, neither this House nor this country can get us out of the toils for twenty years.

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 remaining orders of the day were deferred.

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

The House adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, June 15th.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. MOUTON—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Grand Bruit and other places—about sixty families—asking for telegraph connection. Grand Bruit is about 25 miles from Burgeo. There are quite a number of fishermen who congregate there in the winter to fish and it 's impossible for them to let their friends know their whereabouts. There is quite a business done there. They have been asking for a telegraph office for a number of years, and I trust that the Government will be able to build this telegraph line in connection with the line that runs around the bottom of LaPoile. I trust that the petition will receive favour able consideration and I ask that it be referred to the proper Department.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to present a petition from North Harbour, Placentia Bay, on the subject of a Telegraph Office for that settlement. I may say that this is a very important settlement in the bottom of Placentia Bay and is quite a distance from any Telegraph Office, the nearest being five or six miles. They have been asking for this convenience for many years. They are a very industrious people who live there and I think they are justly entitled to the best consideration of the Government and I hope that in the very near future when all the places throughout that Bay will be linked up with the Telegraph that North Harbour will receive a Telegraph Of-

fice. I have much pleasure in supporting this petition and ask that it be referred to the proper Department.

MR. DEVEREAUX—I have much pleasure in supporting the petition.

MR. CLIFT—I beg to present a petition from Mudford's Cove and other places in the District of Twillingate quite near the town of Twillingate asking that a way office be established at that place. The petition sets forth that there is a population of about 300 and the need of this office was endorsed by the Secretary of the Post Master General, Mr. Campbell, who personally investigated the matter a little while ago. I therefore ask that this way office be established and I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition and I hope the Post Master General will find it possible to accede to the request of the petition.

MR. ABBOTT—I beg leave to present a petition from the Society of United Fishermen of Middle Brook, in the District of Bonavista, asking for $100 to build a road to their hall. The petition is signed by a number of people. I have also a petition from Middle Amherest Cove asking for the sum of $50 to build a road to agricultural property, also a petition from the inhabitants of Port Blandford, asking for $100 to build a road in that locality. These petitions are largely signed and the requests are absolutely necessary. I hope the Government will see their way clear to grant the request and I ask that the petition be referred to the proper Department.

MR. CLIFT—I ask leave to present a petition from John Budge, a resident of Broughton, in the district of Twillingate, asking for some money to repair roads of that place. I beg to support the petition and ask that it be referred to the Department of Public Works.

QUESTIONS.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—In the absence of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries I beg to table answer to a question asked by Mr. Halfyard.

MR. COAKER—I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance and Customs to a question asked by me on the opening day of the Session with reference to the Controller of Liquor.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The papers are being copied, but it will take some time to do it.

MR. CLIFT—I asked the Minister of Finance some time ago for a copy of the detailed statement of Contingencies from last June.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That is being prepared. I will have it on Monday.

SUPPLY.

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. HALFYARD—Mr. Chairman: 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. At this season of the year when we should be employed in the ordinary avocations of business-life, we have to submit to the trying ordeal of coming here every afternoon. These estimates should in the ordinary course of events be voted within a comparatively short time, but the statements made by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister in reply to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition as to what the intention of

the Government was re a general election, gave rise to the belief on this side of the House that it was seriously contemplated by the Government to bring in a Bill for the extension of the life of Parliament. This statement of the Premier will no doubt prolong the debate and make what was hoped to be a short session much longer than was anticipated. The reasons given by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, was that it was not in the best interest of the country to hold a general election this Fall, and also that the press of the country was on the whole not in favor of it. I would like to know what part of the public press of this country at the present time is in a position from a monetary standpoint and from the standpoint of patronage to give an unbiased expression as to whether we should nave a general election or not. The press is on the whole subsidized by the Government and are unable to speak how they like. If we were perfectly sure that the press had the best interests of the country at heart, we then could rely upon the statements they make, and could take them seriously to a greater or lesser extent, but as the press of this country is now receiving patronage from the Government, it is only in their interest that the Government should continue in office. They do not want to risk the losing of the favors which the Government's remaining in power means to them. And no doubt the members of the Government who are interested from a financial standpoint are not anxious to face a general election this fall. But these men represent a very small minority of the people of this country. The great body of producers of this country have only one section of the press wherein they can at present express their opinions. And there is no uncertain sound from that section of the press with regard to the necessity in the interests of the country, the interests of recruiting, and in the interests of the Empire that a general election should be held this Fall, to clear the atmosphere, which is surcharged with suspicion and doubt of the sincerity and patriotism of the party now in power.

From that section of the press which is practically the only section which represents the voice of the great majority of the people of the country, there is no uncertain sound. If you are going to decide by what is in newspapers, then let the paper which voices the sentiments and wishes of the majority of the electors decide as to the advisability or the practicability or the necessity of holding a general election. I have here an article written in the 'News' on June st, 1917, which reads as follows: (Reads.)

"What the Government will have to decide is whether it would be justifiable to split the country wide open with a squalid partizan squabble at a time when the attention of the people is solely and anxiously absorbed in the titanic struggle in Europe; and if they should elect to avoid such a deplorable condition of affairs they will only do so because they will believe it to be in the best interests of the country and the Empire. No other consideration will count. The Government have already proved their sincerity. They were ready to share their responsibilities with the Opposition, were willing to waive party administration for a National Ministry, were anxious that division should cease. Their offer was flatly rejected, the door was not only closed but bolted, and the Opposition will only have themselves to blame if perchance the Government's decision regarding the country's welfare interfere with their cherished plans and anticipations." The last sentence re-

fers to the preceding sentence, which may not be very comprehensible unless I read the first of it. However, I have read enough to show the committee what the editor meant when he penned that sentence. When the war began the members of the Government were not so particularly anxious to effect a coalition. The members who are in receipt of the emoluments connected with their offices feared to play the game. Does the Government still intend to remain in power in spite of the express wishes of the people? A general election is a necessity not only from a local but from a constitutional point of view.

Yesterday Mr. Coaker, the hon. member for Twillingate, made it quite plain to this House and to the whole country, by reading an extract from a public statement of the Opposition's attitude from the Mail and Advocate of August 28, 1914, five days before the opening of the War Session of the Legislature. An appeal was then made to the Premier to take action on the lines adopted by the French Government. A new government should be formed under the leadership of Sir E. P. Morris, or Sir Robert Bond or Mr. Morine, or Mr. Kent. These were coalition overtures which showed that the Opposition was willing to unite with the Government under the leadership of the strongest man the country could produce. Party interests were to take second place, and patriotism and love of Empire was the first and only consideration. But you allowed that opportunity to pass. You weren't the lovers of country then you profess to be now. As I already said the emoluments of office induced you to let the best interests of the country have second place, that is if you are sincere in what you say now. 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 could be carried on and men could be elected to this House of Assembly, clean, honest, upright, and intelligent for the best interests of the country and bring matters to a successful finish. We must not think we are the only pebbles on the beach, and that there is nobody else who can run the business of the country. One of the reasons that cause us to be here at this late time in the year, is because in the opinion of the Government no one else can lead this House but the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister. No doubt we would have missed his council. Some one would have had to assume responsibility for anything that would have cropped up in debate, nevertheless I presume that the weakness of leadership would have created a sympathetic following of all the warring elements that compose the Government, and the leader would have the support of the party whoever he was while the House was in session. When we had the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Bond as our leadeer and he tendered his resignation, we were disappointed and regretted the incident, but we found his successor in the person of Mr. James M. Kent, now Mr. Justice Kent, whom all admired. His counsel was appreciated, and all his actions were honest and straightforward, one whom the most unlearned could follow and understand. He was very particular that those with whom he had counsel should have explained to them every matter so fully and lucidly as was possible. When the time came and a Judge was wanted for the Supreme Court did you hesitate a moment and think what a great loss the Legislature should suffer should he retire? Did you consider it then? Did you consider then that if you took Mr. Kent from us that we would be handicapped and that we would find it impossible to properly perform the functions of the Opposition in this Assem-

bly. No, you wanted the best man in the country, and you could not find him on your own side, so you came to our side of the House and took Mr. Kent from us. We regretted that he had to leave us, but we congratulated him on his appointment. Then we called on Dr. Lloyd to resume the leadership of the Opposition in the House of Assembly. We all know Dr. Lloyd has proven his ability in this House, which is recognized by both sides, and not only that, but Dr. Lloyd, when given the opportunity is going to be the Lloyd George of Newfoundland and is going to bring order out of the political chaos that now exists. These are illustrations to show that no matter who may leave, there is always somebody to take his place. Therefore we might have met in January or February and the Premier might have gone to the Imperial Conference, come back, and given his report through the press as he has already done. It was a high honor to have an invitation from the Imperial Parliament for Newfoundland to send her representative, and we could not send any more capable representative than the Premier of the country. We appreciate his report and we trust that the interests of the country were fully set forth by him. Suggestions and recommendations no doubt were made that would be in the best interests of the country.

We know that after the war is over there will be a great change in the British Empire, the Empire of free peoples. There will be a consolidation of forces throughout the constituent parts of the Empire. They will be knit together with the spiritual bonds of unity that will cause this Empire to continue as it has in the past, the envy as well as the admiration of the other Empires of the earth. There will be changes from a political standpoint. Our political associations will not always remain as they are now. The Kaiser who thought to ruin the Empire will in the end give it a new and deeper foundation, a community of sacrifice which can never be forgotten, and a common inspiration for the future.

Now, to return to the article taken from the press as to why we should not go to the country. This is the extract:

"What the Government will have to decide is whether it would be justifiable to split the country wide open with a squalid partizan squabble at a time when the attention of the people is solely and anxiously absorbed in the titanic struggle in Europe."

What in the world does the editor mean to insinuate by this: "It is goong to split the country open." What is going to take place that will cause such happenings? Why, I should think from the evidence of unity and sacrifice that has been shown on the fields of France and Flanders, in Gallipoli and on the North Sea by our brave soldiers and sailors, that an appeal to the country would never meet a more honest and sincere consideration. Why do you anticipate "deplorable conditions?" Do you intend to raise the same cry as you did in 1913? The same paper that printed these lines was the first paper to raise the cry of Godless schools. Is that what you are going to do next year? Do not try like ostriches to hide your heads in the sand of deception and intrigue with the hope of covering up your political sins of omission and commission of the past four years. Is that what you intend to do. You talk about patriotism, keeping united and acting as one to carry ourselves through the present crisis, and yet you think it is not right to go to the country and ask a man for his vote. Now, in connection with that item, I will read you an extract from another section of the press, and the writer must have in mind the Daily News ed-

itorial of June 1st, when penning these lines. The writer expresses my ideas and sentiments clearly and more forcibly than I could find words to do just now, so I will read it to the House. This is from the section of the press which the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister takes as indicating the opinion of the people all over the country. (Reads.)

"With reference to the sensational rumor recently started by an indis creet section of the local press, and now going the rounds of the city, that the religious feelings between the two great bodies of our population are such as to preclude the advisability of a political contest and render it necessary for the Government to extend the term for another year, by which time they hope this feeling will have subsided. This is all rubbish and rant, as every right-minded citiben knows perfectly well.

Such feelings exist only in the imagination of political Simonites who, like the witches of Macbeth's cauldron, stir them up or soothe them down, as they think is best for their own interest and advantage, and who, like said witches, are deserving no better fate than to be well boiled in their own pot. The man or men who would trade on the ignorant bigotry of his unfortunate countrymen—whether he be a stranger in our gates, or to the manor born—that man, I say is not fit to live!"

That is the press you quote as saying that we should not have a general election next fall. Now, that is not from the Advocate either, but from a hard-headed common-sense individual, who has independence of thought enough to express himself, even if it must be contrary to the expressed ideas of the editor of the same paper. 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 here yesterday by Mr. Coaker, the hon. member for Twillingate, that would be the worst thing that could happen that 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 that 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 sacrifices of our noble boys, not to keep up that unit. I appeal to you to keep that spirit within the minds of every young man in the country. 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 actions in connection with a general election? Do you take Canada for an example? There is no analogy between the conditions that obtain in Canada and those that obtain in this country. Do you intend to introduce Conscription? If so, that would be another matter. Premier 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 pronouncements that he did not know the meaning of the word. What is there to keep this countrv apart? What is there to cause these squalid squabblings of which we have heard so much? The squalid squabbling seems to be over appointments only, while the efficiency of the public service is winked out of sight altogether. It is apparent to everybody that conditions in the service, especially in the matter

of filling the vacancy of a Judge for the Central District Court, and the appointing of a new Inspector General of Police, are enough to make the casual observer blush with shame. The only squalid squabbles I hear anything about take place among the Executive over these appointments. Whether we get recruits or not does not seem to matter. There is nothing which you can say which will prove to the intelligence of this country that it is not to our best interests to have an election this fall. Everything to the contrary. These remarks re an election may not be appreciated by the majority of the members of the Government, but I believe that if some of the members of the Government were to express themselves as they think and as they know, they would certainly say we should have a general election this fall. Now, so much for that. We will get down to the estimates Now Mr. Cashin, the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs, very generously said yesterday when submitting the estimates that the Government was prepared to make any improvements re the system of increases in the Civil Service which might be suggested. Now I think it has already been pointed out by those who have spoken on this side of the House that your system of increases is not fair. You have gone at this matter like you have gone at all other matters. You have used the rule of thumb method and followed the line of least resistance. This Government has rightly been called a surtax Government, and this is just another surtax. A schoolboy could make the alterations that you have made in the tariff, and also in your method of increasing salaries. No inquiry has been made as to the efficiency or the qualifications of those that hold office, or with regard to the recompense for service rendered. This is the most ridiculous system and the most unfair system that any body of men could propose. Take for instance a man who is getting, say $200 a year, perhaps a tidewaiter, or some person holding a similar position in an outport. Yes, take the case of a tidewater getting $200 a year. He can carry on the fishery and earn perhaps a thousand dollars in the run of the year. His position as a tidewaiter is only a sideline, and he is called on perhaps once a month or twice a month, when a schooner may come in with some dutiable goods. You gave him $200 and now you give him a 50 per cent. increase. On the other hand the man who is getting $500 a year has to devote every minute of his time to his work, and he may have a family to support, although that is neither here nor there, and could not be taken as a criterion. The first consideration is to have the public service properly attended to, and a man should be adequately paid for the service he renders, whether he is married or not. Pay a man properly and he will then have no excuse for neglecting his work. However, as I was saying, the man who was getting $500 will get a raise of $115 only, and he probably has no chance whatever of earning any more, whereas the man who was getting $200 will get a raise of $100, and as pointed out yesterday by Mr. Clift, the hon. member for Twillingate, where those small salaries are given, in 90 per cent. of the cases they are only side lines. Men who perform this work for the Government should be satisfied with small payments, as they are not required to give the whole of their time, and in many cases only a very small fraction of their time, and can go on with their ordinary avocations and earn their living otherwise. Certainly that could not have been considered when these percentages of raises were submitted. There may be a few instances where it is right and

proper that men who were getting $200 per year should get $30v or even $400 as a compensation compatible with the work they did and the time they had to give to that work, but this is a wholesale thing and there is no discriminaion made whatever. Throw $100 at the $200 men, throw $105 at the $300 men, throw $120 at the $400 men, and so forth. Now, I am not advocating high salaries, but I know men who are living in this city getting $900 a year who are merely living from hand to mouth, and they have to keep up the appearance expeetcd from them on account of their office. The Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs said he was willing to accept any suggestion we make on this side of the House. Well, now, we are trying to make some suggestions. It is not for us to do your work, but to point out where we think there is something wrong and an adjustment should be made. We are not paid for doing your work. If you are paid for doing something you should attend to it. However, we are pointing out where there is anything at fault and where your arrangements are not to the best interests of the service., You are causing dissatisfaction, and as we all know, there is dissatisfaction enough now with the present administration, without making confusion worse confounded. I would not say that it is a vote-catching scheme, because the Opposition recommended an increase for civil servants. Those who are doing the work of the Government should be paid for it, just the same as those in any other calling in life, and it is not because a man is a Government official he can live on fresh air. He has to be respectable and he has to be paid That is not what we find fault with at all—the increase—but your method of disposing of that increase. I would suggest to the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs that he, with one or two others, should constitute a board of inquiry and investigate the conditions under which the civil servants of this country work, how their salary is supplemented, what other means they have, what other time they have, if the office is of such a nature that the appointee must continue there all the time, and who are depending on him. It is to the interest of the public and the country that a man who has to stay and attend to his work should be given sufficient remuneration for his work. But don't give the man who has nothing to do a large increase, and the man who hasn't got a minute of spare time to raise a potato a small increase. That is where the unfairness comes in. No regard is being paid to the efficiency of the service or the special necessities of the official, and the man who has been fortunate enough to have only perhaps six months' experience, and who was recently engaged gets a salary in some cases 100 per cent. greater than was paid fifteen or twenty years ago, and the man who has been in the service fifteen or twenty years is working for the same old salary. The man who was recently appointed gets his percentage of increase just the same as the other, and I say there is nothing fair about it. I have in mind the case of three light keepers, viz: The keepers of Wadham Island, Peckford Island and Penquin Island lights. The Wadham Island keeper gets a salary this year of $686.76. Last year he got $582.00. The Penquin Island keeper gets $686.76. Last year he got $582.00. Sandwiched in between these two is Peckford's Island. The keeper last year got $360.00, this year he gets $468.00. Each of the three keepers as far as we are informed, has the same duties to perform Penquin Island light needs no more attention than Peckford's Island light. Each keeper has to pay an assistant, and

last year the keeper of Peckford Island light had to pay an assistant between $60 and $100 for the winter months. What I can't understand is that the estimates provide Wadham Island $420, Penquin Island $400, and Peckford's Island, $480 respectively for maintenance. The keeper of Peckford's Island gets $80 more for maintenance than the keeper of Penquin Island, still his salary is $218.76 less. Is there anything logical about that?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—We know nothing about it. You will find lighthouses there for $2,000.

MR. HALFYARD—This matter has been brought to the attention of the Government for the past 2 or 3 years. Now, listen to a story about Peckford's Island: When Mr. Whiteway was appointed to the position of keeper of Peckford's Island light he was promised the same salary as the keeper on the Wadham and Penquin Islands. When he received his quarterly cheque he found he was not receiving any more than was paid the previous year. I presume he asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for an explanation. And do you know the explanation he got. He received a letter from the Manager of the Bank of Montreal saying there was a sum of $100 put to the credit of Mrs. Cornelius Whiteway at that bank They gave it to his wife. Of course the man never got any more than that and he resigned. You would not blame him for resigning. He was promised a certain salary and when he stayed there for a number of years and the promise was not fulfilled he told them to keep it and do what they liked with it But everybody is not in the same happy position as Mr. Whiteway with regard to finding ways and means for the support of himself and those dependent upon him. Some other poor man thinks it is alright for him to go there. Another man is found to go there; and that man was given $360 and had to find an assistant. If I am informed correctly, these three lights require similar attention and care and entail similar responsibility and expense. So why differentiate in salaries? Why allott different salaries to men who have to perform such valuable and important services? When you are making an increase in salaries that certainly should be considered. If you keep a tab on the lighthouse service of this country; if you know its requirements and what duties it entails, it surprises me that in your estimates you overlooked the distinction they show in this matter and did not make allowance for the payment of a salary to this man that would correspond with the ones paid the keeper on Penquin and Wadham Islands. And then you wonder at dissatisfaction, at the vast amount of correspondence that is received from officials who complain of such ill-treatment? Is it any wonder when one man gets 100 per cent. less than another man for doing similar work. I am glad of the opportunity of again bringing this matter to the attention of the Government and of showing that proper care and supervision are not being exercised in connection with important services of this country. It is not because suggestions have not been offered from this side of the House. On the day of opening the Rt. Hon. the Premier said that he would be glad to accept suggestions from the Opposition; and that if any blunders were made in the administration of affairs that we had to take our share of the responsibility. But, bless my soul, we have done nothing else but offer suggestions and they have not been accepted. Take the case of war profits: When certain individuals or companies on Water Street sold their steamers to the

Russian Govenment it was freely rumoured and freely reported that they made very great profits on the deals. The members of the Government and of the Opposition agreed on that point I think it was Mr. Currie, the hon. member for Burin, who proposed the Address in Reply, and be referred to this matter, and he spoke of these men as being afflicted with the getting-rich-quick-microbe. He said their patriotism was the patriotism that pays. But it had no effect with the Government. Dr. Lloyd, the Leader of the Opposition, strongly advised the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to make investigation into the matter and see if the revenue of the country could not be increased correspondingly, and to find out if it was true, as was reported, that great sums of money had accrued to these men by the sales in question.

We have made suggestions enough from this side of the House to have reformed the administration of affairs, if they had been carried out, and there would have been no need for you now to be worrying about a general election, because we would all have been working together and the country would have been blossoming like a rose. We have given you the cue; we have told you what to do; but you will not do it; and yet you are trying to blame us for everything that has gone wrong, but we will see that you won't be believed when you make the statement. Now, this matter of taxing war profits would have been one way of finding revenue to meet the increases that have to be made now in order to give the servants of the Government a little aid to help them tide over the hard times that are now upon us and that are keenly felt by those who have to find ways and means to support themselves and their families on very limited incomes.

In the estimates I notice that nothing is allocated this year under the head of Exploration of Coal Areas. Now, is it possible that you have given up the idea of exploring the coal areas of this country? Why, it was one of the planks in your platform a few years ago that previous Governments had only been tinkering with this matter, and that you were going to make sure once and for all whether we had coal in this country in workable quantities or not; and now, judging from the estimates before us, you have given it up—abandoned the matter altogether—given yourself a black eye and the country a black eye. Why, it is one of our chief assets—imaginary assets, anyhow; most of the assets that the Government speak of are imaginary; and it is very good to have imaginary ones. They are better than none at all. We were told four or five years ago that we had very valuable coal areas in this country and that all that we wanted was sufficient capital to mine it properly when we could get enough to supply our local needs and also for exportation, but now we are compelled to believe that all we then heard about coal was pure political bunkum.

Now, there is an increase here that I very much appreciate, and that is the increase for education. I am very pleased to see that the education grant has been increased, so that those who are giving their time to educate the youth of the country will be compensated a little better than they have been. I presume that the Government has accepted the Memorial that was submitted to them by the representatives of the various denominations, and the schedule attached to that memorial. Now, I was hoping that the whole increase would go directly to the teachers, but I note that $37,000 is given under the head of general education, which means that it will go to the School Boards. Of course, those

who compose the School Boards are on the whole very honourable, upright gentlemen, and I do not doubt their honesty in any particular, but they are not infallible, and very often money that should go directly to the teachers as increases in their salaries is diverted to some other use. If the whole of this were given to the Augmentation Grant the lower grade teachers would get a better salary as well as the higher grade teachers; and 1 disagree with the allocation in this particular. I presume that the object of the Government is to make the lives of the teachers, from a bread-and butter standpoint, a little easier, but do you know how the increases in the Educational Grants have been appropriated during the last few years? Not to the increasing of the teachers salaries, but to the increasing of the number of schools; so that while education generally may have benefitted. the teachers have not benefitted one iota. Those who are giving the best years of their lives and are working consistently and honestly in trying to instil into the minds of those who come under their tuition the highest ideals of citizenship and also trying to fit them as well as possible as regards the qualifications for taking their place in whatever avocations they may take up after leaving school, have to go on on the same old salaries, while schools have been increased. Now that $37,000 will, I presume, be used in a similar way. A very small part of it may go towards increasing the teachers' salaries and the balance will go to increasing schools. The point I want to make is that the grant is not adequate. You should allocate a grant large enough and liberal enough to put a school wherever one should be put.

That is the first thing you should do; and the next thing you should do is to arrange to give the teachers a living wage commensurate with the work that they have to perform. Governments and educationists in this country have only been playing with this subject; they have only been trifling with it. Is it not a disgrace to Newfoundland when we read in the newspapers that some of the best of our young men—the, brawniest, physically and the best mentally if they had had the opportunity for mental development—going to the United States of America and being turned down and sent back because they are unable to read and write? And still we are loud-mouthed in our acclamations and sophistries of what we have done for education. We have done nothing for education; we have done more for Pauper Relief than we have for Education.

In 1913 we were told in the Speech from the Throne that we were going to have Night Schools, or what is called Continuation Schools. It was spoken of as an established fact. Mr. Bennett then said: "The Government of the day has adopted a scheme by which every young man with ambition either in St. John's or the outports, who has not had the advantages of education in his youth, will be able to go to a Night School and acquire knowledge which will promote his general welfare in life." The Rt. hon. the Premier, in reply to a question in reference to education at that time, used words similar to these, if not the same words, and he stated that the Government would take up the question of Continuation Schools and deal with it as speedily as possible; but here we are in 1917 and we don't know any more about Night Schools than we did in the year of Our Lord 1854. Nothing has been done.

We should not be blinded to our best interest by having to listen to everything that people tell us whether right or wrong. It is said that

in the great manufacturing centres of the United States of America now, that the managers of the large factories will not allow a person to be employed who cannot read. The reason given is that rules and regulations are put up with regard to the actions and movements of the employees and the employers will not be responsible for any accidents if the man cannot read the notices put up for his guidance when engaged in certain kinds of work. That is the condition that prevails at present. The Government is no better and no worse in some respects than other Governments. There is one thing, however, with respect to this Government and that is that up to the last two or three years they have had overflowing revenues from which the money was allocated on a percentage basis to the different services and the method pursued by the Government in making these allocations was without very much regard to the interests of those services. Each service got so much. Roads got so much. Lighthouses so much and so much for this, that and the other. It would have been much better if you had given the whole of your surplus to Education and never spent a cent in any other direction. We would have got along somehow and have got along a thousand times better as far as the future of this country is concerned if the whole of the surplus had been given to Education. When you had no surplus you managed to get along somehow but you have not acted with regard to the best interests of the country, but you have done what you thought would tickle the fancy of the people whether it was in the best interests of the country or not. The grant for Education should be so important that there should not be a child within the confines of the boundaries of this little Island but would have the opportunity of learning how to read and write at least.

I cannot see why the matter of Continuation Schools or Night Schools was not taken up as had been promised. Have you acted in this particular as you have acted in connection with other matters that have arisen during the past two years? Have you relegated the whole matter to Committees? Have you said when you have granted so much money for Education "Here take it. Go do what you like with it"? Is it possible that we cannot get a Government in this country with a sufficient number of educationists who will see that every child in this country is educated and educated properly.

I have been ashamed to notice in this enlightened age that from time to time we have young men coming into us who are not able to even sign a receipt. They cannot even read notices placed before them when they are in the largest and simplest characters of the English Alphabet. Still you go and shout from the house tops what you are doing for Education. Why, you should be down on your knees praying for forgiveness for your sins of omission. Of course, our men get along pretty well even under present conditions but it is only the innate common sense of our Newfoundlanders which enables them to attain the position they occupy in every walk of life. It is not that we have not brain if we had the opportunity of getting them cultivated; but that is not possible because of the rotten system of Government we are working under. Anything that will give you a vote is good enough; but anything that will increase the happiness and prosperity of our people from an intelligent standpoint is, comparatively speaking, ignored.

I do not agree altogether with memorialists on the scale of increases. I do not know whether this is the Newfoundland Teachers' Association

Memorial or whether it is from the Superintendents or from the Education Committees of the different denominations; but be that as it may, I have my own opinion on the matter. Take the case of the First Grade Teacher: after sixteen years service the highest salary is $594.00, while the highest salary to an Associate Male Teacher is $906.00. Is that altogether fair? With all due respect to the higher grade, the Associate Grade, I believe that in seventy-five cases out of a hundred the First Grade Teacher who spends over six years in the service will give as good service as will the A. A.

I am speaking now for the schools of the outports. They may not do the same work in connection with science subjects, or dead language subjects, or modern language subjects if you like They may not do the same work, but on the other hand in the case of those who go through the Colleges with the object of taking the higher examinations the preliminary subjects are neglected in many cases. Geography is not taught at all. Book-keeping is ignored. They have to take French and Mechanics —even girls have to take Mechanics if they have in view the Associate Grade. It is a matter of preparing to qualify for the every day common occupations that the majority of our boys and girls have to engage in after they leave school. Therefore there is not the same encouragement for the qualified first grade male teacher to remain in the service as there is for the Associate Grade teacher. I would suggest that the period for increases be made twenty years instead of sixteen years so that after 20 years service the total increase for Associate Grade will be $360.00. Any man who remains in the service as long as that earns it and is qualified for it; because he will be down and out with regard to qualification and efficiency long before that if he is not fit. We should encourage those who are efficient to remain in the service as long as they possibly can.

In referring to Appendix A.

I notice a teacher has to live on $245,00 a year even with the increase and he has to teach 16 years before he gets $245.00. His first year's salary is $209.00, and he has to teach 16 years for to get an increase of $24.00, to make up the $245.00. You cannot expect to get qualified teachers for such starvation salaries.

The salary is not sufficient to provide board and lodging at the present high cost of living, to say nothing of clothing and other expenses incidental to the calling of a teacher. The only teacher you can hope to get is a youth or girl whose home is in the place where he or she teaches, and the parents have to partly provide for the keeping of the schools open, by bearing the expenses of board for the teacher which should be provided by the State. The teacher is young and inexperienced and in many cases the children suffer as a consequence.

It is too much to expect such teachers to know anything about psychology or what is best suited for the minds of the little tots who come under their tuition, or even if they do know, our schools are not properly staffed so that the attention can be given the individual pupil. Imagine a school of about 50 children ranging from the alphabet to the 6th reader, with preparation classes for the C.H.E. Exams. for the Primary, Preliminary and Intermediate grades.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman, the statement of the Premier yesterday that he did not know anyone who was in favour of a general election in this country, but that, on the other hand, he knew of a considerable number that was opposed to the idea of hav-

ing a general election this Fall, to my mind, Sir, shows that he viewed things from a one-sided view-point.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I did not say that. What I said was this, that I did not know anyone outside the House who had the interests of the country at heart, that wished for a general election. The official reports will confirm this and the reports of the Opposition papers.

MR. GRIMES—I accept your statement that no one outside the House having the interests of the country at heart wanted a general election. But I think the Premier here has given expression to sentiments which show that he is not alive to what the people of this country are thinking, for any person who goes around this town, not to speak of the outports, knows that there is a very considerable section of the people of this city and the outports who are in favor of, and want to see, a general election this Fall. I can quite understand how the Premier came to make this statement if he only consulted with men who have business interests in the Government and who do not come in direct contact with the people, but I think it is very little use finding out what they are thinking about. If you want to find out the sentiments of the people, you must get in touch with the leaders of the various organizations that exist in this country. I think the F.P.U. is worthy of consideration in this respect, representing as it does some twenty thousand fishermen. All these men are in favour of a general election, and what of the fishermen who are not in the F.P.U.? How do you know what these men want? Have they not the right to say who shall sway the destinies of this country for another four years? This is an instance of the German principles that we are fighting against to-day and to stand beside the British flag which represents liberty, justice and freedom, does not become any Government. It is not fair play, British fair play. I always thought the people were the sovereign power, but according to the Premier the Government is the sovereign power. This fact becomes all the more unconstitutional, when you consider that the Government represents a minority of the electorate of this country, a minority of the people. The Government was short 5,000 votes last election as the election returns will show. Will the Government attempt to force itself, then, upon the majority of the people who wish to have a general election take place this fall? Would you say that it was allowing them fair play and liberty to compel them to accept what you wish, or are you not denying them the liberty that you claim to be standing for, and which they stand for, and which their sons are fighting for out in the trenches to-day? I think, Sir, it will come as a great surprise to many of our boys in the trenches that the principles for which they are supposed to be fighting are denied to their people in the homeland. And, Mr. Chairman, how do you expect the action of the Government in putting off the election is going to effect recruiting in this country? Do you think you are going to have a people as ready to volunteer for the defence of their country when they find the Government telling them in effect that they do not count; that they are nobody; and that they have no say at all as to how the country is to be governed. You can imagine, Mr. Chairman, what a feeling of resentment will be aroused through the country if the Government adopts this attitude. Now, Mr. Chairman, if the Premier and his associates are really sincere in what they say about their love of the Empire, and for all that

the British Flag stands for, then they will not attempt to postpone the election; because not only would the people resent it, but I am inclined to think that you would find that if such a thing were attempted the people would meet force with force; and nobody on either side of the House wants to see that; what we want is unity. And, after all, what does the Governmnt fear from an election this fall? Have not the people the right to rule? And even if they are defeated, let them go down to defeat like men—like the men of the British Navy, who are not sorry, because they are fighting for principles that they believe to be worth fighting for.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the Estimates, there are one or two votes that I think need some consideration. I notice, for instance, under the head of General Hospital, that the salary of the Resident Physician is $2300. He is also the Physician of the Penitentiary. Now, according to your scale, anyone receiving a salary of more than $1200 is not to receive an increase, but this gentleman is given an increase of $50.00 for his work in connection with the Penitentiary in spite of the fact that he is receiving $2300 for his work at the Hospital, and in addition to that sum gets an allowance of $500 for the upkeep of a horse, carriage and attendant, has free rent, light and other items—in fact, an appointmenut worth about $4000 a year. But, Sir, that is not all he receives. I have been told that he also receives fees from patients at the Hospital. Now, I understand that when the Resident Physician was given this salary it was meant to cover his entire work at the Hospital, and I do not understand why he is allowed to receive fees from patients that ought to be going into the coffers of the Government.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Can you give a particular instance?

MR. GRIMES—I understand that a Mr. Butt was a patient at the General Hospital and that a bill was presented to him for $100 by Dr. Keegn. He refused to pay it, and I understand it was sent to the Government for payment.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—By whom?

MR. GRIMES—By Dr. Keegan.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—It never came before the Government. The Government are not aware of any patients having paid fees at the General Hospital.

MR. GRIMES—Did not Mr. Flynn, or Finn, of Carbonear, pay a fee?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Not that I have any knowledge of.

MR. GRIMES—I think you will find that Mr. Finn of Carbonear paid $100 for attendance received at the General Hospital.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Do you know his Christian name?

MR. GRIMES—No.

MR. COAKER—Under the Hospital Bill they have the right to charge fees, they must go to the Government. Provided he does not forward them to the Government.

MR. GRIMES—If those fees are collected by Dr. Keegan I look upon it as graft, in view of the fact that Dr. Keegan is paid well for doing this work.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Provided he does not forward them to the Government.

MR. GRIMES—Of course. There is another matter that I would like to refer to in connection with the management of the General Hospital. There are certain other physicians down there who get salaries ranging from $400 to $700 for work performed at the hospital. Now, it appears, that they often attend to their own patients down there, and for that purpose are permitted the use of the various appliances used

in connection with the hospital; but this privilege is not accorded to physicians generally. Often patients ask that they be attended to by their family physicians, but while their family doctor may come and see them, he is not allowed to use the hospital appliances. Now, I consider that is very unfair, not only to the physician but to the patient, because a patient may have faith in his family doctor, may believe that he understands his case better than anybody else, and would therefore prefer to be attended to by him; and I think that every doctor ought be permitted to attend at the hospital, look after his own patients, and have the use of any appliances that he may need for that purpose.

Referring to the matter of education, referred to so forcibly, so ably and so well by the hon. member for Fogo, I think, Sir, that before granting any further educational vote apart from increases to teachers' salaries, the Government should have made some arrangement with the Council of Higher Education regarding a change in the present method of conducting examination, and also a reconsideration of the subjects which the pupils are compelled to study. It is well known that three-fourths of the pupils who attend our scools have to study subjects that will never be of any use to them after they leave school, and do not in any way help to fit them for the occupation that they take up in life. I think, Sir, that in this connection you will agree that the educational systm of this country to-day is not as advantageous to the boys and girls who attend our schools as was that of twenty or thirty years ago. The practical side of education is being lost sight of. Writing, mathematics, and subjects of that kind, are not receiving the same attention that they used to receive twenty or thirty years ago; the time is now more taking up with the study of languages than with practical subjects. A pupil who wants to qualify for the Associate Grade, as the hon. member for Fogo has pointed out, is forced to take up the study of chemistry, and Latin or French, or some other language. This means that his time is wasted so far as fitting that scholar to take up his duties in life is concerned,because as a general rule when a boy leaves school he either engages in some branch of the fishing industry, goes into an office as a clerk, or behind a counter, or some such occupation.

For a man going into an office as a clerk or going behind a counter or some such occupation, the study of these subjects is of no use. Why does not the Government consult with some authority on the subject—not necessarily the school inspectors, efficient and capable men beyond all doubt—get in touch with men who know what the real needs of our boys and girls who attend school to-day are. That our system of education is not the best—but far from the best—is shown by the reports that come in from the regiment. If you get a list to-day from the Employment Committee of the number of applicants that have sent in applications for positions what would you find? Written opposite their names you would find the comment, "no education"; or "poor education"; or "fair education"; and only about one in thirty have the status of a good education. The majority of them have a poor education; a number of them no education; some of them fair education. That shows that there is something wrong with our educational system, and that something has to be done in order that every boy and girl in this country may know how to read and write and have some knowledge of mathematics. Now, Sir, if we want to be

an industrial country and to compete with other countries we have got to have men occupying positions in connection with these industries with some technical knowledge of the work which they have to do. But how can you expect a worker who has no education whatever or has been improperly educated to be as good a producer as say the Englishman or the German or the Frenchman who has been given the very best education that it is possible for the country to give, and who is trained in the technique of the occupation in which he has to engage. We are making no attempt or a very small attempt of that kind because it is not encouraged to the extent that it should be. And then we talk about encouraging capital to come into this country—about getting men to invest their money here and establish various industries with the hope that they will be able to employ a lot of our people who will be sufficiently intelligent to be able to so turn out work that will not only be creditable as viewed by the people of this country, but as viewed by the people of the outside world. You cannot expect that to happen if you have not got a people or a class of people who will be able to carry out that work as the workers in other countries.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs when he was fixing these salaries did he consult with the heads of the various departments as to these salaries. With regard to the salaries of the Constabulary: It must be remembered that you have a certain number of policemen who are allowed their board and their fuel and light free; and another crowd who live outside. In increasing the salaries in this Department are you making changes that will be equitable to the men who—though receiving the same salary as men in barracks—have not the advantage of free board, light and fuel? If you want to have efficiency and no demoralization, I do not think it is fair that consideration be given in changing salaries to what men are receiving outside their salaries in the way of free light, board and fuel; and think that something ought to be done to enable the other men to have the same rate as the others. You want to have an efficient force; and not only does that apply to the police force, but to other departments as well. I think also that the man who has to pay for light, rent and fuel—as some of the police have—ought to be so salaried that they will not be placed at a disadvantage with other members of the force who have these necessities provided.

Mr. Chairman, referring again to the industries of the country. On the opening day of this session the Premier was referring to the Imperial Conference and to the part that he took in it, and if I remember rightly he said that one of the questions considered was the standardizing of the law relating to immigration for use in all British Dominions. He went on to show that there is great trouble at the present time in Canada on account of Asiatic immigration, and in order to have similar things properly adjusted it would be necessary to have similar immigration and naturalization laws for the Empire that would treat a British Asiatic the same as an emigrant from any other portion of our Dominions. What I wish to point out here is that this is a very important question. and it may apply to this country as it has applied to Canada. It is not many years ago that we had the Chinese coming here at a large rate and we had to adopt a $300 head tax in order to keep them out of the country. What is going to happen if we have a num-

ber of industries established in this country. At the present time we have two or three new industries established here and this is an indication of what is going to happen or likely to follow after the war is over. We have an American Company coming down here and establishing a shipbuilding industry in Harbour Grace that is likely to employ 200 men or more; and we have the Union Shipbuilding Co. being established at Catalina which will probably employ as many men; and besides this otner industries are going to be established at Catalina which will probably employ two or three hundred men more. Then we have the Messrs. Reid associated with other capitalists establishing cold storage plant in the West end of the city which will employ quite a large number of men. This shows the value of our fisheries not only to the country but to the world and what is likely to happen in the development of these fisheries; and that means that our people are going to be employed in large numbers. There are not many people who are idle to-day. I think most of the people to-day in this country are able to find work at the present time at any rate. Well if we are going to have a lot of concerns coming into this country, if as the Premier pointed out there is a Committee appointed in connection with the Imperial Conference to look into the question of the oil supply of this country and that there is also under consideration the development of our coal areas, where are the people coming from who will be employed in these various industries? Our people are practically all employed now, and it means that in the development of those industries workers from the outside will be coming in. It stands to reason that once the war is over the Indian subjects of the British Empire will ask that the same treatment be accorded them as is being given to the other subjects of the Empire and that they be allowed the liberty of going into every part of the British Empire without restrictions that are being placed upon them to-day. It is very possible then that we may have these concerns employing coolie labor as is being done in British Columbia to-day; and I think the Government or this House ought not to allow the Premier to commit this country to any policy that may endanger the workingmen or the fishermen of this country from competition with coolie labor. The coolie wages are small because his needs are small—he eats very little or inexpensively and his clothes cost very little; and you could not expect white people to compete with them. Unless a position is taken by the Government to protect the country from the dangers of this immigration then we will be up against it sooner or later. Of course there is one point to be remembered and that is this we can adopt a minimum wage in this country which would practical'y make it unnecessary for companies to employ men who are not able to turn out work to the value of that wage. After all Canadian companies employ these coolies only because their labor is cheaper and because the wages paid them will be equivalent to the amount of work they turn out. So that I think if we want to protect the future of this country from any of the troubles that British Columbia is experiencing to-day and has been faced with for the past 20 years that grave consideration be given this subject and the care and attention necessary to safeguard our interests be given it.

There are other matters in connection with these estimates that I would like to take up, but I am not properly informed about some of them, and I would like to have a little more time in order to be able to intelligently discuss them.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I have some remarks to make with reference to the explanation given by the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs as to statement in the Estimates about the public debt. I asked him yesterday for an explanation of the remarks he made on the previous day in which he stated that it would be unnecessary to provide interest on loan for $1,250,000 for war purposes to be raised about the first of next month. Interest thereon would amount to some $60,000. He said it was not his intention not to set out that charge in this statement in as much as there are other loans authorized but not yet raised the interest on which would be equivalent to the charges on the new loan. His explanation seems clear. I take no exception to the lucidity of it. I think he made clear exactly what his intention was; but I take exception to the principle he has adopted, and to the accuracy of the statement that the interest on loans authorized but not raised amounts to over $61,000 a year. I shall deal with the latter first. The Minister stated that under the Act I George V. Cap. 4 an amount of $135,-250 was authorized to be raised but was never floated. The interest charge on that loan was however provided for and he says it amounted to $5.410. I find that is so far, he proposes that the $5.410 shall not be used for the purpose authorized and that the $5,410 will at the end of the year appear as a drop balance. The next item deals with a temporary loan under the Act 2 Geo. V. Cap., which covers an amount of $150,000. In the Estimates it appears as a 5% loan, but that is incorrect; and Mr. Hickman pointed out the error yesterday. The authorized interest under that Loan Act, on that loan is 4%. Now coming to the third item. Under the Act 4 Geo. V. Cap. an amount is authorized to be raised, and half of it has in fact been raised. I shall speak of it as being in millions for the purposes of greater ease and clearness. Roughly it was the intention of the Government to raise two million dollars. That loan was not raised in these figures but one million of it was raised. That is perfectly correct. But that loan was authorized not at 5% as appears in the Estimates, but at 3½ per cent as appears in that Act. If the loans are not raised the drop balances on interest allowed at the end of the year will not be out $61,000 as the Minister states orally and in his estimates, but will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of $45,000—representing the interest on loans authorised but not raised. The drop balances fall short of covering the interest on the proposed loan by some $16,000.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—I will explain later.

MR. LLOYD.—On the face of it there is no question about the loans being at 3½ and 4% and not 5 per cent as stated in the estimates. As I say my calculations show that there will be some $16,000 speaking roughly unprovided for. But that is not my main objection to the matter. My main objection is as to the slipshod method of making financial statements which these estimates show. If there is to be a loan why is not the interest charge on it included in the estimates and why should it suffice to state by word of mouth that it is being provided for not in the correct fashion by a proper vote of this House but illegally by drop balances on another loan. That is my main objection. If you desire to make the total interest appear as small as possible, you have a simple way of going about it. Why not show what you intend to get authorized and put it in the statement as one and a quarter million dollars with the interest

charges, and if you want the interest charges to be reduced by $45,000, which you say you will and use this year, why do you not bring before this House a Bill modifying the Loan Acts referred to and abolish the power to raise the loans thereunder that have not been raised and show the saving of interest on account thereof. But your position is that you still keep the authority to raise these older loans and to keep in these interest charges; but the interest charges or the intent to raise immediately you do not show at all. That is my point. I have heard the explanation given, and I say that explanation is lucid; but it is not satisfactory. Its very lucidity shows that what ought to appear here does not appear. If it is proper to have recourse to interest charges on loans authorized but not to be raised, in the indefinite future, it is the proper thing to put in your estimates the amount of interest for a loan you intend to raise within a few days.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Mr. Chairman. The total amount of interest as explained last evening on loans authorized but not raised comes to something like $62,000.00, this would mean a drop balance on the Interest Account at the end of the fiscal year, but we intend to pay this amount on the $1,225,000 that we have arranged to get from the British Government in July next, there is no necessity to put an extra $60,000.00 in the Estimates; this interest went in the same form last year, and was not referred to by the honorable gentlemen on the other side.

MR. LLOYD.—The Act says 3½%

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—It is no matter about the Act.. 5% was provided. It is only splitting hairs to talk that way. The interest appearing from this, and the balance of the other Loans not raised will give us $60,000. When taking over this amount in July we do not intend to take the full amount, we have arranged to take it according as we want it, therefore, the interest on a part of that money may not be asked for more than six months.

MR. LLOYD.—I want to point out that this is not satisfactory, and I will give my reasons. We can then leave it to the House to see which is the proper way to do this. Now to show clearly the error of the Minister. He said the war might end within a year and therefore it may be desirable to borrow that $1,000,00 for railway purpose. That rate and that authority is laid down in the Act. He has no power to change it. The interest authorized by the Railway Loan Act is three and one half per cent. and there is no possibility of raising money at 3½% next year, whether the war ends or not. You could not do it, at the time the Loan was authorized even before the war started. But even if you could where is the money to pay interest on this new loan that you purpose getting next week. I am answering the arguments of the Minister,and must take one side or the other. He is on the norns of a dilemma.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—You are only splitting hairs.

MR. LLOYD.—The Minister says I am only splitting hairs. These three amounts total $61,000. The actually authorized amount allowed under the act as interest is $45,666, so that the hair I am splitting is a $16,000 one. It is a hair of very considerable dimensions, and if such are hairs, it is for this House to take notice of them and split them. Remember the $16,000 a year error here is sufficient to pay one quarter the pensions to be provided for our disabled soldiers and sailors this session. But that is not the point at all. I was asking why it is not proposed to use these interests for paying interest on the $1,250,000 you propose to raise. The

answer is very simple, and is that we have no right to use these amounts for that purpose. The Auditor General has no right to give his authority to use this for a War loan. Surely the Auditor General knows the provisions of the Audit Act. The first amount of $5410 is to pay money raised for a special purpose, which is not a war purpose. You have no right to use it and the Auditor General cannot and will not give you authority to do this. Now to pass on to the next point. The Minister says we have $7500 in connection with the unraised loan of $150,000. But that loan is authorized for a special purpose. The authorized amount of interest is $6,000, but you cannot allocate this $6,000 or $7,500 as you have it in the Estimates for war purposes because it is earmarked by the act, to be used only for the extension of the telephone system. Then come to the $1,000,000 you are talking about. There is authority to raise $1,000,000 and pay interest on it. That interest is $34,000. But you have it worded in the Estimates as $48,000. This amount is interest on a loan for railway purposes, and you have no right to use one five cent piece for war loans It is earmarked. This House ought to be asked to do things in a proper way. It is utterly impossible for the hon. gentleman to dispute this. I am not trying however to show that he deliberately tried to deceive the House. I said his statement was a lucid statement, that further I had gone to the trouble of checking the statements of the Estimates by the acts granting the amounts. The Finance Minister's statement was lucid but it was a wrong statement. First there are errors in the amounts of interest. Secondly in this way, although dealing with estimates of the forthcoming year there is no authority to himself as Minister of Finance, and no authority to the Auditor General to issue new credit notes and pay interest on a new loan, by using the authority of other loans. In the interests of himself and of this House, it is most desirable to make the fullest and clearest statement of the facts. It is with that object, and not in a carping spirit but merely to point out what need correction.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.— I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that even if the amount should be $5410, it would be all the same. If we get $400,000 in July next and the balance six months after or thereabouts, I figure that the balance of half a million for the six months would mean interest to the amount of $45,000, and that is the very lowest the hon. member can give to the House, is it not. It is very hard to please the hon. gentleman. It is ridiculous to be kept here at this time of the year with such arguments as that. He has been delving down in his mind to get some argument to put to this House against me. This same vote passed last year and he did not notice it then.

MR. LLOYD.—Well so for that, I am glad the Minister sees I delved in the proper place. The fact that this passed last year made no difference Two wrongs do not make a right. Perhaps the reason I did not find it last year was that my brains were not bright enough. I do not claim to be bright at all times, but I will leave my criticism to the House.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.— You could not have had much else to do last night when you spend your time looking up these acts.

MR. LLOYD.—I am sorry the Hon Minister did not find time and not last night, but since he has been in office, to look up these acts. It is part of the work for which he is paid.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.— Well, this is what was done last year.

MR. LLOYD.—But that is no reas-

on why the blunder should be perpetuated.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—The Debenture holders are satisfied.

MR. LLOYD.—I did not know that there were any debenture holders yet.

do not think the Minister is doing himself and this House justice.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We passed that vote yeste day.

MR. LLOYD—We did not.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—We will leave it to the Clerk.

The Clerk said yes.

MR. LLOYD—Another display of ignorance.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—You were a schoolmaster once, and like to pick up little errors.

MR. LLOYD—I know that much, anyway. There is no need to pass that page. It is improper to do so, as these amounts are already passed by the acts that created them.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—I do not want to be told by you any rules of Parliamentary procedure.

MR. LLOYD—I am just trying to show the Hon. Minister how to go about his business.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—You cannot show me anything.

MR. LLOYD—No; in order to do that you must first interest a listener.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—I am taking interest in what you say. As a matter of fact, as the member can see, it is interest I am taking.

MR. LLOYD—Now, Sir, the point has been made that this interest will be a drop balance at June 30th. That is the end of the fiscal year. On Jan. 1st, 1917, six months before that date, you have to provide the half year's interest on the one and one quarter million dollars. At that time you will not have any drop balance on this interest. You will have no authority to take any part of that money for such purpose. I am asking the hon. gentleman to look this matter up. In this case the hon. gentleman is not taking enough interest. There is no interest voted for that purpose. If he did it wrongly last year, there is no reason for perpetuating the blunder. I am only asking that things be done properly. What I would point out to the Hon. Minister is this, that his statement is not in accordance with facts. If he wants a vote for this he should bring it in in the form of a Bill. I would further point out that he cannot use next January money this House has voted for another purpose. If the hon. gentleman gets half a million in July next, he has interest on that half million to pay in January next, and no authority or vote is there to pay it. If we did the same thing last fall all I ask now is that this statement may be looked up and made correct. I am trying to show the hon gentleman how to do business. If I can show him alright. If I cannot, it is his own fault, but I am glad he is beginning to take interest. At all events that is the object I am aiming at when I pointed this matter out.

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.

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 Respecting Discipline on Ships Controlled by the Admiralty," "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships" and "An Act to Facilitate the

Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions," without amendment.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Bonds issued under "The Loan 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 Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Keeping of Collie Dogs."

The Remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday next, 18th inst., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, June 18th, 1917

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

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries tabled Report of Marine and Fisheries for year 1915.

PETITIONS.

MR. STONE—I beg leave to present a petition from St. Jones Within on the subject of a bridge. This petition which is largely signed asks that the sum of $80.00 be allocated for the purpose of repairing the eastern bridge of that place. This is largely signed and it is my sincere wish that it may receive the consideration from the Government which it merits.

I also beg leave to present another petition from the same place on the subject of a road. This petition asks that the sum of $70.00 be allocated for the purpose of building a road from St. Jones Within to Hatchet Cove. A road leading to this place would immensely benefit the people of both settlements and I have no doubt that the Government will see, if possible, its way clear to the granting of this money. This petition has my heartiest support. I beg leave to refer it to the department to which it relates. I also beg leave to present a petition from Loreburn, asking that the sum of $60.00 be granted to the people of that place for the repairing of the main road there. I would say that this expenditure would be a necessary improvement and one which would prove an immense boon to the people of that place. I beg leave to refer it to the department to which it relates. I also beg leave to present a petition from Hatchet Cove asking that the sum of $100.00 be allocated to the people of that place for the purpose of repairing the main line to Hillview. This petition, I may say, has my heartiest support and I beg leave to refer it to the department to which it relates.

MR. TARGETT.—I beg leave to support the prayer of these petitions.

MR. JENNINGS.—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of New Bay, who ask that an allocation be made to repair a road from that place to Botwood. The people in that neighbourhood engage a great deal in farming and Botwood affords an inland market for their produce, which of

course would be a great advantage to the people there. It is also the route of the overland mail south. The distance is about twelve miles and to effect the purpose they ask for in this petition, the sum of two thousand dollars would be requisite, which is impossible to find out of the regular special grant. I may say that this petition has my heartiest support. I beg leave to refer it to the department to which it relates.

Mr. Stone gave notice of question.

Mr. Grimes gave notice of question.

Mr. Lloyd gave notice of question.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Estate of Deceased Soldiers and Sailors."

NEW BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Keeping of Collie Dogs" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Bonds issued under 'The Loan 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.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON SUPPLY.

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 the Committee.

MR. HICKMAN.—Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed any further with Supply,, I would like to say a few words on different matters in relation to same. And I may say, in the first place, that it is the statement of the Premier, and the lack of information in reference to the further continuation of this House without an election, that compels me in the interests of the people whom I represent to occupy the time of the House at the present juncture. If the Government intended to bring in a bill to extend the life of the present Parliament, it was only natural to expect that some reference would have been made to it in the Speech from the Throne. Many matters of far less importance have been dealt with in the Governor's speech at various times, some of which have never been heard of afterwards. For instance, in the Speech in 1912 quite a lengthy reference was made to the Sanitoria which were going to be erected all over the country. Not one of these buildings have been erected, and yet they were considered of sufficient importance at that time to find a place in the Speech from the Throne,whereas the intention of the Premier to prolong the life of the present government has not been thought worthy of reference. And as we go through the proceedings of the House that year we find that the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply, as well as other members, had a great deal to say in commendation of the Reids. Now, all that happened in 1912, this is the year 1917, and as far as we known nothing has been done apart from the laying of a foundation stone Indeed, it is understood that these buildings will never be erected; that the Reids at the time they made the promise did not have any thought of erecting them; but that in view of the railway contracts which had been made by the government with the Company and the dissatisfaction

which they caused the people of the Colony, this was put forward to offset the feeling of indignation which prevailed. I understand that one of the reasons advanced for not having an election is the cost, which it is estimated would be about $40,000. The first time I sat in this House I heard the Premier make a statement that $75,000 was only a flea-bite, and certainly if that is the case, $40,000 should only be a very small item in the estimation of the Government. The Premier also stated a few days ago that he could find nobody outside the House who wanted an election.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I didn't say that. I said I could find nobody outside the House who had the interests of the country at heart who wanted an election.

MR. HICKMAN.—Well,you may not find anyone who wants an election merely for the sake of an election, but you will find that the majority of the people of this country would rather have an election than see the present party continue in power. The fact of the matter is that in the outports the people are in terror of being compelled to live for another year or two under the oppression and taxes of the present government; and I have heard a good many people in St. John's who take no particular interest in politics express the same views

"The Premier was invited by His Majesty's government last December to a Conference at London for the consideration of questions arising out of the war"; and this is the excuse given for the House of Assembly being in session to-day. We all know that this is not the correct time for the House to be in session. A number of the members on this side are interested in the fisheries, and should now be at home giving attention to their business. In the case of the herring fishery, especially, this is the harvest time, and it must be a great hardship to a man like Mr. Jennings, for instance, to have to leave his business at this season and attend the session of the House. The sessional pay which he receives certainly does not go very far after paying his board and incidental expenses and he is really spending all his income in the interests of his country, and forfeiting his means of livelihood to perform his duty, but as he has been elected by the people of his district to represent them in the House of Assembly, he, of course, feels himself bound to look after their interests. In reference to coalition I might say that as far as I am personally concerned, I would put nothing in the way of any arrangement that might be made in the interests of the country. If necessary, I would be quite willing to forego my place altogether in the House; but I think that the Premier and his party should be a little more open, and give us some idea of what it is they propose to do. The Premier knows very well that several attempts at coalition have been made and have been dropped by him or by his side, and surely they do not expect us at the present time to enter into any negotiations regarding coalition, and have the discussion prolonged until the session is over, because then the Premier could very well do without us as in the past; but if a coalition Government was necessary, the right thing for the Ministers to do is to resign their seats or come out openly and tell us exactly what you want us to do. There are a great many things which the Government might be called on to do. Regarding the control of supplies, I cannot say anything beyond what has been said by the Commission. They have gone into the matter, and it is a very late date for anything to be done, but what the Government should have done is this. They should have taken steps about twelve months ago. At that time flour could have been purchased at from six fifty to seven dollars a

barrel, delivered at St. John's. If they had purchased sufficient for the requirements of the country and distributed it amongst the jobbers and dealers, putting a limit on the price at which it was to be sold, they would have saved a great deal of money for the poorer people, who certainly are the sufferers at the present time. It is not a very long time ago when war insurance rates to the Mediterranean were very high, and it was almost impossible to get any insurance on goods going out beyond Spain. Now if that continues, and if the submarine menace increases and rates of insurance still advance, the Government might be compelled to take some steps to insure the produce of this country. A short time ago we had a request from the British Government, asking our Government here to confer with them in the matter of preventing vessels from going to the Mediterranean. This of course could not be done, but if the insurance companies in London cannot adequately cover our produce, we would certainly have to look to the Government as a guarantor, as our produce must be shipped. No one can exist in this country without the value of our fisheries, and this is one reason why I say that working together might be necessary to offset these things that might arise at any time. Another thing, we may not be able to get the tonnage to carry our produce, and in that event the Government should step in and get control of some tonnage to help us along. If the Government were compelled to form a department of war insurance, at the rates existing I don't think they would lose anything. I am just citing these matters to present them in case they come up later, if underwriters in England refuse to place insurance on cargoes going to the Mediterranean. I understood the Premier to say that while in London he made arrangements with the Admiralty to get steamers to bring out sufficient salt to this country. I understand the steamers were arranged for and the cargoes were brought out here and placed in the hands of two or three people, some of whom have very little interest in this country, and they to the exclusion of all others, were able to make their big profits; and furthermore, it was also understood that the Government gave three or four of the merchants of St. John's to whom this salt came, an undertaking that no salt could be sold in Newfoundland under the price at which they were selling. That is, if anyone outside these merchants had a cargo of salt and was able to sell it at $3.50 and the others were selling at $3.90, the Government would confiscate that cargo and hand it over to the other people to be sold at $3.90, and prevent the fishermen from getting their salt at a reasonable price. I am not saying these things are facts, I am only repeating them, and I hope the Premier will put us right if it is not so. This is understood amongst a good many people in the trade, and if it is correct it is far from right. If it is not correct I hope the Premier will give us the facts.

In reference to economy, I think that at this particular time it is absolutely necessary to practise economy. I have no objections to the Government increasing the salaries of the civil servants, as I think they should have an increase the same as men in ordinary business; but I certainly do not think it right for the Government to pay officials for doing nothing, and burdening the fisherman, and burdening everybody, with the taxes. I refer now to certain people whom I know, in Government positions, who are drawing salaries from the Government and spend the whole of their time on Water Street. I venture to say that these people do not do fifteen minutes' work in the department in a day. It is un-

fair to saddle the taxpayers with anything of this nature, and I do not think that any appointments of that kind should be made by the Government, or people kept in office at the expense of the people when their services are not necessary. Besides, if there are any positions that do not require much labor or much attention, and at the same time it is necessary for the position to be filled, we have enough, and more than enough, of our returned soldiers and sailors, maimed and crippled, who might very well fill these positions. I would like to refer to this House of Assembly, and call attention to the number of messengers around here, some well to do and others perhaps not so well off; but if there are any positions of that kind open they ought to be given to our wounded soldiers and sailors. Another important matter that the Government should take up is that of freight rates. So far as the Reid Nfld. Co., are concerned, they charge only what they are permitted to charge under their contract, but in any case the rates are exorbitant. The Red Cross Line are charging rates on goods coming in here such as would not be allowed in any other country. It is all right to say, this is a corporation and they do as they like, but in some cities and countries corporations are not allowed to do as they like. When I was in New York last winter I was into a place where electricity is used all the time. I knew the man very well, and while I was waiting I said, "How much does your electricity cost you?" He said, "I have just received a bill," and he showed me the bill, which was $2.25 for the month's electricity. I said I thought it was a very low charge for electricity, and he then told me that every time the company puts its rates up the Government steps in and makes it put them down again. I say the same thing ought to apply to steamship corporations or any others who are drawing lots of money out of this country. They should be controlled, more or less, and not allowed to charge any rates they think fit, because these rates are charged at the ultimate expense of the consumer, who in most cases is the fisherman. I learned here a few days ago that the Department of Public Works had overdrawn their account something over $90,000, and the Department of Marine and Fisheries had overdrawn about $70,000. When the moneys were allotted last year for these departments I understood that they could not get any more, and I know of one instance where a few dollars were necessary to make a landing place and I wrote the Department of Marine and Fisheries for a small amount—$40 or $50—and the Minister told me the money was all used up but that if I went to the Minister of Public Works he might have a little left and might transfer it from one department to another. I applied to the Chairman of the Board of Works and found out that he had nothing left; and the people went without the launchway. I was very much surprised to find now that they have overdrawn their accounts, if I am right in what I heard, and I think it is unfair.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—That amount is placed to the credit of the Board of Works this year; but it is not all spent.

MR. HICKMAN—Then I am in error. I hardly thought the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would do that anyway.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—I was laboring under the same delusion as yourself. I wanted the money and could not get it.

MR. HICKMAN—There are a few items in the estimates that I would

like to say a few words on before we proceed. Before I do so however I would like to say a few words in connection with the vacancy in the Magistrate's Court. A great deal has been said about it on the streets and the matter has been much discussed; and I think it is the duty of the Government to make the appointment. Although we are not in the Government and so not responsible really, we do not like to have that sort of thing the subject of discussion because we are being blamed somewhat simply from the fact of our sitting in the House. Some parties, although they do not think that we are responsible, think that we should agitate about it; but when the matter reduces itself to a more or less personal discussion we do not feel like doing it.

In the estimates I notice opposite the item: Extension of Telephone System the sum of $150,000, which the Minister says has not been raised. I think that amount should be raised. The telephone system we have in St. John's is a disgrace to the community; there are about 1,000 telephones and the average income from them is about $40, taking dwelling houses and offices into consideration; and for that we have a system under which it is possible to take up the instrument and hear several people talking at the same time. Now, this is a great drawback to business. Besides that, we have no telephone extension around the outports. We should be able to talk in this manner with any part of the country, and it would mean a great source of revenue to the Government and a great convenience to the people. Now that the Government has the authority to raise that loan and extend the system, I cannot understand why they have not done so. If they do not care to finance the work themselves, they should give a franchise to some company capable of installing an up-to-date system in the country so that the people might be able to transact their business in comfort. There certainly must be a great source of income from it because the overhead expenses and upkeep of a telephone outfit such as we have here are not very great, and it must entail a big source of revenue to the Anglo American Telegraph Co. The contract of the Anglo American Telegraph Co. has expired, and I cannot conceive anything they did that would induce the Government to prolong it or give them the right to operate it solely. While they were operating cables here they prevented the Marconi Co. from erecting a wireless station here in St. John's, and we are to-day without a station that we could have had years ago but for the Anglo American Telegraph Co. and it might have meant very much cheaper telegraph rates. There is an item here dealing with the noon gun. The amount is not very large, but I see that it is proposed to increase it; and I suppose that some people think there is necessity for having that expense; but personally I cannot see what use it is. With reference to the Daylight Bill, while it is agreeable to a great many people it is certainly a hardship to many others. I know the laboring man is very much opposed to it. He has to go to work at 6 o'clock, and to go to work at that hour under present conditions means that he has to rise at 5 o'clock. That really means that he has to get out of bed at 4 o'clock or a little after by the sun; and all the men whom I have talked to about it consider it a hardship, and say they would prefer an hour longer in the morning than one in the evening. Of course I know there are people this would not suit e.g. clerks and shop hands; but I think that some arrangement could be made wherby the shops and stores

have opened an hour earlier and closed an hour earlier. This would not compel the laboring man to rise at 4 a.m. and now that the days are longer and the sun rises earlier it will not be felt as much as it will be when the days get shorter and the weather gets colder. Our climate in the night at this season and for the summer is mild and pleasant; but in the morning—at 4 a.m.—the atmosphere is quite cold; and in the case of poor people who have not sufficient food to keep up their system properly, it is quite hard on them to rise so early. That is the experience of a great many with whom I have spoken.

Re shipbuilding bounties: I do not think the amount set down here will cover more than one-third of the amount required during the next ten months. A great many ships of large size are being constructed; and I believe that grant will have to be increased. While I am on this subject, I would like to refer to shipbuilding. There is a section in that act, it states that a vessel fitted with blocks will not get bounty unless the blocks are made in this country. There is only one blockmaker in this country and he has very little help, and cannot do all the work necessary. The Government I think ought to make some amendment so that this state of affairs may no longer continue to exist. Not only have the builders now to get blocks from manufacturers who have no competition, but they have to pay more than they should for what they get, and I hope the Government before the session closes will find some remedy in connection with this section dealing with blocks. In reference to the allotments for roads and bridges an act was passed by this Legislature years ago giving power to people to elect their own boards. And that Bill was supported very strongly from this side because we all thought that every board would handle all the moneys which went to the settlement which had elected a board. But I regret very much to find such is not the case. Time after time monies are being handed out to private individuals and the districts are suffering because the money is not spent as it should be. When any individual receives an amount from the Government for Road Money, he looks upon it as a gift, and if there is a road or bridge or even a well in his locality he spends it on that and the district gets no benefit from it. If we had known that moneys were going to be expended in such a manner, I never would have been in favor of elective road boards, because I think they ought to get the moneys allocated as they have been elected by the people to do this work. Personally I am quite sure that if I were in the Government I would never give an individual in my district one cent. I would have the lot go to the Board. I do not believe any good will come of it, be it political or other. I think the Government should see that money allocated for Roads and Marine Works or anything like that of a public nature should be given to people elected by the majority of the electorate, and I think then you would get better results.

There are other Government Officers and people holding positions in the outports which should be filled at the will of the people. There are Government Officers in the outharbors who have been appointed by the government, and they do and say as they like. I have in mind at the present time a Postmaster whom I am told by the people of the settlement who come to him for letters, if not in a good mood will swear at whoever calls at the office and call them names, and many people object to this treatment of their children and I think all these Government Offices should be filled by the people irre-

spective of party politics. I cannot see wherein the advantage lies from political standpoints, and personally I would not have that done in my district. Now we come to the questions of steam subsidies. I referred a little while ago to the Red Cross Line steamers running to and from St. John's and charging any rate of freight that they wish, and giving any service that suits themselves. It is far better that the Government should subsidize a line of suitable steamers and give the people a better service and at the same time give the Steamers limited freight rates. The same then could be applied to the old country when the regular steamers who are crossing back and forth to Canada could be induced to call here say once a fortnight, and they would gladly do this if a suitable subsidy was given. We know that it is not easy for the government at the present time to use money in this way, but they should place it on record whenever it should become possible. I have before me an order signed by the Governor instructing Officers in charge of Recruiting Stations not to accept recruits who are under contracts for the fishery. I think that this is a very good step. I know soldiers and sailors are necessary, but still there must be men to carry on the fisheries. At the present time it is difficult to get men to man vessels in St. John's and I think some consideration ought to be given them. The best men of the country have volunteered and the greater number of those here to day have not the grit and courage to cross the Atlantic, owing to the submarine menace. I know cases where men have joined vessels and when they came to sign on refused to do so, and as I said before although we need men in the navy, still we need men to man our vessels and some consideration should be given in this case as well as in the case of fishermen who are engaged for the voyage. While I am on my feet, I wish to have myself placed on record as being against any bill the Government might bring in to prolong the life of Parliament. I think the country should be given an opportunity to show whom they want to represent them for the next four years. I cannot see why the Government should longer delay this matter. What have they got to fear? There must be something. There must be some reason. Some must be afraid they will not be elected, and these I presume want to hold on to office. They must have become afraid of their constituents, for otherwise I cannot see why they should be afraid to face the country. They want to hold on to office. If they have the goodwill of their constituencies I do not see why they should be afraid to face the country. As far as the cost is concerned the country will certainly not be in any better position for the next four or five years than at the present time; $40,000 is nothing to the Government.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Only a flea bite.

MR. HICKMAN.—The first intimation I had of the small value placed upon such an amount of money was when I heard the Prime Minister state that $75,000.00 was only a flea bite. I have often thought what an amount of money a man must have to consider $75,000.00 only a flea bite.

MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—I just wish to say a word, Mr. Chairman on one or two subjects the honourable gentleman touched on particularly with reference to the salt question. He stated or insinuated that by agreement between the Government and the combine who were handling salt, other importers were prevented from importing salt for our fishermen. Now the history of the salt question is as follows:—Last Decem-

cer. or January or February, after the Prime Minister had left the country, it was brought to the notice of the Government by the Board of Trade that several merchants alorg Water Street could not secure sufficient tonnage to secure salt for the summer fishery. Immediately the Government got in touch with Sir Edward Morris on the other side and laid the matter before him. In the meantime, I understand, the Board of Trade met and took the whole question up and four or five of the principal merchants of Water Street were told off by the Board of Trade to handle the salt question. They approached the Government and the Government assured them they would give them any help possible to secure tonnage to secure salt for the coming summer. That was the agreement made by the Government with those merchants that waited upon them on behalf of the Board of Trade. I may say they were in communication with the Government from week to week. One day we would hear of a vessel being secured and the next day we would hear that the charter was cancelled. This thing went on till about the middle of March. Sir Edward Morris, who is listening to me, can tell the same story and can, no doubt, explain the matter better than I can. Sir Edward was in England and it was brought to his notice that if we could not secure tonnage to import salt it meant ruin for Newfoundland. The simplest schoolboy knows that if we could not secure salt for our fisheries it meant ruin for Newfoundland. Finally, through the Prime Minister's energy two or three vessels were secured and we were able to get sufficient salt for the summer. Now, I am glad to say that this is the position. I think we were very fortunate in having the Prime Minister in England in March, April and May and through his instrumentality the whole matter was laid before the Imperial Government and that is why to-day Newfoundland has sufficient salt for a very large fishery. Now, it has been insinuated that there was an agreement by the Government to keep the price of salt up. The insinuation thrown out by the honorable gentleman was that we joined hands with these salt importers that nobody else would be allowed to import salt. No such bargain ever existed.

MR. HICKMAN—That is the report around, and my only desire is to have the matter put right.

MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—There is nothing in that report. The only guarantee from the government was that everything possible would be done to secure sufficient tonnage for salt. We know what happened, we know that we have lots of salt in the country at the present time to secure a voyage of at least one and a quarter million quintals of fish. The fishermen are no worse off to-day as regards salt than they were in 1913. Before the war, I think, the current price of salt was $1.00 a hogshead, to-day it is something like $3.60 or $3.90 Now the fisherman is satisfied if his liver can pay for his salt. Salt two months ago sold at $3.60 to $3.90 in the city.

MR. COAKER—That is old stock.

MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—Yes. I just want to show the position. In 1913 salt was about $1.00 a hogshead, liver 10c. a gallon. It takes about 10 quintals of fish to use a hogshead of salt, and from 10 quintals of fish a fisherman receives 30 gallons of liver, which would mean $3, whereas the salt used cost them $1.00. Last year liver was 40c. per gallon in the months of July, August and September. At that rate the fisherman would get $12.00 from the liver of 10 quintals of fish, making a total of

$12.00 per hogshead to go to the credit of his salt account, that would mean $3.60 or $3.90 against $12.00 to-day. I have quite a lot to do with fishermen on a part of the coast, and I have not heard one complaint to-day against the price of salt, all are satisfied. The report that the Government had given a guarantee to two or three merchants that salt would not be sold under the prices they charged for it, is incorrect. The only guarantee given was in case of the war ending and stocks of salt on hand at a high price, if other purchasers came in the market and brought in cheap salt, that the price would be adjusted.

MR. JENNINGS.—I think the Minister of Marine and Fisheries when he put forward his argument as to the cost of salt ———

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Not me. You should not refer to me. I have not made any speech on the matter.

MR. JENNINGS.—I beg your pardon, I meant the Minister of Finance and Customs. I think that he forgot when he spoke of the question of salt that a large quantity of salt imported in this country is used in connection with the herring fishery, and there is certainly no liver or oil from herring to help to offset the high price of salt. I suppose an answer to that will be that we are getting a higher price for our herring.

MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—Exactly. We are getting double.

MR. JENNINGS.—But the high price for herring only meets the high price that the man who catches the herring has to pay for provisions and other things, and that he only stands equal in that respect and I do not think that he is any better off as regards the price of salt. Anyhow, that is how the situation appears to me. I known down in the District of Twillingate we use a lot of salt for herring and it is a big item when you have to pay $4 or $4.50 a hogshead for it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, although it is a side issue to-day I might suggest that a Bill be brought into this House prohibiting the delivery of the evening papers until the adjournment of the House. It is certainly very far from encouraging to a speaker to find about two thirds of the members on the other side of the House with their faces covered up with the evening papers when he is speaking. I am particularly fortunate in rising inasmuch as the evening papers have all been read and they must either listen to my remarks or go to sleep. I hope I will not be so uninteresting as to put anybody asleep.

It is an extremely serious matter for many members at this season of the year to leave their avocations to attend a session of the legislature held at this time of the year, and when some time before I had to come here, I read in an editorial of a newspaper the suggestion that the month of June was a very suitable time of the year for the House to meet I was under the impression that the editor was either "looney" or his mind was somewhere else at the particular time he wrote that editorial.

In the Speech from the Throne the statement was made something to the effect that the session was unavoidably delayed owing to the Premier being absent from the country. I have been led to ask the question as to what the Government would have done if the Premier had received a summons from a higher court, a summons of the same nature as received by two members of this House since we last met here in session, a summons that will come to us all at some time and which we have no choice but to obey, he certainly would not have been able to come back to take his place in this legislature, and if in that event, as we must all charitably hope,

he had gone to that land where troublesome problems of this world are not known,he certainly would have no desire to come back and engage in the turmoil of a legislative session. The Government would surely have had to take some steps or resign the privileges of responsible government. There was, however, one thing which I was going to ask the Government to take under consideration if they deemed it advisable to sit at this season of the year, and that was that they should keep fishermen's hours, that is to say to sit here from three in the morning until ten at night. There has been a great deal of discussion over the Government's attitude with regard to a general election and probably one can hear more reasons outside the House than in it. The Prime Minister said that one of the reasons that especially appealed to him was the fact that the general press was in favour of the postponing of a general election. Now I very much question whether the general press speaks for this country? It may speak for St. John's, but it does not speak for the country as a whole. And anyway it does not serve as a good excuse or a sufficient excuse why the life of the present Government should be prolonged. The Premier also said that one reason was that no man he knew outside of this House who had the interest of this country at heart wanted a general election. I hope I interpret the words of the Premier aright. I do not want to make a mistake. I was sorry the Premier made that statement. Doubtless he considered he had good grounds for it. But such a statement can only convince us that he was not conversant with the general opinion outside of this House. I should be indeed sorry to say that of all the thousands of men who I am certainly sure do not desire a postponement of a general election, none had the welfare of the country at heart. To my mind no sufficient reason has been given by the Government. I have been approached by these men and asked what was going to happen and so on, but never did I hear any man express a desire against it, except one who happened to have a government position, not that he was any the worse for that, but naturally you would not expect him to express opinions against the postponement. Another reason has been given against a general election and that is the expense it would entail upon the country during war time. I don't think the Government would give that as a serious reason. They are not so particular as that over spending money, as our examination of the public accounts will show. A Government that will give $100.00 for a caribou head during war times does not show a good example of economy. I have spent some time during the past week in looking over the public accounts. I do not pretend to be an expert. I never had the chance,but the conclusion was forced upon me that there was a lot of leakage in the manner our money was spent, and there certainly must be some way to arrange an oversight of these matters, in which greater economy could be practised. Take the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I do not mean to unduly criticize that department. I have always found the Minister very agreeable and broad-minded on any question upon which I have approached him; but in many instances there is a lack of oversight sometimes, perhaps unavoidable in other cases, open to a remedy. I spent a few years in connection with the lighthouse service and when entering that service was advised in the event of asking for repairs to make sure and ask enough. Looking over the account for repairs to ferry boats I found items of this nature—$16.00 for a new boat, $30.00

for repairing a boat. There may be some satisfactory explanation, but it looks suspicious, looks as if there is some leakage there.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—She must have been a very leaky boat.

MR JENNINGS—Yes, she must have been a very leaky boat, scarcely worth repairing if a new one could be got for $16.00. These things multiplied by the score goes to prove that the expense of an election is not a serious obstacle.

Then again the argument has been raised that an election would plunge the country into strife and political enmity. Well, speaking for myself, I am quite willing to forego any canvass of the district I have the honor to represent, quite willing to stay at home and let the people use their own minds as to how they may vote, and if they wish to kick me out I shall be satisfied and shall not worry over it in the least. Arrange the different items in accordance with the law and let the people go to the polls and vote as they wish, and under such an arrangement, I fail to see where any extra bitterness or strife would be engendered. But, postpone this election and you will certainly embitter and antagonize the people to an extent of which perhaps you have no idea. I think, in view of recruiting, this should receive some serious consideration from the Government. How can you expect volunteers to come forward when your actions are only an attempt to thwart their wishes and deprive them of their freedom as Britishers. You have sent recruiting parties out, and it has been stated that they have met with some success. Well, possibly they have; but in certain sections of the district that I represent, these men, instead of being an aid to recruiting, have been a hindrance to it. I was told not very long ago by a citizen of one of the largest settlements of the district of Twillingate that he had heard words from one of thse parties that he would not dare repeat. One member of the party had said that "He did not care a something whether they got recruits or not so long as he was paid." Now, that kind of recruiting won't help the country, or the Recruiting Committee, or anybody else. But the point I want to make clear now is that the postponement of the election will have the effect of embittering and antagonising the people of the district that I come from in this respect.

Again, a reference has been made here—although, perhaps not quite apropos of the estimates, and the party on this side of the House has been blamed because they have not been willing to co-operate with the Government. My reply is that, so far as I am concerned, the proposal has come too late. If this overture had been made a year ago, I should have been free, as far as I am personally concerned, to have been a party to it, and I would have been willing to do my best, but as I stand here to-day I am not free to do this. As a matter of fact if the Leaders of the Opposition Party had entered into this agreement with the Government, there would have been only one course open for me, and that was to resign my seat. I could not face the people again—it may be that I never shall, but I could not dare to again ask their support if I had been a party to coalition at this stage. I repeat again, if the proposal had come last year I would only have been too willing to do anything in my power to help, but now, so far as I am concerned, it is an impossibility. I make this statement now because we have had a good deal of blame; we have been accused of selfishness and a desire to impede the Government and all that sort of thing.

I might say in passing that another of the reasons why the people

of Twillingate have become embittered is because of the disappointment over the way in which some of the laws have been executed. Laws have been placed on the Statute Book during the past year in this Assembly, but they have not been carried out, particularly with regard to the preservation of timber. It is perhaps within the knowledge of members of this House, although it has not been brought before the House, that last year the Horwood Lumber Co. started to build a vessel on an island known as Thwart Island, which was a part of the Reserve, and which on the passing of the Saw Mills Act was again expressly reserved. The Horwood Lumber Co. started in to prospect the Island to find out what timber was there; a protest was forwarded to one of the members of the district resident in St. John's, who presented it to the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, and who received a reply to the effect that under the Crown Lands Act the Horwood Lumber Co. could operate on that Island. Well, what happened? They formed a Company and went to work as if nothing had occurred. I was told by a man who was there that Mr. Horwood gave them quite an after-dinner speech, in the course of which he said, "I want you to clearly understand that it is not the Horwood Lumber Co. that is building this vessel, but the Dog Bay Stores Co." Well, this shows how easy it is to evade the law, and the people were very bitter over it. Now, Mr. Horwood's project in itself was not particularly one that we wish to condemn or to sit down upon. In fact, most of us thought that it was a rather commendable enterprise on his part, but the part to which the people objected was the ease with which he could evade the law and do just as he wanted to do. And the thing seems to happen every time. Take another instance. A certain milling company started in to operate on an island known as Upper Black Island, situated several miles from any settlement. The people of Exploits sent in a petition to the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, signed by almost all the inhabitants, asking that this Island be reserved under the provision of the Saw Mills Act; the Minister replied, I understand, that he had recommended to the Executive that this be done, and the recommendation had been acted upon and the Island was reserved. The interested parties then got up a counter-petition, had it signed by the people of the bottom of the Bay—people who did not understand the situation; sent it on to the Government; and went on and cut all the timber they wanted. Now, this sort of thing rankles in the minds of of the people, it doesn't go down easy. The people feel pretty badly when they see the only bit of timber that they have to depend on for their livelihood destroyed under their very noses. It is very disappointing, and has had the effect of embittering the feelings of the people, who feel that it is no use trying to do anything where anybody who has any pull is concerned.

Now, when the estimates came before the House the other day, I was inclined to think that the Government had made a very good job of it, and was under the impression that there wasn't very much room for sincere criticism in it—(of course, I don't pretend to be very farsighted), but after looking through them, and especially after perusing the Postmaster General's report, I changed my opinion. The Postmaster General in his report on page 6 makes this recommendation: "In compiling this report I have had one purpose in view, the attempt to solve a problem which has grown so acute as to suggest something near to a departmental revolution. It is im-

possible to deal with 1,000 offices with any degree of justice unless lines are distinctly drawn and salaries based on the work actually done, and the revenue actually realized. In considering this far-seeing problem I give precedence to the outports where the iradequacy of payment and the injustice of discrimination call for immediate action and doing so, whilst I regret that it has been impossible to avoid a mass of figures and of details, I respectfully solicit Your Excellency's most earnest attention to the plans proposed and outlined My object has been to do justice to all, while penalizing none."

Now, as far as I can see, the Government have not paid any attention to the suggestions of the Postmaster General at all, but have simply followed out the procedure of a sliding scale; and offices which are in receipt of a very good revenue have received no more consideration than offices who are doing very little. Again, there has been no distinction made between those who hold their jobs merely as a sideline and those who are dependent on their salaries for their entire support. Speaking particularly with regard to outport conditions, I know men who act as tidewaiters who merely hold their jobs as a sideline, as the work does not interfere with their regular business. Now, I don't think that these men should receive the same consideration as those whose duties take up the whole of their time, and who are depending entirely upon the salaries which they receive for their existence. This view of the matter should have received some consideration from the Government, and I am afraid that it did not receive the consideration which it deserved. The same thing, I should think, would apply to others who draw salaries from the Government and who have the opportunity of doing other work which probably, when it is all calculated, brings their salaries up in the neighbourhood of $1,000 a year. Take, for instance, the cases of sub-collectors, who receive a certain percentage on the revenue that they collect during the year, which means a large addition to their voted salaries. In many cases these men are living comfortably, and are not particularly in need of an increase. Magistrates, I suppose, would come under the same heading. In many cases Magistrates have a home, which is paid out of the revenue of the country. Every pane of glass that is needed in that home, and every item of upkeep is paid out of the revenue. In addition to that they receive cetrain perquisities over and above their regular salaries; they are paid $5.00 a day when they have to leave their place of residence and carry on their magisterial duties elsewhere; and they have other means of supplementing their salaries; so that their incomes are very much larger than would appear from the estimates. Therefore, I do not consider that these men should receive the same consideration as men living in the city of St. John's, for instance, who are subject to house rent, water rates, and all that kind of thing, of which I have not any personal experience, but which I can easily realize must mean a tremendous drain on his income.

Then again there is a side to this question which appeals to me, and perhaps to every member of this House, and which does not appear to have been considered at all, and that is: Can we afford this increase? It is alright to talk about increasing salaries, and in many cases the increases are justifiable and the men want it, but where is the increase to come from, and where is the offset to the producer, who is the man who has to shoulder the burden by paying extra taxation Of course, at the present time, with prices very much in-

flated, it is easy to obtain this revenue, but what is going to happen when things get back to normal? You will then find that there will be very great difficulty in raising this revenue; because you must remember that the laborer, the farmer, the fishermen, and producers generally do not get this increase. Just at the present time he is receiving a high price for his produce, but then the high price which he has got to pay for the things which he consumes, more than offsets the advantages which he has had in this direction.

There are a few discrepancies in the Estimates to-day which I would like to refer to (and I am sorry that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has left the House, because some of them are in his department.) I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to one particular item. It is on page 40, under the head of Lighthouses-Maintenance. The wharf light at Twillingate is put down at $562.00. Last year it was $450.00.

It seems to me rather a high figure for the maintenance of a light on a coastal wharf at Twillingate.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—There were some repairs.

MR. JENNINGS—Still, it is only a very small place fixed for a light at the head of a wharf, and last year I see the cost for maintenance was $450. It seems very large to me.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I think about $100 was spent for some repairs around the building. I will give you particulars to-morrow.

MR. JENNINGS—That might be an explanation, but when we compare it with the maintenance of some, $150 and $250, it seems high.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Some light houses cost as high as $2,000 for repairs.

MR. JENNINGS—But those are small light houses and would require I should imagine, the same amount of oil and perhaps more for upkeep. I should think the upkeep of this wharf light would consist of oil, or an occasional wick or globe. There is another question that I would like to ask the Minister, that is, with regard to the light on Gull Island. Were the keeper and his assistant also in charge of the alarm. The salary on the alarm is $700, and if there were three men there it is nothing to criticize, but if those three salaries voted here were divided amongst two men, it is certainly a nice figure.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I will get that information for you.

MR. JENNINGS—There is another matter I would like to refer to. I feel reluctant to do so, in the absence of the Minister, but I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without dealing with the matter. That is the Labrador mail service. I imagine the Government, and especially the executive, is interested in this matter, and I suppose I am justified in thinking that they would like to have that service performed as satisfactorily as possible. However, while there has been some complaint other seasons as to that service, this past summer there have been very serious complaints and the service is altogether unsatisfactory. Now, in travelling around the district of Twillingate last fall and meeting some men from Labrador, engaged in the fishery around the lower part of the shore, I met up with a great many complaints regarding this service. I believe that these men deserve consideration. They go all the distanc from their homes and take great risks. In many cases they take their supplies at their own expense and go down to prosecute the fishery, and I think they deserve the fullest consideration at the hands of the Government. A man may be anchored at some island or some harbour where there is no fish. Perhaps some of their neighbors or their friends are

anchored in a harbour twenty miles distant, up or down, and they would very much like to hear how they are doing. One may be getting all the fish he wants and the other doing nothing. This is one reason why they want a good service. I will read to the House statements made by men who were engaged in the service last year. The first letter reads as follows:

Little Bay Islands, March 16.

My experience of the mail service on the Labrador the past season is as follows:

The boat came into Dawe's Island well up in August, in the evening. People were anxious to get their letters to hear the news, especially in war time. We had to wait half an hour before any mail was handled. Then it was tea time and nothing could be done till after tea; then the mail was brought on deck and a lantern was lit to see the mail. She was about 12 tons, her speed in calm being about four knots. She made two trips so far as Hebron, up to the 14th of September. The captain was not to blame, he had nothing to do the work in, and if she had met with a heavy storm she would have driven away. There was no room on her deck to wait for the mail and it was an insult to the men who fish on the Lower Labrador to send the like. And they sent us a judge, we are men enough to see fair play to one another. Let a doctor be sent instead and some thing fit to take sick or wrecked ones to their homes is needed. Yours truly,

F. G. WISEMAN.

I wish to remind you of the way we were treated the past summer on the Labrador with our mail. The schooners that went home to Bonavista and came down again farther north gave us more news than the mail boats. I was fishing at Dawe's Island when she went north in August; that was her first trip. She went as far north as Hebron. After a considerable time she went south again as far as Hopedale, and I understand lay there near three weeks. She did not reach Dawe's Island again up to the time I left; but I heard that shortly after I left she went down again. I do not want to blame the men who were in her for the unsatisfactory service, but I blame the Government. They should have had better sense than to send her down. I was told that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries went to Botwood and saw her before leaving. She could not accommodate one passenger. They brought one sick man up and the captain had to give him his bed. Her speed was about four knots and much of the time her engine was out of commission. What was the use of her anyhow? If they had secured the Ezeopence from Mr. Manuel she would have suited far better.

In 1915 they gave us a good boat, but we got very poor satisfaction, as they were in search of Germans and would scarce stay long enough to give us our mail, and half the people never saw her In the year 1914 they sent the Bauline, but she never went north of Rama before the 8th of September. Perhaps some may say we are hard to please, but we only want fair play. Give us a satisfactory motor boat. about 30 tons or more, if a steamer is not available. Put in her a medical doctor and captain who is capable, men like Captains Wm. Winsor, G. Barbour and E. Hann, and judging by the past we shall not have much room for complaint.

Yours truly,

A. W.

I want to give you a statement of the Lower Labrador mail service the

last summer. To begin with I call it a gross insult to the men who go below Hopedale to their livelihood. I heard beforehand that a famous motor boat was to perform the service, and after we arrived at our destination in the far north, about the 20th July, we were expecting every day to see this great boat. About the middle of August someone said the motor mail boat is coming, so I took the glass and looked up toward. Beachy Island, and behold there she was, about the size of a big fishing jack. After a while she came in the harbor and I at once recognized the boat. She was built at Badger Bay for Campbell and was since bought by Park and Storm, and it appears now they have got her off on the Government for the Lower Labrador mail service, and a great joke they must have over it. Captain Mercer told me he was informed she was about 30 tons and could go about seven knots. Her actual speed was about four knots when calm. The crew certainly ran the risk of their lives in such a boat and on a coast subject at times to very high winds and storms. This jack was about 10 tons, but she had a judge and a policeman to look after the Esquimaux, but no medican man. On this, her trial trip, she called to a few places going down and returning paid us another visit. There were two sick men who wanted to get to Hopedale, Mr. R. Jones of L. B. Island being one. I went to the Captain and asked him if he could take Mr. Jones. He said there is no room. I replied, you must take him, he is too ill to be left here, he should have medical attendance. He afterwards took him aboard and gave up his own berth. She went to Hopedale then and lay up for a fortnight for want of oil, someone's blunder. It makes my blood boil when I think sometimes of the way we are treated. It seems the satisfactory mail service ends on that part of the coast where the winters stay, but if they were down to Chidley possibly the service would follow for their benefit. It reminds one of the remark that "Anything is good enough for the ignorant fishermen north," but if some of those folks had a summer's experience with us they may learn a lesson not easily forgot. I have nothing against Capt. Mercer, yet I think, seeing it is mostly Bonavista and Green Bay men who go down on that part of the coast to fish, that a man from one of those bays should be chosen to take charge of the mail boat that goes there. I trust the time is not far distant when the fishermen, who are the backbone of the country, will have all the fair play that belongs to them.

Yours truly,

J. W.

Dear Sir,—I wish to give you a brief report of my experience on the Labrador last summer, especially in connection with the mail service. The mail boat came to Dawe's Island for her first trip, going north sometime about the 1st of August, went to Hebron and returning called again. I was so sick I had to try to get home. Mr. W. asked if they would take me. At first they said no, but the Captain, seeing how ill I was, gave up his berth for my benefit. There was no spare berth on her. On our way up, after passing Beachy Island, she broke down for six or seven hours, but the engineer worked away till about dark, when she began once more to move along. I should say her best speed would be about four knots. I don't think she could go to windward against a 6-knot breeze. Mr. Wornell, the mailman, had it about as inconvenient as it could possibly be to handle the mail, it was very difficult to assort the mail and distribute the letters. Accommodations were worse on her than on a 25 ton schooner. We

arrived at Hopedale Saturday, when was no oil awaiting them and I heard to their surprise, they found there since that she lay in Hopedale two or three weeks waiting for oil. I wish to say that I believe the Captain and others of the crew did their very best for my need. I cannot but thank them for the way they treated me, and it was not their fault the service was so bad.

Yours truly,

R. J.

Now, Sir, that is the statement of men who passed through that experience, and I think it is up to the Government to try and do something better for them, or else not to send the boat at all. The men whom that boat serves are second to none in their calling; they are men in every sense of the word and they want fair play. It should have the consideration of the Government. I understand there is a boat called the Hawk at the disposal of the authorities for that service and I think an effort should be made by the Government to put her on that service now, although, I think it is rather late to perform the service that is required. She should be ready to sail by the 15th of June. All legal work should be finished before the Lower Labrador services commence, so that the boat might be able to go down at the same time as the vessels go.

There is one more matter that I would like to refer to, and that is the arrangements that are being made for disabled soldiers. I do not think the pension that is provided for them is enough. Perhaps the Government have another scheme in mind which they intend to bring forward; but I think that something analagous to what they are doing in Canada should be done to supplement the income of these men. I do not think any of these men want to spend an idle life. It is up to the Government to devise some method of coping with this matter. There are agricultural possibilities in this country which should be utilized in the inauguration of some scheme to meet the necessity of providing employment for these men, and I was wondering if something could not be done along these lines. I understand that under the present law no one can receive assistance from the Government in the way of being started or fitted out with agricultural stock or capital to start farming except a Bill is first passed. I think the Government should consider this matter. Of course if they give us the chance of an election we will come back and inaugurate some such scheme. I trust the observations I have made on all these matters have not proved uninteresting, and particularly with regard to the Lower Labrador service and how to deal with those brave men who are returning disabled; and that the matters will be grappled with in such a way that future generations will not be ashamed of our actions.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, I may say that the motor boat was engaged last year on the recommendation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He recommended that the boat was suitable and on his recommendation the Government engaged her. As to the operation of the boat, it is a matter about which the Minister will know all as he attends to the arrangement for steamer services employed on the Labrador coast and he is conversant with all the different phases of that service.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Chairman, I, with other hon. members who have spoken on this side of the House, sincerely regret that there is no provision in the estimates for the revision

of the voter's list. The Hon. Premier said the other day, as to the Government's intention regarding an election, he could only again say that his party had not finally determined on the matter, but would pass on it at an early date when he would immediately communicate the decision to the House.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I did not say that.

MR. ABBOTT—And the hon. gentleman went on to say from what he could hear on all sides the people were not in favour of plunging the country into the throes of an election. He said the press of the country were all but unanimous that an election was not desirable. And he could find no one outside the House with the interest of the country at heart in favour of an election. These words, coming as they do from the Premier are quite a surprise, and sound very peculiar in the ears of an ordinary individual. Of course everybody knows that the present Government's term of office expires next fall; and it is up to the people to decide who shall rule them for the next four years. I cannot see that the Government have very much to do in the matter. Certainly it is not right to take away the people's liberty and put them under Germanic rule in a country where liberty is as free as the air we breathe. As far as the press is concerned, it is only natural to expect a press that supports a Government and is paid by that Government to blow the very same identical tune as that Government. I beg to disagree with the Premier when he says that he could find no one outside the House with the interest of the country at heart in favour of an election He will find a very large majority. He will find men whose sons are at present fighting on the bloodstained battlefields of Flanders and France in favour of an election. They certainly must have the interest of their country at heart. The people want an election, sir, not altogether because the present administration has done something worse than other Governments did formerly; but because the people see differently. They know more. They are looking at things from a different standpoint. They are more democratic in their views Old conditions with them are fast disappearing and new conditions born of the rich experience of the twentieth century are forcing themselves to the front and replacing old conditions. The people are not so easily fooled as they were. These are some of the reasons why an election is imperative. One doesn't want to be very intelligent or far sighted to see these things. The "signs of the time" is ample proof. Since I have been elected as one of the representatives of the people in this House it gives me an opportunity to make a little investigation of things as they really are, and my bounden duty as a representative has led me to and fro among a great many of the people, whom I have the honour to represent and who have placed me in this important position. This little experience of mine, Mr. Chairman, has taught me to more firmly believe the fact that politics in the whole of Christendom needs a thorough revision. Ever since I knew right from wrong I have been impressed with an idea that Christian spirit is extremely lacking in the political world. This idea of mine seems to be a confirmed fact, especially in Newfoundland. Of course it is not necessary for me right here to try to point out the past sins of past Governments of other countries; nor is it very much good for me to try to call up the past sins of past Governments of this country; and I might say that I do not intend to use personalities

Being a faulty human being myself I make every allowance for past sins of omission and I might add that I do not believe in any form of personal abuse. We are all conscious more or less that the past with its chances with its opportunities for doing good or otherwise, are gone and gone forever. Well might the poet say: "Oh the good we might have done if we only did our duty in the days that are gone by." If an individual or a Government had anything to do yesterday that was their duty to do at that particular time and if they failed to do it the opportunity is gone and gone forever. Yesterday is cut out of our calendar, so to speak, never to be recalled. But there is not the shadow of an excuse, Mr. Chairman, on the part of an individual, who has formerly made promises to another individual of putting these promises into practice where it can be possibly done. And there is not the shadow of an excuse for further delay on the part of a Government who has formerly made promises to the electorate of putting these promises into Legislation, even though it is the eleventh hour with the present administration, and even though it would be termed a death-bed repentance. For, to my mind, sir, there is nothing more ridiculous, there is nothing more absurd, there is nothing more nonsensical than to promise so much, and to perform so very little. Of course I know it is possible for even the most conscientious, the most sincere to over do the thing, as far as promising is concerned. That is they are liable to promise too much. More than the facilities at their command can accomplish more than the finances at their disposal can bring about. In such cases it would be wise for the promisers to go to the promised and apologize for making a fool of them and at the same time inform them that when they made these rash promises they aimed too high and now they find it an utter impossibility to carry them out. To attempt to carry them out would be a pure waste of money and time. "It would be like firing at the man in the moon," a pure waste of powder and shot. That would be an honorable way out of the difficulty, would'nt it? But sorry to say the ordinary Newfoundland politican does not practice that policy. With him it is, "What brings me the most votes on Election Day." The general style of Newfoundland politics is "Promise all you can as long as you get the votes, never mind the performances." The ordinary Newfoundland politicians do not mind going before the electorate and saying to them:— "Now if you return us to power we will give you all the bait depots you want. There won't be any necessity of you wanting to stay on shore in the months of June, July and August for the want of bait." "We will give you all the bait you require to burn. There wont be any necessity of you wanting to pay such enormous amount for coals any more. "We'll whiten the South Side Hills with sheep and the two bladed grass will be sure to come." "We'll pack up some of your staple produce in nice beautiful packages and tie it with nice beautiful bows of ribbon for transportation." "We'll build you five branch railways for three million nine hundred thousand dollars and have money to spare." "We'll open new markets for your fish in Central and South America and Mexico." "In short we'll make Newfoundland a veritable garden of Eden, with not even a serpent to obstruct the path." "All this we'll do and as much more if you give us the chance to redeem our promises.' Now, sir, that's the general style of Newfoundland politics. Its ridiculous how bluffing is indulged in. Personally, I believe the electorate of Newfoundland is as used to broken

promises as was Smith's donkey when his master smashed so many sticks across his nose,thoroughly used to it; and I think, sir, thoroughly sick of it. Why, bless my soul, ten people in the district that I have the honour to represent were promised the position of one single lighthouse and neither of them received it, the other fellow got it. That will give you an idea how excessively promising is indulged in this country in connection with politics. This is some of the reasons why our people desire an election. It has been said Mr. Chairman, time and again that the Opposition members of His Majesty's Government are continually finding fault, and fault finding is their particular hobby, and to find fault is what they go to the House of Assembly for. Now, sir, while I know perfectly well that it is a very easy matter to find fault, yet I sincerely believe that we are justified as representatives of the people in criticizing the actions of any Government when we know these actions to be detrimental to the welfare of the electorate and the colony in general. I take it for granted that we have a lot to find fault with, and the people have a lot to find fault with. Take the public debt of our Colony for instance. Here we are, a little fishing community, a community which depends you may say wholly and solely on the cod and seal fishery for its upkeep, with only a handful of people, so to speak, not 240,000 men, women and children com bined, including the inhabitants of La brador, staggering under a public debt of almost forty millions of dollars, and still borrowing, still piling it up, still putting more on the shoulders of the tax payer. To borrow money, however, is always a sensible way of running a Government. It is easy to borrow money, but not so easy to meet the interest charges. There is an old saying, sir, which goes something like this: "He who goes borrowing goes sorrowing." What is true of an individual is perfectly true of a Government, a Colony or a Nation. It seems to me that Governments of this Colony past and present have borrowed money in a wholesale manner which has led to extravagance or at least to a lack of careful supervision of the spending Of course I know it is right and proper for an intelligent Government to borrow money to meet the pressing necessities of the electorate, provided that Government is economical in expending the money, but when a Government uses borrowed money to pay thousands of dollars for arbitration fees, thousands of dollars for land over and above its value, thousands of dollars for soft jobs to unnecessary officials, thousands of dollars to put civil servants on the Pension List at two-thirds of their salaries, when they are good for years of hard labor thousands of dollars for a foolish agricultural policy that the people disapprove of, thousands of dollars for a hundred and one other things. Then I say that Government whatever name it bears, whether its the People's Party, the Morris Party, the Bond Party, the Lloyd Party, the Coaker Party or the Liberal Union Party, it should be replaced in order to save the independence of the Colony which they govern. These are some of the reasons, sir, that we are to-day and not we only, but a large majority of the people are anxious for a general election. Coming back to the estimates, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make one or two remarks, it is not my intention to de lay the House. If there is one thing more than another, sir, that I feel proud of it is the additional grant of $67,500 for permanent and casual poor: widows, orphans, aged and infirm. I think, sir, that this grant should have been increased years

ago. Of course it is better late than never and we give the Government credit for what they have done in this respect. Undoubtedly these people that come in under this grant will be delighted. Their struggle for existence will be somewhat alleviated. Take the widows for instance. I know widows in the district that I have the honour to represent who to-day, sir, would be lying in the graveyard but for the sympathetic and samaritan like friends around them. I also know poor widows who haven't received a five cent piece from the State since their husbands passed off the stage of action, fifteen years in some cases. Those who were fortunate enough to get the paltry widow's dole meted out to them it was only a very small amount, twelve dollars a year in most cases, a little more than enough to buy sewing cotton, especially if the poor mortals were left with six or seven little ones to look after. Lots of money for other things, lots of money for trips abroad, lots of money for soft jobs for unnecessary officials, lots of money for a thousand other matters, but when it comes to assist a poor unfortunate woman who has lost the breadwinner, then twelve dollars a year is meted out, three dollars a quarter, one dollar a month, three and one-third cents a day, about enough to keep life in a grass hopper. The same thing, sir, can be said of the casual poor, orphans, aged and infirmed. I have in my hand, sir, a letter I have recently received, and I ask the House to bear with me while I read it. The letter is dated June 5th., 1917 and read this way:

(Hon. Member reads letter.)

Such a state of affairs, Mr. Chairman, is unworthy of a Government in a civilized land. Such a state of affails should be denounced from the housetops, but unfortunately it is not such. Even our leading men, both of church and state, are inclined to think that the privations of such poor people are the inflictions of an all-wise Providence to be borne with Christian fortitude. Nonsensical in the extreme. Providence provides enough and more to spare. What we want is men on both sides of this House with Christian spirit at heart so that these things would be our first consideration. We are here, sir, to represent the people and if we do not know their requirements we should take the evidence of those who do know or make a personal enquiry for ourselves. Personally I think each member of this House should devote, say four weeks, of his time each year in going among the people, Not to go into a locality and shut himself up in somebody's office or parlor, but go down among the people and make a personal investigation of things as they really are, and above all we should remember that

"It is one thing to walk through life
on plush
In shoes that fit the feet,
To laugh, to sing, to love and dance
To merry music sweet.
But quite another lot is theirs
Who toil despair and die,
With aching limbs and broken hearts
In spite of poverty."

I am pleased, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has thought of these poor unfortunate people and have increased the grant. It is not my intention to further delay the House, as there will be ample time to discuss matters as we go along.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Chairman, I have been looking rather carefully into the estimates, and I have found there some few things concerning which I might draw the attention of this House to, but before beginning I may say that I regret very much being here in this legislature at this time of the year. I may say I am indeed very sorry that the Prime Min-

ister did not see his way clear to have the House of Assembly opened before this time of the season. As a matter of fact it is a great inconvenience to me and to many on this side of the House and probably to some on the other side as well. I said I was sorry, Mr. Chairman, that the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister could not see his way clear before this to open the House of Assembly, but I can see that I was hardly quite correct, for I think he could have seen his way clear if he had wanted to. If I understand aright, he has a good man at his right hand, and it seems to me when a Captain has a good first mate, there should be no trouble should the Captain get sick a day or so. Be that as it may, it is nevertheless a great inconvenience to the members on this side of the House at any rate to be here at this late season. Here we are now called from our ordinary avocations to attend to Legislative duties, while the fishery is just starting. I sincerely trust that we, if we be returned to this Legislature, and if we do not that those who follow us, will not be called upon to do these duties at such a time in the year as this. It is something uncalled for. Now, Mr. Chairman, with regard to another election. If I remember rightly the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the other day said in the course of his remarks, that nobody outside this House wanted another election, and that what was said was what was wanted by the gentlemen on this side. Now, Mr. Chairman, I have just recently come here to town and I can tell you and this House that there are hundreds and thousands of men just as much interested in Newfuondland as is the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister himself, who want an election. Hundreds and thousands, Sir, want it. And yet in spite of this, the Government are trying to play the German game. They know they have the majority of this House, and to them now, as with the Germans, might is right.

They seem to say that might is right, and in things like this the Government seems to think that might is right. They have might on their side, and they seem to say that they are going to carry their wishes on account of that might. We have somewhere about five thousand men at the front fighting, giving up their lives, making the supreme sacrifice in order to put down that law, trying to put down people thinking that might is right, and surely if our brave boys are making such a sacrifice to keep this country and every country on a right principle, surely they don't think that might is right with regard to an election. I am very sorry that the Premier should think that the men on the other side of the House are the only men interested in the country. If he thinks that he is very much out, but I don't think he does. He has been in public life too long, and is acquainted with the men of the country too well to think that. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, it doesn't seem honorable, just right or fair play, either to the Opposition party or the men of this country, that the Government should have taken the action which they did. It seems to me that there should have been a provision in the estimates for the taking of the list of voters and for a general election this fall. The people want an election. Some people think that it is only the ouports which want an election. There are hundreds of people in this etiy who want it, and it is going to make things pretty bad if there is no election, particularly with regards to recruiting. So far as I am concerned,I don't care whether there is an election or not, but I am looking out for my constituents, for the people that put me here. They expect me to deal with this matter and do my part in all respects regarding the rules of

this country. Unless you have an election this fall it will be useless for men to go around looking for recruits. The men won't go to fight to keep down might. They are not going to give their lives to keep down that law when the very same law is in action here in Newfoundland. Surely the Prime Minister is not afraid to face the people. I don't see why he should be. He has promised quite a lot, and while he has not fulfilled everything that he and his colleagues promised, he has fulfilled some, and why should he be afraid to face the people? I think it is the only honorable thing for him to do, and if the people are satisfied to put him there again well and good and if not he should be satisfied. I presented a petition some time ago regarding mail service in Middle Bay. Men stationed down there have to travel several miles to get their mail, and very often can't get it for a week or more after it comes, if fish is plentiful they cannot go for mail. Now I think the Government should do something to help this matter out. These are the men who are helping to support the country and paying the taxes, and I think the Government should do all in their power to help these men and see that they get some satisfaction regarding their mail in the summer season. With regard to the mail service in Trinity Bay, I think I saw somewhere in the estimates the other day that when the Ethie was on the Trinity Bay route she got $9,100. I daresay the Colonial Secretary knows what subsidy the present boat is getting.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Yes, she is getting the same.

MR. TARGETT.—Well, I really think that the Government should be ashamed to say that this boat is getting the same subsidy that the Ethie got. She is not fit to carry passengers around Trinity Bay. There were times last year when passengers had to put something over them to keep from getting wet. She is not fit to carry mail and passengers, and yet you tell me she is getting $9.100. It is only making a fool of the captain to be on such a boat as that. It is a pity that such a good man as Captain Day should be on such a boat. The people are complaining, and they have every reason to complain of the service, because if the Government is paying $9,100 for a boat not fit to carry passengers, the Government is to be blamed. There are several other items I should like to talk about, regarding the estimates, but I don't feel like delaying the House at the present time. However, I trust the Government will see its way clear to make arrangements to alter conditions regarding the bay service. I fully understand that shipping is very hard to get, and I know the Reid Nfld. Co., have had a job to get boats suitable, but at the same time if they are not up to their contract the Government should not give them the contract price. It is outrageous to give them $9,100 for a boat not fit to travel the bay. I think it is absurd altogether, and I think the Government should have looked into the matter and not be throwing away so much of the taxpayers' money. I trust that the Government will look into these matters, and see that conditions are remedied.

MR. WINSOR.—I should like to make a few remarks, Mr. Chairman, on the estimates now before us. I approve of the additions made in the salaries. We have long been agitating for this, as we think that the men who are doing the work of the country should be paid, and now that it has come to pass, I don't think it fair for us to criticize too much. But in the meantime, I must point out that some of the people who are performing the most important work are for-

gotten. Why are our ferrymen left without an increase in salary? Why should this part of the service be open for tenders any more than any other? Are they not performing our public work? Why are our mail carriers left out? Are they any better able to live under war conditions than men in other branches of the service? No, I think there is a mistake here. The Government should have made a certain increase, instead of leaving the work open for tenders, and what happened not very long ago will happen again. These ferrymen will resign and then someone else will tender for the work, and the Government will have to get it done, no matter what the cost. If they had been given an advance of $50.00 the work would have been carried on. We cannot expect any part of our service to be carried on when it is not sufficiently paid.

As has already been said, no provision has been made for a voter's list or a general election. Quite a bit has been said about the statement of the Premier, but I think these are the words he did say, that he did not know of anybody, outside of this House, who had the interests of the country at heart, that wanted an election. This is about what he said, but I think he knew better than that. If he had said he did not know anybody who had his own interests at heart that wanted an election he would have been nearer right. He went on further to say that nobody had asked for an election, and we would take it from his words that the request for an election had to come from the people. Now, I understand that the constitution of Responsible Government gives the people the privilege without asking for it, and had they known that the Premier was waiting for them to express their wishes, I think he would have had answer enough by this time.

We are living and moving in troublous times. We are only a unit of the whole world that is moving in these troublous times. And we can never have peace as long as the Government is unwise and unfair and acts against the express wishes of the people. If the people want an election you should be satisfied to give it to them. You represent them and they cannot expect you to do more than to carry out their wishes. They want an election because they consider that they have not been treated right and because the Government has not been ruling in favour of a majority but in favour of a few. The labouring classes consider that the People's Party under the leadership of Sir Edward Morris is one that favours a few at the expense of the many. If the Rt. Hon. the Premier wants a proof of what the people want I have it here. This is a protest made at a public meeting, not specially called for that purpose. They demand in this protest a general election. They intimate that they are prepared to do whatever is necessary free of cost. Have these suggestions no influence with the Prime Minister? These people of Bonavista claim this as their privilege, this general election. What will be the result of it, when you inform these people that you are going to prolong Parliament.

These are times when the Government should move in safety, now the people consider that a general election is their right. It protects them from the rule of a Government that they mistrust. It is the duty of the Government to take steps to carry out their wishes, not to consider themselves. The people realize that they have had but little consideration from this Government, and they resent this Government electing itself to office. One man brought this to my mind a week before I left home for here. He was a supporter of the present

Government at the last election but he had changed his views considerably since the Government has been in power. He said so much to me, I said, "This is curious since you fought for the Government so hard last election!" He said, "I was a strong supporter of the present Government but I am opposed to their actions. You must not think that I am not patriotic. All my grandsons physically fit are there in the war; two of my sons offered and were rejected. Although I am seventy I'm willing to do whatever they want me to do. But as soon as the British Empire is on its feet, I am prepared to lead a revolution against the way things are run by the Government." The people are not satisfied. It is the Government's fault.

Mr. Jennings has referred to the Northern Mail Service. This is a very important question. Conditions are different there now to what they were ten or fifteen years ago. Then only a few schooners went down there. But all this is changed now. The people possess better schooners. Their equipment is vastly superior. But the fishery is not what it should be on Northern Labrador. The conditions that prevailed there last year have been ably stated by Mr. Jennings and I think the Government should consider the matter. The boat down there now is unfit for the purpose and the system is not suitable. The leading men who have the running of these things should try and do something. The people consider that the upper part of the Labrador Shore is as good a service as the Newfoundland Coast. Mr. Jennings pointed out where a suitable boat could be got. It would be better not to give the upper part of the Labrador Coast the full service once the settlers are down there and supplied. I think this would satisfy the people as well. I know one case where one man had a sick fellow on board and another man had to nurse him and look after him. Before the boat cam ue there the poor man died. He would have died anyhow. But a suitable service on that part of the shore would be a great benefit and is very necessary. I think the Government ought to consider the best way of dealing with the matter and have a suitable service substituted as soon as the matter can be practically dealt with.

While we are on the subject of the estimates, I would like to make a few comments on the subject of the advanced salaries. It seems to me that there has been no attempt to deal with this problem in an intelligent manner at all. The hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs has come down and said that he would give everybody so much and so much. But this is not the way to deal with this question. Each item ought to be given individual attention.

The Report of the Postmaster General is, in my consideration, the best thing that has appeared since I have been in this House. Nothing about the Government has any system; and this report is very clear, lucid and illuminating. It deserves the minute perusal of the Government and it is evidently the fruit of much pains and efficient labour. I sincerely hope that such labour has not been in vain.

By reference to the Post Office Estimates I notice that a little Post Office at Pool's Island, that last year received $80.00, has received an increase of 50 per cent. Now, how much revenue do you imagine that Post Office turned in last year? The amount was $25.00. In other words, the Government is paying $120.00 to collect $25.00.

HON. MIN. FINANCE.—Would you move to reduce that amount?

MR. COAKER.—I do.

MR. WINSOR.—Yes, because I consider it is unfair for a man to get

$120 to look after $25 worth of business, when another man, who is probably doing $300 worth of business, is only receiving about $25. Now, this is the point that I wish to show up. You are giving increases amounting in all to about $1,000 to postmasters and postmistresses that take in no revenue whatever and do no work. I suppose, as the hour to adjourn has now come, I must close.

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 Remaining orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, June 19, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. JENNINGS.—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Kear's Cove in the district of Twillingate asking for an allocation to construct a breakwater at that place. The petitioners point out that this place is open to heavy seas; at different times in the year they have to take their boats out of the water; and at times even their lives are in jeopardy. The breakwater would be a great convenience to them. Personally, I have knowledge of the situation, and there is nothing unreasonable in the request of the petitioners. The petition is signed by all the inhabitants of the place and by many others who know the situation and are interested in the carrying on of the fishery at that place. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the department of Marine and Fisheries.

MR. ABBOTT.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from Hare Bay and adjacent settlements in the district of Bonavista, asking that Hare Bay be made a port of call for the S. S. Dundee, and also that a telegraph office be established there. The petition is very largely signed, there being some 170 names to it. I would ask that it be received and referred to the department to which it relates. I also ask leave to present a petition from Tickle Cove and Redcliffe, asking for a grant of $45.00 to construct an agricultural road. I hope that the Government will see its way clear to accede to the requests of these petitions. These requests are badly needed. I hope that petitions will not be consigned to the waste basket but that the Government will give them due consideration.

MR. WINSOR.—Mr. Speaker. I have very much pleasure in supporting the prayers of the petitions which have just been presented by my colleague, Mr. Abbott. With respect to Hare Bay, I may say that they have no means whatever of outside communication, while as a matter of fact the cost of bringing the line down there and establishing a telegraph office would be comparatively insignificant. It should also be an easy matter to arrange to have the Dundee call there so that the people might have whatever advantages are to be derived from this Bay service. I hope that the Government will take these matters into their earnest consideration, and that they will find it possible to grant the requests of the petitions.

QUESTIONS.

MR. STONE asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House the report of the Commission which was appointed to investigate the matter in connection with the Postal Telegraph Department which matter was brought before the House in the year 1915.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY tabled the information.

MR. STONE asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House the report of Mr. Fitzgerald in connection with the dredging of Port Rexton and all correspondence in relation to same.

MR. STONE asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House the report of the Government Engineer, Mr. Hall, in connection with the Public Wharf at Catalina and if it is the intention of the Government to rebuild same.

MR. STONE asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing: (a) The amount expended on account of the dredge Priestman during the years 1914, 1915, 1916, to whom paid, and date of such payments, (b) where the dredge Priestman is now operating and if it is the intention of the Government to send her to Port Rexton and New Perlican during the summer.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.— Tabled certain information asked for by Mr. Clift.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.— Mr. Speaker, In answer to Mr. Stone's question in reference to Mr. Hall's report on the public wharf at Catalina, I may say that the Department of Marine and Fisheries knows nothing whatever about this matter. I don't know whether or not Mr. Hall was sent to Catalina, and I have certainly received no report from him. If he was sent at all, he was probably sent by the Government, and no doubt the Government has his report. In reference to Mr. Fitzgerald's report on Port Rexton, if the information which has already been tabled is not sufficient, I will be only too glad to give any further particulars that I can. Mr. Fitzgerald went down there marked off the place for dredging, and recommended that the dredge go there. The dredge at the present time is operating in Bay Bulls. I told Mr. Stone last fall that I would see that the dredge went to Port Rexton, and she will go there as soon as possible. In answer to question No. 4, in relation to accounts of the dredge, 1914 and 1915 have already been tabled 1916 is in the Public Accounts. If Mr. Stone wants a detailed statement I will have it prepared for him.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.— Mr. Speaker. In relation to the matter of the public wharf at Catalina to which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has just referred, I may say that on the recommendation of Mr. Stone, one of the members for the district, I sent Mr. Hall down there some time ago to make a report and an estimate; but it was not until Friday or Saturday last that I received them. I am now only awaiting an opportunity to bring the matter before the Government for consideration. I think, if I remember rightly, that Mr. Hall's estimate was somewhere in the neighbourhood of $2,000. Immediately after the Government comes to a decision on the matter it will be referred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I think that I shall probably have something to report in this connection within the course of a few days.

MR. STONE asked the Rt. Hon the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines to lay on the table of the House a detailed state-

ment showing the number of fire Wardens appointed between Come by Chance and Clarenville; also the number employed on the Heart's Content and Bonavista Branch railways. Give name and address of each and the amount of salary paid.

Deferred till later, Prime Minister not being in the House at the moment.

MR. GRIMES asked the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a statement of all fees collected from patients at the General Hospital by the resident Physician and other salaried physicians of the hospital for the year 1916 and the year 1917 to date, the names of the patients paying fees, the amount each paid and the name of the locality and district to which each patient belongs.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The information is being prepared. I hope to table it to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD asked the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister to table any correspondence between the Department of Justice and any department of the Government or the Governor in Council in respect to the vacancy in the office of Judge of the Central District Court.

Deferred till later, Prime Minister not being in the House at the moment.

SUPPLY.

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

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Parsons took the chair of committee.

MR. WINSOR.—Mr Chairman, when the Committee rose on yesterday I was making a few remarks on the Estimates, which I shall take the liberty of continuing today. I was objecting to some of the advances which had been given to certain post offices in my own district, and the Hon. Minister of Finance asked me if I would move to reduce them. He evidently thought that because they were in my own district I would not attempt to oppose them; but I shall oppose anything which I think is wrong, whether it is in my own district or in anybody else's. Now, on yesterterday I referred to Pool's Island. The salary there was $80.00; it has been advanced to $120. The office, as I have already said, takes in a revenue of $25.00; and to collect this $25.00, the Postmaster is going to be paid $120.

Compare this with Shambler's Cove, who has to look after all the mail on the north side of the Bay when the winter route is on. His former salary was $15; the Hon. Minister is going to advance it $7.50, making it $22.50. This office has a postal revenue of $55. One postmaster paid $120 to collect $25, the other paid $22.50 to collect $55.

Then take Loo Cove, close by, a small way office with no revenue. This office has been advanced $10, while the other one, who had all the work to do has an increase of $7.50. Then we find Tilton, where the present salary is $30, and the salary is to be increased to $45. The revenue from this office is $20, and the Postmaster General says that $25 is sufficient according to the revenue received from this office. Now, Sir, there are some others, not in our district. Take South Side, Harbor Grace. The salary there is $100, and the Minister increases that 50 per cent., making the salary $150. There is no revenue from this office, and $25 is sufficient. Take Riverhead, Harbor Grace. The salary is $70, and the Minister intends to increase it to $140. The revenue from this office is $87. In Burin District we find

Collins Cove, with a salary of $340, and this is to be increased to $442. The revenue from this office is $111, and the Postmaster General says that the salary should be $77. In Burin North the salary is $100, and it is to be increased to $150. The Postmaster General says the salary should be $200. This is a good illustration of the unfairness of the system. In a place where the revenue is $111 the salary is $442, and in the other, where the revenue is nearly $700, the salary is $116. Now, Sir, I hope the hon. gentleman who represents this district will see the unfairness of this and consider it his duty to have justice done. If the first one is fairly paid then the second one is underpaid, and if the second is fairly paid, the first is very much overpaid. Then take Change Islands, where the salary is $80. The Minister's figure is $120, and according to the Postmaster General the salary should be $193. Take Heart's Content, where the salary is $260. The new salary is $360, and the Postmaster General says the salary should be $460. The revenue from this office is $1067. Now, Sir, surely anyone can see the difference in these figures. There are quite a lot of other offices in connection with these estimates, same as I have mentioned, and I think it should be worth the Hon. Minister's while to consider these matters and the unfairness there is in one being overpaid and the other underpaid. The telegraph offices are just about the same. In Fortune, for instance, the increase should be $325, according to the Postmaster General, but the estimate is $100. In Grand Bank the Postmaster General says the increase should be $400 for the operator and assistant, but the increase in the estimates is $84. He says there is a revenue of $2500 from the Telegraph Department alone in this place, of a revenue of $4000 altogether, and still the Minister says $84 in a sufficient increase. At Beaverton the salary is $585 and the Minister is inclined to increase that salary to $700. The revenue from this office is $35—telegraph revenue—and the Minister would give him a $700 salary, while the other operator, at Grand Bank, where the revenue is $2500, would get a salary of $320. At Herring Neck the Postmaster General says the increase in salary should be $132, but the estimate is $85. The revenue from this office is over $700. At Cape Race the salary is $340, and the increase would be another $80, while the revenue is only $14. The difference is plain to be seen in these two salaries, and you should get down to a better principle than this, where some men are overpaid and some are underpaid. I think if the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs had referred somewhat to the report of the Postmaster General he would have the thing better regulated and have a better system of salaries than those in the estimates. Take the four classes of offices enumerated by the Postmaster General's Report. First, he says, "an operator of 30 years' experience with an office income of $402, is paid a salary of $600, whilst another with an office income of $433 is paid a salary of $150.

Second. A combined office, the incomes from which amounts to $15,740, pays its manager a salary of $320, whilst another of the same class with an income of $190 pays a salary of $450.

Third. A Money Order Office with an annual turnover of $17,696 has a postmaster with a salary of $200, whilst another with less than quarter that income pays its postmaster nearly double that salary, or $340.

Fourth. A similar condition exists in the non-accounting offices, and in these examples are very numerous.

An office with a revenue of $80 has a salary of $10, whilst another with a revenue of $25 has a salary of $30.

In view of these facts it is no matter for marvel that the claims for fair and equitable treatment cannot be answered. If once it be established that the payment of the officials is based, as they are in other lands, on well-established rules and all are on the same footing, there will be an end to dissatisfaction. A more satisfactory service, and incidentally the pressure brought to bear from all quarters for special recognition of special cases, will terminate. Establish the principle of equal rights to all, and not alone just grounds for complaints and dissatisfaction disappear, but it will be possible to give an intelligent explanation to those who may enquire why an official in one office receives more or less than an official in another." I think this statement is right, and that the officials of this country should be paid in accordance with the work they have to do. I think this report of the Postmaster General is worthy of consideration, and I think if the Minister had taken this report into consideration and made the increases in accordance with the services rendered, the increases would have been on a more satisfactory basis than they are at the present time. It seems as if the Government had been afraid to attempt these things, afraid to take away salaries or advance salaries, and I think the way this matter will be looked upon in the future is that it is no use to prepare any reports. What encouragement is it to the heads of our departments to look after these things and try to get things on a satisfactory basis. The one conclusion to be drawn is that our departments are merely political machinery and of no value to the country. Now, Sir, there are lots of other salaries in other departments to which the same remarks would apply, but I will not refer to them at the present time. When these votes come along I intend to make reference to them, as I have done on these salaries at the present time.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Chairman. I would like to call the attention of the House, and particularly the editor of the News, who is a member of this House, to the report in this paper of my action in the House yesterday. The report is as follows: "After speaking for about an hour he turned to his leader and asked him if his time was up, much to the amusement of the House." My attention has also been called to a report in the Herald, alluding, I suppose, to the same incident. The Herald goes one better still and says I asked him if I had used up my time, and getting a nod in reply sat down. These reports are entirely incorrect and unfair, and whether or not it was a report deliberately intended to do me an injury I do not know. What really happened was this. At that particular time I happened to glance at the clock, and in mistake took half past five to be half past six, and having no wish to infringe on the rules of this House (on which matter I am perhaps over-sensitive), I thought it not proper on my part to proceed any further. But I wish to say before this Committee today that there has never been any arrangement with my leaders as to what time I should speak or what I should say. It has been left to myself as to what time to use up and what to say. I think it is only fair for me to ask the Hon. member for Burin, Mr. Currie, that he correct that statement as it appeared in the Daily News this morning, if he is responsible for it. As far as I am concerned, I am tied to the apron strings of no-

body in this House or outside it and never intend to be. If I cannot stand in this House free and independent as far as these things go, then I will soon get out. Probably I have just as many pig-headed notions as any other man, although I may appear pretty quiet at times; but some folks make a mistake when they get up against me. I will treat everybody fair and square, but I have notions of my own and I am independent as to what time I occupy here and as to what I say in this House.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Chairman. It is not my intention to delay the work of this committee to any great extent, yet I wish to avail of this opportunity to make a few observations in regard to the Estimates now before the House In going through these Estimates I find no provision has been made for an election this fall; and judging from the remarks of the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister a few days ago one can easily make up one's mind that he is likely to bring in a Bill providing for the extension of the life of his Government for another year or perhaps for the duration of the war. If this is so I do not think it is feasible and it will have a very injurious effect upon the people of this country. I really think that the people are in favor of an election; and if we want to work in unity with the people and for the best interests of the country and Empire I think it is up to us to try and give the people what they are justly entitled to. I do not think it is right to take away their franchise. The people since Responsible Government have always had the opportunity of recording their votes every four years; and I think it is the bounden duty of the Government to give them that opportunity now. Are you going to adopt the system that might is right? Our boys are fighting in France and Flanders to-day for freedom and liberty. Then why does the Government try and tell us that to have an election would be entirely against the wishes of the people? If those words were not used, other words of a simillar nature were; for I think that the Premier stated a few days ago that nobody in this House or outside it with the interests of the country at heart wanted to have an election this Fall. To this we on this side take exception. As a representative of Trinity I think the sentiment of that district is that they want an election; and this applies not only in Trinity district but all over the whole country. Anyhow, it is the principle for which our boys are fighting in Europe to-day that we want set up in this country now. They are fighting for freedom and liberty; and I think that the least we can do is to give the people in this country what we are in duty bound to give them. I do not think there is one gentleman on the other side of the House who can conscientiously say that his constituents do not want an election.

MR. HIGGINS.—Well, mine do not.

MR. STONE.—The majority of the people do, except those who are under the control of the party whip to seek an election. It has been said by Mr. Jennings that he did not ask nor did he intend to ask his leader or anybody else on this side of the House as to what he says or at what time he should begin or finish speaking on these floors. And I am of the same mind. I do not think any gentleman on this side will abide by the decision of anybody else as to what he will say. We are here as the representatives of the people with the courage of our convictions and are ready to stand on our own dignity and for the right of British fair play. I think if we want to carry on the work

of this country in a way that pleases the people or the majority of the people, the least we can do is to give them what the Election Act says they shall have, and not take that away. It is British determination to carry on the fight to a decisive finish.

I think it is a very poor way indeed for the Government of this country to treat the people. They are Britons born Sir, and they are Britons still, and as Britons love the Union Jack, the flag which rules Newfoundland to-day. We do not mind what remarks are made in the "Herald" or the "Daily News" or some other paers, because they are well paid for their remarks by the Government, paid to blow their trumpet and blow loudly. And it is therefore immaterial to us what they say.

The papers that advocate "no election" are the papers that are being pap-fed by the Government. That is the answer. These papers are getting rich at the expense of the people of this country. There is no question about that. There is a growing feeling that a day of reckoning is coming for the Goverment that has ruled the people for the last eight years, when they shall have to give an account of their deeds. And that day will dawn for these unscrupulous grafters who have been trying to get rich quick at the expense of the people and have been bleeding them white for so long.

Take for instance food stuffs. What was the Government doing for two and a half years when they allowed the importers of this country to fleece a long suffering people. No attempt whatever was made to appoint a Commission until on the eve of a general election. Then a Commissior was appointed; but to my mind the Commission was no good when appointed at that particular time, because practically all stocks were disposed of. Take the flour market: In August, 1916, flour was delivered here in this City for $7.50, and it is reported and I believe it is quite true, that that same flour was selling a short time ago for $13.50; which gives the importer only the small profit of $5.80. Not very much when you consider that a man with eight or ten children has to have 8 or 10 barrels a year. And here we find the Government not taking action till the last minute. If it was done in any other country, it would have been altogether different from here. In England, Canada and the United States there was a Commission appointed to deal with such matters just as soon as war was declared. Pork went up too.

It is reported that salt is being sold at 70 cents a hogshead profit. Taking this profit from 3,500 hogsheads, it means a profit of about $21,000. This is surely quite a little profit but yet on the other hand, some would only consider it a flea bite. Yet you will find that the people who have to go to the fishery find it pretty hard. The time is ripe for the people of this country to have a hand in what is going on, as the younger generation is not going to tolerate in the future what have been tolerated in the past. Take for instance ,Competition. Competition is the life of trade, and everybody knows that to the F.P.U. and to Mr. Coaker is due great credit in that as a result of their efforts the sealers of this country have hundreds and hundreds of dollars now where they would not have had as many cents. The Union is a power for good, and it is a pity we did not have it twenty or thirty years ago. We have only to take the price of seals to show its benefit. $6.25 was the price laid down at the start and through our competition it was raised to $8.00. If there had been no F.P.U., or Mr. Coaker, no such thing could have happened, therefore ths Union is a power of good to the Country.

A good many people were under the impression that when the Union members came on here to the House of Assembly that they were not to be taken seriously. We have been told that time after time, but that does not matter. We have the interests of our constituents at heart and what is right, and we are going to stand here on our dignity and hand out fairplay to those we have the honor to represent.

Some people do not agree with the Union because it was connected with the politics of the Country. Were that so the fishermen and the workingmen of the country would not be represented at all. On the other hand others ridiculed the Union because it was engaged in commercial work. The one opposed our connection with the one and the other our connection with the other. I would point out that the Union needs commercial power to fix prices while it needs its political power so that the fishermen may be represented in Parliament.

I cannot congratulate the Prime Minister for putting off this session as long as he has. For instance, I cannot see for the life of me why the Legislature was not called in January or before the Prime Minister had gone to England. The idea of bringing the representatives of this House from the different settlements of this country at this season of the year and thus taking them from the regular avocations is simply ridiculous, and I cannot say that Common Sense has been used by the Government in this connection. The men on this side of the House, as well as those on the other side, have their regular duties to perform, and to be sitting down here while caplin has "struck in" is too ridiculous a thing altogether.

Take for instance Mr. Jennings here. He is in the herring business of the country, and yet he will now be tied here until the last of July just for the sake of politics; but not altogether for the sake of politics but for the sake of representing his constituents, and he wants to stay here till this Legislature closes. I think it is time, high time, that the Legislature should be opened at the proper time. I do not care whether it be the People's Party, the Liberal-Union Party, or the Bond Party, but the Government should have this Legislature called at the proper season of the year and not at the present time. While we cannot congratulate them on opening the session at this season of the year, yet we might be able to cull out one or two things worthy of favorable consideration, and yet we do not feel we ought to give as much credit to the Government as to the members on this side. I refer to the educational grant; also to the grant for the relief of poor widows who were expected even last year and the year before to exist on the dole that is given them. With the prices of provisions going up out of reach, you nevertheless expect them to exist on this little amount. Although nothing was done then, I am glad to see the same provision has been made in connection with that, and I must congratulate the Government for having at last conceded to the wishes of the members on this side of the House. I am also very pleased to see that they have increased the educational vote. That also was one of the planks of the Liberal Union platform. We must have free and compulsory education. Our business is to try and lift up those in the country who have no opportunity of helping themselves. We believe all ought to be educated, so as to be able to fill the necessary places in life and also be able to travel abroad, and not be as they are to-day, held up on entering the United States of America because they can neither read nor write. It is time we had an

awakening like this in this as in every other country. I say, Sir, that unless this comes about we will be living below our duty as representatives to this House. It is too bad to see grey-haired men who have not sufficient education to figure out their accounts. We must and ought not have things such as these. Newfoundlanders are as good as any other men and all that has kept them behind is lack of education. Without that they can do anything. At the present time they can build a schooner, a house or anything, and can carve with a knife or hatchet much better than some carpenters could do with any instruments. All they need is the primary education and they can be fitted to occupy any position wherever offered.

We have here before us the Postmaster General's Report. I have not read it very carefully, but have glanced casually through it, and to my mind it is a report worthy of consideration. This is the only real report from this service that I have seen since I have been here. It is replete with all the facts which one might ask for. I think Mr. Mercer and Mr. Campbell have been travelling around adjusting matters very well indeed. I think, Mr. Chairman, the report is one on which we should be only too glad to congratulate the Postmaster General.

"A money order office with an annual turn over of $17,696 has a postmaster with a salary of $200, while another with less than a quarter of the income pays its postmaster nearly double the salary, or $340." Are not these ridiculous things to be going on at this time. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the Government should get down to their business. I do not believe that if they did the Government would bring these estimates before the House in the way they have. It certainly seems to me that the Postmaster General is on to his work. He goes on a little further and says: "A similar condition exists in the Non-Accounting offices, and in these the examples are very numerous. An office with a revenue of $80.00 has a salary of $10, whilst another with a revenue of $25 has a salary of $30."

The member for Bonavista, Mr. Winsor, I am sure, has certainly given the House a great deal of information in relation to the expense and incomes and the way in which they have been adjusted according to the estimates. I am sure he must have taken a great deal of trouble in going over that report and in going through the estimates in order to find out just what was done. However, I can only congratulate the Postmaster General upon his report and I think if the Minister of Finance and Customs had given the estimates any consideration they would have been better adjusted.

I do not know whether it is the intention or not to provide an extra amount of money for roads and bridges. Our roads and bridges are certainly in a deplorable condition all over the country and what applies to one district applies to another. I hope the Government have not forgotten that one particular point.

There are many other remarks that I would like to make and that I intend to make later on as we go through the estimates, and I hope the Minister of Finance will see his way clear to adjust the estimates or adjust some of the salaries

MR. COAKER—It has given me a great deal of pleasure to listen to the remarks on the Estimates from this side of the House, and I hope members on the other side of the House are equally pleased. You have thought that the Estimates brought before the House were perfect, but I am afraid that as we take them

this opportunity, and they got together and used their influence across the water and in Canada with the owners and agents of the ship that was to have brought the salt, with the result that the salt came to Halifax but did not come here because the owners were afraid of getting into a row with the merchants. In fact, the merchants went so far as to frighten these men by saying that if the salt was brought here against their wishes the Government would interfere and prevent its being sold at a less rate than was being obtained by them. Then, again, the other day I had an offer of another load of salt, which it was intended to discharge at Catalina. In fact the steamer is now en route to this country. That salt was offered me at a very fair price, but I met with the same interference from the combine, with the result that the whole thing has been cancelled, and instead of going to Catalina as pre-arranged, the ship will probably come here and discharge the salt. Now, I can assure the House that salt is being sold here this year at as big a profit as 70c. a hhd. There have been large profits made, very large profits. Before the war the profits that the salt dealers were contented with were from 25 to 30 cents a hhd. I know that we sold salt here at a profit of 5 cents a hhd. When we started in to sell the merchants were making as high as 25 to 30 cents a hhd., but they immediately came down to our price. We might have sold salt this year and done something towards regulating the profits, but that the combine interfered and took charge, and so influential are they and so strong that it is not possible to get ships if they want to prevent it. As a consequence the fishermen to-day are losing 50 cts. a hhd. on all the salt that they purchase, because of the fact that it has not been possible to get up against the combination. Now, these are serious matters, and matters which the Government should take up and deal with. They should have been dealt with long ago. The pity of it is,—but, of course, we all see it now—that something was not done in this direction in 1915. If a Controller of Food and Salt had been appointed at that time, three-fourths of the profits which have been made by the dealers would have gone into the pockets of the people. We suggested the appointment at the time, but the Government were afraid. They dared not interfere; they were afraid that the merchants would retaliate; and in any event, they said, you must not interfere with legitimate trade. And right up to the present time no action has been taken. It was shown by the Commission in their report which was recently published that the freight charges are a deliberate robbing of the people of the country. A barrel of flour that cost 20c freight from Sydney to St. John's before the war is now charged at $1.30. The freight on flour from Montreal to Halifax increased 2c a barrel during a period that it increased $1.10 here; and yet no action has been taken; there has been no remonstrance; no protest has been made; nothing has been done. I don't so much mind the members of the Executive, because from a political standpoint they have means of ingratiating themselves with their constituents that the ordinary representatives do not possess, but what about the rank and file on the other side of the House? They must go back to their constituents and they must answer for the negligence of the Government during the past three or four years. Why have they not moved? Why have they not tried to do something, but they haven't; and I can promise them that if they go to their districts this year they will be turned down by the

The promise was made two months ago and we have been three weeks in session and have not yet brought in the necessary legislation. You are waiting, as usual, for the report of somebody outside of this House who is not responsible to this House and who is, perhaps, as much interested in the matter as men in Hong Kong If you had very much interest in the matter it would not have been left until to-day. For the last three or four sessions we have brought this matter up but the Government has not yet done anything. Are you going to wait till the men in a body call on the Governor or the Premier before you do anything? You forget you are living in peculiar times. Conditions are now not what they were before 1914, and you cannot go on dealing with this matter in this way or treating the people as though they were unable tc think for themselves

You are treating the matter of a general election in the same way; you are treating the people as if they were babies or had no sense. Because some people on the other side say the country does not want an election, you think it is all right, but you cannot fool the people that way. I was surprised the other day when 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 if such was necessary. It is all right for the Premier to laugh.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—You would make a cat laugh.

MR. COAKER—I will make somebody else laugh before I am through. "Make a cat laugh." Is that the way you are insulting the fishermen of the country; when I come here with their demands you say it would make a cat laugh.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—That is not correct. I was not laughing at what you said. The Colonial Secretary was telling me something, and was laughing, and when you accuse me of laughing I said "You would make a cat laugh."

MR. COAKER—I accept your explanation. But I hope that this matter of the Naval Reservists will be considered immediately by the Government and that legislation will be brought down at once. I can assure the Premier that if he brings down legislation in connection with that matter he will find everybody on this side of the House willing and anxious to help him in the facilities of the measure. Mr. Hickman also referred to the cable system. I may say that we are at present entirely in the hands of these people. We have to submit to their regulations whether we approve of them or not. Mr. Hickman went on to say that at one time it was contemplated having a Marconi station, but that this was for certain reasons turned down. But the advantage that a Marconi station would be to this Colony, to the business people especially, cannot, I think, be overrated. Not only would it reduce the rates, but it would make us independent. Mr. Stone, it will be remembered, also referred to the ship bounty and the free importation for blocks for ships. As regards the latter, I may say that it is impossible to procure any to-day as there is only one block maker here, who receives at least 50 per cent. more for his work than it is worth. So important and pressing is this matter that some amendment will have to be made to the Act to allow the men who are building ships to procure these blocks.

Then there is another very important point. The Act of last year authorizing the establishment of shipbuilding companies, and which gave free entry to all material used for the construction of vessels. Now, when

was away this winter I bought probably $150,000 worth of stuff for shipbuilding purposes and which is coming in day by day, and we have to pay $25,000 to $30,000 in duties, and yet wait for five or six years before we use it all up. It is our desire to have a large amount of material always on hand. So we must have a separate account for each ship for the nails, tar, iron, rope, canvas, and so on that we use in connection with the ship. Then we ask the Government for a rebate. If you are going to encourage shipbuilding you must be fair and square. Anyone coming under the Act is entitled to fair play. I do not want you to give anything in cases where you would not be justified, but where money is actually being spent and business going ahead you ought to give people encouragement, yet protect the Treasury by securing bonds assuring such material will be used for the purpose it was imported.

Then, again, we come to the question of family grants. Still in certain sections of the country this practice prevails. I think that every case that appears before the Department ought to receive careful and thorough consideration. As far as my own experience of Bonavista or Twillingate goes I may say that I never had a moment's worry over the allocations of grants for road money. The decisions of the Board satisfied the men and they were always willing to abide by them, and the management of matters appertaining to this Board was most satisfactory to the member. It is the principle of giving $5 to one man and $10 to another as grants that causes the trouble. I knew of one grant that was allocated just before the election to a man in Bonavista of one hundred dollars. The man came from Grand Falls, was sent for specially to do political work. He did no work of a public value for that $100. We asked for particulars of the expenditure from the Department. There were no details. Just $100 slashed across the page signed by one man as paid to this man and his son. And the returns had been accepted by the Department. That was a case that should have been handed over to the Auditor General. That happened before the 1913 election, and you wonder why you were defeated in Bonavista Bay. This system of favoring does more harm to the member than he ever realizes. Give one man a favor and you injure a hundred. The fact that no return is given for the money makes it a disgrace to the member and the Government he belongs to.

I know of another case in Twillingate where the sum of $50 was given the price of the man's vote. The man happened to be one of my strongest friends. I had known him since I was ten. Fifty dollars hard cash paid him for his vote, but the Tory candidate did not get the vote after all. There was never a day's work done for the money. When this Road Board Act was passed at the express desire of the District, Burin was excepted. Now I have had a petition from four hundred men asking that a Road Board be given Burin. I do not say this to effect in any way the opinions of the members for Burin. I have been asked to mention this matter, and I have done so. I can warn them that they will be up against something when they go back to that district on account of the manner in which they have handled the Road Board matter.

I had a chance to import salt this spring, and I could have imported that salt and sold it for 60 or 70 cents a hhd. cheaper than it was being sold by business men on Water Street. But these men heard that I had had

one by one and go through them, you will find that those Estimates require a lot of changes. It is surprising the number of flaws we have found in them up to the present.

I was very much surprised to notice that the protest made by my friend, Mr. Jennings, with reference to the manner in which the newspapers had misconstrued his remarks was not even noticed by Mr. Currie. The Editor of the News is in the House, and although that statement appeared in his newspaper and was absolutely false, he has not the manliness to apologize. If he is a man of honor or if he has any honor in his make up, he would not fail to rise in the House and apologize for the statement made by his paper yesterday. I hope he is not going to give us any trouble or give us a chance to continue to debate upon the merits or demerits of the statements of that paper, and I feel sure he is honorable enough to rise and take back anything that has been said that is not fair to my friend, Mr. Jennings. I do not think that any man in the House would treat Mr. Jennings unfairly. I trust that those concerned in the statement will make the necessary amends.

One of the most surprising incidents in connection with this session is that up to the present, although the House is in session three weeks, we have not yet had the Report of the Commission which enquired into the Postal Telegraph Department.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—It has just been tabled.

MR. COAKER—It has been tabled to-day then. I have not seen it and it is unfair to expect us to discuss those Postal Telegraph votes without seeing it. It should have been tabled long ago.

The same applies to the Fisheries Report. The Report was sent to the Government on January 10, and certainly sufficient time has elapsed since then to have that report printed. How do you expect members who are so much interested in fisheries matters as we are to be able to do full justice to the subject of the fisheries and the fishery estimates when they have not seen the Fishery Report. I, personally, got that report yesterday, and last night I went through it and I find a lot in it to personally congratulate the Minister about, but my other friends have not seen that report and yet they are here discussing these estimates in relation to what is to be done next year in connection with the fisheries. They have not yet had this report which ought to have been in this House some three weeks ago. This is unfair and improper.

Another matter which a great deal of inquiry have been made about is the matter of the pay of the Naval Reservists. They are getting very anxious with regard to the promises made by the Colonial Secretary a couple of months ago in connection with the extra pay to be given them to put them on an equality with the men of the Regiment. A number of these men have visited me during the last day or two and have spoken very strongly on the matter, and they say they intend to take action aboard ship. They will either petition this House to see that money is forthcoming or take some other steps. There are about three hundred men aboard the ship. What makes the thing worse is that the men who have been appointed on patrol service around the country are getting $1.10 a day. These men get $1.10 while those on board the "Briton" and across water are getting the same pay, 40 cents a day, as they have been getting all along. Do you think that these men are sufficiently foolish to put up with such treatment.

biggest vote that was ever cast against candidates in this country. And that is one of the reasons why the Government does not want an election. If they were sure they were going to conquer they would not have the slightest hesitation; but they know they are going to certain defeat, and hence their desire to prolong their existence. And the worst of it is that this whole thing has been the result of negligence, because I suppose the Government has the ability to deal with these matters—and certainly if the Executive have not,there are men outside the Executive who have, and the wonder is that these men have not done something to force the Executive's hands. I know if I were a minor member on the other side of the House, and no action was being taken in these matters, there would be a hot time in store for someone. And another thing, here we are in this House in the middle of summer, with the sun pouring down upon us, at a time when our business urgently demands our presence; and the only excuse given for this is that the Premier was over in London. Now this whole thing might have been arranged if the Premier had come to us in January, told us that he had to go to London, and stated what he wanted to get through the House. We would have reached some agreement, and he could go away, and we would have been only too glad to facilitate the Government and get the business through, and get back to our business within a month. Of course, it is easy enough for Departmental Heads to waste their time here, but the position in our case is entirely different. So far as I am concerned, I should not be in this House now; and if I did my duty to the people who sent me here I would resign my seat and attend to the business over which I have control. And the only excuse offered as I say, is that the Premier had to attend a Conference in London, and thus left the whole Legislative business of the country to be turned upside down and compel us to come here in the middle of the summer. And then, on top of all that, you threaten to bring in a bill to prolong the life of Parliament. 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 Government. That would be a condition that we would all regret. I know I would be the sorriest man in the country to know that any of the enemies of our Empire could point the finger of scorn at Newfoundland; but the Government will clearly understand that they are bringing this upon themselves. Don't you think for a moment that we won't fight. 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. So far as the argument of raising local partisan feeling is concerned, there is no necessity to do anything of the kind. If you like, we can have an election without any undue partisan activity. I am satisfied, as Mr. Jennings has just said, to stay in St. John's, and I am sure the 36 candidates that will represent the party on this side of the House are prepared to do the same—if you will do likewise; and you can merely appoint a day on which the voting will take place, and we can let the people decide as to who will govern them during the next four years. As I told you the other day, I am not eager to shoulder the responsibility of a

Department or of a member of the Executive Council at the present time, but I want to see the thing fought out fairly. If the people say they want you back, I will be satisfied to abide by that decision and not only that, but we on this side will do all that we can to help you out when you come back; but we must have a decision from the people. For myself I intend to fight one of the hardest districts in the country—Hr. Grace, and if I did not fight the district in the ordinary way and you were to send a strong man against me, I might have a small chance, but I would be willing to take that chance; and I will go further and say that if I am defeated in Hr. Grace I will not accept a seat for any other district. Now, I don't want to stay here all summer; we have no desire to unnecessarily delay the Estimates: but unless the Premier is prepared to give us the information that we want, that is the only course left open to us, and I think it is our bounden duty to do it in the public interest.

Another serious trouble confronting the Colony at the present time is the shortage of gasoline and kero oil. Half the motor boats in the country are at present held up because of this shortage. When the city allowed the tanks to be established on the Southside for the storage of kerosene and gasolene, everyone believed that we would get all we wanted. As a matter of fact within the last week I have been asked to get, I suppose 500 casks of oil, and have not been able to get a barrel. Only to-day I received about twenty messages,asking for God's sake to send gasolene or kerosene, and I cannot get any. There are a few casks coming, I understand, on one or two of the steamers; but unless something is done and done quickly, three-parts of the motor boats in Newfoundland will be held up within the next three or four weeks.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is plenty of oil on the Southside.

MR. COAKER.—But there is no way of getting it. They have no facilities. One of the results of this condition has been that the price of oil has advanced 4c. a gallon. There is no reason for the advance, because that oil was brought over there and placed in these tanks early in the spring. They commenced to sell at 16c., but to-day they are charging 20c. It is the same oil, but they have taken advantage of the fact that there is no competition and have advanced the price. This is a matter for the Government to consider. Now, there is another matter in which, I think, the Government should take action.

The departments should have their accounts open for inspection by members of this Assembly. We have the public accounts but there is very little in them. There are hundreds and thousands of dollars spent and put in the accounts under the heading of "Sundries." What information can we get from "Sundries." There is one item of $400,000 as Sundries, and if we ask for any information we can't get it. Last year I asked numberless questions and got no information whatever. If we scrutinize the accounts we can only see what went out in a lump sum, and we don't know what the money went for. We ought to have all these accounts, and we should see every cent that is spent. Mr. Abbott's remarks yesterday were a lecture on political morals and would be a credit to any assembly in the Empire, and his views are those of the people in the north regarding politics. Do you think that Mr. Jennings or Mr. Abbott or any of these men would stand by us in running a government if we don't have everything upright, fair and square. No, they would resign their seats instantly and whoever comes and forms a

party, there is one thing he will have to do and that is to leave open for public inspection all the public accounts. It is a case of graft at the public expense. There is no gain to the country in helping a few men to get favors, and these things are relied on to get people to go out and get votes. The moral affect on the community is immense. I don't know how we get along so well. I don't understand how there is such a thing as public opinion in the Colony at all, when everything is abused in such a manner. A man is told to go to the Post Office and he will find an envelope there. He goes to the Post Office and finds an envelope with a ten dollar bill in it and nothing else. He understands what it is for and votes accordingly. Or two men will shake hands and one will leave a five dollar bill in the other's hand. He takes the money and probably goes and votes. There was money used this way in galore in 1913. Do you expect to get an honest Government by means like this. Do you expect that votes got in this way would return honest men. But people are foolish enough to think that these methods would return honest men to run an honest government in any honest way. How can the spring be pure which is poisoned at its source? Any man must be a fool who thinks that the Government which buys its votes is going to do its duty.

Another matter, mentioned by Mr. Jennings yesterday, is the Labrador mail service. I think there is something which every man on the other side of the House must regret in connection with this service, and I don't think any one of them would deliberately think of having such conditions as Mr. Jennings read yesterday to the House. A boat sent down there that could only make two trips in ninety-two days! To pay fifty dollars a day for a small thing like this of about ten tons that could only go four miles an hour! You went to the country in 1908, and in your manifesto you promised an improved Labrador service. What is the result? Don't tell me that you couldn't get a steamer to go down there last year. You could have got a couple of steamers from Geo. Neal, and there are one or two whalers which I think should be available for that service. I don't know what arrangements might be made with the "Cabot"—perhaps she was needed somewhere else, but if so, something better than this motor boat should have been put on. A man from Twillingate came to me the other day and he was furious—blamed the members of the northern districts. We have to take the blame and the responsibility because we are in the House. The country has paid $45,000 in subsidies for steamers to take the mails to Labrador, and what sort of service have we had up the coast and down the coast. It is no good to say that we have had a magnificent service up the coast. There was only the "Sagona." There should be plenty boats available. What about the "Othar" or the "Hump." But, even if you can't get any of these, it would be better to take a patrol boat. Would she not be better down there than outside here tacking up and down? We are spending $300,000 for patrol boats and although the Labrador service brings us 100,000 qtls. of fish every year we allow the men who go down there to be cut off as completely as if they were at the North Pole What have you done in connection with the coastal service. What about the "Ethie". When you were asked yesterday if the same subsidy was being given for the "Wren" as for the "Ethie", the answer was yes. The "Ethie' is worth $20,000 or $25,000 if the "Wren" is worth $9,100. It was just last year that this boat was flooded and came near being swamped

The people won't travel on her. Find out how many people are travelling on the "Wren" as compared to the "Ethie." The people don't want to risk their lives. You can't present any correspondence on this matter to the House Probably the Postmaster General is taking no interest in it either. You have not taken any action for the last two or three years to have this service properly looked after. No effort has been made to get a better boat. Even one of the whalers would be better on that service than the boat that is there now. The "Clyde," which was making two trips a week to the south side of the Twillingate District is now making only one a week, and is taking half the "Fogota's" route, and the "Dundee," which was making two trips a week in the Bonavista District is now making only one a week and taking half the "Fogota's" route, and you have given them the "Fogota's" subsidy. They are occupying only the same time as before and the Reids are getting two subsidies, and the people get only half what they had before. And then you ask why the people are dissatisfied. The people can't get any supplies in that district. We have a dozen stores down there and we can't get any supplies down. When the "Fogota" was running it was all right, but we can't send freight by the "Dundee' or the "Clyde" because it would be worth the contents of the packages to pay the freight these men are demanding. Flour to Bonavista last year cost 30 cents a barrel, and it is now 55 cents, sugar was 40 cents and is now 90 cents; beef, pork, etc. was 30 cents and is now 60 cents; raisins, 10 cents a box now 34 cents. That is to Bonavista, but if you send flour to Fogo it costs $2 a barrel for the freight; molasses, which was $2 a puncheon last year is now $4.90, and other goods the same from one to two hundred per cent. higher. I have taken it up before. I took it up last fall with Sir William Reid.

You ask the question then why the people want an election? From the information to hand you can easily see this country is ripe for trouble. All this trouble does not come from the war. If a man had to pay high rates because we want to carry on the war he would simply acquiesce. But this profit is going into the coffers of the men who are rich. You are making the poor, poorer and the rich, richer. That will be one thing that will be up against you in an election. You have taken your seats in this House and have supported Bills that have made the rich richer and the poor poorer. If you have not supported these measures you have done nothing to prevent them. North, south, east and west, all over the country, the people are up against you. And it has had no effect upon you. I am stating facts in connection with freight rates this afternoon, but as far as you are concerned it is but wasting time. Do you think that an effort is going to be made now to have these rates reduced? Do you think anybody is going to take this matter up with the Reid Nfld. Co.—except I do it? I went to Sir Wm. Reid last Fall and said to him: "For God's sake do not make the rates so high—do not raise them 200%. He knew what it meant. He knew of the increase. He ordered it to be done, regardless of consequences. His idea was: "I want the money"—he—a man who can go to New York and spend $100 a day! I said: "Do you know what effect these things are going to have on the country? Do you know these things are going to sink into the hearts of the men from whom we are expecting recruits? These men will have to suffer because of what you are doing. If you are a patriot, now is the time to show it." I said: "Put on a surplus rate if necessary;

make it 33 ⅓% higher, and see how your finances turn out then; and if that does not fix things properly any increase in reason will be accepted." But it had no effect. If something had been done to back me up in what I was doing, if they had demonstrated, if they had gone and appealed to the man in view of the effect it was going to have on the Colony, things might have been different. That was the first bad step they made. The Western Districts, because of what you have done or what you have not done, are crying out against you. St. George's District to-day is poisoned against you. These men are paying $6 to-day for what they should get for $2 this year. But I am only wasting my time and taking up the attention of the House in talking about this matter. If I thought you were open to conviction; that you were ready to sit down and make a bargain with me, we would coincide with the Government to-morrow. But I know nothing will be done. But I would do it. On the flour question the other day I said, "Secure the flour yourselves." Is there not one strong man in the crowd? One man who will do his duty? One man who does not care for the opinion of intimates along Water Street?

In the estimates I find the sum of $1,652 paid for services on "Glencoe" and "Terra Nova" in connection with the hunt for submarines last year. It must have been for work done before June last year, and was taken out of contingencies account of the Customs Department. I would like to see the correspondence relating to that expenditure.

One of the worst accounts on account of contingencies is in connection with the Postal Departmet. There is no information given about that account. It is sundries, sundries, sundries; and the totals on the other side are sundries, sundries, sundries. What do the men in the Postal Department think we are. Did they think we were going to be satisfied with these columns of sundries. They may not have anything to hide, but it is a pretty queer way of gaining confidence. When you do not want to give information, when you have have something to hide, items would be put down in that way. I mentioned a day or two ago that I thought the estimates would be short. I hope that when we get down to business, if we ever do again, that we will have an increased vote of $5,000 on account of the "Fiona". She certainly cannot exist if you do not put $10,000 on that vote. Last year you spent $22,660 from contingencies in the various departments for increases in wages and new salaries.

Re Railway Clerks: I think these clerks ought to get an increase, It would be my aim to have each of these in receipt of a salary of not less than $700. I do not think there ought to be any trouble getting men then. I know something of this work and the risk. A man in that position ought to carry heavy insurance on his life to protect his family.

Re Sanatoria: I hope this money will be well spent, and that even this amount will not be able to pay for all you will do. I would like to see this a large concern. We do not want to have room for but fifteen or twenty patients there from St. John's, while there are nearly as many hundred needing to go there. The object of these Sanatoria is alright, but if you are going to limit this one to St. John's, you should have one established in Bonavista Bay and other places. At any rate there must be a place open to the outports. This reminds me that a few years ago we were told in the Governor's speech that we were going to have one of these in every bay and one in St. John's. Well I suppose we will get it sometime.

You say the war has stopped it. Perhaps it has, but one of the two men who are giving these sanatoria was absent from the country and never heard about it, no not one word. And yet his name was mentioned with 17 sanatoria in conjunction with that of his brother. As he said when he returned, "How can I be responsible. I am not justified in carrying out promises I did not make." I know this, because I spoke to him about it. After that when the Duke of Connaught was here the corner stone of the sanatorium at Riverhead was laid, and so far so good, but what has been done since. No money is voted for that. How can you go back to the people with such a dismal failure behind you as this. I could never do the like. I would resign my seat if I could not do better, and I would never go back and ask them for their support any more. Mind. Do not mistake me, I have a lot of sympathy for you poor fellows. Many of you have as good intentions as some on this side, but you have failed. The best you can do now is to go bound hand and foot to the slaughter. Take upon your shoulders a burden that will weigh you down so that you won't be able to go any further. Load yourselves down so that you may go to the very bottom. Now I do not suppose all these overdrafts are unjustified. I think it is quite reasonable this year; but when you come and get a little further down you find $143,000 over expenditure. Now this is from last July to last March only. This with these $30,000 over expenditures makes a total of $175,000 up to March last, for which the Government will have to bring in Supplemental supply.

With regard to the Rebate Vote: This vote should be increased this year. You have it here now as $20,000. Now I should imagine that this year you will need $100,000. I know that there are about twenty vessels building, and these will all require their bounties. This should have attention.

Lobster Vote: This too is overdrawn. The explanation is that the buyers had to pay ten cents each for a five cent lobster. Now with the present high prices of flour and other provision, we have got to have this price increased. The fishermen have to pay out more to live, so they have got to get more in their pockets. We are accordingly going to make it 15 cents for lobsters this year. The high amounts to be paid must be got from somewhere and they will come from the lobsters. I will tell them they ought to charge fifteen cents.

MINISTER OF MARINE.—They won't do it. They are satisfied to sell for ten.

MR. COAKER.—That makes no difference. They will sell at the increased price. Last year was a short year wasn't it. What was it, only about 400,000 cases. The prices must go up.

MINISTER OF MARINE—Of course that was due to the fact that not so many are catching lobsters now.

MR. COAKER—Now we come to the Old Age pensions. My hon. friend from Bonavista, Mr. Abbott, in that excellent address of his yesterday, referred to the pensions for poor widows, and I expected he would mention the Old Age pensions, but he did not. It is my opinion that every man of 75 and over should be in receipt of a pension. Last year the Government sincerely listened to our requests and appeals from this side of the House and voted an additional $25,000 for old age pensions. I do not think any money was better spent last year than this vote, and I feel that many of the poor worn out pensioners said many a prayer for your Government as the result. That means that as it stands to-day, the Old Age pension is $80,000. Now if we are going to take

in as revenue for the next year $4,600,000, and I sincerely wish it would reach the five million dollar mark, I think we ought to be able to make that an increase of $20,000 more, and then it would mean $100,000 for this fund. This I think would be sufficient to allow every man in the country over 75 years of age the pension of $50. If it was possible to do this in 1914, it is our duty to increase it now. When we asked for that increased vote before we understood that another $20,000 would have been sufficient to supply every man in the country, but we understand the department was flooded with applications. There are consequently still men seventy five years of age not getting that old age pension. Now that is too bad. I am really afraid that there must be on that list a good many old men getting these pensions who are not 75 years old. The Census does not provide for as many as there are. In addition to that there are a number of men over 75 who are receiving no pension. I know of one case where a man of eighty-six years was receiving not one cent from this fund but was depending on his friends. I brought his case to the attention of the man in charge of that Dept., Mr. Woods, and I think he has been getting it ever since. Why not increase that vote $20,000. It would cover a multitude of sins. There is many a poor man offering a prayer to the Throne of God day by day on behalf of you and your Government simply because you had consideration enough to increase that vote; do not have anyone in the country 75 years old in need without that assistance. Don't cull out anybody, for everybody over 75 years of age is entitled to it. You are going to have one million surplus revenue from last year and you are going to hand it over to war expenditure. That is a very proper course, but if you took $20,000 out of that, that $20,000 would be a great deal better spent than some amounts of $200 a day spent on account of War expenditure. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant this request, and that when the vote comes up the minister will see his way clear to make an increase of $20,000 on this account. I would not like to see one man over 75 years of age, who requires it, without his $50, for he is entitled to it.

Mr. Jennings has referred to the matter of cutting timber on Thwart Island, which timber has been reserved for the use of the fishermen there. Now this is a matter which has roused the people to intense feeling, and the Department of Agriculture and Mines must shoulder the responsibility. A company has landed down there and is prepared to build a large vessel of 300 tons. Now the timber which will be used for this purpose was timber reserved for fishery purposes, yet nevertheless and in spite of the fact that this would wipe out a large quantity of the timber on that island, the Company has been allowed to continue. The Horwood Lumber Company, who are the builders of the vesel have very large timber areas at Campbellton, and many other timber areas where they could build this vessel, but they would rather cut the timber here because it is nearer the water. Besides by cutting there they would not destroy their own limits. Now as I have said this land is absolutely necessary to the fishermen there. As the Horwood Lumber Company could not under the Act do this under their own name, as the Act expressly provides they shall not, yet under a new name they are doing that work. I sent a strong protest to the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, but he said nothing could be done. Now that is all rubbish. They are doing nothing more or less than getting around the law. They wanted

timber from Thwart Island to build their schooner, and as they could not get it in their own name they formed a new company and thus were enabled to avoid the act and use the wood that for years and years had been reserved for the fishermen of the country. If this had happened in Placentia or in Hr. Grace or in any of the larger districts what would have been the result. They would not have been allowed to do it;and the people up North are not feeling very nice about it. Now what else did they do. They have large areas of timber inside of Gander Bay and at Dog Bay. There is a lot of good land there just outside of the three mile limit, and they said they were going to cut it. The people said they were not. What did they do? They got this new name and went and cut up all the timber around there contrary to law, if not to the wording yet to the spirit of the Act. At any rate it was dishonesty. Nothing was done to stop them, and now you will find that area has been as much cleared up and is as bereft of timber as is Bonavista Bay through the pit-prop industry. Now the people want to know what is the cause of this. They are asking where are their members, and yet we have done everything we could. We could not do more. There can be no doubt the law was just avoided, as any one who will take interest enough to go up to the Registry of Deeds will find that the Gander Bay Co. and the Horwood Lumber Company are composed very largely of the same people, any changes being but nominal. Now then there was the Fishery Board Act passed last session under which are issued all the rules which have since become the law of the land. Now the rules which were recommended by this Board to the Government were not sufficiently stringent. I have no use for exporting herring in any shape or form without having proper examination made by a Government representative, specially appointed to inspect herring. I want every barrel to be inspected before it goes out of the country. I don't want the man who wants it, to have his barrel inspected, but every man, whether he wants it or not. Some men like to have the Government certificate branded on their herring, others will send it to the markets of the world anyhow, and those latter men are the ones that cause the damage and make the business of the country suffer. Go to New York and enquire about the herring market. Certain herring of good quality cannot be supplied rapidly enough. They want them sent along as fast as they can come. The inferior herring sold perhaps at a low price are practically given away. The Government seal ought to be placed, on the herring boxes No. 1 or No. 2, as the case may be so that the man who buys the herring knows what he is buying and does not get taken in. Inspection ought to be made compulsory. I do not know whether the fishery board is going to meet again soon. I expect that it will not be until November that they will tackle the question of herring. Probably the same old law will be put into effect next year and very little improvements will be made. However there have been improvements up to date and the expenditure has beyond all doubt been justified. The $4000 spent last year has been justified. I want to see the thing carried out properly. I do not want to see the country suffering for the need of a little thought and trouble.

I may also say that the Shipbuilding Company which is now established at Hr. Grace intend to go into the herring business and contemplate putting up a Scotch Cure Factory. They are prepared to have four auxiliary vessels launched to meet the requirements of the trade if necessary; if they can find the work these vessels will be used in the business of the

country. They will bring produce from New York and will take back herring. These vessels will come once a month. They will establish a first class cooperage. They want to export thousands of barrels of No. 1 Scotch Cured Herring per month. The herring fishery ought easily to be worth four times its present value and I have no doubt that in four or five years time it will be brought to that value. But it must be looked after. A great future lies before this industry. But you must make your laws stringent. Then again we come to the cold storage question. Now, it surprises me that we have not had a single word about it. This is an industry that cannot possibly attain any great success without aid and backing up by the Government. Concessions must be given. A large amount of money is invested in this scheme, which is not by any means easy to carry out. It is going to take the best brains in the country to make it a success. No consideration has been given by the Government to this question. Two millions is the sum that it will be required to make this a success and it is up to the Government to see that this sum shall not have been invested in vain. If it is not a success, then good-bye to all capitalists coming here in future. They won't. It must be the endeavor of the Government to make it a success. No personal favours must be shown. Everyman must get the same help. The same advantages must be open to all who chose to invest their money in the business. And there is one other question in relation to this matter which is very, very important. Every depot that is put up should devote 10% of its space to the storing of bait for the fishery. Now, we over here have pledged ourselves to give the fishermen free bait. Those depots then must be a centre where the bait is to be stored, where the fishermen have the right to go and get bait free of cost. For there must be no charge for looking after the bait which is put there for fishery purposes. It may sound surprising. Free bait for the fishermen, cry some. "Are you going to give bait out free at the cost of the colony?" The answer is yes. But the cost you say? Well, the cost is not the point to be considered. The point is that a continuous supply of bait must be there for the fisherman to get when he wants it. Is there anything wrong about it? During my travels in Canada I passed a place where I had been seventeen years before. It was a river, to pass a part of which a toll had formerly been exacted. Now I found that that toll existed no longer. Now the principle is the same here. What existed on that river exists here now in connection with this question. If you have the interests of the country at heart you will have it done. That no charge, absolutely no charge shall be made for the bait is one of the great returns we expect to get as a result of the measure. I think that this will be one of the means of assuring a successful fishery.

Now there is another matter of serious importance to the welfare of this country. I refer to the West Coast Bank Fishery. This fishery, say what you will, has been going down, down, down. This year there are twenty-five bankers less than last year. The men are indifferent with regard to the prosecution of this fishery. They need a stimulus. They need encouragement. They receive good pay for their goods. 4½c. per pound. Nine dollars a quintal. That is good enough for fish, when you consider that it is taken right out of the salt water. You have merely to go and catch them. Yet there is something radically wrong. And it is up to the Government to apply the encouragement necessary to foster such an industry. What will happen to Grand Bank? What will happen to Burin? If

you let these industries go down. A bonus or some encouragement should be given not to the men who own and supply the boats but to the men who catch the fish. A little adjustment at the heart of the trouble will soon set things right. These are the problems which ought to engage the attention of the Government day by day. I do not suppose that they have considered them for twenty minutes in the last four years. But then, what can you expect of a Government that is composed five-ninths of lawyers. You have five lawyers in an executive of nine and how can you expect to deal with these problems. Put four or five lawyers together and God help you! One in the party is enough. What it must be like with four or five, I cannot imagine. We are going to put fishermen here. Those are the men we want to do our work. We don't want men who will send in a bill for $1,000 when they have only earned 20%.

Now, the Premier in his remarks at the opening war session, said that it was false economy for employers to put men off, or for the people generally to hoard their mnoey. We will all remember him tell us, if we only had one suit of clothes to go down and buy another, so that the tradesmen could be kept employed and the money circulated. Well, one of the most glaring instances of the practice of this false economy during the first year of the war was the case of the Reid Newfoundland Co. They put off a large number of men, and they stopped the building of cars and other work. The consequence is that to-day they have to go outside the country and get cars wherever they can at tremendous trouble and large expense. The Colony during the last two years has felt the need of these cars badly, and if the Company had two or three hundred of them they could have found a use for them. As a result of their action in the early days of the war, they themselves have lost a good deal of money, and the Colony has suffered very considerably but we haven't heard very much about it from anybody.

Mr. Jennings has referred to the matter of pit props and the dissatisfaction which has been aroused through the illegal action of the Government in this respect. I was surprised, a little time ago, to read an advertisement in the papers intimating to the country that the Government had made up their minds to oppose the will of the House once more, and to permit pit prop owners to export pit props any way they wished, contrary to law. The law states that these pit props must be cut for specific purposes, namely, to help our fellow countrymen in Great Britain and our allies, the French. Now we find that not only can pit props be exported to the other side, but that they can be sold on this side. Have the Government given any consideration to the question as to what is going to happen when the war ends? Don't they know that these pit props will be badly needed in England and France, and that there will probably be none available? If we permit pit props to be exported to the States now, how are we going to supply the British mines—how are we going to help our friends in the British Isles—when the war is over? Are you going to come in and ask to have more pit props cut—to clean out a little more of our forests? Because that is exactly what will happen. The war may end in six months or in twelve months, and for the first six months afterwards there will be a tremendous demand for pit props; but they won't be available if you permit them to be exported to the States now. The minute the war ends, in-

dustrial conditions will be exceedingly active in the Old Country, and it will be necessary to operate the mines to their full capacity; but they cannot be operated without protection; unless they get the pit props they will not be able to do anything; and the Government is deliberately putting this country in a position where it wil be unable to render assistance when that assistance will be most badly needed. And by what authority did the Government do this? What right had they to do it? The order was made on May 7th, and the House was called to meet on May 31st. Could they not have waited for the three weeks until the House met, and then come in and put through a Bill in regular form instead of siting down and saying in effect, "We don't care about the law of the land; it has no weight with us when certain interests are involved"; because it appears that there are influences which are sufficiently great and influential to cause them to alter the law and to issue instructions contrary to law. They admit that it is wrong. Only the other day, the hon. member for Placentia, the Acting District Court Judge, said there was no power outside this House, or any other House, to alter the law passed by this House. He said it was illegal; and he told the truth. Upon that principle the British Empire has been built. If the Commons were not superior in every way, where would our liberties be? How much faith would we have in the British Empire if when a law passed the House of Commons it was treated as a football in the interests of influential individuals? A law is a law and it must be guarded. If an Act once passes this House in regular form, it should only be rescinded at the request of this House. It has now become so common for the Government to pass a law one session and six months after give somebody permission to break it, that they hardly realize the responsibility which an act of this sort assumes; and if this thing continues, passing laws in this House will be only a joke. You must not forget that this House stands above everything else; that you are the trustees of the House and the keeper of its traditions and its rules; and if there is any wrongdoing, it is you who must shoulder the responsibility. It should not be possible for any man or body of men to come in to your Executive meetings and secure the nullification of a law that has regularly passed this House by pointing out reasons why it ought to be rescinded. You should point to the Statute Book and say: There is the law of the land; it cannot be altered except by the Parliament that made it; and if you want it altered you will have to wait until the House meets again, and if the House is satisfied, it will be altered. If you took that position, you would find that these men would not be so anxious to come to you seeking these privileges.

Another matter that I want to speak of to-day is the inaction of the Colonial Secretary in regard to his position as Chief Censor of articles which appear in the newspapers with regard to the war and conditions arising out of the war. I was down in Catalina in the early part of the spring, and when I came back while looking through some of the papers I was dumbfounded to find in one of the papers—the Daily Star—an article with large headlines right across the editorial space calling on the people to provide immediately, that there was a famine coming. If this advice had been carried out, the very thing that we have been trying to avoid would have happened, and prices would

have soared to the sky. Flour would to-day have been selling at $20.00 a barrel, and even at that there wouldn't have been a barrel available in the country. Here are the headings of this article: "Grievous Famine". "World Hunger on Our Threshold". Why should this have been allowed? Some little time ago our paper made some foolish little remark about war conditions, and it was promptly confiscated and not allowed to go through the mails. I don't mind what a paper may say politically; it can say anything it likes; but this is a different proposition. My own opinion in connection with the matter referred to in that article—and the advice which we gave to the people—was that they should not buy; that they should only live from hand to mouth so far as provisions were concerned; that while the present prices were high, yet if large stocks were bought they would go higher; but that when the new crops got on the market prices were bound to go down. Now, it should be well known that one foolish article like that in the Daily Star is enough to disturb our people. As a mater of fact it was only through the strong stand which we took on the matter and our explanation of the position that we were able to counteract the effect of this article. Now, these are matters which should be looked after by the Colonial Secretary. He saw that paper just as plainly as I did; I presume he reads the papers. If I had been in town I should have immediately brought the matter to his notice. It is time that someone was up and doing in this connection, because these matters are serious. On the same day another article appeared which should have been brought to the attention of the Colonial Secretary—in the Herald. Look at it—in large letters—"Wiped Out. Returned Soldiers Tell of Frightful Losses to Newfoundland Regiment on April 14th." Now, you want recruits. You don't want to frighten people out of their lives. Yet here you have a man who has probably done as much as any man in the country to help carry on the war coming out in a sensational way on a matter like this.

These are the things that tell. You try to do your best, and some little foolish thing occurs to disturb the condition of the whole country. Probably you remonstrated with the editor of this paper, and if you did I would be glad to hear it. I feel sure you are watching these things and that they will not occur again. But I know it is serious. I have done all in my power to get men. Everywhere I go I talk about recruiting, and I don't care a fig if they like me or not. I am not afraid to lose votes, and I don't want to see that sort of stuff come out in our local papers, and put there by a man whom we have all respected and whose opinion on these matters goes a long way to-day. If this had happened in my case I would have come back and dismissed the editor.

Mr. Chairman, I have taken up enough time and attention, and I am sincerely sorry. I would very much sooner have occupied the floor for ten minutes than for an hour and a half. But I haven't said a tenth part of what I want to say. I hope that we will very soon have some announcement from the Premier, and that he will be ready to accept the suggestion made this afternoon—that we all sit in our own homes, have no campaigning and allow the people to go to the polls and vote as they choose; and if they return you, I will say "God Bless You."

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Mr. Chairman. I would like to give an explanation to this House regarding

the Labrador coastal service, in reply to the remarks of my friend Mr. Coaker. I might tell him that everything possible to be done the last few years to get a boat suitable for that service was done by me. I recommended the service the first time it was ever recommended in this House. I knew the condition that our fishermen suffered on the east coast of Labrador, and I knew the conditions of the Labrador service ever since I was a boy of twelve or fourteen years old. And I consider that our fishermen on the Labrador and the people belonging to the Labrador had been sadly neglected by every government placed in power in Newfoundland; and I think one of my first duties when I became Minister of Marine and Fisheries was to call on Sir Edward Morris and point out to him the necessity for a better Labrador service than was then carried on. At that time he took my advice, and I said to him, "If you would send a magistrate to the Labrador, I would go down with him, so that he might verify my statements, and that if the Opposition does come down on us, his report will back up the statements I am now making." That year the "Fiona" went on the Labrador,and our esteemed friend whom you are advocating was the Judge, and I took him to every crook and corner and introduced him. I called on these fishermen, one of whom you have spoken of from Twillingate, Captain Gillett, and asked their opinions and came back. We could not get a boat that year suitable, but we got the "Ingraham," and she carried out the service that year. The fishermen appreciated what was done,and not only did they appreciate what was done, but they also appreciated the man who was commander and assisted him in many ways. The next year I think the "Stella Maris" took up the service, for two years, and she gave a very good service also. She was criticized, but she did the work, and not till after she was gone did the fishermen down there find out how good she had been. Next year the "Hump" was engaged, and afterwards the "Susu," and when the "Fogota" was taken for patrol work the "Susu" was put in her place. When the "Hump" was lost we were left without a boat. You said you believed that Neal must have a boat. Now I made application for a boat to him and he told me that he had sold one boat, the "Mary" or the "Progress" and the other was on the Bell Island service and was needed there. He bought the "Wren" but she had a charter from the Reid Nfld. Co. before she was bought by Mr. Neal. I then applied to Messrs. Bowrings for the "Hawk" and Mr. Munn told me that he would let me know in a few days if we could have her or not. A short time afterwards I rang him up and he told me that he had had a message from Sir Edgar Bowring not to hire or sell the "Hawk" I then looked around to see what could be done, but I could not see anything suitable. The very man you mentioned as being in town now said to me "We know the conditions at the present time, and as far as I can learn there is no steamer to get, but if we had a small boat to come down here and bring the mail from one place to another it would help us out. Then I made enquiries about a motor boat, and bought one, the best I could get and she went down there. There has been quite a lot said about that motor boat, but I claim the boat is all right, only you would want an aeroplane or a zeppelin to send down oil to keep her going. It is impossible for her to do the work when oil that would be ordered and sent had to take a chance on getting down there. Now that is the whole secret. I see a provision in the estimates for three boats for the Labrador, and I believe if we

went around to-day to look for a boat it would be impossible to get one suitable. I have been making enquiries as to what is going to be done with the Hawk, but I can't get any satisfaction. That is what we are up against. It was I who recommended that service on the Labrador and from that recommendation the "Invermore" was bought and reconstructed to suit conditions on the Labrador. Then the "Solway" was bought, and I might say that I still urged on the Government to have a new boat, and when Reid's were building three new boats, one, the "Kyle" was built for the Labrador. No more suitable boat could be built than the "Kyle," I was in England and saw the plans. They were sent to me to be gone over, and several alterations in the plans which I suggested were made. The "Kyle" was about the only boat that was really suitable for the service, and when she was taken away the only thing we could do was to get the next best. I believe the Government chartered the "Thetis," and that boat is one of the best of the sealing fleet; and the question is to get another. We were contracting with Baird's for the "Erik", but unfortunately she met with an accident, and it will take her until the middle of July to get back again to Newfoundland.

I can say that since I have been in the Department I have nothing to regret with regard to looking after the interests of our fishermen. I have done as much for them and their comforts as any man before me, and it will take the next man all his time to keep up in my footsteps, even if I say it myself. I was born a fisherman and was reared one. I know what their hardships are and what their comforts are, and really I very often have to laugh to myself when I hear men stand up and talk about the fishermen. You have got to get down with them to know them, to live and work with them and be one of them and then and only then you will know what they endure. And I say that the men who go to Labrador should be well looked after, and if we spend any money in trying to give them comforts it is well spent. There is a majority I might say from Trinity right down to Twillingate District, and if they don't get fish on the upper part of the shore by the first of August they are travelling down to Cape Mugford. My contention has always been that the boat running on the eastern coast of Labrador should not stop at Byron Bay, but should go down the coast to Cape Chidley and find out the conditions with regard to weather and fish on that part of the coast. You talk to these men and they will tell you that if you go down there you go alone, and if anything happens you have got to come down two or three hundred miles. But my own opinion, which is backed by experience, is that none of our fishermen should come up from Labrador without a voyage of fish until the frost and snow drive him, but that he should have protection in case of accident, which can only be assured by having such a boat as the "Baleine" to do the work sufficiently. She is speedy, draws very little water, burns little coal, takes only a small crew, and is able to give all the information and serve the purpose of the fishermen. Boats of this kind would be a great help along that part of the coast from Hopedale down.

I have explained these matters to let my friend, Mr. Coaker, know that no stone has been left unturned last year in trying to secure a boat. We are trying now to get the "Hawk," but when Mr. Bowring was on the other side he was negotiating with some French and Norwegian people to sell her, and I afterwards found out that that was why he did not want

to sell or charter her. Now she is lying up again, and if the Government wishes to commandeer her and take her over I will be glad to talk over the rest of it.

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.

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL.

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 Relating to the Roman Catholic Corporation 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 Ratifying a Contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands," without amendment.

BILLS RESPECTING WILLS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time 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 afternoon at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, June 20th.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. STONE.—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Clarenville, in the District of Trinity, on the subject of a road. The petitioners ask that the sum of $40.00 be allocated for the purpose of making a road from the Reid Nfld. railway down to the wharf. This is a matter that should be given attention and I trust the Government will do all possible to grant the request of the petitioners. The petition is also largely signed. I hope it will not be thrown in the waste paper basket, but taken up and given serious consideration. I would ask that it be received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. TARGETT.—I beg leave to support this petition, and as it is a very worthy case I would ask that it be given proper consideration.

SUPPLY.

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. COAKER.—During the debate yesterday I made some remarks in connection with the estimates, but I did not finish. I notice from the Auditor General's report that a special warrant has been issued of $10,000 to the District of St. George's, under section 33-b, and the usual excuse is given and the usual formula has

been inserted. Now, we would like some further information in connection with this. What justification is there for handing out $10,000 of a special grant in addition to the grant provided last year. It is very easy for anyone on the Government side to make up one. And this is a one-man district. I might say that so far as the District of Twillingate is concerned, for the last four years we haven't asked the Government for a single cent of money outside the regular grant. We haven't had anything like our share. Special districts get special favors, and this one now under review of $10,000 for the District of St. George's, is about the last straw to break the camel's back. No wonder the hon. member for St. George's has been all smiles in this House since the session opened. I was thinking there was something at the bottom of it, but I was quite surprised when I came across this intimation of it. And I say there is no justification for it.

I ask the Minister to give me some information on account of this expenditure. I have the report and the returns so far as the expenditure of $7,700 is concerned. I know where it went. But I want to know what correspondence there was between the member for the district and the department in connection with this matter. There must have been something more than ordinary or else the Executive would never have consented to the allocation of $10,000. One thing about it is that I find that the member for St. George's has not taken it for washouts alone but for ferries also and that in spite of the tremendous ferry grant for the district last year. What correspondence is there that may be placed before this Committee in connection with this expenditure of $5.000 by the Government Engineer for the work on Romaine's Bridge? That is not a small amount of money to be allocated in any district. There may be some justification for it. But we ought to know more than we do about this expenditure. Another matter that I wish to refer to is in connection with the Department of Agriculture and Mines. Last year we had before us a pit prop bill. When it was passing through Committee an amendment was proposed from this side fixing a minimum wage for laborers cutting props per month and also fixing a minimum price for rinded and unrinded pit props. The Government was so desirous of protecting the pit prop cutters that they proposed an amendment to our amendment raising the price $1. And we were delighted because we thought that at last the pit prop cutters were going to get some fair return for their labor. But what has happened? The Government in that bill took it upon themselves to fix these prices through a Commission and that Commission only had power to fix the prices on pit props and the prices per month wages for cutting pit props. We find this winter men, not very many but quite a number, cutting pit props in Green Bay and Bonavista Bay, and on several occasions they applied to me to know the law on the subject. They were getting $26 or $28 per month when they understood that the law compelled every contractor to pay $30 I took the trouble to consult Dr. Lloyd on the matter and his position was that there was no law in force. A commission was to be appointed and it was to put these matters in force. No commission was appointed and here were these men as much in the power of contractors as they were the previous year. All our efforts had been in vain. This is a very regrettable matter; and should be attended to at once. The sum of $4.50 has been paid per cord for rinded pit props to the men who have been cutting them in Bonavista Bay this year.

where as the law would require them to pay $6. That was the highest price paid. Another section provided for the surveying of the pit props by the cutters' own surveyor. We find that has been disregarded. Some contractors have refused to allow the men their own surveyor. In one or two cases when the men had their own surveyors and it was afterwards surveyed by the contractor's, on 20 cords the latter surveyor surveyed 2½ cords less than the surveyor appointed by the men. There have been no amends for such proceedings because the law has not been put in practice; and the men are entirely in the hands of the contractors. We want some explanation of this; we want to know what prevented the Government from appointing a commission. Is it the old story?—interests involved? Turning things upside down as they have been doing for the last 4 or 5 years in regards to this matter? Bring along some yarn that they were justified in doing so?

Mr. Halfyard referred to the night school question. The saddest thing about this night school question is that for the past 6 or 7 years it has been made a political football of. There is nothing the country needs more to-day than night schools. Every country with common sense has such things as night schools or some other system of allowing young men of 17 or 18 who have not had opportunity of education to improve their condition. In 1913 the Governor's speech contained reference to this subject. A commission was to be appointed and this matter was to be taken up in earnest. Something was to be done. Four years have passed away and where do we stand to-day? Here we have a vote for education of $77,000. Why? Because the heads of the three denominations approached the Government and asked for an increase in the grant. But there is not a word about night schools. The Government forgets that they went to the country in 1913 pledged to establish night schools throughout the country. Who cares whether the boy who has to go on the fishing grounds with his father when he is 10 or 12 years and cannot possibly be kept back gets any more education? Even the Boards of Education have no interest in the matter. Well, if they are not interested, certainly the members in this House who represent ⅞ fishermen between them ought to see to it. If the men responsible for it outside of this House do not deem it up to them, we do. I brought the matter before the Government in 1909; made a memorial to the Government asking for night schools; and we were told that something was to be done. It is a matter that has received a lot of consideration from the fishermen. They realize the necessity of it. It is a plank in the F.P.U. platform that we place before the electorate when ever we get the chance. It is too late for the Government to do anything now unless the members who are really interested in the fishermen and the working men take their hands out of their pockets and do something. It should be an easy matter now with a surplus revenue of $750,000 to grant $20,000 to establish night schools in every section of the country. In all probability the trouble is not that you cannot find the money to pay the small fee to teachers, but because you have not the ability or the inclination to get down to work. It is the want of constructive ability that prevents you. You are waiting for some report from some commission; and that is what has been happening for the past four years with the affairs of the Colony. Instead of some one taking hold of it in a strong way we get over our

trouble by saying we will do something and appoint a commission. Not a word has been heard the past four years from the members on the other side in connection with the night school question. Is it fair to have three quarters of the young men of the Colony, of 16 or 17, going out into the world prepared to make a living with an education that a 7 or 8 years old boy in the city has? What do our men know of navigation —the most important subject they have to depend upon? Three-fourths of them are getting their living on the water. Here we have a demand for mariners; we cannot find them in the country. We have to take anyone at all and put him in command of a vessel, call him captain, and pay him $100 or $120 a month. Things are not going as they should go. Here we have a record of 60 ships lost from our trade, and the reason—a rudder giving out—carrying sail too long—no experience. We have to take a young man of 22 and make him master of a vessel in a country like Newfoundland where three-fourths of the people are only too glad to know everything about sailoring. We have a nautical school and only three or four passes from that school during the last year and only fifteen pupils attending it during 1915-16. If you want to do anything to help the workingmen and the fishermen of the country who have reached 17 or 18 years of age you will have to establish night schools. One thing that can be said about the Germans is that they have a splendid education. That is the thing that has made them the power they are and has enabled them to put up such a wonderful fight.

The Germans never have enough education. They start when they are six or seven and continue until they are 25 years old. They believe in education. Here in Newfoundland we have young men who had been taken from school and placed in the fishing punt. We have time and again been asking for compulsory education. We have been told it was impracticable. You are quite satisfied to let men take their children at 6 or 7 years, 8 or 9 years from school and put them in the fishing boats. I dare say many of the men on this side of the House may have seen cases where this has been done in the olden times, but now things are somewhat different. We ought to be able to do better than we are doing. Children ought to be compelled to go to school until they are 13 years old and for seven months of the year from 7 to 13 years. These are the matters that count in connection with the building up of a country. If you do not educate the people, if you do not see that every child is educated or given at least an elementary education, what can be expected. The future of our country must depend upon this. Here we have a vote of $10,000 for schools in small settlements. It ought to be $25,000. Make an increase, a big increase, and let the small places get the benefit. I know scores of small settlements that have schools for only six months that is all the time they can afford to have a teacher. I know lots of settlements that have no schools at all. If anyone is concerned it ought to be the Superintendents of Education. Here they get a grant for $77,000 for Education, but only $10,000 is for school schools. Why should we vote money for colleges and higher schools while we have scores of settlements without any schools at all.

The first duty is to provide education for every child, no matter where that child lives. There are lots of children whose parents have moved up the bays because there were better openings for them there to make

a living, and thus small settlements have been formed. Are these children to go without being educated? We we are not granting $77,000 here now as an additional grant for education. We should have more than this $10,000 spent for education in these smaller places.

The next thing we find is that there is a big difference between first grade and Associate Grade. Fifteen years ago few possessed the A.A. The first grade teachers then knew as much as the A.A.'s, and had nothing but the best of interest in their work. To-day, however, there is a great difference between the two. After 16 years teaching an A.A. teacher is to receive a salary of $960, while the first grade teacher after the same service is to get but $594. Why should there be $370 difference between such teachers? To my mind there are as good men first grade teachers as there are A.A After sixteen years of service in my opinion one ought to be as good as the other. I cannot agree with such a system. It is my opinion that such a state is likely to make first grade teachers not as keenly interest in their work as they would otherwise be. There will surely be dissatisfaction: $100 should be sufficient difference to make

We were told the other day by the Minister of Finance and Customs in discussion here that in the course of but a few months he hoped we would be able to raise the balance of the million dollars for railways and we may get it at three and a half per cent. the price allowed by the Loan Act. I do not know how many may be of the same opinion, but I certainly think that even though the war should be over in five or six months, that this balance will not be raised at 3½ per cent. I think I can feel safe when I say that no money will be raised for the next ten or fifteen years at less than five per cent. interest. Does the Minister hope to be able to raise money to-day at a lower interest than he could raise it before the war?

A word anent railway construction. It is not being proceeded with, you say, on account of the war. In my opinion the contractor never intends to finish this contract. He could not do it at anything but a loss. Look at the price of cars, rails and other stocks. Why the steel that was worth $70 a ton in 1914 has advanced on account of the war to $260 to-day. Talking about the contract, why the contractor is supposed to be building fifty miles a year. You will find that it is not the want of money on the Colony's part which is delaying the completion of the contract so much as the wishes of the Company not to do it at present rates. Every mile they build now would mean a dead loss to the Company of $5,000. Do you know that that contract will never be carried out; the building of these five branch railways will never be completed unless you have new contracts made. That railway to Fortune Bay and that railway to Bonne Bay as provided in the Act of 1909 will never be built, and that contract will never be finished because you have allowed the contractor to delay it. Labor that was obtainable in 1908 and 1909 for $1.50 will not be obtainable now for $1.50. Steel rails cannot be secured to-day at three times the price they were in 1909. They may possibly fall in price but everybody knows there will be a great call for rails after the war is ever. They will not be had for years at the price they were when this contract was made. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that if the Reid-Nfld. Co. had to build the balance of this railway they would lose about $5,000 per mile. They do not intend to build them, and if you

give them as a reason for delay the fact that you are not prepared to supply the necessary money, the probabilities are that they will use this as a reason for throwing up the contract and claiming compensation, although at the same time they have no intention of carrying on the work even if requested. This is a matter I hope the Government will carefully note.

Mr. Chairman, last year we passed a measure providing for the widening of the streets of Carbonear, but little did we think that the little simple bill as passed would mean the expenditure of some $12,000. By passing that bill we presented to the town of Carbonear the tidy little sum of $12,000. It was bad enough to spend $10,000 for the washout at St. George's, but when you consider spending $12,326 at Carbonear for straightening the streets because they had a fire over there which destroyed some houses and thus allowed for the widening of the street, even that $10,000 falls into significance. $1,132 has been paid for fees and expenses in connection with the widening. About one tenth of the amount has been spent in fees. $426.50 has been paid S. D. Blandford for fees and cash disbursements in connection with this matter. $90 to J. R. Goodison for fees; J. M. Moore got $350; A. Penney, I suppose that is the Magistrate, got for fees $250; Wm. Noel, of the Department at St. John's, got $40 for Secretary's fees; F. Pike, witness, got $10; Rev. Fr. McCarthy got $1600 as award; Brocklehurst got $1500; W. H. Soper got $1034; Estate of T. Hogan got an award of $1340; Cameron got $240; Kenneally got $4400; Estate C. P. Ayre got $378; Estate C. Marpherson got $388; and so the story goes. $12,000 has been given to widen a couple of hundred yards in Carbonear; and $4,400 was awarded to one estate for taking four or five feet of land along the road. We ought to have some information as to how many feet of land were taken, who made the award, etc. $12,000 has been taken for this street widening and we know very little about it.

At Catalina we have started men making roads. It is no good asking the Government to do it. We are making roads and building houses, and if we were to ask any money from the Government we would have as much chance of getting it as we would from the man in the moon. We are spending a thousand dollars making roads for the public to walk on and building houses along the roads for the public. People are coming there from all over the country and we have to find houses and public roads, and although Carbonear got $12,000 for the asking simply because the Speaker is a member of the party on the other side of the House, I venture to say we would not get $12,000 for Catalina if we were to ask for it from now until Kingdom Come, that is if we have to get it from you. Some places can get all the money they want. I venture to say that if Mr. Walsh, the member for Placentia and St. Mary's, which is a district four times as big as Carbonear, were to ask for $12,000 to improve the roads in his district, he might possibly get $1,000. He certainly would not get $12,000, even though Placentia is a three men district, which, at the last election, gave the Government three men and which gave them the Government and which put them in the position they have occupied in the House for the past four years.

There is another little bit of information for the Committee that I got through the other day from an account called "War Expenses." There is an amount of $16,000 principally paid to censors in the Postal Telegraph Department. The first man on the list is the Hon. Colonial Secretary,

John R. Bennett, Deputy Chief Censor, as he is called, and he only got $1,743.50 for his services in 1915-16 as Deputy Censor of War Messages. I would like to know what the Colonial Secretary had to do with earning that amount of money. If anyone earns money as a Censor it is the operator, the man that censors the message; the man that scrutinizes the message, but what did the Colonial Secretary do to earn that $1,742, in connection with that work? If he had to do any work, is he not paid as Colonial Secretary. Did he have to remain up and work an hour or two longer?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes.

MR. COAKER—Then that is your duty and you should not be paid anything extra for it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—No. Every dollar I ever got out of the Government I have earned it.

MR. COAKER—You never earned that $1,742. What did you do to earn it?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I am not going to tell you, but I can satisfy the House that I was underpaid as Deputy Censor.

MR. COAKER—I take the view that you had no right to earn it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You have no say in the matter.

MR. COAKER—That is your opinion.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY —If I was in Canada I would get five times that amount.

MR. COAKER—Perhaps you would, but you would not as a Minister What I say is that if anyone is entitled to pay as Censor it is not the Colonial Secretary who is already receiving $2000 as Colonial Secretary, but the man that goes through the messages and scrutinizes them.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You do not know what you are talking about.

MR. COAKER.—I wish you knew as much.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You get up here and make all kinds of wild statements.

MR. COAKER—Do not interrupt now, you will get all the chance you want to explain when I am finished. I say you did not earn that money. You may have taken it, you may have put in a bill and taxed it yourself, but you would not have got it if I taxed your bill.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You don't think that people take you seriously.

MR. COAKER.—If they do not take me seriously they certainly do not take you seriously. If they want any information it is to W. F. Coaker the come and not to J. R. Bennett.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You can give them all the information you have and put it in your papers in broad headlines and my reputation will stand higher to-day than before.

MR. COAKER—You certainly must have a high reputation if it will stand taking that $1742. It would have been better for you if you never took it. If you were a patriotic man you would not take it while the country was at war. Why other men who are working on the various War Committees in connection with War Expenditures do not get a cent. Why then should you?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Are you working on any of the Patriotic Committees?

MR. COAKER—No I am not because I have not time and I venture to say that you are doing very little unless you are getting paid for it.

The next on the list is T. L. Bishop who got $74. He is only an operator. There was no $1742 for him. Another operator gets $59; Bra-

zil get $75; Brocklehurst gets $75; Butler $60; Curtis gets $155. Did not he do the same work as the Colonial Secretary? Is he not in his office every night? He only gets $155 but he ought to get a medal. Another got $109; Gaulton got $29; of course they had not influence enough with the Government to be allowed to tax their own bill. B. Clark got $70, he is another opeator; Ronald Clark got a little. Miss Costello got $125; A. J. Christian $30; J. Hackett $53; D. Johnson, $134. I venture to say that Mr. Johnson did more for that $154 than the Colonial Secretary did for his $1742. A. Legge $150. These are operators.

R. Lettes got $69; W. J. Martin $70, he is not an operator, he is a clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office. T. J. Meaney got $144; A. Mitchell $63; Arthur Mews got $150, he is not an operator, he is the Deputy Colonial Secretary and, of course earned his money. R. Murphy $150; J. D. O'Donnell $94, he earns his. I venture to say that if he were paid in proportion to the amount paid to the Colonial Secretary, he would have got $1000; P. B. Redmond $80; H. Russell $75; D. Stott $300, he is the head of the Postal Department. First comes the Colonial Secretary with his amount, then the Deputy Colonial Secretary and then Mr. Stott, the Superintendent of the Telegraphs and the operators who scrutinize the messages and do the work are only paid small amounts while the Colonial Secretary and others are paid thousands.

The next is Hon. H. J. B. Woods —poor man, he is now gone to his eternal reward—he as Postmaster General received $400 and I presume that our esteemed friend who now occupies the position will also get $400 unless he is patriotic enough to say that he does not want it and hand it over to the Patriotic Fund or give it to the Returned Sailors and Soldiers I have a little faith in the Hon. J. A. Robinson and if he takes that $400 I will not have the same regard for him. The next is A. G. Wright $130; George White $45; G. J. Veitch $170; he is the chief clerk in the Telegraph Department, and he only receives $170. If anyone did work it was this man.

I regret very much that that money was taken by the Colonial Secretary. I would ten times, yes fifty times prefer that I never saw that item and if I did see it I would like to see something to show that for every dollar taken, one hundred cents worth of value was given in return. I had a lot of respect for the Colonial Secretary and esteemed him highly. How can I have it now? I would like him to show me where he earned this money.

This account shows $16,620 for war expenses of this kind. Do you expect our boys to go over on the other side and lay down their lives to protect our liberties? Is there any man who loves his country? Is there any man who follows what is going on in this Colony from day to day? If so, his heart must be bleeding. The men who occupy seats in the Executive Council are so hardened now after 9 years of doing things as they wish that they do not care, but the man on the street and the people of the country who are hearing about all these things are not case-hardened and have consciences and will resent such conduct at a time when the Empire is passing through its darkest hours.

I am quite satisfied to see money spent in carrying on the war. I have no objection to open expenditures. I make no protest to anything above board. I said nothing about the Colonial Secertary only what he brought on himself. Let him but show that he has earned that money, and I will take back every word that

I have said and give him my sincerest thanks for the benefitting of his country. Then there is another item $75,000 for Home Defence, but what is the use of criticizing such expenditure as the Government are determined to spend without heeding our protest.

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 those seats in twenty-one days and find out whether the people want an election or not. If he will issue writs for these seats and carry them I will say then the people do not want an election. Fortune Bay was his in 1913. St. John's is openly claimed now as belonging to Morris. If we gave out to the country all the information we have produced the last four or five days in debate here, and you are returned, then I will say that common sense has departed from the People's counsels and they don't care what happens to the country. I turn to the Board of Fisheries Report. I have not had time to go through the whole report but have gone through the Minister's part of it. This department has not spent all the money allocated to it in 1915-16. (Mr. Coaker continues reading report).

Now the Minister yesterday said that he thought we were finding fault with him. No one denies the fact that he has done a great deal to help the lower part of Labrador but I think we were entirely justified in objecting to having a motor boat sent down there last year. I agree with him up to a certain point. When he found that Bowrings had the boat and refused to give it to the Government at a reasonable figure, he should have said, "I will demand this at such a figure under the power conferred by law" and immediately commandeered the boat in the interest of the public service.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I will commandeer your motor boat under that Act if you like.

MR. COAKER—I am quite satisfied. I will let you have her at a quarter of the price that you paid for a motor last year. If you want to go for a little trip in her yourself you can have her. I would like to see you take a trip in her to Catalina. It would do you good. I am sorry that if you go we wont be able to give you anything nicer than lemonade.

But the Minister was not entirely justified in the way that he managed this affair. We would have been much prouder of him if he had gone and demanded that steamer. I know that he has made demands of the Government in the past which were in vain. If trouble arises this year over securing a boat for the Lower Labrador, I hope he will demand of the Government that they take what he recommends under the War Act.

There is another matter in connection with the Fisheries Department in relation to Labrador and it is this. We have an able and obliging man at the head of this department, one who is always anxious and willing to do all he can to help anyone that has any business to do with that department. We personally have always found him willing to give us substantial help whenever we needed it. But why does not a capable man like this occupy a place in the Executive. Had he been there last year he could have demanded that this boat be commandeered and all this trouble would never have arisen. He could have taken the proper steps to have this matter attended to at executive meetings and be there to back up his suggestions and would no doubt prevail.

He could have said: "I am here in the interests of the men who go down to the Labrador, the men who

bring the wealth that makes this country great." If he were in the Executive he could have done that. In his present position, all he could do was to write a note to the Colonial Secretary asking him to have the matter brought before the Government; that note would simply be acknowledged, it might contain the statement that the matter would be attended to at an early moment, and that would be all that would be heard of it.

Now, for over twelve months there has been a vacancy in the Executive Council, a vacancy to which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was entitled—a vacancy that he should have demanded. The other day a Round Robin was circulated on the other side to demand that a certain position be given to an hon. member on the other side—a position not nearly so important as the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Why thus trouble that job while the Department of Fisheries was discarded by the Executive? The most important Department in the whole country is not represented in the Executive Council; but it should be; the Minister should be a member of the Council; it is his right and the right of the district that he represents, and it is the right of the country, because the fishermen of the country demand that that position be represented by an Executive seat. The power of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is not as great and as influential as it should be; he cannot do his work as well as if he had a seat in the Executive Council. And it is a reflection on the Department of Marine and Fisheries and upon the fishermen of the country when we find that a vacancy has occurred in the Executive and that he has not been recognized as he should have been. Had he been there, we would probably not have had this trouble in connection with the Lower Labrador service, as he would have had sufficient influence to have had it dealt with, and if his recommendations were not carried out he could have refused to sit there any longer.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—When this country lives down the sectarian system, I may have a chance.

MR. COAKER—But, my dear sir, that vacancy was caused by the retirement of Mr. Emerson. He was a Churchman, and I understand you are a Churchman, and, if you are, then there could be no point in that objection. However, I hope the denominational system may soon be cut out, and that men may be placed at the heads of the various departments because of the knowledge of the work to be done rather than because of their religious convictions.

By the way, I hear that the Minister is going to say good-bye to the department before very long. I understand that he has received an important position and that he is going to devote his time and attention to his business. A man cannot always remain in public life. He has now been in the Department for nine years, and during that time he has had a fair opportunity of expeiencing the ups and downs of public life; he represents a hard district; I understand he has been very liberal with his money, and no matter how much he has earned since he went into that Department it is safe to say that he has not got very much to the credit of his bank account now; he has done his work well, and he has the good wishes of the country, who will regret that a man like him has found it to his advantage to drop out of public life. He went into the Department with a very fair knowledge of what was

needed to be done, and during his years there he has acquired a lot of experience; in fact, no man, no matter how good he might be, could hope to do the work as satisfactorily as he could now without his experience. Whoever goes there now will not have the knowledge he has of the working of that department. I have had to find fault on a number of occasions with matters in connection with the Marine and Fisheries Department, but I have never struck below the belt; and it gives me pleasure to state now that the Minister in his reply has observed the same rules of courtesy and has always fought cleanly.

Now, the Labrador fishery last year was not as great as it was during the previous year. In 1916 we exported from Labrador 105,000 quintals of fish, valued at $737,000; in 1915 we exported 112,000 quintals valued at $561,300; and in 1908 we exported 288,000 quintals, valued at $40,000 more than our catch of last year. From 1909 up to the present the annual catches of the Labrador have been small; and even the catch of 1908 was not a great one; it was only a fair catch. Why, on turning back the records of the Labrador Fishery we find that one firm alone in Conception Bay—the firm of C. & A. Dawe—one year exported as much as 280,000 quintals themselves. I don't know what is going to happen to the Labrador fishery, but it seems to me as if it were time something was done.

We were told here that it does not matter how much a thing costs as long as you have the money to pay for it, but that doesn't apply to fitting for the Labrador fishery. The high cost of supplies matters very materially. It is alright for the Shore men. They don't go to very much expense, and even if they do not get the fish they do not stand to lose very much; but in the case of the Labrador the position is very different. To fit out for that fishery is a very costly matter now, and the man who does it is running a very great risk of meeting heavy losses. Of course the man who goes down there this year and comes back with a load of fish is going to make tremendous profits, but the man who does not strike it lucky is going to find himself in a hole that he will not be able to get out of for the next five or six years. Therefore, men hesitate very much before deciding to go down there. If a man has a few dollars, he says: "Well, I'll keep my money in my pocket and stay home; if I go down there and fail, I am ruined; while if I stay home, even if I don't get much fish, I will not be very badly off. Therefore, it is very important that an effort be made to secure a reduction in the price of salt and of outfits for the Labrador.

I would like to see some improvement in this respect; and I would like to see some arrangements made that, as the Minister said yesterday, the men could stay down there until late in the fall and get all the fish possible. I would like to see large supplies of bait down there, so that when the trap season was over the men could carry on the fishery with bait. They have nearly all got motor boats down there, and there is an abundance of fish to be caught in the Fall. The bankers go down there in the Fall and take away a thousand quintals of fish each with trawls and bait, while our men cannot get enough to eat because they have not got the means of catching it; they have no trawls and they have no bait. If they had these facilities they could prosecute the fishery until late in the Fall and get a hundred per cent. more fish than they get now. Of course, we ought to be able to supply bait to

all the fishermen in the country, but none needs it worse than the men on Labrador. And if they could increase their catch by 100 per cent. look at the difference it would make to the country.

It may be asked, of course, where are the markets? Well, we were told in 1908 that there were 30,000,000 of people down in South America who wanted to get our fish, and that we were going to have Trade Agents down there to build up the markets. I am not aware that anything has been done in this respect. I think our friend Mr. Moulton got as far as New York on one trip and then had to turn back. Now, this is a matter which should receive early and serious attention. We have been advocating for four years the appointment of Trade Agents to facilitate our people in connection with the exporting of fish. Now is the time to work up a foreign trade. We should have agents in every place where it might be possible to create a market for our fish. We have got things pretty much in our own hands now if we would only wake up; but instead of doing anything we are leaving it all to the business men They have one or two agents in the markets, but only those who are in the ring can avail of the services of these men; and in the event of a man, like those around Grand Bank, wanting to sell fish in Spain or some other place, if he is outside the Ring he will be up against no end of trouble. You may belong to the Ring and you must pay towards the expenses of these agents or else you get no assistance. Now, that is not right. If we had agents at our various markets to facilitate those who wanted to sell fish, a man who collected a cargo could be able to make a great deal more on it than it is possible to do under present conditions. Then, again, there is the suggestion that a Trade Commissioner be sent to London. I understand that this matter was referred to at the Imperial Conference.

I suppose some day, perhaps in the near future, the country will have to recognize that the time has come when a man should be appointed to represent this Colony, and we must have a man that we know has the interests of the country at heart and who knows something of what is going on in the country, who is able to reach the markets in the Mediterranean. If that is done we will get good returns for the money we expend. I would not have the slightest hesitation in voting a salary for a commissioner in London. If we had a good live man that would let us know about conditions and about what is going on it would be an immense benefit to us. There are only one or two men here who are qualified for such a position.

The Bank fishery last year showed a decline—151,000 as compared to 170,000 qtls. the year before. This falling off is serious, and something must be done to encourage our men to go to the Bank fishery. It is one of the best nurseries for a merchant marine that could be. If it had not been for this fishery, we would have been badly off the last couple of years for men to crew the vessels going to Europe. We cannot get steamers, and we would not be able to man our sailing vessels if we could not get the men on the West Coast to command and crew these vessels. The men at the Bank fishery run the most dangers. It is the best training of all for our fishermen, and it will be a sorry day for Newfoundland if our Bank fisheries fall off. I would not hesitate, if I had any influence with the Government at all, to have steps taken in the way of appointing a commission to enquire into this Bank fish-

ery business, to see what is being done to encourage it.

In the District of Burin this year they are 25 vessels short of what they had last year, and this is a very serious affair, so far as the West Coast is concerned. Something should be done at once, and the wonder to me is that the members of the Districts of Burin and Placentia have not brought this matter to the attention of the Government long ago. If the men of Placentia Bay were to engage in the Bank fishery, they could carry it on just as successfully as the men of Grand Bank and Burin. They are right off the Banks and in the midst of the fisheries there, they have the men and they have every facility, and all they want is someone to stir them up and provide vessels and give them some encouragement in order to have a hundred vessels from Placentia Bay engage in the Bank fishery. At present they are wandering away to seek employment, instead of going to the fisheries, where they could be bringing in wealth to the country and providing three times as much for their families as by going away.

The lobster fishery last year turned out 7,313 cases as compared to 6,322 in 1915. There are really only four districts largely concerned in the lobster fishery now, but this year I hope there will be an even larger increase. There are better inducements held out and larger prices. Where they brought $16 and $17 last year they will bring this year $20 and perhaps $22. There were 71,000 females in spawn returned to the water last year, and if Mr. Dee is right in his opinion of the value of turning these lobsters back, we ought to have a wonderful return in four or five years. I have my doubts about the increases that he has been telling us are possible in connection with this, and while I don't think anyone has any right to take a spawning lobster and can it, it seems very foolish to catch it, have it thrown over, marked down and paid for as was done a couple of years ago north. It ought to be taken to some section where it can be protected and where it cannot possibly be caught to be resold. Throwing them overboard immediately gives the lobster a chance to get in the same trap again, and a man may catch the very same lobster ten times or fifteen times in a season. These lobsters should be taken and placed in certain sections.

MR. DEVEREAUX—That is exactly what has been done.

MR. COAKER—It is what we suppose has been done, but there are many things supposed to be done and not done. I am certain it has not been done in the North all the time.

MR. DEVEREAUX—It has been done in certain sections of the north, but in any event the north is not considered so far as the lobster fishery is concerned. Special provision has been made to carry out that law in those places where the lobster fishery is considered important, and the work has been done under proper supervision.

MR. COAKER—It is not because it is the law that it must have been carried out, and if the Government doesn't satisfy itself that it is carried out it won't be done.

The report of Inspector O'Reilly on the fishery protective service is very interesting, and from what I can gather in connection with his duties, if there is any man in the civil service who well earns his money it is Inspector O'Reilly. One amazing thing about his work is that there is no friction whatever. He gets through all those places and gets all those things cleared up, and we never hear anything more about it. He certainly

must have a great deal of tact, and he is one of the most valuable civil servants we have to-day. I would like to see Inspector O'Reilly transferred to the Inspectorship in St. John's. I have always been in favor of promoting men in the Departments, and if he is not promoted we are not doing fair by him. If I were sitting at the Executive table to-morrow I would advocate this, as his record is such a one that he is entitled to consideration at the hands of the Government. I don't know whether he has applied for the position or if he wants it, but if the appointment were made to-morrow it would be one of the most popular appointments that could be made.

You have had your troubles in connection with that appointment, simply because you haven't the courage to put the most eligible man in the position. Everything must be done according to denomination, and not to merit. There ought to be some way of getting around these troubles. It is all right to give each of the denominations fair play, and to do what you can to avoid trouble, but why sacrifice any good man? If he has the merits and the qualifications appoint him, and let those who will grumble. They are only narrow-minded bigots, No broad-minded man is going to find fault with an appointment made on merit, and if they chose to be disappointed let them be disappointed.

I have not been able to get through this fishery report, but so far we have very little to complain of. There has been an improvement, and the Department is making very fair returns for the amount of money expended. We would be only too glad to give them more to expend if they would lay it out in the proper way, and we ought to give all the money required in order to develop our fishery department. A great deal will have to be spent by this department in future. Our fisheries must be developed, and every dollar spent in this way will bring in three in return. We have hesitated to do this in the past. Catch cries, the activities of newspapers, and other such things have prevented us from developing the fisheries on scientific lines.

When a few years ago the Government imported a man from Norway,the whole newspaper world here rose up against him; and simply for political purposes they put that man down. There is nothing to gain by having the fisheries department as it is; we have not one scientific man in connection with it. And why not? If Norway knows all about the fisheries, why should not we know also? If there is any information to be got we should have it. If we have no scientist along these lines, why not bring one here and let him train others and in a few years we will have as good a staff here as they have in Norway. There they know everything about their fisheries. If we had four or five lectures similar to the one we had from the Norwegian—who was brought out to the Canadian Government and called in here on his way back—who lectured in the Seaman's Home some time ago, it would open the eyes of our people. That lecture was well worth attending and the information that was given was something marvellous. What do we know in Newfoundland about our fishes? As I said to the fishermen a short while ago. "What do you men really know about the fisheries aside from your knowledge gained from practical experience?" And they said "Nothing." How many men know what is the age of a codfish or a herring? If some of them attended that lecture it would have surprised them and supplied them with valuable information on these matters. We have been exporting fish as long as any

country in the world; we are solely or largely dependent upon our fisheries; and yet we have no scientific man in charge of them. Practical experience is all we have. The fisheries department must be the most important office in the public service; and the man who is at the head of it must in future have a seat in the Executive.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are other speakers from this side of this House. I said yesterday that I would have a great deal to say. I got through part of the fisheries report; and I shall try and digest the balance, and when I do that I shall be abie to express my opinion thereon. I hope that at this session or the next session of the House we shall have the information we have asked the Government for. Anent the elections. Yesterday a suggestion was made by this side of the House relative to the campaign in the coming election. it is a matter that ought to receive the careful consideration of the Government; and we have the right to know whether they intend to have this matter considered immediately, and whether they intended to announce their decision as soon as it is made. It is all right to have us coming here and occupying the time of the House, making speeches and holding up the Estimates when there is no reason for it. But it is not fun; there is no pleasure in it. And we are entitled now to know what the Government intends to do in relation to this matter. If they fear an election will create an agitation in the country, let them accept the propos? I made yesterday. If you want an election on the old lines we are agreeable and will meet you. It has been said that the reason why a certain section of the country does not want an election is because they do not want the country agitated. If that is so the proposal we made yesterday ought to cover the matter, and if you are serious, if you want to let the people decide who shall rule them, you ought to be prepared to make the announcement in regard to this matter to-day or tomorrow at any rate. We intend to go on talking until the announcement is made. I do not know whether all the members feel comfortable over the proceedings. For my part I intend to go on with my part in holding up these estimates; but it is not from spite or because of embarrassing the Government; but because I think the question put to the Government ought to be replied to The matter is so important that the House and Country are entitled to know at this time with the House in session three weeks. If they have the courage to say we are not going to have an election, then we will have to face the situation in the best manner possible. If you are reasonable, if you want our descendants in 50 years to view our actions in the proper light, we ought to have an affirmative answer to the question that we have asked.

In a great many cases we are not realizing that in these days we are making history; and that in 30, 40, or 50 years our descendants are going to judge us by our present actions. Neither I nor any member on this side wants to occupy the attention of the House as it has been occupied for the last three or four days. We are doing it because we believe the public demand it. Some one must stand between the Government who wish to usurp power and the people. It is our duty. If the people want an election they ought to get it. Because the Press opposed to us politically demand no election you try to deceive the people and say they do not want an appeal to the country. Those papers only express their own opinion; they represent no one but the editor that

writes the article; and it is his opinion. We know where we stand in connection with this election. It is not a very heavy matter for the government to announce in a day or so their decision. It ought to be very easy to get the party together and in an evening come to some decision. It may not have been talked about officially; but every man has his mind made up as to what ought to be done I do not know if you are satisfied with the way things are going, but you are responsible. If we did not do as we are doing we would be false to the people and our trust as trustees of the people who sent us here; every opposition has to perform its duty of standing by the people's best interests, such as we have been doing the past few days. Let us have an announcement on this matter and on the points we have raised. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries very courteously did his best with reference to the mail service on the lower Labrador; we performed our duty by bringing that matter before the House, and the Minister very courteously replied; and the people know now where the matter stands and can lay the responsibility where it belongs. If responsibility has been incurred it should be laid on the shoulders of Bowring Bros. for refusing to hire a suitable steamer required by the Minister; but the Government should share it because if they wanted a steamer they should have said "We want it and we will take it, unless you hire her in the usual way."

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Chairman, I would like to give some information on the expenditure of $10,000 referferred to by the hon. member who has just sat down. On the face of it the expenditure looks considerable; but I am quite confident that in his usual spirit of fair play when he has obtained the information that will be supplied by myself and the Department he will be ready to admit and marvel at the smallness of the expense. It occurred in the early part of October and from the description furnished me it could not have been an ordinary storm. The words of the first telegram that reached me pointed to its being simply a cloud-burst. We have heard of such things in the United States occasionally; but we rarely experience them here. The devastation wrought by this storm extended over a district 120 miles long by 30 wide, and property to the extent of $7,000 was destroyed. The section was simply converted into a morass; and the result could best be described as a national disaster, and one that could be rectified only by a special grant. The hon. member was somewhat concerned over the fact that some of the money had been diverted to a ferry. That will appear quite reasonable when an explanation is given. The bridge across Romaines, 200 feet wide, was destroyed, and until another was substituted it was necessary to provide a ferry, and that ferry was in use for two months. The hon. member can have no conception of the extent of the damage wrought. The cattle were actually drowned in the fields. Not alone were crops washed from the soil, but the soil was washed away from the crops; and thousands of tons of debris were deposited all over the ground. I know all the bridges were destroyed; and considering the great magnitude of the loss, I think the expenditure involved was very meagre. The landslides simply put the whole place out of existence. Everything was so carried away, and the place was so strewed with debris and ruins that I feel sure the hon. member, when he comes to carefully consider the magnitude of the work necessary and the accounts as they can be

obtained from the Department of Public Works, will feel that everything has been done in this connection well, and that all expenditures were in the highest degree judicious. I refer of course to the work done by the men engaged and not by myself. I have personally no doubt but that he will accept this very meagre information for the present, and that when he has had time to examine carefully into the facts he will find out how satisfactorily this matter was arranged. I am also quite happy to be able to assure the hon. member that the people of St. George's, under the supervision of the gentleman sent from St. John's, did the work as well and as thoroughly as any people in the country could have done it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY— Mr. Chairman, there are one or two things I would like to explain in connection with the remarks of the member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, here to-day in relation to the censorship. While he was speaking I intimated to him that he did not understand the position and did not know the true conditions. I might say for the information of the House that under the war regulations, always in existence whether in peace or war, that provision is made all over the British Empire, a censorship of cables and telegraphs is immediately established. That applied to Newfoundland, and perhaps with greater force than many other portions of the Empire because it is an admitted fact that we in this country have to-day a very important position with regard to Radio Telegraphs and Cables. The appointment of a Deputy Chief Censor is provided for under these censor regulations and the appointment is in the hands of the Governor as the Commander in Chief of the Colony. At the outbreak of hostilities, instructions to establish the censorship in Newfoundland were received. The Governor asked me if I would undertake the work of Deputy Chief Censor. This work involved very serious and very important supervision, and perhaps owing to the position I occupied as Colonial Secretary, it was more desirable that I be appointed than any other official in the country. The establishment of a censorship in Newfoundland was fraught with considerable difficulties, when one appreciates the fact that every office is supposed under the regulations to have a full staff of censors, not operators, but outsiders who are suposed to come in and take charge of offices, and supervise the transmission of all messages, and in addition to the censor it is necessary to have decoding clerks appointed, and when one realizes that we would require censors for every office, which would include Heart's Content, Bay Roberts and the Commercial Cable Company at Cuckhold's Cove, as all these large and important offices come under the regulations as they apply to Newfoundland, one can readily see how much business passes through these offices in this connection, and this not to mention our Local Postal Telegraphs and the Anglo Tele graph Office. I represented to the Governor that no men were available to undertake this work, as those who were competent were engaged at their own business or otherwise engaged, and would not leave for temporary employment. It was therefore decided to appoint the operators as censors, and it was only after strong representations that I was induced to accept responsibility as Deputy Chief Censor. At the same time as the censorship was established here, it was established in Canada and in other parts of the Empire. These Deputy Censors were

appointed who were outsiders and who are receiving very large pay for the work they have to perform. We in Newfoundland are doing this censorship work I claim in a very efficient manner at the minimum cost. The war regulations provide that the lowest pay that can be given a Deputy Chief Censor is ten shillings sterling a day. That is under the war regulations, and applies not only to England but to the Crown Colonies, and leaves it optional on the various Governments to make arrangements to pay their own censor. Now Sir, I claim that on the establishment of that important office, I did not for one moment consider the matter of reward. Such a thing never came into my mind. I never asked for any amount, but undertook the work because I felt I ought to regardless of self. It meant an enormous amount of trouble, supervision and worry. There was hardly a night that I was not called out of bed. There was not a Sunday but messages came to my House asking for instructions that I only could give. It is not true that the operators did their own censoring. They are the hands that work the keys, and are told to hold anything contrary to regulations, and have same submitted for final decision. If anything should go wrong in the censorship to-day the people at the Anglo and those at the Wireless stations and Postal Telegraph Offices will not be blamed. Any blame will be on the Deputy Chief Censor as the one responsible.

Now Sir, I might say that from the first of August, the day on which the censorship was established, for the continuance of that year and for the year 1915 up to 1916. I never received one cent for my work. I realized that the work was worth some consideration. This work is done gen erally by Military or Naval authorities, mostly by Military Officers, all of whom get proper consideration. In the case of the Censorship at Canada, the gentleman doing the work there has the rank of Lt.-Col. and gets $10 per day. Other clerks under him receive from 8 to 9 dollars per day, or two hundred a month was the average amount that the censor would receive in Canada. Now Sir, I contend that the work in Newfoundland is just as important, and requires just as much care and supervision to be done properly, as that in Canada. It is quite true that after a while arrangements were made that the censorship of the Atlantic cables should take place on the other side of the water. That was at the request of the War Office, but so far as I was concerned I accepted the minimum amount of compensation provided by the regulations, and I think it is only fair to myself, to this House and to the community, for me to state in connection with the charges made here by Mr. Coaker this afternoon, that this amount of $1700 was covered under the regulations and covered payment for nearly two years' work. It covered from Aug. 1, 1914, through 1915 to June 1916, or to be accurate exactly one year and eleven months. I do not claim to be any more patriotic than any other man, but I do think that the laborer is worthy of his hire. When the matter came up first I did not think of the mercenary side of it. I did not undertake it for that reason, and as I have said I undertook it only because I felt that I was the most desirable one for the work under the circumstances. Now in connection with the payments made to the other officials of my office, the payments that have been made to them were not entirely on account of censorship work. Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. Mews looked after the work when I could not personally be there. Of course it was not possible for me to be there all

the time. The other officials in the Colonial Secretary's office, Mr. Martin and Mr. Stirling were paid for extra work that they were called upon to perform in consequence of the war. The publication of Casualty Lists is an enormous undertaking. One who has not the inside knowledge cannot appreciate the amount of work necessitated by the publication of these lists. No casualties are published until the parents or next of kin are first informed, and in case of death a clergyman is requested to break the news, no matter what part of the Island the deceased soldier or sailor came from, and until that is done no lists are published.

We have to write letters giving them official information of their death, we have to have the lists published, and have to fill in the full information from our own records. We merely get the number and the name, and the rest we have to get from our own records. Many a time a casualty list comes in on Sunday, and then the staff has to be gathered together and it is probably Monday morning when we leave the office. It has been recognized by the Department that the utmost despatch is necessary, and the officials do their work as thoroughly and conscientiously as it is possible to be done. What has been paid them is small enough, and has been well earned. I regret that this should have occurred, that I should have been held up to public scorn and called disloyal because I took money for this work. I am only human, and I believe that work should be paid for, and my work has taken every minute of my time for the last four years. I can assure you that it is not worth while from the standpoint of money, and if I were asked how long I would remain as Colonial Secretary for the salary of $5,000, I could truthfully say that I would not remain another day there. If I were to choose my own course tomorrow, so far as remuneration is concerned I would not enter my office again. The time I have put in there has not been the pleasantest of my life. I have always endeavoured to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability, and I have been particularly unfortunate in that fact that while I was there the Prime Minister's absence has more than once thrown additional burdens on my shoulders. I have never flinched from my duty, and my only hope of reward is that the people of the country will say, "You have done your best." I want no further reward. Don't think I have been there to make a living. I have given away a considerable portion of my income there. It is not a matter I would wish to bring before the House. It is purely and simply a personal one, but in justice to myself I must make this explanation. I think if those words had gone without a reply on my part the public might consider that I have been in the office merely for what I could get out of it.

MR. COAKER—I am very pleased to have the explanation of the Hon. Colonial Secretary with regard to this matter of censoring, and if this explanation had been given first it would have looked very much different. That this amount of $1,740 has covered two years' work is more reasonable, and he should have told us this before. He interrupted me in such a way as to cause me to make reference to this matter and say things which would probably have been better unsaid. That is the consequence of interrupting. There was no explanation in the public accounts as to what period of time this payment covered, but the explanation of the Honourable Colonial Secretary shows that he received this money for nearly two years' work. However, as a man of

means, he does not require the money, and now if he wants to show the public that he really is the man we all thought he was up to the time that we got hold of this information, he ought to hand this money right over to the Red Cross Fund of the Patriotic Association. I myself regret to see that amount in the public accounts. I saw all the payments for the year before, and I was delighted to see that the Honourable Colonial Secretary had received nothing, and bad not taken advantage of the miseries of the war for his own profit.

Now, since this money has been paid for extra services in connection with the war, if he wants us to think as well of him as we would like, as a man and a patriot in every sense of the word, he will take the sugestion I am making. It would be a generous action on his part which would be appreciated by the people of the country and it would give me much pleasure to give prominence to this action in large letters across The Advocate.

He has been paid for extra services, but what about the Honourable Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He has done much extra work on war account, has been up night and day, on sea and on land. Has he been paid? Now, it won't look very good if we find out that he has not taken any extra money for this work, and that the Honourable Colonial Secretary has. I haven't heard of anything having been paid to the Honourable Minister of Marine and Fisheries for the work he has done, and he has done good work.

I am sorry if I have said anything to hurt the feelings of the Honourable Colonial Secretary. If a member is interrupted in the course of a debate he may say things which he would not wish to say, and the Minister's explanation, so far as I am concerned, is fairly satisfactory; and I hope now that he will make a good job of the whole thing, and give me an opportunity of announcing that he has handed over this $1,740 to the patriotic fund which is what the public will expect him to do.

MR. GRIMES—I would like to ask the Honourable Prime Minister if any decision has been reached yet regarding a general election.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—No decision has been reached.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman, I quite endorse what the hon. member for Twillingate has said with reference to the importance of our fisheries to this country, and that the fisheries department should be represented in the Executive. Here is an industry, the greatest in the country, which in its value equals two-thirds of the exports of the country, and employs altogether about 70,000 people in the Island out of 100,000 employed in the various occupations of the country; and still we see the Government, which has had for the last 12 months a vacancy in the Executive, ignore that great industry. At the present time our fisheries are becoming more important to the Empire than ever before, and the Food Controller of Britain is paying a great deal of attention to the fisheries, not only of England and Australia, but of Canada and Newfoundland. And yet the Government in this country ignores the appointment of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to a seat in the Executive, the industry which is practically the support of all others in the country, and to which every member of this House to a very large extent owes his existence and owes his present position.

Reference was made to the conduct of the Labrador service last year, and the explanation made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was that hav-

it might be. For the last ten or fifteen years men have been put in positions there, not because of their ability or fitness but because of political pull. Now the new Postmaster recommends that if political pull is to be recognized that the government will so arrange matters that three or four months will be devoted to a training for the position giving an opportunity to test the fitness of the applicant for the position. I personally regret that no recommendation was made for Civil Service Examinations, such as are conducted in Canada, England or the United States. By it we would get better service than we do to-day. Men by reason of pull have been able to have their salaries raised when they are there a short time to such an extent that they are in receipt of a larger salary than men who have been there for thirty years and more, and the effect has been demoralization. I would ask the Government to accept the suggestions of the Postmaster General especially in the one thing which he says here.

(Quotes page 7.)

I would add to that Sir, that not only is disappointment brought about by these tactics but it results in lack of interest and discouragement in the work they have to do. No industrious official likes to see a new-comer receiving a larger salary than he, by force of political pull, especially when he knows he is not worth it. No man wants to be overlooked. I know of a number of cases within the last three years in which men have got appointments in the postal department solely because of the influences exerted on their behalf. Reasons as to their competency or their need of the situation have had no effect. Efficiency and accuracy in work made no difference to their salaries. The salaries were regulated by political pull and by political pull alone. One case in particular I know where a man was put right in the department over the heads of competent officials and received exactly twice the salary. Now how can you expect efficiency when competent services are ignored. An other thing which merits attention is the manner in which the salaries should be increased. The maximum salary for a married man shall be $840 and for a woman $600 The only fault that I can find with this is that a distinction ought to be made between men living in the outports as it costs twice as much to live in the city, and in stating this I am following a principle which the premier himself has laid down. I remember a speech he delivered eight or ten years ago in the T. A. Hall in which he said the time was coming for a minimum wage to be established. However we never have heard anything about that since in this Legislature. The time has come for the Premier to take this matter up if he was sincere, and I think that it is of sufficient importance to merit the careful consideration of this Legislature.

Another matter referred to by the Postmaster-General is the telephone.

There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, about the importance of the telephone system to the people of this country. I know, speaking for the people of Port de Grave, all classes find the use of the telephone an absolute necessity, and they use it cosiderably at Brigus, where the people have the use of the telephone system, installed by the Carbonear Electrical Co. Take the case of a sick call. Often a pressing case arises, and people have to go four or five miles for a doctor, while if there was a telephone system, much valuable time would be saved and lives saved. In many other ways the system would be of great advantage to the people throughout the country, and the cost

of installing it would not be very great; $150,000 has been allocated in the Estimates to improve the telephone system in the city, but we have not seen any improvement yet. The very nature of the telephone, of course, makes it a monopoly, and consequently the company that operates it does not care a fig how it treats the public. Anybody who uses the telephone knows how difficult it is to conduct business in that way. You sometimes have to wait an hour before you get the answer you want, because of the bad system that is in operation. The Government has had this matter brought to its attention many times during the last four or five years, but it has done nothing; apparently it has been waiting for the company to make the required improvements. Well, if the company will not make the required improvements, let the Government operate a telephone system itself. It has the money, and anything that tends to a monopoly should not be owned by a private concern; it should be owned by the public through the Government or through the municipality; and as the municipality is not acting in the matter the Government should step in and interfere in the interests of 35,000 people who reside in Saint John's and who are so much interested in this matter. There is no doubt whatever but that if the system were taken over by the Government, and operated as it should be, it would be the means of bringing in a very considerable revenue, and this revenue could either go towards reducing taxation or by the reduction of the rates charged for the use of the telephone.

The hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Coaker) yesterday drew the attention of the Government to the fact that there is no provision made in the Estimates for an increase in the Pension List. We have from time to time been talking about our interest in the welfare of the aged people of this country, but while we can find money for lots of other things we continue to ignore the needs of the aged fishermen and miners, who to a large extent have built up the trade of this country and who to-day, in their old age, are living under conditions that must be experienced to be realised at its full. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am strongly of the opinion that the Government should not allow this session to pass without providing for the remaining 75-year-old people; and if it is necessary in order to do that put another cent a pound on tea, or another cent a gallon on kerosene oil. I feel certain that if, when you go to the country, you explain to the people why the addition was made, you will not find any criticism on that score and that there will not be the slightest objection to the increase You are making provision for the soldiers who have returned, wounded, and that is as it should be. Everybody recognises that we owe much to them for the defence that they have put up on our behalf; but I consider that the men who are prosecuting the fisheries of this country are performing a work which should also be recognised by this House. Everybody knows what a hazardous occupation the fishery is, and that there are many men to-day between the ages of 60 and 75 who are broken down, and decrepit,through rheumatism and other diseases contracted in the course of their work, and why not recognise them? Then you have the men who work in the mines, and who are liable to meet with accidents of various kinds. Within the last twelve months a case came under my notice in which a man who had been working in the mines at Bell Island had met with an accident that meant the loss of one

ing gone around the town he was unable to find a steamer that could be used for that service except the one owned by Bowring Brothers, but because she was in the market for sale to concerns outside the country the firm was not in a position to offer her to the Government. I think this makes the matter worse, and makes it all the more important to the Government that the fisheries department should be represented in the executive where the Minister could make his power more felt; so that, where a firm such as this one, was making money out of the country for the past fifty or six years, and owed its existence and its prosperity to it and its Government, was not loyal enough to this country. He could say "The Government will commandeer the steamer in the interests of the country. It would be only proper to say to that firm "We have helped you out, you have made your success out of this country, and we expect you to do something in return, and if you refuse to recognize the exceptional prosperity you have enjoyed, then we will go down and take charge of that steamer and give you what we consider a fair price. The Government had not the courage to do this, and the people who fish on that coast had to suffer. There are some 100,000 qtls. of fish exported from the Labrador, and there are some 10,000 persons who go down there fishing every summer,and if these are not to be equal with the firm of Bowring Bros., then I think this country has come to a pretty pass There is another question in relation to that service, and that is, that when these steamers do go down there they are crowded beyond their capacity. In fact, I have been told by persons who have travelled on these steamers that they are packed like cattle—the saloon, steerage and deck filled to overflowing with its human freight, and if a storm should at any time arise there would be three or four hundred persons gone to the bottom, simply because the Government has not taken the care it should have taken as to how the passenger traffic is conducted. Again when the men do get to their homes they are often landed ten, fifteen and eighteen miles from their homes. Speaking for my own district, I have known men to be thrown off at Harbor Grace without an hour's notice, who had been expecting to be taken on to Brigus, and they had to manage as best they could in finding shelter if they got there after night. And not always do they succeed, but have to walk the streets until the break of day before they can get a place or anything to eat. And all that is required is to allow the steamer three hours extra. A call of an hour at Cupids and another at Brigus would save all that inconvenience to the people; and if the Government was alive to its duties there would be no hesitancy whatever on the part of the company to grant that request. What is required is for the Government to pay a little extra on the subsidy. I hope the Government will see to it this fall that when these fishermen are coming home from Labrador better attention will be given to them. If they ignore it they will be paid back in coin, when the time comes for an election.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the estimates, I would like to take up the report of the Postmaster General. Anyone who has perused his Report cannot fail to recognize the fact that there is at the head of affairs a man who takes the responsibilities of his position seriously. He has in a very short time acquainted himself with the Postal Service. Anyone who has had business to do with this gentleman knows that prompt attention is given. Now on the question of efficiency, we know that in the past this Department has not been efficient as

arm from the elbow and the loss of the hand on the other arm. Of course, it was impossible for him to continue to earn a livelihood, and what did he get? He got, and is still getting, a miserable, paltry $6.00 a quarter from the Relieving Officer. Now, he is an honest, industrious man. I know him well. He is willing to do anything at all to earn a livelihood, but nobody wants to employ him because he can do very little, and any work that is given him he gets it out of charity. The result is that he is compelled to go from door to door to try to beg something in order to keep himself, his wife and three children from starving to death. Now, the Government makes no provision for a case of that kind. It is true there is a Compensation law, but what does that amount to? The man did get $500 or $600 from the Company, but that was used up inside of three years, and then he had to go around and beg for a living because the government has not got thought enough and heart enough to make provision for men who suffer accidents of this kind in the mining industry. Now, the Premier has been over to the Old Country. The other day he related his experiences at the Imperial Conference, and mentioned that one of the men with whom he associated with there was Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Labor representative in the War Cabinet. Now, there is no one in the Old Country who could give him more information regarding the insurance schemes which are in operation there than Mr. Henderson; and I trust if he ever goes back again that he will get all the information he can along these lines, and introduce some such measure in this House that will safeguard from poverty men and their families who meet with accidents while engaged in the industries of the country. I am glad to notice that the Government recognizes the necessity of increasing the Permanent Poor allowance, but I don't think that even the increased vote is at all commensurate with the demands that have been made. The cost of provisions has increased, the cost of medicines has increased. The increase in the vote is not at all proportionate to the increase in the cost of the necessities of life, not to talk of the medicines which have to be purchased very often by those who are compelled to seek aid from the Relieving Officer. There are women to-day in this country who have no support whatever, and others who are dependent upon sons who are earning a small wage, and these have got to go to the Government for relief, and they get $2.00 a quarter. Now that is not sufficient. No person should be allowed to starve in this country; and yet it is a starvation allowance. It is all very well for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to get up and say that he does not like to hear this word "Poor" talked about; but until we get down to the position where every person honest and industrious shall at least get a living wage, an income sufficient to give him all the necessities and a reasonable amount of the comforts of life—until that is done there will be talk about the poor both in this House and outside it until it is remedied.

I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance and Customs to the Estimates for the General Hospital. The sum of $33,500 is provided for rations, along with $5,000 for medicines, wines, etc., $2300 for bedding, etc., and $2,650 for sundries, a total of $43,450. But that was the amount allowed last year, and it seems that the Minister has not taken into consideration the fact that prices have gone up considerably. Ac Dr. Lloyd has pointed out, it looks as if you are going to have overdrawn accounts again this year. Everybody

knows that at least 50% should be added to the prices of last year, yet you have the same estimate for the General Hospital this year as last. Supposing there is an increase of only 25% in the cost, you are about $10,000 short on this estimate alone. Then you have the Poor Asylum $14,850 for rations, fuel and light $2,300, a total of $17,150. This is the same estimate as last year and there is no provision made for the increased cost of these articles. You would have to add another four or five thousand to this to have it come within the proper estimate. Then there is the Lazaretto, $8,550 for rations, or a total, with fuel and light of $9,250. As we all know, the price of coal has gone up within the past year from $10 to $13.50, an increase of one-third, and if you add this you are short there about $2,000. Then there is the Fever Hospital, Rations $6,500, medicines etc. $3,000, fuel and light $2,400, a total of $11,900. You are short about $3,000 on your estimates there, because they are the same as last year. For lighthouse maintenance you allow $52,911, which is the same as last year. Now, this must include kerosene oil, coal and provisions of various kinds, and these and other incidentals are all increased since last year. You will have to increase your estimates for lighthouses another $13,000 if you don't want to have an overdrawn account. In fact, considering that the lighthouse account was overdrawn $22,000 last year, and you have the same estimate this year, you are going to be short $40,000 or $50,000 for lighthouses. There are a lot of other items, such as printing and stationery, clothing, fuel and light for the Custom House. Cost of clothing is increased 50%, and you will have to add this amount to the estimate for clothing for the men connected with the Customs Department. Repairs to public buildings, $10,100, the same as last year. The cost of building materials is considerably increased, yet the estimates are the same as last year. Add another couple of thousand to that. Constabulary, fuel and light, $2,000; uniforms, etc., $4,400; forage for horses, $1,200; lighting allowance, $2,300, a total of $9,700, the same as last year. You will have to make an alteration in your estimates there. Fire Department, fuel and light, $2,000; forage for horses, $2,800; other incidentals, $1,700, a total of $6,500. The same thing applies there. Then you have the Penitentiary. Material for brooms, $7,500, the same as last year. In connection with this I would like to ask, have you got all the material you want for this year.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—I don't know, but I will let you have the information.

MR. GRIMES.—The broom industry is unable to supply the trade. Whose fault is this? I know a number of people who have enquired at the Penitentiary for brooms, and have been unable to get them. Whether or not this is because of inability to get the material remains to be shown. Evidently the Minister does not think that prohibition will have any effect, so far as lessening the expense on supplies and maintenance. But if the expense does not decline and there are the same number of inmates as last year, you will have to make some increase in the estimate for the Penitentiary. Lunatic Asylum estimates are $24,000 for rations, clothing $5,150, $3,550, fuel and light $6,000, a total of $39,000. You are $15,000.00 short in the estimate for the Lunatic Asylum alone, adding the whole thing together it comes to an amount of $220,000.00 you will

be short again this year unless you increase your estimates in this connection at least $50,000.00. The contention of the Leader of the Opposition is well brought out when he states that you are going to have an overdrawn account unless you provide for the increase in cost of necessities required for these various institutions. I would like to ask the Premier if there was not some communication made with him as regards a reformatory.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Some time ago there was but not within the last year. I think it was about two years ago.

MR. GRIMES.—Is it the intention of the Government to consider this?

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—The matter has not come before the Government, but I have discusses the matter with a deputation that called upon me. It was thought at the time that the only way to get out of the difficulty was to have one for each denomination. Now there are about ten denominations in the Colony which would mean ten reformatories, which upkeep would be too expensive an undertaking during the period of the war. Personally I have great sympathy with the idea. I remember in Sir Robert Bond's Administration the matter came up, The denominational question was the difficulty.

MR GRIMES.—But these reformatories are conducted elsewhere, in Canada and so on, where they have various demominations, and there they effect a considerable amount of good work. I think if the matter were given some attention there might be found some way out of the difficulty. It would be very easy to consult with the heads of the various denominations and ask their opinion, and see if they could not work harmoniously, and find a way of relieving the community of some incorrigibles that now exist in the city and throughout the country.

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 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, June 21, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

Mr. WINSOR—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bonavista asking that a breakwater be erected at place.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support the petition which Mr. Winsor has just presented. It is urgently needed in the district and will be a very necessary expenditure.

I beg leave to present a petition from Lancaster in relation to a road at that place. I hope the Government will see its way clear to granting the prayer of the petitioners.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Heart's Delight with reference to the keeping of dogs.

MR. STONE—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from New Perlican for a road; also one from Hatchet Cove on the subject of a road.

MR. TARGETT—I beg to support the prayer of the petition, especially the one dealing with New Perlican.

Mr Winsor gave notice of question.

Mr. Abbott gave notice of question.

SUPPLY.

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. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman, yesterday when speaking on the question of reformatories, the Premier replied that one of the difficulties in the way was the denominational question. I can quite see the difficulties that stand in the way of the establishment of such a necessary institution; but at the same time I do not think the answer given by the Premier showed the consideration which such a subject demands. The delegation that waited upon the Prime Minister, so far as I can understand, got the impression that something was to be done at this session of the Legislature, but the Premier in his reply yesterday said that the matter had not since that time received any consideration whatever. The agitation which was on in connection with this matter last winter showed that a considerable part of the public was deeply interested in having a reformatory established in this city. Any one watching the proceedings of the District Court for the last few years has seen that the number of juvenile offenders is increasing every year. Many of them are brought into the Court or get into the toils of the law largely because of the influences that have been exerted upon them by old offenders with whom they come in contact in every day life. Many of the new offenders are of very tender age. These are brought into Court where they sometimes hear many things which are not conducive to their moral welfare. After being sentenced they are sent down to the gaol and sometimes locked up with other prisoners to their detriment. Very often they come out the worse for their experience. This is proven by the fact that they have come before the court time and again since their first offence. Punishment for terms of imprisonment in the Penitentiary have made no moral improvement in them and failing this how can we say we are protecting the community. What does the Government intend to do in this matter? Are they going to ignore the demand of those interested in their behalf? Are they going to ignore the moral welfare of the boys and girls who come in contact with the fifteen or twenty juvenile offenders that frequent our streets day and night and are found to injure and seduce the other boys to become like themselves I consider it a crime against the community not to deal with this evil, one which can easily be done away with if the Government attends to its duty. The matter of denominational interests could be easily met if any serious attempt on the part of the Government to establish a reformatory was made. Consult with the heads of the various denominations and work out a system under which it could be conducted, safeguarding their interests and that of the public. The Premier says if you are going to have a reformatory, one is needed for every denomination.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I did not say that. I said we recognized there would be some difficulties in connection with the denomin-

ational aspect. We cannot agree with this same question in connection with the matter of schools and it is even worse in this matter. I said also that that was the objection made, but I did not say I agreed with it.

MR. GRIMES—Of course there are difficulties; but the very fact that these institutions are working in Canada, the United States and England, shows that there is a way by which they can be established. In Halifax they have what is called an industrial school, and the cost of the operation of that school there is a very small amount, somewhere in the vicinity of $16,000. They have there about 63 inmates and the class of truants dealt with are juveniles sentenced from 3 months to twelve months. Part of the cost of the upkeep is derived from the city, state or province, and the rest is subscribed by private subscriptions. The greater part however of the cost is provided by the state. The cost per head of the institution is about $220.00. The establishment of a reformatory here, or industrial school whatever you wish to call it need not cost as much. You could secure a house in the country for $2.000 or $3,000, and if you took them there and placed them under the care of some person qualified for the work, it would accomplish the same amount of good. In England there are about 140 of these schools established costing the Government and the taxpayers of England about twenty pounds sterling or $100 a year for each inmate. They have been of such success there that the State has urged that a large number be established. If the Government wants to improve the welfare of the people of this country, it must look the question full in the face. Judge Lindsay, the Child's Judge of America on industrial schools has said: "the purpose of law in relation to children should be to protect them from being stigmatized with conviction as criminals and by letter and spirit to constantly encourage them to personal work and effort." If the Prime Minister and his associates in the Executive would consider the matter in that light, I think they will see their way clear to bring such a measure into this Legislature this Session.

Mr. Chairman, since yesterday I received the reply of the Col. Secretary in reference to the fees collected at the General Hospital. This is the answer furnished by the Colonial Secretary. It is a letter from the Superintendent of that institution. It reads: (Hon. member read letter). I think the Colonial Secretary will see from this reply that the Superintendent of that institution thinks he has the right to keep these fees for himself although an act passed in 1915 says that all such fees collected shall be handed over for the benefit of the country. Instead of carrying that act out the Superintendent takes upon himself to keep the fees and sets his own interpretation upon the clause dealing with the collection of fees. I consider Sir, that if the Government is going to allow this condition of things to continue and allow the superintendent of any institution to collect any private fees he desires, and keep for himself what the law says shall be handed over for the benefit of the country, he is doing wrong and violating an act of this legislature for his own interests. If this sort of thing is going to prevail what is going to hinder the heads of the other institutions from doing the same thing. You cannot make chalk of one and cheese of another. The resident physician is getting $2300 a year and his house, fuel and light free. He is paid $100 for medical attendance at the Penitentiary and gets an allowance of $500 for the upkeep of a horse. The position is worth $4000 a year. It was the intention that this House would

pay for the Superintendent's services and patients paying fees were for the colony's benefits. Yet it is not carried out and the Government allows this condition of things to prevail which if allowed will create demoralization in connection with other departments of the public service if something is not done to prevent it. The taxpayers of this Colony pay for the upkeep of this Institution and they pay the salary of the Resident physician and other assistant physicians and they understand when they pay them their salaries fees in connection with the institution should come back for the benefit of the Colony. Why not carry out the law or are you going to allow the same violation and infraction of the law to take place here that happened with pit-props. No wonder we have in this country to-day a seething mass of revolution. Quiet it is true, but any person who was out for trouble could easily set the match and make things very serious for the Government of this country because there is no attempt whatever to see that the law is respected. As soon as any person in authority is affected any infraction of the law is winked at and once the people of the country begin to lose faith in the laws of the country then the same thing may happen in this country that has happened in Russia. I trust that the Government will investigate this matter and see that the law is respected and faithfully carried out.

There is one other matter I would like to deal with a little more than I did yesterday and that is the question of the Minimum wage. As I stated here yesterday the Premier some years ago, at a meeting in the T. A. Hall declared himself in favor of the minimum wage and he has had the opportunity time and again since that time to put that into practice and show the people of his country that he meant what he said. That opportunity again presents itself in arranging the salaries of the Civil Servants so that wages may be provided according to the reasonable wants of the various Civil servants. Many of the Civil Servants are not paid according to their needs or according to the work they have done. There are those to be found performing good work and only getting five or six or seven hundred dollars a year. Some of them live in this city. Now everybody knows that during the last couple of years the cost of living has gone up anywhere from 50 to 70 per cent. and no man can rear a family upon such a meagre salary. Well, if the Premier meant what he said, then before these Estimates are passd,he would have them revised so that at least a married man in the Civil Service who is performing honest work should get wages enough to support himself and his family decently. I repeat again, Sir, that the people of the city and the people of this country are watching the Premier in his conduct of this matter and not only does this apply to the Civil Service but it applies to the other various trades and occupations of the country It would be a very easy matter if it were decided to apply the principle by having some board formed that would have to do with the arrangement of a wage scale. Upon that Board there could be representatives of the Employers and Employees who would come together and decide the matter and whatever decision they arrived at, a law could be enacted to have these decisions carried out and enforced. These principles are carried out in other parts of the British Empire and there is no reason whatever why they should not be inaugurated in this country.

As to the question of the appointment of a Board of Food Control, it has been pointed out several times

since the opening of this Legislature the necessity there is for dealing with this very important matter and it has been shown by other speakers that excess profits have been made and the report of the High Cost of Living Commission shows that as much as $5, a barrel was being made on flour imported since the war. If you will take the figures of the Commission it will be found that upwards of one million of money has been made on flour alone over and above the ordinary profits obtained on flour previous to the war. What applies to flour applies to coal and other commodities and yet up to the present time we see nothing in the Estimates in the way of providing a salary for a Food Controller or for the cost of a Commission or Board of Control that may have to deal with this matter. We know that the price of commodities is going up all the time and there has been proof established by that Commission that those who deal in foodstuffs supplied to the people of Newfoundland are making higher profits than ever before which should stir the Government to immediately take steps to commandeer the food stuffs in this town and other parts of the country. And why? Because experience has shown that failure to do this means that those controlling those foodstuffs are going to make a greater profit than before. We have a lot of flour to come into this country during the next four or five months. Is the Government going to allow the people of this country to be fleeced of another five or six hundred thousand dollars? Our men are out to France and laying down their all in defence of their country and their Empire. Are we going to allow these men to give up everything—money,homes relatives—all that is dear to them and their lives, while other men at home take advantage of market conditions to enrich themselves at their expense? Are these men to be allowed to make greater profits than ever before? Well, I am inclined to this opinion from the feeling that I have seen amongst the workingmen of the city and from the feeling that has been expressed by the fishermen of this country that if such a condition of things prevail much longer, there is going to be a serious state of affairs in this country inside of six months. Men are not going to take such doings easy any longer; they are not going out to sacrifice their lives, that men may profit out of their miseries and serious conditions will arise unless the Government immediately meets the situation. We do not know how long this war will last. The Premier stated that since Russia has dropped out or ceased to be an important factor, it may be years before this war is over. That is not a bright prospect and in view of that I think it is up to the Government to at once take steps to provide for such an emergency. If that is so it is quite possible that the price of foodstuffs will be greater in the market than at present. If it increases 25% or 50% in the next twelve months that would mean another 40% for us upon the cost of all these articles. The Government can take time by the forelock and commandeer all these foodstuffs now, get in touch with the markets abroad, find out how things are going and order enough for the requirements of the people of this country a long time ahead.

The member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, yesterday dwelt upon the question of Compulsory Education in a very forcible manner and I think he put the case very strongly to members of this House as to the need for its immediate adoption. I have time and again seen, in my visits to the outports, boys and girls not attending school and when I asked the reason why the answer was often made

that their parents had done badly at the fishery, that they had hardly made enough to provide food for themselves and they were unable to pay the fees required by the school, consequently the children had to stay from school and his or her education had to be neglected solely because the Government of this country does not think that the principle of Compulsory Education should be enforced. Compulsory education is very necessary in this country as it is no rare instance to find boys of seven engaged in the fishery or some other industry when he ought to be at school preparing himself for the future. The majority are in favour of compulsory education. Experience has taught them what a serious matter it is to be without it. Many can tell how they lost positions they otherwise would have had solely because they were unable to read and write. I knew of men who would have obtained a very advantageous position, but lost it through this reason. And I have no doubt that there are thousands of such people in this Island to-day. I would like to see free education in before a year is out.

Speaking on the subject of profits made by profiteers in this country, I think there is one instance which has not as yet been discussed. I refer to the munitions plant which has been established in this city. This company has paid somewhere between 50 and 60 per cent. since its inauguration. Does the Government intend to allow men to make a profit on their investments to this extent during war times and out of the war. In England profits over 20 and 25 per cent. are demanded by the Government. There is a sufficiency of precedents before it to establish it here. A little investigation on the part of the Government would reveal lots of ways of providing new sources of revenue. I would like to support the statement made by Mr. Jennings and Mr. Coaker as to the method in which the next election should be conducted. If the Government is satisfied to go to the polls this fall, and there is no reason why it should not so be, why should not the suggestions made by the hon. gentlemen be accepted. There is no need for embittered feeling amongst the people. A general election can be conducted as quietly as the prohibition election. Let each name be placed before the constituents, and let the people vote as they wish. Why should not this suggestion be followed. If you have the welfare of the country at heart and desire to see recruiting prosper. If you desire to see this Colony maintain her position in the Empire, how can you fail to see the advantages this simple method of carrying on an election devoid of bitterness and strife offers to you. You must obey the voice of the majority of the people and that is unmistakably in favor of a general election. We are willing to abide by their decision at the polls and why not you. If you are really serious in your attitude, here surely is the solution of every difficulty.

MR. STONE—Whilst sitting in my seat in this House yesterday afternoon I listened with a great deal of attention to the remarks of the hon. members who were discussing the estimates now before the House and as one of the representatives of the people of this country, I was led to believe that I would be justified in pointing out a few things which have occurred to me in relation thereto.

In the first instance, Mr. Chairman, there is the Department of the Prime Minister. The salaries there have been adjusted in a manner which I think calls for some comment and explanation. The secretary was always getting $700 and under this new system he is raised

$98.00. The clerk in that department always got $400, and his salary is raised to $520. The messenger who formerly received $300 has received an increase of $100. There is a considerable difference between $700 and $798. Between $400 and $520 and $300 and $400. I have been led to wonder why the salaries were so adjusted.

I have often wondered as to what supervision the Prime Minister has over his department, everything apparently is getting worse; what has the Premier who is head of the Government done in relation to the Trinity Bay steam service and the ridiculous freight charges by rail and steamer? Why was the Reid Nfld. Co. allowed to put on such a boat that couldn't accommodate the travelling public and what is still worse to give the same company a subsidy of $9,000 for this little Wren which is the same subsidy paid for the s.s. Ethie, which was four times her size. The expense to the company of running the Wren is not half as much as the Ethie. The Wren would perhaps only consume about 3 tons of coal per day, while the Ethie would consume 6. Taking everything into consideration, the Wren cost to run little more than half as much as the Ethie. Then on the other hand look at the inconveniences of the public who have been continually complaining of the service; surely the Government will not shirk their duty any longer in this respect. The contractors should be made live up to their contract and a better service given the people on this Bay. Under the present Government the old system is rotten, the whole civil service should be readjusted and the tariff revised. A Government coming into power now after the past eight years of the Morris Administration would certainly have their hands full by the time they got everything near about straightened out. What we require, Mr. Chairman, is a good live Government who has the interest of the country at heart.

Take, for instance, shipbuilding. Why does not the Government endeavour to do something to encourage shipbuilding in this country? The Union Shipbuilding Co. has been started with that object in view. They intend to turn out schooners that will be fit to cross the Atlantic, so that our seafaring men may be protected on the one hand by having good ships,, and on the other hand to give employment to our people in the country, and to keep the money here that formerly went to Canada and the States. We have in this country the very finest kind of men, also good material, and we should be able to turn out almost any kind of a ship; but our people are handicapped by want of machinery and other facilities, and no effort worth while has been made by the Government to overcome that difficulty. It is true that material coming into this country to be used for shipbuilding purposes are supposed to be admitted duty free, but there is so much red tape attached to the matter of securing a remission of the duty that one is discouraged from attempting to collect it. Then there is the matter of bait depots that we have been preaching about for the last five or six years. Nothing has been done in this respect, and the fishermen of the country, have got to suffer, sometimes having to lie up for three or four weeks at a time. The Government has made a grave mistake by not erecting these depots. A large amount of revenue is being lost each year to the Colony; in fact I feel safe in saying that the expenditure necessary for the erection of these bait depots would be repaid a hundredfold by the amount of fish which would be

caught by reason of the advantages which the fishermen would gain by having an adequate supply of bait. Now, it must not be lost sight of that the fisheries are the mainstay of this country, and the fishermen are really the men who are keeping the country up. The professional men of this country would make a very poor living, I am afraid, if it were not for the fishermen, whereas the man who gets a salary only produces one. The fishermen go out and bring the wealth into the country, and he produces in that way; and then, on the other hand, he has got a family at home to provide for just the same as the man who is getting a salary, and he adds to the revenue by providing for them, which is his second way of producing.

There are a good many things to be considered which are not receiving any attention at the present time. For instance, we have heard a good deal about the Scotch cured herring. Now, there is what is known as the Norwegian pack; and I believe the Norwegian pack is sent out of this country at the present time without any inspection, and as soon as it arrives in Halifax it is made Scotch Cure of. I may be misinformed on this point, but I don't think I am.

Another matter in which the Government stood in its own light was when it came into this House two years ago and put such a burden of taxation upon the people, and especially upon the fishermen, in relation to kerosene oil, gasoline and motor engines—the wherewithall, I may say, as far as the fisheries are concerned. These things are taxed to such an extent that many of the Labrador schrs. had to go away with one, two or even three casks short; and it has come to my notice that last year three or four schooners had to come home with only part of a voyage because they had not sufficient oil to continue the fishery. The oil was so expensive that they could not afford to get as much as they would have got if this tax had not been put on. I think it is time the Prime Minister got busy and looked into some of these matters.

Yesterday the question of Reformatories was raised here. I think the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Grimes) asked whether this matter had been considered or not, and he was told that there were so many difficulties in the way arising out of denominationalism that it would not be advisable to do anything in this connection. Now, I don't quite understand that position. In Canada and the United States they have established these schools. They were up against the same problems there, but they got over them; and we could easily get over them here if we were prepared to put our shoulder to the wheel. We don't try to get the great wheel of progress spinning in this country, when it should be going at the rate of about 500 revolutions a minute.

There is another matter that I do not quite understand, and it is in relation to the salary of the Prime Minister. I have gone carefully through the Estimates and the Public Accounts, but I can find nothing to show the amount that he receives for his services as Prime Minister. Of course, it may be that he takes nothing for his services. At all events, we can find nothing in the Public Accounts, yet we know the Prime Minister can't live on air.

Now, Sir, I have before me the report of the Marine and Fisheries Department, which I would like to quote a little from. "The returns for the fiscal year ending June 30th, show that 1,421,927 quintals of fish were exported, with a value of $10,394,041." Now, that bears out the statement which I made a few moments ago, that

the mainstay of this country is its fisheries. As a matter of fact, Sir, the other industries of this country amount to very little when compared with the fisheries, therefore the fishermen should be given every consideration and should come first every time. What does your timber areas amount to, or what does Bell Island amount to, when compared with the fisheries? The revenue derived from these sources is nothing when compared with the revenue which the fisheries are responsible for. Now, Sir, if we compare the progress which has been made from the year 1911 to 1916 we find a difference of 327,085 quintals—a very considerable increase.

Now, I don't want to say that the Fishermen's Union or Mr. Coaker is responsible for the increased catch, but I do want to say that I do believe that they were instrumental in securing the increased valuation, which amounted to $3,062,054; and that is certainly something of which they have a right to be proud of, because not only are the Fishermen's Union benefitting by the increased prices, but every individual in the country is benefitting also. The following then, Sir, is a comparison for the last seven years from 1910 to 1916. In 1910 we exported 1,502,269 quintals of codfish at a valuation of $7,307,778. In 1911 we exported 1,182,720 quintals, valued at $6,544,604, a decrease of nearly $1,000,000 on the previous year. In 1912 we had 1,388,178 quintals, valued at $8,100,703. In 1913 we had 1,408,582 quintals, valued at $7,987,389.

In 1914 we find 1,247,314 qtls. with a value of $8,671,789; in 1915, 1,094,-242 qtls. with a value of $7,332,287 Now we come to the most prosperous year, that of 1916, and we find 1,421,327 qtls. We get in value $10,000,394. Then on the other hand the principal Latin markets accounted for 832,843 qtls, as compared to 568,666 the previous year. The shipments to Greece are as follows:

In 1910, 89,708 qtls.; 1911, 42,715 qtls.; 1912, 68,280 qtls.; 1913, 60,528 qtls.; 1914, 69,602 qtls.; 1915, 62,508 qtls.; 1916, 60,996 qtls.

We also have a report here showing the fish shipped to Italy for those years, as follows:

1910, 252,542; 1911, 132,153; 1912, 212,061; 1913, 207,617; 1914, ———; 1915, 142,249; 1916, 173,608.

Then we have here, Mr. Chairman, reports showing the exports to Spain and Portugal, as follows:

1910, 321,296; 1911, 258,523; 1912, 206,206; 1913, 203,989; 1914, 153,023; 1915, 151,508; 1916, 311,773.

Then on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, we have the figures showing exportations to the Brazilian market for the same period, with a total of 379,-587 qtls.; but I will not give the figures in detail for fear of tiring the House. However, I think I could make a remark or two with regard to pickled fish. The total exportation of pickled fish was 81,961 qtls. of which 15,412 were exported to the United Kingdom; 5,443 qtls. to Canada, and 58,757 qtls. to the United States. This shows, Mr. Chairman, that we are getting a market in the United States.

In 1913 the exports were 57,853 qtls. in 1914, 111,252 qtls. in 1915, 71,602 qtls., and in 1916, 81,961 qtls. Now, Mr. Chairman, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions due to the war, the country is to be congratulated on its export trade and on the fact that the prices have been maintained. But if that is so, it has not been brought about by the Government. It was brought about largely by the conditions of supply and demand, but on the other hand, there have been great factors working in this country which had a big effect in bringing it about. However, I am pleased to see that the fishery in 1916 was such a success and that the amount of mo-

ney brought into the country was more than ever before. And I trust that as time goes along we shall obtain high prices, because we want high prices to offset the prices charged for the necessaries of life to-day. Now, then, we have also the amount of fish shipped from Labrador. This was in 1916, 105,301 qtls., with a value of $737,170. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that every member of this House should be delighted to see that even though the number of quintals of fish from the Labrador was not very large, yet the value in dollars was good even for the people who got only a small quantity. A comparison between the figures for last year and the year before show a decrease of 6,959 in quintals, but an increase in value of something like $175,807. The voyage is regarded as an average one, and the cost of outfitting was about the same, but it will not be the same this year, when such exorbitant charges are being made, and such large profits being realized from the sale of salt. The statement gives the comparative exports from 1908 to 1916; this, of course, dealing with the exports from Labrador, as follows:

1908, 288,826 qtls., value, $779,-858; 1909, 168,693 qtls., value, $623,362; 1910, 81,368 qtls., value $352,472; 1911, 161,043 qtls., value, $682,482; 1913, ———; 1914, 91,049 qtls., value, $361,448; 1915, 112,049 qtls., valuue, $561,300; 1916, 105,301 qtls.; value, $737,107.

To my mind this report is an exceedingly good one and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is to be congratulated on it. Everything is put down very clearly and in full detail, and a good report is given all the way through.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is one thing which I think I am justified in bringing before the committee. Time and again we have asked, through petitions and otherwise, for a dredge to be sent to Port Rexton, but as yet she has not turned up, although we have been promised, time and again, she is still in the District of Ferryland. Now, Sir, the District of St. George's got something like $10,000, and Carbonear $12,000, but what about the other districts in the country entitled to the same amount, and where are we in Catalina in relation to the building of the public wharf. We were given the Government Engineer for the purpose of making a report, but nothing more. The people in the Northern Districts are paying just as much into the revenue of the country as the people of Saint George's District, or any other District in the Colony. I do not blame the representatives of other districts in trying to get all they can for their district, yet I think the people of Trinity should be considered as well as the other places. The public wharf at Catalina has been a long felt want. The old one is practically out of commission to-day. I think with the great industries such as the various companies of which Mr. Coaker is the head that are being established there, we should be entitled to a good deal of consideration; for these concerns through their operation will materially add to the revenue. And for this reason, apart from every other, I think we in Catalina are justified in asking for some attention.

As long as I am now dealing with the Marine and Fisheries report, I think it would be just as well to make some slight reference to the expenditure on account of the s.s. Fiona. The amount shown here on this account is $23,671.15, which is quite an item, yet not the total of her account. Of course that money has to be paid directly by the fishermen of the country. This is part of the account for 1915-16. It is

true that the Fiona might have given fairly good service, but I fail to see why her account should be as high unless we got more in return. And when we consider the item, "drugs and chemicals," for instance, it seems pretty large in my eyes. We shall now go on a little further and make some slight reference to the Postmaster General's report. I stated the other day in this House that the increases which he pointed out in his report were without doubt reasonable; and I do not think the Minister showed good judgment when he did not follow the principle laid down in the report. However, I notice that there was one marked increase in Burin. In Burin there was one official who was getting all the time about $300, and if I am not greatly mistaken it was raised to something like $450. I suppose that the increase was made at this instance, because that official had a relative in the Executive. I do not intend to deal further with this matter, but there is one thing which I have here in my possession which will bear out what I said here the other day in relation to a general election. It has been pointed out that this country does not want an election. I said that I thought that the country did want an election, and I had every reason to think so because I had been continually going around the country and knew the people and what their ideas were. I said here that I thought the people of Trinity whom I have the honor to represent wanted an election; and to back up what I said we have before us to-day messages from Port Rexton and Champneys, which, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will read, (Reads). Now, Sir, that is the attitude of the people of Port Rexton; while on the other hand we come to Champneys, a settlement two miles distant, and find the following: (Reads.) Now, I think that shows very clearly the attitude of the people down there in these settlements; and there is no doubt of our receiving similar messages not alone from Trinity district but from all parts of the Island. There is no question of doubt but what the people of this country want an election as it is their right, and any Government should respect the rights of the people, and furthermore the Governor should take immediate action to safeguard the people from any Government or party of men who try to take the advantage of the people.

As far as us members on this side of the House are concerned, we were quite willing to work with any leader or Government who had the interests of the country and Empire at heart in extraordinary times such as these, and furthermore, Sir, the public can go back to a statement which appeared in the columns of the Advocate in 1914 which clearly states our attitude at that particular time. We were willing to take Sir E. P. Morris, Mr. Kent, Dr. Lloyd or Sir Robert Bond as our leader and work in harmony with all men during the duration of the war, but the Government apparently didn't want us at that time even though they were trying to make us believe that they were only too willing for us to assist them; but, Mr. Chairman, how could the Opposition party help them without having any authority to act. The principle reason for not wanting the Opposition party to have equal power was perhaps that they would strongly object to so much of the public monies being wasted without good returns for same Therefore the Government at this particular time when they fear the electorate knowing full well that their political life is done, they are more than anxious now to bring about a Coalition. The plea which the Government, the 'Herald' and Daily News

cessions from the United States, objected, saying it was injurious to her trade. So I was wondering if the British people were willing to forego the privileges of free trade in order to help out the colonies of the British Empire in their efforts to find markets. I remember some years ago there was a great deal of talk about a Preferential Tariff between Great Britain and Canada. That was in the time of Sir Wilfred Laurier, but I did not think it ever became anything more than talk. It accordingly has occurred to me would preferential tariff do any good to Newfoundland? We collect our revenue from our importations. A Preferential Tariff with Great Britain or any other country would mean a drop in revenue, that is a decrease in the revenue we are accustomd to collect on these goods. Are we in a position to take up this matter and arrange it with Great Britain and any other country. I wonder if we have reached the limit of the resources which we can tap to raise revenue. Of course we can quite understand some would demand the old system. They are loath to change the present system, but yet in other countries, a great portion of the revenue is being raised from the income tax, and if I do not mistake certain figures I read some time ago the Government was considering raising an income tax to 60 per cent on certain salaries, and I understand by this tax millions and millions of dollars were going to be raised. I cannot remember the exact figures, but it was a tremendous amount. I can quite imagine that if such a matter as this were taken up, there would be quite an outcry against it, an outcry of "hands off", "do not interfere with capital," "Do not interfere with income." This made no difference in England. There they have made an income tax. Here they want the tax to remain where it is on the backs of the poor people. Perhaps we may not be hoping too much when we express the hope that before long we will be able to have the income tax instead of the present system, and as a result we too will be able to share with the other parts of the Empire in Preferential Trade. Let us hope that as a result of the Prime Ministers visits to England something like this may develop, as this is surely a matter of the greatest importance to the people of Newfoundland. If we had a market for our fish among our brothers and sisters we would be able to feel much more independent, and at the same time the Union between all the parts of the Empire would be made stronger. We would feel a part of the Empire and cease to have to depend upon aliens to buy our produce. Surely we should not forget that Great Britain came to our help in the settlement of the Treaty shore question, but that was an arrangement made by the Imperial authorities, and they were in duty bound to repair the wrong. This is the feeling that has got around among the people, although they gladly give credit for what has been done. Mr. Stone, the hon. member who has just taken his seat, dealt with the report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and showed that the total codfishery from Newfoundland and Labrador was on the whole about the same every year. There seems never to be enough to go around. If a fair voyage is got in one place, another place is short. Now in Notre Dame Bay for the past three or four years we have been amongst the unfortunate ones with the short voyages, and consequently up there we have not had the advantages of the high prices which are quoted so extensively in that report. As a matter of fact, speaking from the south side of the Bay, if the people there were dependent only upon the fishery for thir living they would be in a

state of starvation, but owing to the herring fishery being exploited a great deal more, and receiving better markets and better prices, the people have been able in many cases to obtain a two-third living from that source. The fishermen of the country ought always be the first consideration. They are the producers, and if you neglect them, you neglect the fishery. If you neglect the fishery you will be neglecting the country. I think it is a great advantage to have a man occupying the position of Minister of Marine and Fisheries that has roughed it, a man like the present Minister who knows the ins and outs of the fishery. Such a man cannot be compared with the St. John's business man for this job. The business man comes down to work at ten in the morning, and if there is a cloud to the north or to the south, he puts on his overcoat, being afraid of the rain. He has very little idea of what it means for a man to have to spend from sixteen to twenty-four hours of the day exposed to the elements and dangers that always surround a man who is following his avocation on the sea, and which every year takes its toll of human life. I can never forget the interests of these people because like the Minister of Marine and Fisheries I am one of them to-day. When I go back from this session of the House I shall be one of them at the same trade. I am next them day by day, and what is more than that I hear their opinions, and they all have their opinions, on public matters, and sometimes that opinion is not complimentary to those who hold the ruling power, and I rather expect that there will be a great number of uncomplimentary things said about the present Government, if the impressions that we are under are the plans of the Government and are carried out. We will consider it an infringement on the rules of British fair play, and I can quite understand why some of these people fail to see for what their boys are dying on the battlements of Flanders and France. I would like in passing to call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the subsidies paid to the boats in the Notre Dame Bay service, particularly the "Clyde". Now I understand this service has been divided up between the 'Dundee' on the Bonavista Bay route and the "Clyde" on the Twillingate route. The "Clyde's" subsidy is $13,000. The Fogo subsidy is $9,200 and the question I would like to have answered is if the Fogo subsidy has been divided up between the "Clyde" and the "Dundee," or if they are working on their own subsidies. I think everything is alright, but I would just ask for this information. Perhaps the Minister has already informed the House.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Ihave already informed the House this subsidy has been divided.

MR. JENNINGS.—There is another matter concerning subsidies in relation to which I would like to get a little information. You have in the estimates Battle Harbour and Lewisporte route. Last year $13,277, this year $14,450 or an increase of $1,277. Now I do not know to what service this refers. Is it the service from St. John's?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Do you refer to the work done by the "Earl of Devon" last year?

MR. JENNINGS.—No, I don't think she would get such a subsidy as this. She didn't go to Lewisporte. I don't think this is correctly stated. There must be a misprint somewhere.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I will take a note of that.

MR. JENNINGS.—There is just one other matter that is not perhaps as clear as it might be, and that is the St. George's Bay contract subsidy. Is that for the contract we passed the other day? $17,500 this year?

is handing out to the people about the expense of an election and having so much to trouble them otherwise in relation to the price of provisions, is nothing more or less than Tommy rot. Why does the Herald and Daily News mention the price of provisions now, where and what were they doing when the poor unfortunate people were getting bled white by the get-richquick class? Not a word and not a dissenting voice was raised in aid of the people. Now that those pap-fed Government organs realize that their party is doomed they come forward with an explanation as to why we shouldn't have an election. Mr. Coaker a few days ago, made a proposition that the members all stay at home a month before the election so that there wouldn't be any strife or anything else carried on, and if the people then wish to accept the Morris Government again we would be perfectly satisfied. This is surely a good proposition which would be fair to everybody, and if the Government are not cowardly they ought surely to accept. I claim that it is right and proper for to give the people the right to say who or who shall not rule over them for the next four years. Now, I sincerely hope that the Prime Minister will consider this matter; the men on this side of the House are as patriotic as any men in the country, and will support and maintain the British flag whenever possible. I venture to say also, that as many or a great deal more recruits came from the Union districts than from anywhere else in the Colony,and our brave lads to-day are fighting against Prussianism in order that we may all enjoy liberty and freedom; therefore, it is imperatively necessary that the Government should respect the rights of the people. To my mind we are in a better position to-day for an election than we shall be next year or four years from now. Therefore, I appeal to the Prime Minister to go slowly and by no means to allow the rights of the people to be tampered with.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Chairman, man since the time when we were told by the Prime Minister of his going to England, I was wondering what the practical results of that visit were. I know of course that we have one of the results of that visit in that we are being kept here throughout the month of June when we ought to be out of doors coats off at our callings. Hwever, I was wondering if there would be any practical results following the Premier's visit and consultation with the leading persons of the British Empire. We have been used to hearing in the past about the sentimental feelings that exist between Great Britain and her colonials, but it seems now that that is not quite enough. There has been a feeling existing for generations in Newfoundland that the old country has not been the help to Newfoundland in disposing of her produce that she might have been. We are told of the great empire with her millions of people on whom the sun never sets, and we wonder that amongst all those we cannot find a market for the staple produce of the country, and so not have to go to aliens to dispose of it, and so I was wondering if this subject was one of the very many and important ones that were to be considered by that conference. I can realize the fact that it may be a bit premature for the Prime Minister to disclose anything of that nature now, and I can also realize that there are great difficulties in the way. Are the people of England willing to forego the privileges of free trade to help in this regard. It is alright to talk, but when you touch the pockets of these individuals you touch the vital spot. Even Canada a few years ago when we had succeeded in obtaining con-

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—That was the Bay of Islands contract. This is a new contract which will be coming down this session.

MR. COAKER.—That's a big subsidy.

MR. JENNINGS.—I have here before me to-day the report from the Logging Inspector. This report has I suppose been made possible by the Bill brought in here from this side of the House last year and supported by the Government of this House, and which also passed the Upper Chamber with some amendments we could not concur in. As a result of that act the Government has appointed a Logging Inspector and this report is from this gentleman, and is an account of his work this past winter. One of the objections I have to the report is that everything is too good. I wonder if a certain report that I heard is true. I have heard on good authority that that gentleman is in the habit of sending notice of his arrival for inspection on ahead so they have time to prepare for his arrival. Everything is made ready for the inspection. I am not prepared to swear that this actually happened but I had it from a reliable source. I hope some explanation can be given as this makes the inspection absolutely useless and utterly defeats the purposes and object of the Act. I think Mr. Coaker could manage to get down to the camps without notice of his arrival being conveyed. There is another fact which interferes with the value of this report and I would like to take exception to it. That is the date of his arrival. Now operations start down there not later than the middle of October. In order to see how things are he should be there by the first of November. But he arrived there in December. They are in the middle of their winter's work. They are paid a bonus for the amount of logs they cut. The days are short and the time that the fixing up of their camp requires can ill be spared. I have heard what has actally occurred there in these camps what the young men who are working there have to go through. There is a difference between the young men and the old in this, that the young men will not protest so easily as the old; they are more readily taken advantage of. I remember hearing from one reliable source of a man who had met with an accident. He was in a dying condition. Not a man watched with him on the night of his death. All hands turned in. He died. This kind of thing does not do in these days. Things of that nature should not occur. I know men who have suffered so much from these experiences that they are only half able to do their work to-day.

These men should have every comfort possible for the country to give them whilst they are engaged in that work. Here then we have the report of the condition of things as the Camp Inspector says he found them. But what value is it? Anyway, if he had any suggestions to make they would be two months too late. Again, here I notice that he mentions the Gander Bay logging camps. He says that the people down there were not aware of the logging camps. Well, I hardly thought there was anyone down around the district of Twillingate, especially men engaged in mill work, who were not fully acquainted with every fact about these camps. I would like to know what the Government will do in the way of adopting the suggestions that I have made. I hope the Agriculture and Mines Department will find their way clear. Thwart Island has already been started. That island has been used by the fishermen for fishery purposes but now the Horwood Lumber Co. have commenced operations there. Not alone have they used the wood there for building

purposes but for scaffolding purposes as well as other work. When it is all out I understand that Mr. Horwood intends to take it to Hamilton to get it sawn.

Under the law they could not take timber from that Island, but they have found a way to evade the spirit of the law. There is a warden there. But I find that people who own land nearby have encroached or poached on that Island continuously. Will the Prime MMinister plase take a note of that?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Certainly.

MR. JENNINGS—This is a very important Island. The largest portion of the timber there is fir. Generally you find fir outside and then further in you have spruce, which is not so valuable. But this Island is covered with fir inside and out. Most of the main land is not as good. Probably parts of it have been destroyed by fire. I have not exaggerated a bit in describing these things to you. It is absolutely necessary that this matter be strictly attended to. I notice by one of the newspapers to-day that forest fires are raging in Trinity Bay. It is a great pity that any more of our timber should be destroyed in this manner. We have not now got any to spare; and the thought has occurred to me as to what our fire patrols are doing in this connection. I understand from the estimates that there is a vote of $9,000 for fire protection and patrol. Now, that ought certainly go a long way towards protecting our forests, provided the men who receive this money work for the salaries that are paid them. I have just had brought to my notice a report on this patrol work which I had not seen before, and perhaps it may help us to a better understanding of the situation. Now, I think it would not be asking too much to request the Company that is responsible for the operation of our railways to see that every precaution be taken to prevent fires. Coming along the line what do we see? Thousands of acres of soil that must have borne at one time good commercial timber now contains only a mass of stumps; and they will remain so for centuries, because of the fact that it takes so long before any growth of a commercial value takes place on a fire devastated area. It is bad enough to have our forests cut out with the axe, but to have them destroyed by fire is a calamity; and it would be difficult for anybody in this House or outside of it to calculate the value in dollars of the timber which has been destroyed in this country by fires—caused in many cases through sheer negligence.

Now, the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Stone) referred a few moments ago to the Scotch Cured and Norwegian pack of herring, and he stated that he had received information to the effect that the Norwegian pack was brought to Halifax,went through some slight process there, and was re-named Scotch Cured. As a matter of fact, I had an opportunity of observing the process of the Norwegian pack last year, and there is very little difference between that cure and the Scotch, with the exception that quite a bit more salt was used. I quite realize that this idustry needs to be looked after as well as other important matters connected with the fisheries and timber. The herring industry is growing in leaps and bounds in the vicinity of Hall's Bay and Southwest Arm, Green Bay. Now, it is strange to say that the southside of the Bay is not a resort for that particular class of herring in the fall. The herring resort to the southside of the Bay in the spring, but in the fall only small

quantities can be found there. I don't know whether we properly exploit the waters, or whether we try to catch them in the same way as over on the other side of the Bay, but one of the most experienced men on that side of the Bay has told me that he is under the impression that there is a body of herring which comes up from the French Shore, in around Cape John, and goes into those Bays for the purpose of wintering. That may be so; I have no reason to think otherwise; and the man who expressed that opinion is a practical man who has been in the business for a number of years. The people down in that neighbourhood are already agitating for several measures which they believe will be a protection to that fishery; and I do hope that the system which was customary, I understand, on the West Coast, of culling the herring and throwing away those which were considered unfit will never be permitted to be introduced in Green Bay. I have been told that vessels went there wanting certain sized herring, and all herring which was not up to the required size was thrown overboard . Now, that kind of thing was a scandal and a disgrace, and it must not be permitted to happen again. This morning I was in conversation with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, whom I have always found very courteous and obliging, over this matter; and I have no doubt that when measures are being prepared dealing with this industry, he will remember what I have said in this respect, and that he will arrange plans so that this industry may receive more attention in the future than it has in the past. Now, Mr. Chairman, the thought has occurred to me that I should express my sympathy with you in the present situation; and I am reminded very much of Tennyson's song: "Men may come and men may go but I go on for ever"; a revised version for you might run in this way: "Other men may come and go but I sit here for ever."

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I don't think I could do better than to endorse the sympathy which has been expressed by the last speaker. There is no question whatever in my mind but that you Sir, have shown yourself to be extremely patient; and I must also express my sympathy to the Minister who has charge of the Estimates. While sitting here, I have been really admiring the Minister of Finance for his extraordinary control of temper. But the sympathy which the Opposition have for these two gentlemen in no way lessens the duties imposed upon us to protest in the way in which we are protesting against the action of the Government, and particularly the Prime Minister, in reference to withholding from this House information which ought to be available to members on both sides of the House and to the country at large. Now, we have been discussing for several days the Department of the Prime Minister. We have discussed that Department at considerable length, and the reason is because we hold the Prime Minister primarily liable for the attitude which has caused us to take this stand. It is an outrage, Sir, that we, as representatives of various sections of the country should not be told what the intentions of the Government are in reference to a most important constitutional function. In the past, the matter of providing for elections have been before the House at an early date in the year. I find, by reference to the Journal of the House for 1904, that in that year the session closed on April 28th, and with the Estimates for that year was tabled an estimate for the holding of an election that fall. The vote taken was $25,000, so that notice was given exceedingly early that year; and here we are now on the 21st June, and all the informa-

tion we can get is that the Government have not considered the question, but we do know that in the Estimates which were tabled eight days ago there is no provision made for an election.

Turning again to the year 1908, that session closed on the 18th of February, but the estimates of that session made provision for an election that fall, so that the Government of that day had very early in the year provided for the coming election. This year the Government called this House together at the 30th of May, and after three weeks of the session there is still no provision for the election to take place this Fall, and also no explanation of the omission. It may be answered that it is possible to find some election year when provision was not made for elections. If so the omission was wrongful. I am quoting the estimates of 1904 and 1908, election years when provision was made for a general election and made early in the year, months earlier than the time we assembled this year. The estimates are supposed to cover the expenses of the forthcoming year, and this year, 1917, under the Act is an election year. It is the business of the Government to provide for it or to give an explanation to the country immediately, and yet although we are in session over three weeks this explanation has been withheld from us. It is withheld from us unfairly and absolutely improperly. It is information we have a right to expect. There is another feature of it that affects my friend, the Hon. Colonial Secretary. I should like to ask why he is not doing his duty in the premises. I have spoken of the duty of the Prime Minister as general supervisor of the Government, but what about the duty of the Colonial Secretary? Yesterday he gave us to understand, and I listened to his remarks with a great deal of sympathy, that he is a stickler for his honor, but if so why is he neglecting his duty in this respect. It is his duty to make provision for a voter's list. Why is he not seeing about taking the voters' list. I don't wish in way to doubt any remarks made by the Hon. Colonial Secretary in reference to the pay he receives as Deputy Chief Censor.

If I understand him aright he received the appointment from the Government at the instance of the War Office, that under this appointment he has very considerable responsibility. He claims that he is not too highly paid in receiving $2.50 a day, the minimum salary paid for such a position. I would not be inclined to question the value of his services, as compared to the rate of pay he received, but at the same time I would like the honourable gentlemen to remember, when he draws attention to the fact that as high as $10 a day is paid to Deputy Chief Censors, that they devote their whole time to their work, and are not occupying positions as heads of departments, or occupying seats in legislative assemblies. The analogy is therefore somewhat weak. His appointment incidentally raises another question. I don't know if I am right, but I hope the Honourable Colonial Secretary will correct me immediately if I am wrong, but I understand he received his appointment from the Government. May I ask if that is correct?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I was named by the Governor and appointed by the Government.

MR. LLOYD.—Very well, the Hon. Colonial Secretary, or rather I should say, Mr. Bennett, was named by the Governor for the appointment, and appointed by the Government, and under that appointment he has been receiving pay at the rate of $2.50 a day from the beginning of the war. That raises an important question—Whe-

ther he has a right to be in the seat he occupies to-day. I don't know if that question has appealed to his sense of honor, whether he has considered his right to be sitting, speaking and voting in this House, or whether he is in the same position as his friend the Hon. member for Placentia, the very doubtful position of a gentleman who is receiving emoluments under appointment from the Crown at the same time taking a seat in this House, in the one case of Mr. Morris for eleven months, and in the case of Mr. Bennett for a much longer time. Since the war began Mr. Bennett has been receiving pay under an appointment from the Government and has taken his seat in this House, for several sessions. He has no right to be in that seat, and he certainly has no authority to get up and speak in this House or to vote in this House It might be retorted by you that we have our remedy, as in the case of the other honorable member I have referred to, and we might reply that we can still find a remedy, but one of the reasons why we did not do so was because we were given to understand that the tenure of Mr. Morris in this House would be very short and we are not at all inclined to be disagreeable. We have much respect for the honorable member for Placentia—so much so that we even regret that the round robin that had been sent around to Government members to bring influence to bear on the Government to have Mr. Morris appointed Judge, was not sent us. More, sir, I will go further and say that if the Minister of Finance is prepared this session to vote an adequate salary for the office of Judge of the Central District Court, we will gladly support it. We are prepared to support any reasonable increase in that salary. I will go further, and deal with another matter regarding salaries.

I notice that every Minister of the Crown, if he is the head of a department, is paid a salary—with one notable exception—and that is my friend the leader of the Government, the Right Hon. Prime Minister. In his case there is no salary appropriated by statute or even by annual vote of this House. I think the Leader of the Government is not doing justice to himself in this matter, and I will go further and say that he is doing himself considerable injury, in not having a salary voted. I don't think it is worthy of the dignity of this House and this Government, to have the Prime Minister, head of a department and engaged in the work of the supervision of the Government generally, without a salary. I think, sir, that it is an improper position. Of course I don't mean to say that the Prime Minister receives nothing at all—I don't mean that by any means —because on turning to the statement of expenditure of contingencies I find it is not the case.

Here I have before me the amounts paid the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris between July 1, 1916, and March last, or about 9 months. The first item is dated July 26 and covers an amount of £250 or $1193.75 paid him when he visited the Regiment in France.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—That was for gifts to the regiment.

MR. LLOYD.—I accept the explanation.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER.—The other items were probably personal.

MR. LLOYD.—I am merely reading out here what appears in the contingency account,a statement which goes out to the Opposition and to the country generally, and on the face of it there is nothing to indicate the nature of the services rendered. It appears to be a personal payment apparently for personal expenses. It appears to be for expenses incurred on that visit. The Rt. Hon. Leader's explanation is that it covered gifts made to the regi-

ment. As that is so, I not only take no exception to it but support it. On the same date Sir E. P. Morris was paid $4,000 on account of loan. Whether that was merely on account of travelling expenses or included commission I do not know; I should imagine it included commission. Probably the Rt. Hon. Leader will tell us what it was for.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER.—Simply expenses. Nothing in the sense of commission.

MR. LLOYD.—Personal expenses - $4000?

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Yes.

MR. LLOYD—On March 5—I do not know whether that was the date the Prime Minister left the country a payment of $3000 was made to him. Was that to cover expenses of the War Conference.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes. The other was for the year before.

MR. LLOYD.—When you left and went to New York to raise the loan.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes and to England.

MR. LLOYD.—The three payments appear in the same statement. Assuming that these payments are legitimate expenses incurred or legitimately given on behalf of the Colony, still it remains that we in Newfoundland and in this House (it is bad enough in the House,but the country cannot help itself) have so much lack of dignity—to make no provision for a salary to be paid the Prime Minister. I do not agree with that attitude and I am prepared to vote for a proper salary to be paid him.

On the question of salaries: I would like to say that in this Colony past Governments and this House have not done justice to those who are in charge of Public Departments in the way of salaries. To expect the head of a department in these days or at any time for the past ten years to be adequately remunerated on a salary of $2000 is to my mind absurd. I do not know of any other country where similar salaries obtain. In other parts of the British Empire and in places where the population is no greater than ours, salaries paid Departmental Heads compared with ours are very much higher. I do not offer that as a justification for any gentleman who occupies one of these positions looking to the Government to supplement these salaries; but I cannot hide from myself the fact that there is a temptation and that there always has been a temptation for those who occupy those positions to supplement their salaries by perquisities of various kinds. What I would like to see would be this: An adequate salary paid to these gentlemen and an absolute prohibition to supplement salaries by additions of salary in any other way from the Government. It is these additions paid the heads of departments that create distrust and suspicion and it is high time to cut them out. I may be accused of talking big salaries. All right; anybody is welcome to accuse me of it. I have always thought this and have no hesitation in declaring it. But I see no right in any Minister or head of a department being interested in companies seeking concessions from the Government. It is that which is considered by me illegitimate, I do not say illegal, but it is to my mind highly objectionable; and as far as the Government and the country are concerned, I believe the country would be better off if big salaries were paid the Departmental Heads and other sources of income from the Government cut out completely. The country would not suffer.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—What sources of income do you refer to?

MR. LLOYD.—I do not need to particularize everybody knows them.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE.—I do not know what you mean.

MR. LLOYD—I will let it go at that

HON. MINISTER FINANCE.—You need not be nervous.

MR. LLOYD.—Do you wish me to state that I am making no insinuations against you?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—No.

MR. LLOYD.—I would wish my remarks to be divorced from any insinuations against any member of the House. I am speaking generally and from what I have seen in watching proceedings of Governments for the past 20 years. Is it not absurd to have the head of a department paid half the salary received by one of his departmental subordinates, and to have others under him with the same salary as himself? Surely the man who controls the department ought to be the best paid man in it, and until he is the best paid man in it you are not going to have things done properly in it. Take the case of the office of the Colonial Secretary: Some 22 years ago, if my memory serves me right, the Colonial Secretary was paid $2400. To-day we pay him $400 less, and the cost of living has doubled. Really an official like the Colonial Secretary is getting out of that department as compared with what his predecessor got 22 years ago in plain salary say roughly as $2000 is to $2400 in cash, but by living power he is not getting half as much as his predecessor. So far as I am concerned, whether I am in the Opposition or the Government—if I ever should have responsibility cast upon me—I say, cast upon me—because, Sir, I am not at all anxious to face the present situation; I do not envy those who face them—but if I have to I shall use every ounce of influence I have to have these salaries levelled up. I cannot disguise from myself the fact that whether it is a Government or a private business the success of the business depends largely on the ability in the direction of it, a Government exactly like any business institution must pay for it or it will not get it. I may say to-day there is an official of the Colonial Secretary receiving $4000 a year, and the only rational reason that can be offered is that he is worth it or he would not be retained.

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 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.

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 Respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies"; "An Act Respecting Copyright"; "An Act to Amend the Trustees Act, 1898"; and "An Act Respecting the Currency," without amendment.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

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 Death Duties Acts, 1914-1916," with some amendments in which they request the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—I have gone into these amendments. They are not at all serious. They only include under the Act persons domiciled in Newfoundland at the time of the declaration of war. There are one or two other very slight alterations, and I would move that they be read.

The Amendments were then read.

VOLUNTEER FORCE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend and Continue in Force for a Further Period the Act 5, George V., Session 1, Cap. 4, entitled, 'An Act Respecting a Volunteer Lorce in this Colony,'" was read a second time.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. It is merely a formal bill to keep the Regiment in existence. I will explain it more fully when in Committee.

MR. LLOYD—I have seen the Bill, and would second the motion.

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

WILLS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve," was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill merely for the purpose of giving our soldiers and sailors an opportunity of making a very simple will that will be legal. Under the law at present there are certain requirements necessary to make a will legal. Now in England, any soldier on active service or any sailor on one of His Majesty's ships can make a will devising his personal estate, without the usual formalities. Now that act does not apply here, and this is to make it practicable. In fact under the English act almost anything would be admitted as a will. It is proposed under this Bill, that any volunteer, whether on active military or naval service, may dispose in any way whatever he has to dispose. The other sections are just sections to make it possible to have regular formalities made unnecessary. There may be some difference of opinion on some of the sections, but I think, Mr. Speaker, we can let these stand until we go in Committe.

MR. LLOYD—I beg to second the motion. I may say this Bill has been brought in at the request of the Finance Committee who desired it to help them distribute the estates. I think the principle of the Bill is alright.

MR. COAKER—Just one word with regard to the Bill. I notice the amount here is fixed at $500. I think that is too small. Suppose we have it made $1000. Many of the boys had insurance policies for $1000, and I think these ought to be included. Of course those with more ought to be able to pay the taxes.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—We can settle that in Committee.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, June 22nd, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. DOWNEY.—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a petition of considerable importance. It is in the same connection as a petition I presented here some years ago from Codroy, which petition asked that some dredging work be done. This petition which is from the inhabitants of Searston asks that the Government send the

dredge there at the same time as they send it to Codroy, and as the first paragraph of the petition explains its object, I will read it to the House; (Reads). It is quite probable that in two or three days the dredge could do all the required work there, and so make it possible for any size vessels to pass up and down. The river would then be navigable for a distance of seven miles. A serious aspect of the necessity for this dredging is found in the fact that this is essentially a farming district, with two large rivers intervening between it and Codroy Valley Ry. Station. At the present time they find it necessary to carry their produce two, three, four and even five miles to ship it to the nearest markets on the West Coast, and this inflicts such a hardiship on the people that if nothing is done, within the next few years the probability is that all the accumulated agricultural value of this section will be lost in a few years. I would ask that this petition be received and referred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and I bespeak for it the very best consideration in the hands of the Government.

MR. JENNINGS.—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Leading Tickles West asking that a sum of money be allocated to repair the public wharf. This wharf is used every week by the Coastal boats, and it needs to be repaired. The petition which I heartily support asks that the sum of $200 be allocated for this purpose. I would ask that this petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MOVES ADJOURNMENT.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of drawing the attention of the Colonial Secretary to a statement here in the Daily News this morning. I do not know whether the statement here is correct or not, but if it is it affects this House, the privileges of this House and the Select Committee appointed by this House. I will read the statement.

"At last night's meeting of the Council a letter was read from the Colonial Secretary, in reply to a communication of the Council, of date 13th inst., asking if the Government intended dealing with the Charter the present session. The Colonial Secretary's letter intimated that it was the intention of the Legislature to take up and pass the financial sections the present session, and if time permitted the clause dealing with Workingmen's Homes. The remaining sections will not be considered the present sitting. With the adoption of the financial clauses the Council will be empowered to re-adjust taxation as asked for, and impose the new tax on theatrical performances agreed to by the Board some little while ago."

Now, Sir, the reason I ask that is that I am a member for that committee, and I attended two sessions recently, one or two days after the writing of that letter by the Council. That meeting was called for the 15th, and the letter of the Council was dated the 13th. That letter so far as I know has not been brought before that committee. Further we had a later meeting last night, after the meeting of the Council, and this reply from the Colonial Secretary is alleged to have been read. My point is that even last night when we met in the Speaker's room, there was no mention made of it, and you can imagine my surprise when I read this item in the morning paper. Not only that but to the best of my knowledge no such decision was arrived at last evening, and on the 15th no such decision was arrived at. Now, Sir, I think an explanation is due with regard to this matter.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—When I tell the honourable member that he was no more surprised than I was when I saw that statement in the paper this morning, I hope he will accept the explanation.

MR. LLOYD.—I accept it fully.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I am a member, as well as the honourable member, of that Committee he refers to and I have attended practically the whole of the sittings, and I was present at a meeting with the honourable member and the Premier and one or two other members in the Speaker's Room up to 11 o'clock last night discussing the matter and I can conceive of the honourable member's surprise when he saw that statement this morning that I did not communicate the matter to the Committee. I can assure the honourable member that it was as much a surprise to me as it was to him.

MR. HIGGINS.—Mr. Speaker, I think the possible explanation is this, as the leader of the Opposition can probably see. At last night's meeting the request of the present Mayor of the City and the Chairman of the old Commission, was considered and that may have been given out, but I would like to say as Secretary of the Committee that nothing has gone from the Government or gone from the Committee with regard to the matter.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Abbott gave notice of Question.

MR. COAKER.—I would like to ask the Minister in charge of the Department as to when the report of Dr. Keegan of the Hospital and Dr. Rendell who is in charge of the Tuberculosis campaign are going to be tabled. I understood they were tabled but on enquiring for them from the Clerk he informed me they were not tabled yet.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House an itemized statement, showing the expenditure of $761.00 on Telegraph Repairs at Brooklyn, 1915-16.

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

MR. WINSOR asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement, showing for what purpose the sum of $2,050.25 was paid to A. Morgan, under heading Lobster Propagation for years 1915-16.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES—I beg to table the information.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement giving the number of patients in Bonavista district that received medical treatment under public charity, 1914-15; names of patients; names of Doctors attending various patients; and amounts paid each Doctor for each patient attended to.

HON. COL. SECRETARY—I beg to table the general statement of expenditure of Public Charities. It will take some considerable time to get all the information the honourable member asks for, 1914-15, and perhaps the information he desires may be found in the statement tabled to-day. If he cannot find them in the general statement I would like him to give me something definite so that I can get the information from Mr. O'Dwyer.

MR. ABBOTT asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs if it is the intention of the Government to make provision this year for $300.00, salary for the keeper of Half-way House between Bonavista and Catalina.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I beg to say in reply that no provision has yet been made.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the amendments made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 'The Death Duties Acts, 1914-1916,'" were read a second time and concurred in; 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 sent down, without amendment.

SUPPLY.

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. LLOYD.—Yesterday when the Committee rose I was dealing with the Department of the Prime Minister. We look chiefly to the Prime Minister for the policy or want of policy of the Government and in this category I regard the fact that there is no provision for the Election, no arrangements for the taking of the Voters Lists and no expenditure forthcoming as primarily a default in duty on the part of the Prime Minister. I pointed out that in the Estimates for 1904 and 1908 preceding the General Election of those years provisions were made and although they may have been omitted in some Sessions which immediately preceded a General Election the taking of such Estimates was in accord with the usual constitutional practices inasmuch as the business of this House is to provide for the expenses of the forthcoming year and as this year, under the Act which governs this Assembly, a General Election is called for, because before the spring of 1918 the mandate of this House of Assembly will be exhausted and its functions fully performed and the House cannot exist next spring unless some legislative act is taken in this House by means of an Act to further extend the term of this Parliament. I have also intimated here and elsewhere that we shall oppose any bill intended to extend the life of this Assembly. We do not consent and will not consent to an extension but so far as in us lies we shall oppose any attempt to extend the term of this present parliament.

In dealing with the Department of the Prime Minister, I expressed the opinion that an adequate salary should be provided for the head of this Department and I considered that Departmental offices in Newfoundland are not adequately paid and I expressed further the opinion that it has been bad economy in the past and will be bad economy in the future to give inadequate salaries to heads of the various Departments because, naturally, these men will seek to supplement their income from other Government sources. Now, Sir, having reached that stage I intend to continue my remarks in reference to the duties of the Prime Minister as the Chief Adviser of the Governor-in-Council.

In connection with other Departments than that of the Prime Minister for instance the Department of the Colonial Secretary we have a special Act creating the Department and defining duties of the Department. The Act of the Department of the Marine and Fisheries defines the duties of that department, and the same remark applies to the Department of Justice, the Department of Finance and Customs and the Department of Agriculture and Mines. Strange to say the most important department of all, what should be and probably is the supervising and controlling department of the whole Government, is as yet without definition. We have no Departmental Act dealing with the department of the Prime Minister. The department is an exceedingly important one and the Legislature should

deal with it and define and set out the duties appertaining to it.

I make no complaint, Sir, that this was not done immediately that Department was established. It was instituted, if my memory serves me,for the first time, when the present leader of the Government came into power in 1909. I do not think before the honourable leader took charge that we had any vote in the Estimates such as we have to-day for the department of the Prime Minister. I think he did well in establishing the department. On that I congratulate him. In the past when the Prime Minister was head of another department he could not give that supervision and that attention to the general government of the Colony that was desirable. We have now had the advantage of some seven years experience in the working of this department and there surely should be abundant material for setting forth the duties of the Department as regards its relations with other Departments and with the Governor-in-Council, and the Colonial Office.

As far as I can gather there has never been even a statement in this House or elsewhere as to the particular duties of this Department or as to what the Prime Minister considers the duties of that Department should be. We know something of the efforts of the Prime Minister in connection with representing this Colony abroad on various occasions. He is following the example of his predecessors in office in assuming some of the duties of the Minister of Finance. He has done no more in the matter of going abroad to raise loans than his predecessor Sir Robert Bond, who as Colonial Secretary and as Prime Minister undertook the raising of loans. Again he has followed the example of his predecessors Sir William Whiteway and Sir Robert Bond in attending Conference in London.

Now, I take it, Sir, that while it is somewhat difficult to define the duties to be performed by the Prime Minister, the general duty of the Prime Minister is to co-ordinate the work of the Government and make co-operation possible. So important is the position of Prime Minister that the resignation of a Prime Minister of a Government entails the resignation of its whole Executive and as soon as the Prime Minister has resigned the whole Executive is gone and the Government is no more. While we have not had this Department defined or the duties of the office laid down in this we have but followed the example of the Home Country. Curiously enough it was only a few years back that any official recognition was given to the office of Prime Minister of England. The Prime Minister usually occupied some other position such as Lord President of the Council and officially he was known by this latter and subordinate office.

Now proper recognition has been given to the Prime Minister of England. I am mentioning this matter to show that the Prime Minister's department is a very important one and that it is the pivot on which the whole of the Government revolves. I have referred to the office of the Prime Minister as the general supervisor of the Government policy and Government action, and as such it is somewhat surprising to find that an old Parliamentary hand such as the present Premier should have allowed one of his colleagues, and one whom we all respect, to fall into the unfortunate position that he has fallen in, in accepting the appointment of Deputy Chief Censor. It is unfortunate that the Colonial Secretary did not receive better guidance and when it was found desirable on the part of the Prime Minister or the Government or the Governor in Council to appoint Mr. Bennett to this position,

action should have been taken to regularise the proceedings and put him in a proper relation with the House. I have no doubt that the Hon. the Colonial Secretary is sitting here in his seat to-day in contravention to the Placeman's Act, and I beg leave to draw the attention of the Government to this matter. I have no wish to embarrass the Colonial Secretary in reference to his seat in this House or his occupancy of the office of Deputy Chief Censor. If, after this appointment he had introduced a bill making it legal for the hon. gentleman to occupy his seat in this House and accept the emoluments for that office, we would have been fully prepared to vote for it. But it is very unfortunate that nearly three years have gone by and nothing has been done with regard to it. We were not aware that anything irregular had been done until the statement made by the hon. member the other day disclosed to us the true state of affairs. I would like to see this matter remedied. I would go further and say that I am prepared to vote for a remedied Act and have the position of the hon. member rectified. The Opposition have adopted and pledged themselves to aid the Government in war measures. That is still our attitude, but that does not debar me, but on the contrary rather determines me, to draw the attention of the House to irregularities and to ask the House to have this matter put right and the position of the hon. member indemnified and made legal.

I now pass to the supervision of the Prime Minister on appointments. When we were sitting in this House last year there were two vacancies that attracted considerable public attention, and the laxity of the Prime Minister in seeing these vacancies filled caused much comment. For a considerable time, from the date of the death of Mr. Browning, the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court was kept vacant. The office is an important one, the duties responsible, and the leaving of the office vacant causes much inconvenience. The cause of the nonfilling of the appointment was not anything that could be justified on public grounds, nor was it in the interests of the country; it was purely partizan. A particular member of the Government and of this House was looking for that appointment, and it was generally agreed by the Government that he should have it; but it was not considered advisable in the interests of his Party that the office should be filled and a vacancy created in Fortune Bay. On this order we were prepared, as it was war times, to deal, I think, I can say generously, with the Government in this matter; and we offered, if they would fill that vacancy and the vacancy in the Central District Court that we would not ask for bye-elections, but would let the two vacancies on the Government side of the House go against the two on this side so that there would be no Party advantage on one side or the other. Well, one office was filled. Mr. Emerson was appointed Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court shortly after the House closed last year, and subsequently received a full appointment; but the same scandal in connection with the Central District Court exists to-day which existed and has existed for a number of years. No appointment has yet been made. Everybody knows the reason. The vacancy is not kept there in the interests of the country or for any public purpose whatever. The reason is purely partisan—I don't think I would be wrong in saying a squalid Party dispute. This is not fair to the country. We have heard a good deal about Partizanship Run Mad, but the friends of the Party opposite should be the last in the world to throw stones. If anybody lives in the glass house of

partizanship, it is our friends opposite. It is not fair, I say, to the country; it is not fair to the city of St. John's that this position should be made a matter of party politics. Not only this session, but last session as well we offered to do anything we could to aid the Government to have that office filled. We have the extraordinary position of the Governor in Council (I don't think I can properly blame the Prime Minister for any act or part in what I am going to say now, as he was out of the country at the time, though I certainly can blame his department because the Prime Minister had a locum tenens) in order to keep the vacancy unfilled, appointing Judge Penney as a Magistrate for the Central District; we had the spectacle of that appointment being brought up in the Supreme Court, and the act of the Government in Council in issuing the commission declared illegal; and this spectacle was brought about because the Department which was supervising, or was supposed to be supervising, the affairs of the Government, had not thought fit to have the office filled in the proper manner.

Now Sir, these matters reflect adversely on the department of the Prime Minister, because if he has any function at all—and I admit that his function is not defined—it is the function of supervising the acts of the Governor in Council and seeing that they are proper and in accordance with law. What respect can we expect our people to have for our Magistrates or for the law itself if we have the Governor in Council ignoring and flouting the law. To-day,while in this House I picked up a newspaper which further illustrates this point. Here we have a column and a half of space given to the "Judgment in the Prohibition Case"—the somewhat famous Beef, Iron and Wine Case. There is a story attached to that judgment that does not reflect any credit whatever upon the Department of the Prime Minister as the general supervisor of the Government. If my memory serves me right (and at all events it is corroborated by the judgment signed by F. J. Morris, J.P.,) the sale of Beef, Iron and Wine is declared illegal under the Prohibition Act. The reason he sets forth, if I apprehend it rightly, is that Beef,Iron and Wine is not exempted under the general provisions of the Prohibition Law. Well, it might be said, why should it be exempted? Because it was the intention of this House that certain patent medicines should be exempted from the operations of that Act; there is no question about that; but it was found inconvenient for this House in Committee or at any other stage to make out the list of exemptions, and therefore this House commissioned the Governor in Council to do it. The Governor in Council did not make out any list, and now it is illegal to sell every patent medicine containing above two per cent. of alcohol. But it was not the intention of this House that this should be so. Every store on Water Street—almost all the big Department stores as well as the smaller stores—have been committing hundreds of illegal acts since the passing of the Prohibition Act; and now some unfortunate woman on a back street has been taken up and fined $100 for doing exactly the same as these stores on Water Street have been doing.

There is another matter concerning the Governor in Council that I would like to refer to. Considerable comment has been made concerning a large grant which was made to the District of St. George's—a grant of $10,000 as an emergency grant—which, according to the Auditor General, at the time he made his report, was not fully expended; something like $3,000 being left unex-

pended. I am not going to make any complaint on that score against the Governor in Council or the Leader of the Government. If circumstances arose in that district which called for action on the part of the Government, it was right that the Government should deal with it, and deal with it in a big way if the damages were big. Therefore, sir, I have no adverse remarks to make in reference to this action; but at the same time I should have liked the Governor in Council or the Leader of the Government to have been equally attentive to other districts. St. George's was not the only place where big wash-outs occurred last fall, and where great damage was done by storms and seas. And I find that while $10,000 was allocated to meet this disaster in St. George's, of which only $7,000 was needed up to the 31st of March, the other districts of the country had to meet their washouts by a grant of $4,000. **There were big washouts in Trinity** Bay, and until I saw this I was under the impression that the Government and the Board of Works had dealt handsomely with Trinity Bay. I wrote to the Board of Works and made representations, and asked the Board to send on these representations to the Governor in Council, and the Governor in Council responded, as I thought handsomely, because I never expected to see anything done and I was agreeably surprised when something was done. In fact, I can still say that outside of St. George's Trinity Bay probably fared better than any other District in the country in reference to this matter. Looking through the list of repairs to roads and bridges damaged by storms, I find that on Feb. 10th, a grant of $25 was given for a bridge at English Hr. I thought, well, the Government have done all they could. What was needed was considerably more. The bridge was simply patched up, but as all special grants had been exhausted I thought the Government had done its best; at Hillview, a grant of $40, at Chance Cove, $50; at New Chelsea, $60; at Cavendish $30; at Foster's Point $200, although I don't know exactly what that means; for bridge across river at Manuel's Bay; this money was returned, although I know the money was needed at all events; at Bellview, for bridge damaged by water $100; at Shoal Harbour, for securing timber for bridge, $300. Another $300 is needed there, as they haven't got any iron, nor have they any labor, and the whole thing has been standing for about six or eight months; Lancaster,damage by sea, $60; Chapel Arm, $50. At all events we got something, not very much. It is not adequate; the bulk of the roads and bridges that have been washed away have not been repaired yet, or anything like it.

We find that St. George's has been more fortunate, because not only has the claim been fully satisfied, but after some six months they have $3,000 to spare. Now,Sir, whatever the needs of St. George's, and I don't think there can be any doubt that they were exceedingly great, and that it was desirable that the Government should repair the roads and bridges and make good the damage without waiting for a grant from this House. I have one complaint, or rather suggestion, to make, and it is this—that the hand of the Government should be extended to the other districts in future in the same way help was afforded to the district of St. George's.

Speaking again on the matter of the supervision of the Prime Minister over the acts of Government, and referring to a matter which has been spoken about several times in this House, principally by Mr. Jennings, regarding the action at Thwart Island, I hope that we may have at an early date some further informa-

tion on the action of the Government in this matter. Our complaint on the matter is this, that whereas the company owning timber limits was prohibited under the Crown Lands Act from utilizing timber on Thwart Island for building schooners, the Government found that they were evading the Act by forming a new company, which had no limits. They should have taken action and prohibited the cutting of timber on Thwart Island, when the timber was needed by the fishermen of the locality. This is our complaint—that the Government was silent and took no action when they found that the law was being evaded and got over, and the intentions of the Act being frustrated by a device. It was the duty of the Government to see that the fishermen were protected. We have many complaints to make in connection with cutting on the three mile limit and in connection with the action of the Governor in Council, and to the want of proper supervision by the Prime Minister. For instance, we have, if my information is correct, the extraordinary attitude of the Government in reference to the provision of this House that there should be no exportation of pit props which were cut on the three-mile limit if the wood cut was green wood. There is no doubt that it was the intention of the House to prohibit wood being cut on the three mile limit and exported. The intention was to protect these limits and stop the cutting of green wood for pit props, yet the Governor in Council gives permission to cut such wood on the three mile limit. The Government itself was a conspirator with these folks in defeating and defying the law. It shows what respect can be expected for the law when such actions are perpetrated by the Government—when we have this House unanimously taking action to stop the export of wood cut green on the three mile limit and the Governor in Council giving permission for it to be cut for no other purpose than exportation. for it is not to be used in Newfoundland. And there are other matters. Last year this House dealt with the question of prices of pit props and prices for labor, and provided that the Governor in Council should appoint a commission to fix for the various localities the price of pit props and the price of labor. We were inclined to throw up our hats and think we had done something wonderful, and done it by the co-operation of both sides. But, when the measure received assent by the Governor, when it became an Act, it was all over. Some fourteen months have passed ,and one cutting season has gone, and what has been done? The Governor in Council has not even appointed the Board thereby reducing the action to a farce and making the Act ineffective. It was exactly the same with regard to prohibition. Exemptions were supposed to be made, but they were not made. And yet we expect this House and this Government to set an example to the people. How can we expect the people to be law abiding and orderly when the highest authorities in the country disregard the law?

The Export of Pit Props.

Now, sir, another matter, another glaring break of law on the part of the Governor in Council in connection with pit props. I am not charging this present action to Sir Edward Morris because he was absent from the country and therefore could have no act or part in it. This is in relation to the exportation of wood It has been the policy of this House for the past fourteen years to stop the exportation of certain classes of wood, on the ground that it is better to keep it here for manufacturing purposes.

The class of wood of which pit props form part should be kept for manufacturing purposes in Newfoundland. That was our policy and the policy of this and other administrations. When the war broke out the mining interests of Great Britain found themselves in great difficulties. Coal mining could hardly have been carried on unless pit props were obtained from sources from which it had not been obtained prior to the war. In mines, tunnels and cuttings have to be propped up by cross beams and uprights, so that the passages can can be kept clear for men to go back and forth and for the taking out of the coal. In many of the mining districts of England I have seen men crippled for life from the roofs of shafts falling in or the sides collapsing when the coal was being won; and in order to avoid these accidents the sides and roofs have to be well propped up with pit props. They are essential for carrying on coal mining, especially in the soft coal mines. This wood was mainly obtained from Finland, in Russia. Finland is on one side of the Baltic Sea; and when the war broke out the Germans took charge of the Straits which give entrance to the Baltic Sea and blocked the entrance to Finland; and it was found impossible to obtain pit props from that place.

And amongst the places to which the people needing this class of wood directed their attention was Newfoundland. Under the laws existing at that time it was illegal to export that class of wood, and in the first session following the war, in September, 1914, this House dealt with that matter and allowed the exportation of pit props to Great Britain. I am not certain whether it was also permitted to be exported to France, but France was included later. And this exportation was necessary, not alone to aid coal mining and the winning of coal for the supply of the fleet, but for the purpose of carrying on the industries of the country, particularly the munition factories. This was a very proper action on the part of the House. We were guarded in our action and only allowed it for a certain period, but the period was extended from time to time so that the work might go on.

Now what took place this year? Tonnage became scarce and a quantity of pit props remained unexported. A couple of gentlemen interested in the pit props wrote a letter to the Governor in Council and the correspondence was sent to me and I was asked to co-operate in allowing the export of these pit props to Canada and the United States, on the ground that they could not be sent across the water to Great Britain and France. I declined to co-operate and on three grounds: (1) The Proposed exportation to Canada and the United States was absolutely illegal and against the policy of Newfoundland. (2) If there was to be any change of policy the proper place to make it was by the Legislature that had made the law; and in that connection I pointed out that if the Legislature had been called together at the proper time as it should have been, this matter could have been dealt with by it. (3) On the ground that so far as I could find out the permission to export to the United States and Canada was not only illegal, but it was absolutely useless. If I am correctly informed, although there was a publication of that permission on the authority of the Governor in Council—the permission was absolutely useless. And the reason was this: Nobody would export them because it paid them better to keep the pit props and wait a chance of exportation to the other side of the Atlantic. The value of the wood in the United States and Canada was so low that it was not

worth while to pay the high freight rates and export the wood to these places. The Order in Council was rushed through as on the score that it was a matter of great urgency! It has been absolutely useless, except that it has shown the disposition and readiness of the Governor in Council to break laws when interests are concerned.

Now, Sir, there is a long list of improper actions on the part of the Governor in Council that shows a lack of proper supervision in connection with the department of the Prime Minister.

The Educational Question.

Turning now to another matter in which the Prime Minister has shown extraordinary interest, a matter in which his attitude has always met with appreciation from me because he has always been sympathetic with schools and school teachers, we come to the educational question. So far as I have had any knowledge of Sir Edward Morris his attitude towards education has always been friendly, mostly friendly. I can go back now some thirteen years to 1904. I had spent a number of years in England as well as in Newfoundland following the profession of school master, and I was greatly interested in educational questions, although at that time I was not directly concerned, but I realized the inadequacy of the grant for education. I took some part in an institution that had to do with education in this country—the C. E. Synod; and we asked the Government to take up the question of education seriously and to make a considerable increase in the grant in order that the work might be carried on better. I was not teaching then, but I was none the less interested in the movement. At that time Sir Edward Morris belonged to the same party with which I was associated, and at that time he was acting Prime Minister. I worked with him and I found his attitude sympathetic. He promised, on behalf of the Government, to recommend to the Legislature at the next Session that a considerable increase in the educational grant should be made. That Government was returned under Sir Robert Bond and this matter was dealt with. Since that time, and while Sir Edward has had an administration of his own, he has always been considerate in the matter of education and educational grants. That meed of praise I do not hesitate to give him from this side of the House. I do not hesitate to blame when I consider it necessary to criticize; nor do I hesitate to bestow praise, if you pardon me saying that, where it is justly due.

An effort has been made and is still being made to give a living wage to teachers. We on this side of the House readily co-operate in this effort. Some years ago a grant was made for the purpose of new buildings. This was a grant in the proper direction, and was a commendable effort on the part of Sir Edward Morris and his Government. Before that building grant was made it was the custom for many school districts where a school had to be repaired or a new school built to close down a school, turn out the teacher and save the salary and with the savings in salary build the new school. The new building grant permitted a building to be erected by loans from this grant without closing up the schools and turning the teachers out on the street. While commending the efforts that have been made by the Leader of the House on another question, I do this because it is election year. During the last election, one of the charges made against the party to which I was associated was that they were in favor of Godless schools.

That was absolutely untrue. No one on this side of the House, no one in the Liberal party, no one in the Union party, has even been in favor of Godless Schools. I have been associated with the Liberal party for a number of years and have yet to find men in that party who have spoken in favor of, or who were in favor of, the Godless Schools. So far as the control of education is concerned, we are in favor of denominational control.

We have no desire and it is not our policy and it never has been our policy to have any other control of education than denominational. But I wish to point out that there has been growing up for many years a spirit of co-operation between the denominations. The Council of Higher Education is not above criticism and I sometimes criticise it myself, yet one great work it has done, it has brought educational leaders of all denominations together to work together and co-operate one with another If it has done nothing else it has stimulated the spirit of co-operation between the denominational leaders, and the schools are thereby brought into co-operation though still under denominational control. All this is done with the fullest consent of the Ecclesiastical authorities of the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Church of England and other denominations. Now, Mr. Chairman, let me point out another thing which is well worth noting. We have three gentlemen occupying positions as denominational Superintendents of Education with assistants working with them. For years past these men have been co-operating, meeting among themselves almost weekly in the interest of education, and I would like to disabuse the minds of this House, and that of the Minister of Finance of an impression about the request for $3,000 for administration. He made the remark, quite properly of course, that if there was an economy needed it was surely in administration. It is an expression we all were glad to hear come from the Minister of the Customs' Department. He said only $1,000 had been allowed of the $3,000 asked because the Government thought economy should be practised in administration. Let me point out the position. The object of this request is this: to enable the Superintendents to be relieved of certain duties so that they might be able to co-operate in tackling problems they could not work out separately.

We want to see the Superintendents of Education out of their office more than they are. A lot of office work is being done by the Superintendents of Education which could be done by the Department of the Colonial Secretary and not by the Superintendents of Education,because it is merely clerical work anybody can do and it is not necessary to have men who are experts in education doing mere clerical work. I should like to see them relieved of many of these duties so that they could devote their whole time to more important work. While education is under denominational control, the spirit of co-operation has been manifesting itself; and as I said, this has been chiefly due to the Superintendents of Education. It has been said that they were out of their office recruiting and such like. If there is any blame for that, then, Mr. Chairman, I am one of the persons to blame, and I take the full share of the blame. I am one of the persons who invited these gentlemen to go through the country and this they did repeatedly in the interests of recruiting. These gentlemen have devoted themselves to this patriotic work because they knew the country better than anybody else. They have done a good work and a great work, and I do not think any other body of

men have done such good work in aid of recruiting as have these gentlemen.

I would also like to disabuse the minds of some folks at least on another matter. I have heard remarks made about these men and others who are doing recruiting work. It has been said that these and the other gentlemen have made a good thing out of recruiting. Let me say that these gentlemen have never been paid one cent salary for it. They have not made one cent out of it. They have received nothing but their out-of pocket expenses and they have put in vouchers for them. But there is a class of men who has been paid for recruiting, and I would like to know any person who would take exception to it. Naval Reservists back from the war, and wounded and sick soldiers have been out recruiting and have received their regular pay for the time they were away, and I think all will agree with the action of the recruiting committeemen in paying them. Who would take any exception to this?

Superintendents of Education have done great work in educating the people of the country on their duty as citizens, and giving them information connected with the war; showing them what folks in the other parts of the empire are doing and have been doing. Now Sir, I was speaking when I made this little diversion, on the matter of Denominational Control of education and the spirit of co-operation which has manifested itself among the three Superintendents, and this with the fullest sanction of the several denominational heads.

Let me point out some of the work that is being done that could not be done by one denomination alone. Take the School of Household Science here in this city. That is under the auspices of the three Superintendents. At present they are meeting from time to time on the matter of grading teachers uniformly. That is done under the auspices of the Churches and by the co-operation of the Superintendents. Let me point to another matter where money is needed. Next month there is to be a summer school for teachers who, when their schools are closed, are coming to St. John's to receive some training in their profession—in the art of teaching, and of conducting schools. That is being done, I understand, with the sanction of the Churches and under the active co-operation and management of the three Superintendents of Education. It will be conducted by a gentleman who was a member of this House one time and who is an authority on the training of teachers and the conduct of school, and I say without fear of contradiction that Doctor Arthur Barnes, to my mind, knows more about school teaching than any man in the country. He has been studying that matter ever since I knew him. Before he became a member of this House he was a Fellow of the College of Preceptors, London,one of the highest degrees to be obtained in connection with teaching and to-day he is a Doctor of Science and Art of Teaching and School Keeping and of Education of New York University. This summer school, under the sanction of the various Ecclesiastical Heads and the Superintendents of Education will be opened in July and continued for a month. The teachers who will attend are prepared to give up their vacations to get the benefit of this school.

Two expert educationalists will be brought from Canada. That is why the Superintendents are asking for extra administrative funds. There is no greater work can be done in connection with education than the training of teachers. In this matter we are lacking and I have been asking ever since I have been a member of

the House, something like thirteen years, that this matter be given greater attention. Now, if I am correctly informed, Sir, and I would like the Minister of Finance to correct me if I am wrong—this summer school is being conducted on funds raised by subscription and no money has been received from the Government to conduct it. I do not blame the Government for that; because the Government may know nothing about it; but I take this opportunity of directing the attention of the Prime Minister to the matter. His sympathy has always been in favour of education.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—The Government knew nothing about it. We never made any contribution because we were not asked. If we had been asked we would have been only too glad to contribute.

MR. LLOYD—I am pleased to hear the Prime Minister say that. I know he is always sympathetic when any appeal is made to him in connection with education. At present I am pointing out the co-operation that prevails amongst the various denominations in regard to education, and I think it is a most healthy sign. There is a matter in connection with which the Government has been criticized by members from this side of the House—that is the matter of night schools or continuation schools. I regret that nothing has been done in that regard. Some time ago when in conversation with the Governor he spoke of a Newfoundlander who had come back a first class petty officer in the Navy, and he said he knew many who were equal to this man, but had not obtained promotion to that rank in the Navy owing to the fact that they were unable to read and write. The same observation applies to the Army. It also applies to our civil life. Reading and writing and school education have their value. But there are many forms of education outside of school, and I have always contended we could do more if we directed the schools into channels of better training. Newfoundlanders are showing their ability in all parts of the world owing to what is looked on as a natural aptitude. I do not agree with this latter phrase. Newfoundlanders obtain a training that many other people do not get, and that brings out their mettle. It is the training they get in their homes and in their boats and in the woods that educates them and gives them ability. This is the education that is the secret of what is called "Natural aptitude." They do great work in the trenches. They are able to take the place of pioneers or engineers, because owing to the training they have received at home they can turn their hands to anything. They are handy men. It is the training they get from boyhood up that gives them this special ability. That is what most folks lack. Other folks get a bit of school education that is not one-tenth of the value of the training a Newfoundlander gets; but if on the other hand a Newfoundlander gets a school education in addition to his training, he becomes a man who can get a move on, and do something, and can become a Coaker.

We want to train the teachers so that they will know how to go about their work. That is what this summer school is for. Now, Sir, I contend that this matter of education, in which the Prime Minister takes such an interest, is of prime importance. If we give our boys and girls a proper education, our boys and girls will become the biggest asset Newfoundland can possess, and will make a Newfoundlander worthy of them.

There is another matter I wish to deal with in closing. That is the question of the war, and the question of the attitude of this side of the House. Long ago we expected the war to be over. Now we find that

the end of the war seems to recede further every day. We have a man who has probably greater sources of information than any other man outside of the War Office—Lord Northcliffe—who tells us he does not see the end of the war in sight for several years yet. This brings up the point of what the Government is going to do about the general election? Do you intend to put off the general election until the end of the war? Do you intend to hold on for another three or four years without reference to the people of the country. I have already expressed the opinion this session that if the Prime Minister and his colleagues are under the impression that the country is behind them in the attempt to put off the general election they will have a rude awakening. The awakening is beginning. As days go on the awakening will be ruder and bolder and plainer. Some folks criticize members on this side of the House, because we refused to discuss amalgamation a few weeks ago. May I point out, Sir, and challenge contradiction—that ever since the war started we have readily acquiesced, readily helped, readily co-operated in all war measures. We have shown all the time, and we have shown this session , a spirit of co-operation in reference to war measures. We have helped all we could in connection with anything that pertained to the war, and I want to fling back at those who would say, that on this side of the House we are all partizan, and that we think nothing of our country and are all for party. Mr. Coaker has referred to the editorial that appeared in the Advocate a few days before the war session of 1914. That article asked for a National Government. A few days ago we were told by the press representing the other side that we had turned down overtures made to us some little time ago, through partisanship, and that we had closed the door and bolted it.

It is true that on August 28th, 1914. in the first month of the war, an offer was made through the Advocate of amalgamation of the Opposition with the Government. It is true, too, that a few weeks ago, viz., on May 25th 1917, the Government asked the Opposition to discuss Coalition with them, and that the Opposition decided not to entertain the proposition. At first sight that may appear partisan-like on the part of the Opposition. 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, 1916. The Opposition closed the door only when it found there was no good purpose to be served by keeping it open any longer. For some two years and four months the Opposition was ready to meet the Government in the formation of a National Ministry. They were willing to sink all partisanship for the sake of the country, to help to promote the carrying on of the war and to solve the problems and surmount difficulties as they arise. The Opposition, however, was never ready to form a Coalition of such a nature as could be formed by a few minor Ministers vacating their offices in order that they might be offered to members of the Opposition party, and by a minority of seats in the Executive Council being offered to Opposition members who were not looking for offices. The Opposition wished to have a strong Government in which they could exercise influence and over which they could exact power for the National good. The Opposition wanted a new Government and a more vigorous policy. 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.

Last summer the Leader of the Opposition was willing to co-operate under Sir Edward Morris in the formation of a new Ministry, with not more than ten men in the Executive, of which five should be taken from the present Government members and five from the Opposition ranks. The principle advocated by the Opposition was that of numerical equality between the parties, both as regards Executive office and departmental appointments. This was our attitude. 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 1916 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 closed 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 fairly with us, and not drive the formation of a National Government until the term of the Assembly was almost over.

We knew that amalgamation of any kind or at any time or any terms was unpopular with our supporters, and that as the term of the Assembly drew nearer to its end, it would be increasingly difficult to satisfy our supporters that we had acted properly in agreeing to the formation of a National Government. We were willing to risk unpopularity, if the Government was willing to join at any reasonable time in the term of the Assembly in tackling the problems that were confronting the country. These matters I discussed freely with the fishermen of the North and I knew their feelings. If anything in the way of amalgamation was to be done it had not to be left to the last hours of a dying Government. We held on to the hope of a National Government as long as we possibly could. We were patient and considerate, and waited until the possibility of doing anything died out. We held on to the hope of doing something because we felt that a strong Government, backed by a large majority, was wanted to deal with such problems as food supply, price of food stuffs, and other necessities of life, importation and exportation problems, the war profit taxation, improvement of the railroad to put it in a condition to ease the tonnage question, recruiting and other national problems. 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 untackeld. 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 means of avoiding the facing of the electorate alone.

Certain newspapers which exerted all their influence to block the formation of a National Government last year are now blaming the Opposition for refusing to join the Government at the present term. One newspaper in particular is indignant with the Opposition because of its refusal to form a coalition now, was dead against an amalgamation last year. It was purely a question of a partisan holding on to printing. That was no spirit in which to meet us, but it affords a key to the delay of the Government in doing anything effective to form a new National Government. 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 beguiled into letting Estimates through and thus lost a proper opportunity of rousing the country against the postponement of elections. I have endeavoured to show that it was not any spirit of squalid partisanship that governed the Opposition in refusing to discuss amalgamation a few weeks ago. For nearly two and a half years the Opposition was ready to join in making a National Government on condition.

(1) Sir Edward Morris resign to get rid of the present Government.

(2) That a new Government be formed on the basis of equality between the parties, and last year that an election be held in the Fall and the national policy laid before the electorate and a new mandate obtained.

The problems facing us are such as would never be tackled thoroughly by any Government which had to face an election in the near future, and time would be needed to work them out. It was therefore most important that the National Government should have full opportunity of overcoming difficulties which will not end with the war, and therefore the Opposition insisted and insists still on a General Election, no matter whether there was a National Government or not.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Why should you appeal to the country?

MR. LLOYD—In order that we may get a mandate from the country on the national policy; in order that we can set before the country what we intend to do and ask them to send us back to do it. The trouble is this: The country has no confidence in you and you are afraid of doing anything that might lose for you what little confidence there is.

HON. MIN. FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—You will find that out at the proper time.

MR. LLOYD—All we ask is the chance of finding out. We don't want anything more, and if the country condemns us we will be quite satisfied.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Our policy is to save you from yourselves.

MR. LLOYD—Yes, your policy is to save us from ourselves, but the country's policy is to save the country from you.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Committee to page 8 of the estimates, dealing with old age pensions. There is an increase of $20,000, but while there is an increase, it seems that it is not sufficient to meet the claims of the whole country. I have been informed by Mr. Woods, of the Pensions Office, that there are 600 applicants for old age pensions at the present time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I don't think those figures can be correct, and I will tell the hon. member why. There are, according to the last census, about 1,900 old men (over age 75) in the country. There are 1,600 to-day who have pensions, and that would leave only 300 if everyone were eligible. But there are many men over 75 who are not eligible for a pension, and who don't need or want a pension.

MR. COAKER—There are a good many men under 75 who are getting these pensions.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I don't know of any. The rule is that their age must be certified.

MR. TARGETT—If that is the case there are only 300 or 390 men unprovided for; and it seems to me that the Government should have raised the amount to give the remainder of these men their pensions. I think the Prime Minister said that there were some who were not looking for pensions.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes.

MR. TARGETT—Why?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I do not know. They do not need it—the men are too comfortable. There are four or five men in the Upper House who are eligible. There are over 300 men in St. John's who have never applied and never will apply. If you add these 300 to the 1600 you will have 1900 men in Newfoundland over 75.

MR. LLOYD—There are 399 applications.

HON. MIN. FIN. AND CUSTOMS—We have applications from men who are only over 60 years of age.

MR. TARGETT—I know there is a lot of applications sent in from men who are not over 75, but still I do not think that all the men eligible for pensions have received them yet.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—You will find the number in this book.

MR. TARGETT—That does not satisfy me. I do not believe that all the people eligible are getting pensions.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—The Legislature has voted more money than is necessary to give every man over 75 a pension. There must be some under 75 who have pensions.

MR. TARGETT—In that case the law seems to be broken. If that is the case there is something unlawful going on. A poor woman has been fined recently for selling "beef, iron and wine" contrary to the Act; and if she is fined for violating the law, this Government should be punished for breaking all the laws they have broken. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he would see that the men who have received no pensions will receive them.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—The matter will receive early attention.

MR. TARGETT—I think in this section there is a fund for the Marine Disaster of $5,000. That is very good and very reasonable; but I think similar help should be given the fishermen, miners or loggers who have had accidents and become disabled. There are lots of these men disabled by accidents, and there is apparently no way of helping them, and the result is that they have to go about from house to house and get what they can to help them along. I think it would

be very nice indeed if the Government would find out some way of helping these men by pension for instance. I am not saying this by way of criticism but simply out of consideration for our poor fishermen, miners and loggers who have been incapacitated in their work. There are men of this class who have been maimed for life, and apparntly there is no provision for their assistance and no way of helping them. If the Government can afford to give old age pensions, it seems to me they should endeavor to help the men I refer to.

I now turn to the educational vote, which I am sorry to say is nothing like what it should be. When we come to think of our young boys and girls who have not had and cannot get the opportunity of education, it seems a very serious thing. In other countries there is free and compulsory education,—Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the Empire have this in force. But we have not got it in Newfoundland. I think, Sir, the time is ripe for such a system to be enforced in this country. I know of a number of cases where young men have gone to other countries and have made their mark as far as manual work is concerned, but when it comes to a question of education they failed, and had to go under. I believe the money could be found for this purpose, and that if things were handled properly and the authorities took an interest in the matter, things would be different. Our present condition speaks very poorly for Newfoundland. There is money found for men after their labour is past, and I have nothing to say against that; so far as it goes I have no doubt it is alright that they should get something to help them along in their old days when they cannot help themselves; but there are some cases where I do not think it is right to have men pensioned off. Men not past their labour have been pensioned, and they would not be past their labour for five or six or seven years; and some are not past their labour at the present time. It seems to me that in such a case it is waste of money. It is unfair to the pensioners and to the people who have to pay the taxes and to the country as well, to have a man who is doing his work and doing it well pensioned off for the sake of party politics, and to my mind it is a crying shame. I have referred to this before, and I trust the time will never come in the history of Newfoundland when a man will be pensioned off when he is well able to do his work. The present state of affairs reflects poorly on the party ruling this country. There has also been a pension given to the District of Trinity, but this, too is one which was not necessary, as the person receiving it was not disabled. I refer to the Magistrate at Old Perlican, who did not want to be pensioned, but who had to accept it because the Government wanted to make the position free to some one else. As I said before, it is unfair for a man to be pensioned off, and also unfair to the country, and I trust that the few words I have had to say on this subject will be productive of much good, and that in the future none will be pensioned except people whom it is necessary to pension.

To refer again, Mr. Chairman, to the Estimates before us. We have here in the Marine and Fisheries Dept. the estimates ior which wfll be found on page seven, three positions with these salaries, namely: Secretary Herring Fishery Board, $1,000; Cod Oil Inspector, $1,200; and Cod Liver Oil Inspector, $1,200. I cannot see why the last two named should have received last year an increase in salary of $200. It seems to me that $1,000 is about as much as either of them can earn. In fact I would go further and say I

cannot understand why we want a man to go around inspecting cod liver oil when it all comes to St. John's anyway. Why not have it inspected here? What is the good of his visiting the factories? Let us take as a case in point. Suppose the Inspector goes down to a factory to examine it. The proprietor probably learns in some way that he is coming, and so brushes up the factory a bit and puts everything in good order. Everything is in fine condition when the Inspector gets there, but that does not say that the oil will be made any better after as the result of his visit. The probabilities are that these factories will in the course of a day or so resume their former condition. If all the oil that is made in the outports comes on here to St. John's anyway I do not see why the Government should be paying twelve hundred dollars to have an inspector go around. The work could be done here much more cheaply and just as satisfactorily. There ought to be a better way to spend this money. I think, Mr. Chairman, that if some of this money could be devoted to education, and made to supplement the grant which we have been told this afternoon had been cut from $3,000 to $1,000, much more benefit would accrue to the country because of it. There is certainly a better way of spending money than that, and what better way could it be spent than in educating our young people? I may say, Sir, that I am very glad to see that there is as much attention given the matter of education as there is to-day, but there is still, Sir, I feel, a large number of children who have not the advantages, facilities and opportunities that in other places are so abundant, and I hope those in authority will try and do all in their power to help them out in this matter. I believe that there are to-day lots of children who should be educated, but who are not educated, and I hope whichever party is returned to power, whether it be the Liberal-Union party or the present Government party, will pay more attention, and still more attention, to the education of the young of our country. This is one of the most important things that can be attended to, for as has already been said here in this House, education is the one foundation for building up the country on. Nothing can be more beneficial to the country and nothing can make this country of ours better to live in, and I sincerely trust the greatest attention of all governments will be directed to this matter. I have been thinking, while Dr. Lloyd was speaking to-day with regard to this matter, that there has been a great improvement in educational work all over the country, but there are still places, Mr. Chairman, where better things should be done. In some places as soon as they get big enough they have to help at home, and as they have no chance to get to school or anybody to teach them if they could, they have to remain as they are. If, on the other hand, they did have a chance, they would probably turn out as well and as clever as the other children of the Island. I therefore trust that in the near future not only one part of the country, but every part of the country will get a chance of educating their children, and just as soon as that day comes, Newfoundland will enter on a better era.

Now the Prime Minister has said that the Government has broken the law several times.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I never stated any such thing.

MR. TARGETT—Well, some one did. If you did not say it, I did, and you did not contradict me.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I know I did not contradict you. If I had to contradict everything that was wrong in the statements made from that side of the House during

the past week, I would be here until September.

MR. TARGETT—Well, you should be here longer if your intentions are to prolong the life of the Government. I cannot see for myself any wonder why the Prime Minister and Government are not satisfied to face the electorate, because it seems to me that if they have been in the habit of breaking the law, they have reason to be afraid to face the electors of the country. It seems to me that is the reason more than anything else that they want to prolong the life of Parliament for a year or so longer. It seems to me from the papers to-day that there is quite an agitation for an election this year and it seems to me that if there is no election, it wiil mean something serious for someone. I hope that the Government will take the remarks that have been made by this side of the House with regard to the election seriously, and that a satisfactory decision will be arrived at. I think this would be a very opportune time for the Government to make known its decision, as it would give us the week end to consider the matter and determine our course for Monday. I hope, however, that the Government will grant our request.

MR. HICKMAN—Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the various speakers, and discovering a great many discrepancies in the estimates of the Government, I feel that it is my duty in the interest of my constituents to say a few words before the estimates go through. The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister said a few days ago that he was not prepared to make a statement with reference to the putting off of the election. As Mr. Targett has said, this would be a very good time to make his decision known to the House, so that we could know his decision on the matter. I think that it is due the House. We are here representing districts. Some of the members sitting on this side have been sent here with very large majorities, and I think that it is only right and proper that they should be given all the information and consideration possible from the Prime Minister and from that side of the House. If it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill into this House to prolong the life of Parliament, I think we should know it; and I do not see what difference it can make to the Prime Minister if he gives us that information now or at a little later date. The members on this side of the House certainly want to know the attitude of the Government. Personally, I do not see how the Prime Minister can even think of introducing a Bill into this House to prolong the session, because at the present time he has not a majority of the members elected to this House. He has a majority of those here.

Mr. Parsons 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.

VOLUNTEER FORCE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Continue in Force for a Further Period the Act 5, George V., Section 1, Cap. 4, entitled "An Act Respecting a Volunteer Force in this 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 pas sed 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.

NAVAL AND MILITARY WILLS BILL

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—There is one little question in reference to this matter. There is an impression abroad that the work of the Attorney General under this section should be part of his work, covered by his salary, and not, as may be done under this section, specially charged for. This might mean a big perquisite, $20.00 or so for each administration. This, is the impression.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I can only say that a year or two ago when this matter came up under the attention of the Government in relation to the intestate estates of Soldiers and Sailors, I wrote the Governor—I shall produce the letter next sitting—and suggested it be done free by the Department of Justice. There should be no fees whatever. It was to be done as part of the regular work of the Department.

MR. LLOYD.—Would it not be as well to make it quite clear.

MR. COAKER—I think it would be better to add that specifically. "The Attorney General shall receive nothing as remuneration." or some words to that effect would cover the whole thing.

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 it was ordered 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 until Monday the 25th inst., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, June 25th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the residents of Harbour Grace with reference to the use of water power for electricity. This petition is very largely signed by the public of Harbour Grace. I shall read it to the House.

(The honourable member here read the petition as being for charter for Public Service Electric Co., Ltd.)

I may say that the shipyard now under construction in Harbour Grace will need a lot of this juice to be supplied them in connection with their works besides what will be used by the people of Harbour Grace individually. Coal is now so high that the people are turning to some other source of heating and cooking and they consider if they could get this electricity it would be of great advantage to them. I beg to ask that this petition be referred to the proper Department.

MR. PARSONS—I beg to support the prayer of the petition presented by my colleague. I understand that the water powers referred to here are down in the direction of Heart's Content. I am sure that if this electricity can be generated and supplied to the people of Harbour Grace it will fill a long-felt want, because coal is now such a high price they will be able to use it for heating purposes. It will also be of great advantage to the people of Carbonear and parts of the District of Trinity.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, on your behalf, Sir, I beg to present a similar petition from the residents of Carbonear. It is signed by the principal residents of that place. They ask for a charter whereby this Company may use this power from Heart's Content; simply as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries pointed out, for heating and power purposes. I understand that the charter if granted will not interfere with the present rights of the United Towns Electrical Company. I have much pleasure in supporting the petition.

MR. LLOYD—I have a petition from Heart's Content dealing with the same subject and stating the object for which the water power is to be used, namely for heating and motive power. Apparently the object is not to compete in electric lighting with the existing plant, although this is not very clearly set forth. At any rate they state they want the electric for heating and motive power. I think the object is a most commendable one, and the sympathy of the House ought to be given to it. There can be no doubt, Sir, that Newfoundland's future, so far as industrial development is concerned, is largely dependent on the utilization of her water powers. We have abundant water powers that are running to waste which ought to be used for industrial development. I beg to refer this petition to the proper Department.

MR. CLIFT—I desire to say, Sir, that I am in sympathy with the prayer of the petition, and if later on there is a bill introduced, I shall support it.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill "Respecting the Public Service Electric Company, Limited."

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Grimes gave notice of question.

Mr. Winsor gave notice of question.

Mr. Hickman gave notice of question.

Mr. Abbott gave notice of question.

Mr. Abbott asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the Table of the House an itemized statement showing the expenditure of $1,293.27, 1915-16, entered as contingencies under Head XII. Postal Department.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—That information is being prepared.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the Table of the House a detailed statement showing the expenditure of $404.78 on Telegraph Repairs at Beaverton, also for what purpose the sum of $168.06 as special 1915-1916.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to table that.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the Table of the House a detailed statement, showing the expenditure of $599.36 on Telegraph Repairs at Burin 1915-1916.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to table that.

VOLUNTEER FORCE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Continue in Force for a further period the Act 5 George

V Session 1, Cap. 4, entitled 'An Act Respecting a Volunteer Force in this 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.

VOLUNTEERS AND RESERVISTS' WILLS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill as amended entitled "An Act Respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve." 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.

SUPPLY.

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. HICKMAN.—Mr. Chairman. I stated on Friday that the Premier had promised as the session advanced to make some statement in connection with the prolongation of Parliament. Now up to the present time no statement has been made and I therefore feel that it is my duty to say a few words in reference to it. Our outport people want an election and unless they get an election they will be very much dissatisfied and it is going to have a great effect on recruiting. Unless the people can have the right to say who shall have charge of public affairs they will not give their full services in any way for the help of the empire.

The Premier and his party have not the right to say that the life of the present Government shall be prolonged after the present session. They have not a majority in this House, or at least they do not represent a majority of the people and in the face of this fact alone I do not see how the Premier can begin to think of prolonging the Government without going to the peple. At the present time the voice of the people has a right to be heard on the floors of this Assembly. The way the Government has been conducted and the way in which the money has been spent, and taxes placed upon the people has made them much dissatisfied and they demand their right to say this fall who shall govern them and who shall not.

Very little of the money spent by the Government has been spent properly. Money has been spent—by public or private grant—in such a way that the people have not benefitted at all. One of the ways in which allocations have been improperly spent arises in cases of poor relief. You will sometimes find that the Relieving Officer is a man who does some kind of business, has a little shop and has goods for sale and the money they should be given for relief has to be taken in goods from his shop which of course makes the money in many cases 50% less. The Relieving Officer should be elected by the people the same as the members of the Road Boards and the money should be distributed in cash.

The Reid Railway System is another matter what should be dealt with. It is at the present time in such an unsafe state that travelling is quite dangerous. The sleepers are rotten and the rails unsafe in many places and still nothing is done by the Government to make things safer for the

public. It was pointed out the other day that nothing had been done in reference to the contracts not yet completed. The railroad in the Bay de Verde district which has been running two or three years has had no station agents appointed. Freight is thrown out and the people have to go and sort it out themselves and if anything is lost the Company will not hold themselves responsible. It has been thought that this was done for political reasons and that the appointments will be made on the eve of the election. If the Reid Co. has got to the point of engaging their employees on the recommendation of the Government, or members of the Government or members of this House, then I think it is high time that some other party were in power to handle this affair. The freight rates charged over the Reid lines are something to appal. I have not a list of the advances before me, but they were read to the House a few days ago, and the present rates on flour, beef and pork and other provisions are something terrible; and all this has been done without any protest from the Government so far as we can learn. If the Company under their contract have the right to charge exorbitant freight rates, then something should be done to compel a reduction, because this whole increase eventually comes out of the pockets of the fishermen; and the Government should certainly do everything possible to try and remedy anything that puts a burden upon the fishermen at a time when prices are so high.

Another matter requiring attention is the steam service on the various Bays. The steam subsidies paid the Reid Co. to-day are the same as these paid several years ago, though an inferior class of steamer is employed to do the work. The hon. member for Trinity pointed out the other day that the steamer plying on Trinity Bay was scarcely fitted for passengers to travel by; and there are other steamers which are not at all fitted for the service which they are expected to do. This applies particularly to the steamers on the Sydney-Port aux Basques route. The Government permitted the Reid Co. to sell the fine steamers which they had on that route and to substitute an older class of steamer, though the amount of the subsidy remains the same. I have looked over the Postmaster General's report and find that an effort is being made to improve that Department of the Government. And it is not a bit too soon. I think the Postal department has been one of the most badly conducted departments of the Government. I have known letters to be posted here in the general post office for points in Notre Dame Bay at which the steamers call which have taken 25 days to reach their destination. I have known letters to take twenty days to reach Fortune Bay; and as much as ten days to arrive at points in Bay de Verde district. Now, there must certainly be something radically wrong about the service when those things can happen in the summer months, when steamers are connecting regularly. There must be gross negligence either on the part of those in the Post Office who look after the mails, stamp them and send them out, or else on the part of those who take charge of them on the railway and the steamers.

The Telegraph Office, which is also under the Colonial Secretary's Department, needs attention, particularly in relation to cables across the Atlantic. I do not know whether the delay in the non-delivery of cables can be charged to the Postal department here or whether it is due to negligence on the part of the Commercial Cable Co. over whose lines the messages are sent, but in any case the matter should be investigated. I have known

cables sent since the war started which were never delivered; and I have also known cables sent over the Commercial Cable Company's lines which were delivered several days after cables sent at the same time over the Anglo American Telegraph Co"s lines, which would seem to show that there is not the same service and attention on the part of the Commercial Cable Co. as on the part of the Anglo. Now, the Government should investigate this matter and if an efficient service cannot be obtained from the Commercial Cable Co's system, then they should try some other.

Then, again, the Government is not taking sufficient interest in the growing of vegetables and other necessary articles. The Department of Agriculture and Mines should be taking a great interest in this matter this year, when prices are so high, and it is so necessary that our people have some cheap food supply. If the Government had used the agricultural grant, (increased, if necessary), for the purpose of educating our people in this connection, it would have been a great boon to the country.

In reference to the Department of Marine and Fisheries I think they might also have made greater efforts to urge the people to prosecute the fisheries, as they did in Canada. No doubt the greater part of our people are prosecuting the fishery, but at the same time no effort at all has been made by the Government to encourage the people to prosecute the fishery.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—In what way? By sending out circulars?

MR. HICKMAN—That might be one of the ways. Passing on to the commission appointed to investigate the high cost of living, I might say that so far as I can learn no good has come out of the investigation. It has been proven that large profits have been made on provisions, particularly on flour, and while we can scarcely blame anyone for making the profit, the Government should have put the importers in such a position that they would not have been able to make so much. If the Government had stepped in last August and appointed a commission to investigate the situation, large quantities of flour could have been imported at from $6.75 to $7.00 a barrel, as that was the price at that time c.i.f St. John's. If the Government had then taken the trouble to find out the needs of the country for twelve months from that date they could easly have purchased sufficient quantities of flour to carry the people through, and they could have imported the flour really without investing any money, because flour generally comes c.i.f., and could have been paid for on arrival. Then the flour could have been passed over to the jobbers, who could have paid for it and sold it to the consumer at a small profit, which would have satisfied everybody and helped the laborer and fisherman to get cheaper food. We generally talk of fishermen when we refer to the poor people, but I think the fisherman is not so badly off as the laborer in the city. Take the ordinary day laborer who makes twenty cents an hour, and earns about twelve dollars a week if he gets full time. Out of this he has to pay, say, $15 a barrel for flour, $13 to $14 a ton for coal, house rent, and has to keep a family, so you can see how that man must live. The Government should do everything in their power to protect that class of men. The outport people generally have their gardens and can raise some vegetables, but the laborer in St. John's is in a worse condition. The high rates of freight on goods coming in and produce going out are certainly keeping up the price of commodities and keeping down the rate of produce. If we had to depend

on certain steamers that come regularly to this port to take away our produce, we would certainly not be able to pay much to the fishermen after paying the freight, and as I said the other day, it is the duty of the Government to regulate freight rates inconnection with any line of steamers that ply between this port and any other port. The companies should be compelled to charge not over certain rates of freight, and if they do not then care to continue the service, the Government should purchase the steamers, which they should have done a couple of years ago. Just to give an idea of the difference in the rates of codfish when the war started and at the present time. When the war started, a cask of fish containing four quintals cost $2.50 to Italy. The rate of freight given out on Friday was $48.50. So I say, if we had to depend on the steamers running to this port to take away our produce,by the time other expenses would be paid there would be very little for the man who catches it. The rates of freight have been advanced by a certain line since about six months after the war started. The fish had to be transhipped, but the transhipping line had not advanced their rates at all, we found on enquiry, and all the increase was going to the steamers coming to this port. The same thing applies, of course, in reference to imports, and while the rates have not gone up in the same proportion as those on exports, still the rate is exorbitant, and something should be done, because there is no knowing what a corporation will do when it is not prevented from doing as it will. If I were sitting on the Government side I would not tolerate it. I would demand an investigation or else resign my seat. As I said before, the Government should have stepped in last year and bought up provisions. Last winter in New York when the prices of provisions advanced the consumers appealed to the Government and had a demonstration against the high cost of living. The Government did not appoint a commission to investigate the high cost of living, but immediately appointed somebody to go out and buy food, and hundreds of tons of food were bought. Everything that was any way cheap in the market was bought up by the Government and given over to the jobber or retailer, with a price put on it. Hundreds of boxes of fish were imported from Canada and people went around the east side and sold the fish at cost. They also sold peas and beans and every kind of food that the Government could get to tide the people over. This is the only way that anything beneficial can be done—by going out and finding out what you can buy and how cheaply you can buy it. In looking over the estimates, referring to the Department of Justice, I note that there has been a great deal of comment and gossip in reference to the Police Department, or the Inspector General of Police. Some private citizens have been named as applicants for this office, and so far as we know up to the present time no appointment has been made. I would consider it very unfair to the Police Department if that position were not filled by a man who had risen from the ranks. If you want an efficient police service you will have to give encouragement to men that join the force, and when there is a vacancy the next man on the list should have it, and they should be promoted according to their positions. That is the only fair and just way of treating the police and doing justice to the departments.

Referring to the Deputy heads of departments. I notice that some of the deputy heads are paid higher salaries than others. The Deputy Colonial Secretary gets $1600; the Depu-

ty Minister of Justice gets $2,000; the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines $1200; the Deputy Minister of Finance $1500. I do not know why there is such a vast difference in the salaries of deputy heads of these departments particularly between the Colonial Secretary's department and the department of Justice. The Deputy Colonial Secretary receives $1600 He is a very capable official, handles a lot of work and I should think is well entitled to $2000 a year as well as the Deputy Minister of Justice. There is a position in the department of the Finance and Customs, viz the position of sub-Collector of Customs. This is a position that requires a man of good sound judgment and great ability; and he receives a salary of only $1800 a year. There are other clerks in the department of Customs whose positions are important but who do not receive salaries as good as those paid lesser officials. I notice that a tidewaiter gets $600 a year. In addition to this he has the opportunity of making overtime and so increasing his income.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—They do not get anything for overtime.

MR. HICKMAN.—I was informed they did.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—No.

MR. HICKMAN.—In referring to this my object was to call attention to clerks in the Longroom who have been there for a good many years and who understand their business and have very considerable clerical work to do, but who receive very little more salary than tidewaiters. I was under the impression that tidewaiters made overtime and really made more salary than the clerks in the Longroom. One great drawback in the Government of this country is the laws in reference to the department of Agriculture and Mines. That department will give a mining claim or grant of land to any one who applies for same at the small cost of $10 or $12 per claim. When there is a report or sign of minerals the claim as a rule is taken up. When the capitalist comes in, if he finds that it is worth investigating, he is handicapped by the price asked by the owners of the claim. I think that if you want to encourage the development of the country, there should be different rules and regulations with reference to this department, so that minerals or mineral claims would not be tied up so as to prevent capitalists investing their money. What we want is our country to be developed. You certainly cannot expect any result to take place while capitalists are prevented from coming. Newfoundland must be full of mineral, and all it wants is money to survey it and to see what it contains. Bell Island was offered on the market for years and no one was interested enough to even make a prospect. Finally when a prospect was made it was discovered that it was a bed of ore. It could have been prospected earlier but the previous holders asked such a price as prevented capital coming in; but when they discovered that no one would invest his money, they came down to a low figure which induced some people of means to make a prospect—with the present result. There must be other places in Newfoundland equally as good; and mineral today is invaluable. Every industry that can be started in the country will certainly bring in money; and that is what we need—money and population. The country at the present time is in too good a condition for us to consider confederation. The value of our fisheries is great; I suppose at the present time we have a million dollars worth of fish caught since the first of March; and the outlook for the future is good. If we can induce

some wealthy capitalist to prospect our mineral areas and develop our timber areas, I think Newfoundland would be in a position to maintain her independence for all time. There should be some encouragement given to the packing of fish, in different ways. I refer now to the tinned fish, boneless fish and fish put up in packages in the same way as in the United States. Gloucester buyers come here buying our green fish, take it away, pay freight and insurance on it and employ all the labor in connection with the packing of it in the United States; whereas all that can be done here. We could increase the value of the product and give labor to our people; but at the present time there is such a duty on this class of fish going into the United States as makes it an impossibility for us to have it packed here. If the Government could see its way clear to go into the matter I feel quite sure that a bounty or bonus of some kind for fish put up other than in the usual way would encourage the people to develop this industry. Encouragement is what induces the people to operate. Take the building of vessels. Since the bounty has been increased this industry has become quite important, and I feel sure that if there was some inducement for our people to put up fish in packages the industry would increase and the value of the product go up. It would also relieve the markets of that fish, which would also increase the value. It looks to me that it would be very much more commendable if the Government considered bonuses to encourage the people on a matter of this kind than to encourage industries like the Woollen Mills or the Knitting Mills. Another thing this Government should take into consideration, and it is far more important than it appears on the face of it. That is the encouragement of the building of an hotel. The hotels that are here are not adequate to meet the requirements of people coming to this country, and a good hotel would, I believe, encourage travellers to come here, for before travellers come, particularly men of wealth, they must be able to spend money. The country would be benefitted and the revenue would be benefitted. Take the city of Quebec. Some years ago the city of Quebec was not a very important town, but the C.P.R. people built a large hotel there. When they were building it, it was said that they were throwing away their money, and that the building would never pay, but now it is always crowded, and it has in a great way built up the city of Quebec. Therefore I believe that a good hotel in St. John's would bring in a great many of those who do not now come here. A matter of this kind should have the attention of the Government, and it would surely pay back any guarantee by an increased revenue. If the Government should encourage such a plan as this, I consider that the money invested will be money well invested, and I believe this is one of the ways in which the revenue could be increased.

Reference was made a few days ago to Trade Agents. The policy of the Government was to appoint Trade Agents or Trade Commissioners for the different countries, but particularly in the countries where our produce is sold. Up to the present time nothing whatever has been done. I do not think that much will be done, as all the markets are exploited by those who have produce for sale, but at the same time it was the policy of the Government, for their own purposes, I do not know why except for election purpoess, to put commissioners in the different countries, and they certainly should have carried out their promises to the people, as something very great was expected where nothing de-

veloped. Mr. Moulton, I understand, got as far as New York, but could not get any money from the Government, so could not go further. Mr. Coaker in referring to this matter a few days ago said we should encourage the bank fishery. I believe we should, although at the present time this industry is so successful that there is no necessity to contribute anything toward its maintenance, but we should give every possible encouragement we can to the bank fishery, as it is the nursery of our seamen. We should take great care that this fishery is not diminished, and if in the future it is necessary to encourage the fishery, it should be done. At the present time if you want a skipper or a seaman to cross the Atlantic, particularly to go west of the United States in the winter time, you have to look for them from the West Coast, men who have been in the bank fishery. That shows that seamen are being developed as a result of it, and thereof we should develop it. There is one thing, however, which should not be encouraged, and that is steam trawling. If there is ever to be steam trawling introduced into this country, we should discourage it as much as possible, as it will do away with both trawl and trap fishing, and will confine the business of the country to the few who can afford to invest money in steam trawling.

There are two departments of the Government not represented in this House. The Minister of Agriculture and Mines and the Minister of Justice. These departments should certainly be represented by members of the House of Assembly, and they should have their places upon the floors of this Assembly. I do not understand why a man can sit in a position of that kind after being turned down by the electorate, and further I cannot see how the Government could appoint people to that position who have been refused by the electorate of the country. This matter has been brought up a great number of times, but without effect. But I certainly think the Government should take this matter into consideration, as it puts a very strange appearance upon the members of the Government, as it makes it appear that they cannot find members out of their ranks to fill these departments, but have to take men who were defeated in the last election.

In reference to pensions, I notice that there are a great many pensions for Government officials. A great many of these officials have been pensioned not because they are unable to perform their duties, but because there has been some misunderstanding or some disagreement between politicians and the officials referred to. I know of several officials receiving a pension who are well able to perform their duties, and so far as they are concerned themselves they would rather not receive a pension but perform their work and their full duties. This is one thing that is certainly a waste of Government monies and a waste of taxes; but particularly when the retirement is against the will of the pensioner. This is how the money is squandered, and it should not be tolerated. Besides, there are officials, particularly in the outports, who have not very much work to do, who could be utilized by the Government in their districts. Magistrates, policemen and sub-collectors in certain outports have very little to do.

They should be called upon to give daily statistics of the fishery, similar to what they have in Norway. In this country we have nothing whatever and nobody knows how many quintals of fish are landed or how many barrels of herring are caught, except you get it by correspondence from someone you are connected with Authentic information cannot be got and be-

cause of this prices are kept down. If we have a small catch of fish and know it and know how much the markets can consume, we can afford to pay a fair price that would hold through the summer. Whereas when we cannot ascertain what the fishery is, very often the estimated catch is very large and the price falls and sometimes later we find that the catch is not so large, that the markets are able to consume it, and the price advances. The fishermen by this time of course, have lost a good deal of the value of their fish. That is why I say Government employees in the outports, who have not much to do, ought be compelled to furnish statistics of the dfferent kinds of fish caught.

Dr. Lloyd in his remarks a few days ago stated that many Government positions as heads of Departments ought to be paid proper salaries. 1 quite agree with Dr. Lloyd in that. If you want a good man you should pay him a proper salary and we ought to have good men in charge of these Departments. A man in the Government employ should be paid a good salary as well as a man employed by a private corporation, and I would have no hesitation in voting a Government official, no difference what his position is, a suitable salary, but I would not encourage putting two or three men in a Government position to do one man's work and then only half paying each. 1 trust that the Premier will give us some statement of what he intends doing in the near future If it is his wish and the wish of his party to prolong this House, 1 think it is only right that he should tell us so, and I hope that a statement will be forthcoming in the near future.

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Chairman, I really thought that after the criticism offered last evening by the Leader of the Opposition we would have some observations this afternoon from the Leader of the Government. I think that the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in connections with the actions of the Government and particularly with regard to their sins of omission during their term of office were worthy of some reply. I do not think that it is fair for the Government to expect us to do all the talking while they are making up their minds whether we shall have a general election or not. If we had some remarks from the other side of the House it would give more interest to the discussion. The Government has been said to be a Government of shirkers. I hope they will not shirk their responsibility in this respect and keep us marking time while they are making up their minds. Mr. Chairman, I have something more to do than marking time and I am glad this opportunity is afforded me to bring to the notice of the Premier and the Colonial Secretary a matter which is worthy of more than passing notice and which is of great public importance, particularly to the interest of my own district. The matter has been under the consideration of the Government or is supposed to be under the consideration of the Government ever since 1913. What was promised to be done then is still in abeyance. This lack of attention has been of great loss, inconvenience and perhaps suffering to a great number of people. If the Government has shirked its responsibilities in this particular I feel sure that they will not do it further now that I shall have brought it again to the consideration of the Premier and the Colonial Secretary. It is not necessary to say any more in introducing the subject as I am sure the Colonial Secertary is already aware of what I am referring to. The matter which is so strongly on my mind and which I now refer to is the extension of the telegraph

from Carmanville to Musgrave Harbor in the District of Fogo. I do not think the importance of this has been fully realized by the Premier or the Colonial Secretary, or it would have been attended to. I know that when a matter is brought to the attention of the Premier in such a way that he realizes its importance, he causes action to be taken without any delay. I have been asked why I did not call on the Premier and talk this matter over with him personally—why I did not use a little molasses? Unfortunately, I cannot do things in that way. I will discuss the matter publicly as well as I know how and set forth its importance as best I can and there let it rest. I cannot get down on my knees to beg for favours. Now, Mr. Chairman, so that the Premier may know the importance of this and so that I can draw the attention of the Committee I propose to read the correspondence dealing with the matter from August 29th, 1914, to date:

Sir,—I beg to forward you herewith letter under date 27th inst., from the Prime Minister, covering communication from Mr. Heber Harnett, of Carmanville, in relation to the necessity of a telegraph office being established at that place. Last fall some wire was sent down to Carmanville, presumably for the building of that line. However, I shall be glad if you will kindly ask Mr. Stott to make an estimate of the cost of erection which I will submit to the Executive Government.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JOHN R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. J. B. Woods,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
St. John's, Nfld.
September 8th., 1914.

Sir,—I beg to enclose an estimate submitted by Mr. Stott of the cost of extending the Telegraph line from Musgrave Harbor to Carmanville.

It would be a heavy outlay which would bring back a very small return under the present circumstances.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) H. J. B. WOODS,
Postmaster General

Hon. J. R. Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

Nfld. Postal Telegraph,
Superintendent's Office,
St. John's, Nfld.,
Sept. 7th, 1914.

Hon. H.J.B. Woods, P.M.G.,

Sir,—Proposed extension, Musgrave Harbor to Carmanville. The distance is 15 miles, no road but path cut most of the way. We will have heavy wood cutting, which is expensive work, but poles can be had all along. I estimate the construction at

$90 per mile	$1,350.00
Office Outfit	30.00
Installation	25.00
Total	$1,405.00

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) DAVID STOTT,
Superintendent.

General Post Office,
St. John's, Nfld.
16 November, 1914.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that last year it was proposed to extend the telegraph line from Musgrave Hr. to Ladle Cove and Carmanville.

The wire and fixtures for this work were sent to the district and some of it is now stored at Ladle Cove.

Mr. Thomas Wellon of Ladle Cove called to ask that some arrangements be made to have this work done and I asked him to give me a figure, what he would undertake to cut the poles and place them in position from Ladle Cove to Musgrave Hr., which he estimates is about five miles. At 50 poles to the mile this would take 250 poles and he is willing to have these cut and erected for the sum of 75 cts. per pole. The cost for the erection of the poles would therefore be $187.50.

I would therefore recommend that his offer be accepted and authority be given Mr. Wellon to cut the poles this winter and erect them the first thing in the spring.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
(Sgd.) H. J. B. WOODS,
Postmaster General

Hon. John R. Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

General Post Office,
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Sir,—As you are no doubt aware there is stored at Ladle Cove wire and insulators for the proposed telephone line from Musgrave to Ladle Cove, a distance of about five miles.

Following up my conversation with your secretary, Mr. Campbell, I beg to propose that I will cut and erect the necessary poles to connect the post office at Musgrave with Ladle Cove for the sum of 75 cents per pole. The Government to send a man to put the wires on the poles and the two telephones for both places.

If this be acceptable and my offer accepted I will have the poles cut this winter and erect the first thing in the spring. Please let me know what dimensions the poles must be. My offer is for poles similar to those now used for Postal Telegraphs in other places.

I am, yours truly,
(Sgd.) THOMAS WELLON, J.P.

Hon. H. J. B. Woods,
Postmaster General.

Dept. of Colonial Secy.,
St. John's, Nfld.,
May 6, 1915.

Sir,—I shall be glad if you will kindly let me have the facts in relation to the wire that was sent down to Carmanville in 1913 for the erection of a telegraph line to that place. Please let me know whether the wire is there now, and also what would be the cost for the extension from your nearest office to Carmanville.

I have, etc.,
(Sgd.) JOHN R. BENNETT.
Colonial Secretary.

D. Stott, Esq.
Superintendent Postal Tel.

Nfld. Postal Telegraphs,
Superintendent's Office,
St. John's, Nfld.,
May 7th., 1915.

Hon. J. R. Bennett,
Colonial Secretary.

Sir,—On October 2|13 I had instructions to build, and, on Oct. 14th, by request of Mr. H. F. Fitzgerald I forwarded per schooner Dove. Hicks master, wire &c., for 15 miles of line. There was no estimate asked for. All our construction work was stopped on the 18th and nothing was done that year.

On September 1|14 the Postmaster General asked me for "An estimate of what it will cost to build the line and open an office at Carmanville for the information of the Government." I replied on September 7|14, estimating the connection at $1,455.00.

Nothing has since been done, but

the wire is still there and the estimate will hold good if approved.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) DAVID STOTT.

Superintendent.

St. John's,

May 31st., 1916.

Dear Sir,—You will remember that I had the pleasure of a conversation with you while the House was in session re the Extension of the Telegraph Line from Gander Bay to Musgrave Harbor via Carmanville and Ladle Cove. As you are aware the wires have been stored at Carmanville and Ladle Cove since the Fall of 1913. I think the Government has to pay the sum of something like $40.00 annually for the storage of same. This amount would pay interest on $1333.32 at 3 per cent. or $1000.00 at 4 per cent., and I understand that $1000.00 would go a long way in erecting the wires in that locality, as the poles can be procured very cheaply. The cost for cutting would be small and for freighting practically nil.

The communities named are growing in population and are rapidly increasing in commercial importance. Still they are cut off from the modern and to most people now the necessary means of doing business. Again from a humane standpoint, these people are very often left in a most wretched and pitiable condition. I refer now to cases of sickness. The nearest doctor to these places resides at Musgrave Harbor, Doctor Whiteway, and he has written me to say that if there were telephone or telegraph connection with Ladle Cove and Carmanville it would be the means of lessening a great deal of suffering, for he would have the means of knowing in a very short time when his services were required, but it takes twice as long. The people from these places have to travel in boat summer time and overland in winter time to make known their needs, whereas if they could inform the Doctor by wire very often he would be at their homes before they reach Musgrave Harbor, and often when they do reach Musgrave Harbor they find the Doctor is away attending to some other sick case in some part of his jurisdiction, and they have no means of finding out just where he is. You will certainly agree with me that this condition of things should no longer exist in the age of humane treatment of the sick, and when every means is used to lessen suffering and sickness. We are sparing no expense to safeguard the lives of those of our people who do business on the sea. Our ships must be equipped with wireless telegraphy. Still on the land people are in no less danger of dying as a result of no means of telegraph communication, and we are either too blind or too careless to see it. I trust that the Government will no longer treat this matter which is so serious and vital to the well being of our people as a political football, to be pumped full of air in the fall of 1917 and again kicked into view with the hope of catching a few votes. It is too contemptible, especially when people suffer as a consequence.

I trust you will give this matter your earnest and valued consideration as the gravity and importance of the circumstances demand.

I am, yours truly,

W. W. HALFYARD.

H. J. B. Woods,

Postmaster General.

December 5th., 1916.

Sir,—Mr. W. W. Halfyard, M.H.A. has called upon me to urge the completion of the line, or at least a section thereof,

In October 1913 the wire was sent down and is still there. Forty coils are at Carmanville in care of Mr. Hicks. Twenty are at Ladle Cove Since 1913 the sum of $20 has been paid each year to Mr. Hicks for storage. No payment has yet been paid to Mr. Wellon at Ladle Cove. Doubtless that will be demanded in due course. Sixty coils represent 15 miles of wire, and are sufficient to complete the line.

On September 7th., 1914, presumably consequent to a letter from Superintendent of date May 7th., an estimate of total cost was submitted That estimate was as follows:

Construction, 15 miles at $90	$1,350.00
Office Outfit	30.00
Installation	25.00
	$1,405.00

The estimate in view of the present location of the wire, is likely to be approximately accurate next year. It will certainly not be reduced.

Since Mr. Stott's estimate was submitted over two years ago, nothing has been done, and it is of course impossible to do more than have the poles cut during the winter, when the work might be undertaken in the spring.

Considered solely from a business standpoint it is improbable that the line would prove a financially paying proposition. It would however pay as well and probably better than many similar sections whilst to the public the advantage gained would far outweigh the loss. The population served would number about 600 or 700 people.

I would make the following alternative recommendation:—

(a) That the line from Musgrave Harbour to Carmanville be proceeded with in the Spring and the Superintendent be authorized to make arrangements for the supply of poles in accordance with the proper specifications.

(b) Or that a line be built in the Spring from Musgrave Harbour to Ladle Cove, a distance of five miles

(c) Or that the wire stored be returned to St. John's at the first opportunity and the line definitely abandoned.

In view of the Government's decision four years ago to build the line and the fact that there are sixty coils of wire—15 miles—on the spot, the first recommendation seems to me the best, whilst the last is preferable only to keeping fifteen miles of wire lying unemployed at a yearly rental for storage.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J. ALEX. ROBINSON,

Postmaster General

Hon. J. R. Bennett,

Colonial Secretary.

MR. HALFYARD—To show that the people of Fogo District have taken this matter very seriously and have given it a great deal of consideration. I will read the following letter which is dated the 19th of January 1917 and resolutions passed by the Fogo District Council of the F. P. U.

January 19, 1917.

Dear Sir,—I am enclosing for your consideration copies of resolutions, re the Extension of the Telegraph wires from Gander Bay to Musgrave Harbour via Carmanville and Ladle Cove, and the salary of the Ferryman at Change Islands. These resolutions were unanimously passed at the recent meeting of the Fogo District Council of the F. P. U. which meeting was made up of Delegates from all parts of the district.

Doesn't it seem strange economy to you for the Government to be paying

an annual storage of $40.00 for a few bundles of wire.

The doctor at Musgrave Harbour wrote me last winter and pointed out that telephone or telegraph communication with Carmanville and Ladle Cove, would save a lot of suffering and probably prevent the loss of life.

The people residing at the places mentioned are depending upon the services of the Doctor at Musgrave Hr. Now parties have to travel by land or water to Musgrave Hr. for a doctor. It has happened that when the parties reached Musgrave Harbor, it was only to find that the doctor was at some other place attending a sick case. Days elapse before the doctor is located and reach the patients, and then perhaps to find that he is too late to save life. Whereas by telegraph communication, the doctor could be notified and would reach the patient in the same time it would take the parties to reach Musgrave Harbour.

Re the salary of the Ferryman at Charge Islands, the resolution speaks for itself. As you are aware, I have in the House of Assembly spoken as strongly as I could on the matter for the past three sessions, still nothing has been done. I quite appreciate your position as Premier with your multitudinous engagements, and feel quite sure now that I have brought the matter to your attention that something will be done at once.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. HALFYARD.

Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris,
Premier.

Copy of Resolution Adopted by the Fogo District Council of the F.P.U. at Catalina, December 7th., 1916.

The following resolution was proposed by Thomas West and seconded by J. A. Parsons and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Government in the Fall of 1913, just previous to the General Election, sent telegraph wires to Carmanville and Ladle Cove.

AND WHEREAS, the people of this section of the District were promised at the time that the wires would be erected during the next few months and a Telegraph office opened at Carmanville and a telegraph or telephone office opened at Ladle Cove, to link up Gander Bay via Carmanville and Ladle Cove with Musgrave Harbor with telegraph communication.

AND WHEREAS, the wires are now over three years lying at Carmanville and Ladle Cove, for which the Government pays an annual storage of $40.00.

AND WHEREAS, this section of the District is increasing in popurlation and is fast becoming one of the most important fishery and business centers in the country, still by having only a weekly mail service, monetary loss, inconvenience and in many cases hardship and even loss of life have been the consequent result of not being able to communicate quickly with the doctors who reside in other sections of the District.

AND WHEREAS, the Government give as a reason for their inactivity "The finance of the Country will not admit of such expenditure." we beg to point out that the $40.00 which are now paid for storage would pay interest at 4 per cent. on $1000.00, which amount would pay for erection of the wires and leave a balance to help build telegraph offices.

RESOLVED, That this District Council in Session convened request the Government to take into consideration the deplorable condition that now obtains in the above named parts of Fogo District, the loss to the people and to the revenue by being handicapped in such a way and respectfully pray that their promise will be performed by having the wires erected

and communication with the outside world affected within the next few months.

Copy of Resolution Adopted by the Fogo District Council of the F.P.U. at Catalina, December 7th., 1916.

The following resolution was proposed by Matthew LeDrew, seconded by Leonard Green, and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Ferry Service at Change Islands is of such an important nature that it serves as a highway or road for school children ,for people of all ages, who attend church services,people engaged in trades and occupation who have business connections with both Islands, that 18,000 persons have passed and re-passed on the ferry boat for the year up to the last of November.

WHEREAS, the Ferryman must give every moment of his time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day to the work of the ferry,that the salary is so low that no man can exist on the pittance now paid.

WHEREAS, that the Government has been repeatedly requested by Mr. Halfyard the member of the District, by the Road Board and the leading officials and business men of Change Islands for an increase of salary for the Ferryman;

WHEREAS, that the Minister of Public Works from his seat in the Legislature has promised that he would do all he could to have the salary of the Ferryman increased;

RESOLVED, that the Government be again requested to increase the salary of the Ferryman at Change Islands that will in some measure be commensurate with the work performed and the importance of the service.

To that communication the Premier very courteously replied:

Copy of Letter Received from Rt Hon. Sir Edward Morris.

St. John's,
February 27, 1917.

Dear Sir,—On the 20th January ult., in reply to a letter addressed to the Premier, Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, I received the following:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, covering copies of resolutions, in relation to the Extension of the Telegraph Wires from Gander Bay to Musgrave Harbor, and the salary of the Ferryman at Change Islands. I note very carefully what you say in relation to both these matters.

"I have forwarded the same to the Colonial Secretary this morning with a request that they may be brought before the next meeting of the Council. You may rest assured that both these matters will receive the careful consideration of the Government."

Will you kindly inform me, whether the resolutions have been considered by the Council and if so, with what result.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) W. W. HALFYARD.

Hon. J. R. Bennett,
Colonial Secretary,
and Acting Premier,
City.

I allowed some time to pass, but not having heard anything, I wrote the Hon. Colonial Secretary and brought this matter to his attention on February 27th., sending him a copy of the Premier's letter. On the 5th. March I received the following reply from him:

5th. March, 1917.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 27th February, respecting the extension of the telegraph to Musgrave Harbour, and the salary of the Ferryman at Change Islands.

I shall bring these matters to the notice of the Executive, so that they may give the same consideration.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) JOHN R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

W. W. Halfyard, Esq, M.H.A.,
City.

In reply to a question as to what amount had been paid for storage on these wires, I was informed that the following amounts had been paid since December 31st., 1913:

Alfred Hicks	$ 60.00
Thomas Wellon	44.00
	$104.00

Mr. Chairman,I am very sorry that I have had to take up so much of the time of the House in reading this correspondence, but my constituents are inclined to think that I have been remiss in my duties in this matter, and that I have not done as much as I might have done; and I am now again bringing the matter to the attention of the powers that be. As you are aware, sir, I have spoken on this matter every session since I have had the honour to have a seat in this House. Both the Postmaster General and the Superintendent of Telegraphs, as will be noticed by the correspondence recommend the erection of these wires; and the new appointee, Dr. Robinson, has recommended that they be either erected or else taken away so that the storage may be saved. The present position is disgraceful in the extreme, and it is time that something was done. Clergymen and others who have had occasion to visit Carmanville have spoken to me about the matter. One man said to me: "What are you doing about Carmanville? It is scandalous (that is the word he used) that such an important and thriving settlement should be kept without being able to communicate with their friends outside without having to travel miles by land or water—either to Seldom Come By or to Musgrave Harbor—to send a message." He went on to intimate that I was not doing all I should in the matter. I told him that I was powerless; that I had done everything possible to get the authorities to move but could not get anything done. Some people have been uncharitable enough to say that the reason why these wires have not been erected is because the candidate that contested Fogo district for the Government at the last election was defeated; and that this matter is being neglected as a punishment to the people. But I can scarcely credit that, because a crowd of school-children would not act in that way. On the other hand, money enough has been spent on storage to pay for the hire of a telegraph office, if the wires had been erected. Now, these wires were bought when wire was cheap. If you had to buy them now you would have to pay three times as much as you actually paid for them at the time they were purchased. The cost of erection is not great. Mr. Wellon, one of the most highly respected electors of Fogo District, does not want these wires kept in his store; he wants them to be erected in the interests of himself and the public; and he has offered to cut the poles and erect them at 75c. a pole; but his offer was not considered, or at all events it was not accepted. Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak too strongly on this matter. I don't know whose fault it is, but anyhow it is the result of neglect. Carmanville has been one of the most important fishing centres in Fogo district during the past few years, and people have gone over there from Change Islands to fish. Two men belonging to the place left Carmanville last year and went down to Musgrave Harbor for the summer's fishery. There were no

fish at Musgrave Harbor, but a spurt struck in at Carmanville, but although they were only fifteen miles away, the spurt was over before they knew anything about it. That meant a loss to these men and a loss to the revenue, because every quintal of fish that is lost means a loss to the revenue. The importance of the fishing industry was never brought so forcibly to our attention and to the attention of the whole country as when the salt question was up last winter. What were we going to do if we could not get salt? was the question asked on every side, Newfoundland would be prosperous no longer; it would become depopulated; our very existence depended upon salt. For what? To cure codfish. Therefore, whenever it is possible to do anything to benefit fishing centres of importance it should be done if for no other reason than for a mercenary standpoint—to get dollars and cents. Postal matters in some part of the district of Fogo are a disgrace to the country, and Carmanville is one of these places. What is the good of Postmaster Generals making excellent reports, and suggesting this and recommending that? Under the present Executive it is a mere waste of time and energy. It is no use claiming that the late Postmaster General did not recommend these improvements in the management of the General Post Office and the Postal Service of the country; because as a matter of fact he did nothing else but make recommendations in this respect, and it is partially from the data compiled by him that Dr. Robinson has been able to present such an excellent report although he has been such a short time in office. Only last year the late Postmaster General sent a report to this House, in which he said:

"The fact that some postmasters are paid rent and supplied with fuel, oil, etc., while the greater number received nothing but their salary, rather complicates the matter and it is unfair to add to a postmaster's salary in this way unless all are treated alike. Whatever amount, if any, is allowed for rent and fuel it should appear in the estimates in a separate column and be paid with the salary, thus saving an amount of time and worry to the officials of the Postal Department, Public Works Department and Contingencies.

Some of the speakers in referring to the Postmaster-General's Report referred to the revenue obtained at certain post offices and from their remarks I gathered that they would take that as a basis or criterion for the amount of salary that the official should receive. This, however, would not be fair, because a man may have charge of a post office and may have a daily mail or perhaps two or three mails a week, and not have much revenue; while another man may have only a weekly mail, and he has only one-seventh, comparatively speaking, of the work that the other man has. A man who does the work —attending to the mails, assorting and delivering them under this system may get only twenty or thirty dollars, whereas the man in the weekly office who has very little work, may get $100 or $150, and the only difference is that he is getting a little more revenue. That is a very unfair way, to cut salaries down on an income basis. The late Postmaster-General made recommendations to the Government, and I don't know if they acted upon them, because the estimates are the same this year as last. The late Postmaster-General said there are 620 offices, which are divided into three classes, as follows: Those having a daily mail or two mails daily, 112; those having a mail weekly, 212; and bi-weekly and tri-weekly, 296. Therefore all these things have to be

considered if we are going to act honestly and squarely with the potal servants in the Postal Department., when granting salaries. There is one thing in the report, I don't know whether it has been quoted or not, which is worth drawing attention to. It reads as follows:

"There is a too prevalent notion that the Postmaster General's authority is far-reaching, and that reforms which he may regard as essential have only to be decided upon by him to be carried into effect. A glance at the Post Office Act will be sufficient to dispel these erroneous ideas. It will there be found that almost all the powers vested in him by the various sections of the Act, are taken from him in another section. Whilst in those matters of policy and expenditure this is as it should be, the full responsibility resting in the Executive Government of the Colony, it would make for efficiency if matters of detail were left to the judgment of the Postmaster General in consultation with those members of his staff who are most conversant with the matter at issue."

I don't see why the Government should wish to have anything to say in these small matters of appointments and detail to which the Postmaster General refers. What is the good of having a Postmaster General there, and then when he has the courage of his convictions and the ability to do something which would be for the benefit of the service and the country and those under his charge, to have his recommendations ignored just for some political reason. When it comes to a matter of an appointment and applications are made to the Postmaster General , he should be in a position to say whether the applicant is worthy or not. But if there is no member of the Government looking for the job, there is generally some defeated candidate or some first cousin or niece of a man that asked for votes some years ago, and these have to be considered first. This may sound ridiculous, but it is the truth all the same. It is ridiculous, but it is our way of making appointments to the public service, and we have never had a government strong enough to say to the applicant, "Thank you for what you did for me, but it is not in our power to show favor or partizanship to anyone, the whole matter rests with the Postmaster General. Go to him, and he will enquire into your qualifications, and if you are worthy of the position we shall be only too pleased to support you." Until that is done, the Postmaster General may write reams and reams of reports, have it exquisitely bound, the language and syntax most perfect, and everybody will eulogize and congratulate the man who composed the report, and that will be the end of it. It reminds me of a remark made by a certain individual when I said I had received a very courteous reply from the Government:— "My dear friend," he said, "do you know what they should do? They should have these replies typed out and already for signing. You are sure to get a courteous reply and there it ends."

Now I wish to draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary (and I do hope that what I am saying will be taken some notice of) to the matter of telegraph extension. This is what Mr. Bennett, the Hon. Colonial Secretary, said re Telegraph Extension in a speech delivered in this House in 1913:—

"It is a well known fact that in this country a large number of people are isolated for a long period from the rest of the world. One can hardly understand nowadays a man educated, industrious, ambitious, living in a part of the world where he is cut off from the rest of the world for six

months of the year; but there are places where up to the present date such conditions have existed, and not insignificant places, but large, important centres of districts. These places have now been linked up by the telegraph wire and the cable, and instead of being shut off during the whole winter, when navigation was impossible,they can not alone get in communication with St. John's, but with any part of the world. That surely is a boon that will be remembered by these people. The wonder is to me that they have been so long neglected and have not resented their abandonment. Sir Edward Morris, during his periodical trips around the country to find out for himself the exact state of affairs, has been responsible for a great many of these remedial measures ,and has thereby conferred a boon and a blessing upon these people that will, I am sure, be appreciated by them."

The people are no longer blinded to their own interests, and they appreciate what is done for them, and that is why the people down in these places are feeling so keenly over it because they are neglected. Another matter deserving attention are the subsidies for the Clyde and Dundee this year. The matter was brought to my notice by listening to the remarks made by the honorable member for Twillingate, Mr. Jennings, when it was asked what service there is between Battle Harbor and Lewisporte. This year, unfortunately, the Susu had to be taken off the Fogo mail service to do other work. I thought very hard of it at the time, as the people of Fogo District will suffer by it. They are very much disappointed and scarcely know how they can get along without a boat going from St. John's to Fogo District direct; but the matter was put to me by the Honorable Colonial Secretary that the Government could not help themselves. If the boat was commandeered and they could not help themselves there may be some excuse for their actions. They have given Bonavista Bay and Notre Dame Bay a weekly service instead of a bi-weekly service, and have taken in Fogo District. The Dundee goes as far as Seldom Come By, and the Clyde comes up there to make connections, but there is one thing I want to point out, and that is the subsidy that has been given this year. I understand from the Minister of Finance and Customs that the Reid Nfld. Co. is being paid $18,500 for Fogo District. Is that correct?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Yes.

MR. HALFYARD—Well, the $9,100 for Bonavista District and $13,000 for Notre Dame Bay, make $21,000. I have no fault to find in connection with paying for the. service, but I don't know whether the work done by these two boats. this year has been brought to the attention of the Finance Minister or not. I have here some information which I shall read to the House on the subject of ports of call:

Proposals From Reid Newfoundland Company, Bonavista Bay and Fogo Service Combined.

We beg to submit, for the consideration of the Government the following proposal for a steam service between Seldom and Port Blandford, taking all ports of call served last year by S. S. Dundee and S. S. Susu.

Last year the Dundee ran two trips per week from Port Blandford along the north side of Bonavista Bay to Wesleyville, thence across the Bay to Bonavista, and thence along the Soth Side of the Bay to Port Blandford This mean 54 ports of call and 600 miles per week, with a day and a half wait at Port Blandford to connect with the expresses, and the

steamer could only do this service during the summer months. After October she lost time steadily.

The additional service in the Fogo district from Wesleyville to Seldom Come By would mean eleven extra ports and 150 miles per week.

We would propose to have the Dundee make one round trip per week, calling at all ports in last year's schedule with the eleven extra ports, making connection with the Clyde at Seldom as mentioned below.

Notre Dame Bay and Fogo Service Combined.

Last year the Clyde made two round trips per week from Lewisporte to Fogo and return. This service meant 48 ports of call and 510 miles per week. The additional service in the Fogo District would mean eight extra ports of call (most of them fairly busy) and 105 miles per trip.

We would propose to have the S.S. Clyde make one round trip per week, calling at all ports in last year's schedule with the eight extra ports, making connection with the Dundee at Seldom.

She is only doing a weekly service this year; so cut that 600 in two and add 150, and we have 450 for the Dundee to cover this year. Now take the Clyde. She covered 510 miles last year, and the additional service gave her 105 miles more a week. Cut the 510 in two and add 105 for additional service this year, and we have 360 as her weekly mileage this year. She also was performing a bi-weekly service last year.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—What about the additional ports?

MR. HALFYARD—I am talking about that.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—I mean the time taken in doing the additional service.

MR. HALFYARD—I want to make this clear. Last year the Dundee went around the Bay twice a week. This year she does it only once. Last year she covered 600 miles a week.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—It is easier to serve the inside than the outside of the Bay.

MR. HALFYARD—She does 150 miles a week less this year than she did last year, as the service is only weekly; and this includes the additional servce. That is about 25 per cent. less than last year. As regards the Clyde: as I said this steamer covered 510 miles a week last year on a bi-weekly service. A weekly service this year means 255 miles, and add the 105 miles for the Fogo service this year and you have 360 miles covered per week by her this year. In other words only about 75 per cent. of the work of last year.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—It is different work.

MR. HALFYARD—How? It is the same captain and the same crew; and it is just as well for them to go around Cape Freels as it is to go around Cape Bonavista. She is burning the same fuel and has the same expenses.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—That is all wrong.

MR. HALFYARD—You cannot make wrong out of that Mr. Finance Minister. She is under the same expense and she only does about 75 per cent. of the work this year; and still you are throwing $18,500 at the Company. You say the cost of operation is greater. Give them the 27 1-2 per cent. they are receiving this year for non-performance of service to various ports; give me the $18,500 for something else—for roads and bridges; share it up. It may be said that we are filling in time on these matters; but still the matter is important; though I presume as the Minister of Finance and the Hon. Colonial Secretary could not give us the informa-

tion we desired the other day about the Battle Harbor to Lewisporte service they cannot tell us what they were paying $18,500 to-day to the Reid's for on this service. This matter has to be considered carefully. It is because of want of thought and consideration that we find mistakes made by the Government. It is more the fault of the head than of the heart; and allowing things to drift and not figuring them out. They allow the Reid Nfld. Co. to figure this out for them; and they say they are performing the Fogo service and ought to be paid extra for it, where as on the whole service they are doing only 75 per cent. of the work they performed last year, and are getting $18,500 more subsidy. Anyway the service is unsatisfactory.

The only advantage is the weekly mail, because the freight and passenger transportation is utterly useless; nothing but extreme necessity will cause a person in Fogo District to travel by the Reid boats this year. Under ordinary conditions a person would never use the Clyde or Dundee. It costs $20 that way; whereas by the direct route it will cost only $6.50. Mr. Finance Minister, you said that you would be willing to receive any suggestions in going through the estimates. I would suggest that you ask the Reid Nfld. Co. to give back that $18,500 that you propose paying them; or else let them have it on condition they reduce the freight and passenger rates, so that the people can get something for what the Colony and Government are paying. If not you are giving them a present of that amount. At least they should give it back in the way of reduced rates. I think we have done good work in bringing this matter to the attention of the authorities; and I think the Government should realize that the same service is not being performed by these boats this year and hence the same subsidy as last year should not be paid the Company: in fact I think you should not pay them the Fogo subsidy at all.

In connection with steamer subsidies, there is another matter I propose to speak on to-day. I understand that the Government pays the contractors—and I think the Reid Nfld. Company is a contractor for the Labrador service—so much per trip per annum for hospital accommodation on the Labrador steamers; and if I am correctly informed the rate is $25 per trip. So that if anyone cannot afford to pay his or her own fare and is ill, the Government pays a first class passage for him or her. I also understand that the hospital accommodation for doctors and patients is anything but what it should be. The Government pays a subsidy for that service besides the expenses of persons unwell and unable to pay their own fare, but I understand—though I am open to correction and mention it only for the purpose of investigation —that the service is not near as good as it should be, nor as it once was; and sometimes the stewards have to sleep on the floor. Now if we are paying for a thing, we should get good service. The Government is paying first class fare for those dependent upon it, and they should get first class accommodation. I do not know whose business it is, but it must be somebody's; and it should be seen that these steamers are provided with first class hospital accommodation for the doctor and his patients. The hon. member for Port de Grave, Mr. Grimes, brought another hospital matter to the attention of the Committee, viz: matters in connection with the Superintendent of the General Hospital. From the tenor of the Superintendent's letter we conclude that in his opinion he thought the fees belonged to himself. According to the Act any fees collected by the Super-

intendent are to be passed over to the Finance Minister for the benefit of the Colony. Such little things should be considered and the Superintendent and the public should be put right on these matters. These remarks become public property, and the Superintendent may be judged wrongly; and it is up to the Government to see that these things are rectified and the proper interpretation given to the Act.

Now, there is one matter also in connection with Fogo District which I am interested in, and that is in the matter of pit props and also in the matter of preserving the green timber on certain areas in that district. From what transpired in Fogo District last year in connection with the Horwood Lumber Company and the Gander Stores Limited, I think that the directors of the Horwood Lumber Company must have attended that serial which was shown at the moving picture show here last year, entitled, "Within the law." Certainly the principles of that play "Within the law" were quite a great temptation for carrying out under the cover of the law that which is morally against the law. The people of Gander Bay had sent petitions to this House of Assembly asking that the timber on the three mile limit on the peninsula between Horwood and Gander Bay be reserved. We find that the Gander Stores Limited last year had camps erected and the whole area is, as a matter of fact, about wiped out, and to give you an idea of how the people down there think of this matter, I ask your good graces, Mr. Chairman, while I read an extract from a letter received from Fogo District:

"Could you inform me confidentially what arrangements the Horwood Lumber Company have made with the Department of Agriculture and Mines, to be allowed to operate so extensively from green timber on the three mile limit around Gander Bay. They are getting all the saw logs that they possibly can, and according to the rate they are going, this strip of timber will only stand a very few years at the most. And I am informed they will not take the burnt timber from the North Side of the Bay. We understood all along, persons holding timber grants could not get license to operate on three mile limit.

"I understood they have changed the name of this store here to Gander Bay Stores, Ltd., but to all intents and purposes it is exactly the same as formerly, except the sign over the door. All their logging camps from their own limits are being supplied from here. As it is only a bluff to enable them in some way to clean up this bit of timber and reserve their own until a year or so time, when it must be entirely in their own hands as far as this and Twillingate District is concerned.

"Of course, if they are permitted to do so, no one would blame them, but we would like to know if they are licensed or have a special permit to do so. With the Horwood Lumber Company's resources it is possible for them to destroy in one season enough to keep a small mill running for ten years."

Now enquiries were made at the Department and the reply has been read to this House by Mr. Coaker. The Company, to get around the law, changed the name of the Company to the Gander Stores Limited and they are using all their resources to cut this timber and save their own. They are working within the law, and it is making the law of no effect. What is the good of your granting a timber license to a person with the understanding that that person is not allowed to cut timber on the three mile limit. It does not protect the limit. No one will worry if they

got a license or not, for all they will have to do is to appeal to the Executive. The Executive will say, "Go ahead, it is alright, you are a new company." Something should be done, because there are a few small mills down there. Messrs. French Bros. have two mills running and they give quite a lot of employment to men from Man Point, Long Point and Gander Bay, but these men if the Horwood Lumber Company is allowed to come there and do this, will have to pack up and get out. You are creating a monopoly. What does your own reporter say about building vessels of over 300 tons, which is being done at Thwart Island. The Horwood Lumber Company will only use certain of the timber. The report of the Timber Inspector, G. T. Phillips, says: (Reads).

Now the trouble of building that schooner over three hundred tons which will use a certain grade of wood only, two or three schooners more ought to be built at the same time, because a lot of timber is left over which would not go into the 300 ton schooner, would go into the 60 tons, but this will now be left to rot. Otherwise it will be a great temptation for the people there to break the law and take this away and get it sawn up.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as the Government knew of course, they were not blind to the fact that the Gander Stores Ltd. were the same as the Horwood Lumber Company, and if the Horwoods thought in the best interests of the country that they should be given a license to operate at Thwart Island, why did the Government not go a little further and try to conserve the timber of that Island. Why did they not find out from that company the kind of a schooner they were going to build, and make a consideration with them that if in the building of a three hundred ton schooner they would be likely to have lots of spare timber, that they should build two or three smaller schooners at the same time to use up this material so as it would not be wasted. Perhaps they would have only wanted the suggestion. Anyway that is what has happened there. There is a lot of timber wasted.

Now in connection with the timber question, and of course the timber industry and the fishery are the most important subjects we have to tackle here and it is not altogether waste of time to inform ourselves on these subjects while here. I have enjoyed hearing other hon. members speak of these reports and I have been so interested that I have read them myself. Now this is a very serious matter. It is brought to the attention of the Government in the report of the Chief Woodsranger, and was referred to by Mr. Jennings, the hon. member for Twillingate a few days ago. When the Fire Rangers are blamed, it is not always their fault. The Ranger points out that one engine caused 63 fires within a distance of six miles, and he says it is impossible to quench them. (Reads).

Now, whose business is it to see that the company is using proper spark-arresters. Is it the duty of the Government Engineer? Whoever it is, that report of course has been in the hands of the Government for some time and no doubt they have taken notice of it and have brought it to the notice of the Reid Nfld. Company. The cutting of pit props is a most serious question, because we are depreciating the forest value of the timber for about 25 years and upwards. When pit props are being cut, not only pit props but every green twig that surrounds the pit props is cut, causing devastation to every plot of timber where pit props are cut. Yet in spite of that we have other people telling us we should en-

courage the cutting of pit props, and they give as a reason that forest fires will destroy them if they are not cut down. I don't wonder at the people acting in the way they have acted, because they have been deluded. They have been the victims of deception, been robbed of their heritage, whereas according to Statute, they believed they would be protected. But the Executive Government have overruled the laws of this Legislature, with the result that monied interests have been allowed to act to the disadvantage of the producer. You have so altered and changed the law, that as it stands now, it stands to put more money in the pockets of those who have money.

We have been referred to the press as our authority, and guide as to our actions re the general elections next fall. The press are only hirelings. Would you take a press that receives $4,151.45 a year from the Postal contingencies alone as a guide? That is the press that is going to tell us whether there should be a general election next fall, whether it is in the best interests of the country or not. That is the press that tells us we should not run the risk of any party squabble. That is the press whose income may be lessened as a result of a general election. The public will not be deceived by the Daily News, which receives $4151.45 from Postal contingencies alone. People do not expect such a paper as that to say anything but what is in the best interests of the Government. Nobody will take that paper seriously. But then even apart from that, supposing they are really serious, then their opinion is only their opinion. They may really believe what they are saying, but the fact that their papers are subsidized may mean that their opinions are probably biased. The Evening Herald got $467.95. The Evening Herald tells us that it is not in the best interests of the country to have a general election next fall, or by transposing: "It is not in the interests of the Evening Herald to have a general election next fall." The Times print office get $587; the Evening Telegram gets $450. The Evening Telegram is semi-independent, as I understand it has the patronage of Water Street behind it. The Evening Telegram is receiving thousands of dollars from Water Street, and Water Street doesn't want an election, therefore the paper that is hand in glove with the big flour dealers will write what the plutocrats desire. They dare not report to the people of the country how much ill-gotten gains have been taken from the semi-starving people of this city. It is the poor woman who buys a stone of flour; one quarter ton of coal, and one quarter pound of tea. These are the people who suffer through the high cost of living. Not the fairly well to do person, but this is only by the way in referring to the Evening Telegram as being semi-independent, and semi-independent in connection with a general election next fall. W have a press which is liberally subsidized, and therefore a great deal of the remarks in connection with the general election and politics can be considerably discounted and it should not be taken as the criterion as to public opinion. I think the ground swell of public opinion will raise the premier from the rocks where he is at present and float him into the deep waters of wise and patriotic action. Public opinion has never been consulted re the General Election. The only opinions that have been consulted are those of a partisan nature. Now I do not want to be too hard on the Government, but there is one thing should be said. You have the Government now, and you want to hold it in the hope that something during the coming year will happen

detrimental to the interests of the Liberal Union Party. You are not playing the game or playing it fairly. Just look at the British Empire today. Britain went into this war unprepared, but knowing she was up against the greatest military nation that the world had even seen. She has been playing the game, and to use the football simile, she has lost goals at Gallipoli and Kut el Amara, but now she is bucking up, and is going on to win the last goal, which will be the final goal. She has played the game and is playing it still fairly. Here you are not playing the game. The Government spends its time congratulating itself upon the existence of things which it did not cause, and shirking responsibility for things which it has done.

The cement which temporarily but insecurely holds together the Morris Government is neither loyalty nor policy in the true sense of the word. It is that kind of policy which is known as expediency, the object of which is pull, patronage and offices of emolument first, last and all the time.

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.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend Chapter 122, Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled 'Of Wrecks and Salvage'."

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, June 26th, 1917.

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

WRECK AND SALVAGE BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 122, Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled 'Of Wreck and Salvage,'" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Grimes asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House a statement of the number of fees received from patients of the General Hospital by salaried physicians other than the Superintendent for the years 1916 and 1917 to date. What number have been paid over to the Finance Department. The name of all patients from whom collected and the name of the locality and district to which each belongs.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have written the hospital authorities and anticipate having the reply to this question within a few days.

MR. WINSOR asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount of customs collected at Rigolette and Cartwright, Labrador, for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916, and what amount of expenses other than salary connected with same.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—This is being prepared.

MR. HICKMAN asked the Hon. the Premier in the absence of the

Minister of Justice, to lay upon the Table of the House a statement showing the number of policemen in the Constabulary; the number of years each man has been in the service; the position each one holds and the salary each one now receives.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—This is being prepared. I will table it next sitting.

MR. HICKMAN asked the Minister of Public Works to lay upon the Table of the House a full list of all monies sent to Bay de Verde District from his Department and returns received since 1st day of January, 1916, and to whom sent.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—I will have this tabled within a few days.

MR. ABBOTT asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary if it is the intention of the Government to connect Bunyan's Cove, Bonavista District, with Musgravetown or Port Blandford by telegraph or telephone.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I hope to have this statement ready within a few days.

MR. LLOYD—I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to the promise that he would table the correspondence relative to the increase of the salary of the Government Engineer, which promise was made twelve days ago, but as far as I know it has not been tabled.

MR. COAKER—I think this matter ought to be attended to at once.

SUPPLY.

On the motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply, Mr. Lloyd moved and Mr. Clift seconded the following amendment: "That in the opinion of this House the consideration of Supply should not be proceeded with until a statement of the intention of the Government has been made by the Prime Minister as to whether or not a General Election is to be held this Fall."

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker: I wish to move an amendment on the motion to go into Supply. I don't wish to detain the House by any observations in reference to the amendment as the matters involved have already been discussed at considerable length in this House. It is within the recollection of the House, Sir, that on several occasions I have asked, first, as to whether provision is to be made for the taking of the Voters' List, and Secondly, whether or not it is the intention of the Government to provide for the holding of an election this Fall. Now, this matter has not only been discussed in this House, but it has attracted considerable attention in the country, and public meetings have been held in various parts of the country, at which resolutions have been passed, which resolutions have been published in either the "Morning Advocate" or the "Evening Mail"; and I think in many cases the resolutions have been sent to the Government and to the Prime Minister. My motion is this, Sir: That in the opinion of this House the consideration of Supply should not be proceeded with until a statement of the intention of the Government has been made by the Prime Minister as to whether or not a General Election is to be held this Fall.

MR. CLIFT.—Mr. Speaker. I beg to second the amendment made by the Leader of the Opposition. This House has been in session now for 26 days. At the opening of the session the Prime Minister was asked, in a most respectful manner by the Leader of the Opposition whether or not it was the intention of the Government to hold an election this fall. The Prime Minister stated that the matter had not been considered by the Government, and that he was not then in a position to give any reply; and although the matter has been

referred to frequently since then by hon. members on this side of the House, we are still without any information as to the intention of the Government. Now, Sir, I think common courtesy and a sense of decency would prompt the Government to afford some information upon this important matter. No one in this House desires less than I do to go through the turmoil of an election at this particular time, but at the same time the people's rights should not be interfered with by an act of the Legislature which would prolong the life of this Parliament. We have been elected as members of this House of Assembly for a term of four years and no longer. Our term of office as representatives will expire this fall, and I think it is only right and proper that we should know now whether or not there is to be an election. It may be possible to avoid that turmoil that sometimes exists during elections by an agreement; but whether that be possible or not I submit, Sir, that unless it is by the unanimous consent of this House the Government would not be justified in prolonging their term of office. Surely some decision must have been arrived at ere this by the Government on this matter, and, as I said before, common decency would suggest that we on this side of the House should be informed as to the intention of the Government. The only conclusion one can come to from this reticence on the part of the Government is that it is their intention to bring in a measure which will have for its object the extension of the life of this Parliament. If such a measure is introduced (I want to make my position clear on the matter), I for one, will not support it, because I think it would be an outrage on the rights and liberties of the people of the country to extend the life of Parliament unless it were by the unanimous consent of the House; and I even question very much the power of this House, or the right of Hon. members of this House to cast a vote for the purpose of prolonging their own political life. I know that in the House of Commons, by consent, the life of Parliament was extended; and we know that it has been done also in the case of other parliaments; but never yet have I heard of a case where a Parliament extended its own political life by the vote of the Party in power. I hope that the question will not reach that stage in this House, but that on the contrary the Government will show some regard for the feelings of those who do not see eye to eye with them on this important point. I have not taken any part in the debate during the past week for reasons of my own, and because I had hoped that ere this the Government would have been prepared to give us a satisfactory reply to the questions asked on this subject on the opening days of the session; but I think the time has now come when some pronouncement should be made, and in order to endeavour to extract some information from the Government on this question, I beg to second this amendment.

Whereupon the House divided and there appeared for the amendment: —Messrs. Lloyd, Coaker, Clift,Grimes, Halfyard, Stone, Jennings, Targett, Winsor, Abbott, (10), and against it Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs, Hon J. C. Crosbie, Minister of Public Works, Messrs. Moulton, Moore, Currie, Higgins, F. Morris, Parsons, Devereaux, LeFeuvre, Downey, (14) so the amendment was lost.

The original motion was then put when there appeared in its favour:— Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hon. Minister of

Finance and Customs, Hon. J. C. Crosbie, Chairman Board of Works, Messrs. Moulton, Moore, Currie, Higgins, F. Morris, Parsons, Devereaux, LeFeuvre, Downey (14) and against it Messrs. Lloyd, Coaker, Clift,Grimes, Halfyard, Stone, Jennings, Targett, Winsor, Abbott, (10) so it passed in the affirmative and was ordered accordingly.

The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

(Messenger, Prime Minister's Dept.)

MR. LLOYD—May I ask whether that official receives any other salary in addition to this? Does he do any other work?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I think he is on the list of messengers in the Legislature; Legislative Council, as a matter of fact.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I might explain that the salary that Mr. Rendell was receiving—$500 a year—is entirely inadequate for the work he performs, and last year we gave him an increase of $100. He has also received the increase made up on the percentage basis. That is the position.

(Messenger Vital Statistics Dept.)

MR. LLOYD—That man must surely have some other position; $60 a year is entirely inadequate.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Yes, he is also a messenger in the Public Works Dept.

MR. LLOYD—This is a matter I drew attention to in my previous remarks. It is unfair to give this increase on two salaries while a man whose salary is consolidated receives a much smaller increase. Take it this way. This man receives one salary of $600, and he is getting an increase of $108 on that. Now, because he is receiving another salary of $60 he gets another increase of $30.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—We will give you more information on this to-morrow. Pass it over now.

MR. COAKER—There is too much of this business of giving more information to-morrow. Is there a Minister in this House who is able to give any information on the matters referring to his Department. Time and again we have brought up matters in this House which we have been asked to defer for more information, and we have never heard a word about them afterwards.

MR. CLIFT—I want to point out the absurdity of the whole scheme of increasing salaries on a percentage basis rather than on merit. The Colonial Secretary told us just now that a clerk in his office, Mr. Rendell, was receiving a salary of $500, which was by minute of council increased to $600. Mr. Rendell is a responsible clerk in a very responsible office, and I am sure that nobody can do the work more efficiently or more effectively than Mr. Rendell. Hs is getting a salary of $600, whilst a messenger in another department has his saluary increased up to $780. I think it is absurd and ridiculous and only in keeping with the whole way that these estimates have been prepared.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I might explain that Mr. Rendell went in as a very young lad and took the place of junior clerk. He has remained in the position for three or four years, and has developed into a competent official. We increased his salary $100 last year, there is a proposed increase of another $100, and I hope we may be able to give him another $100 next year. He is undoubtedly worth it. All young men's salaries are small at the beginning, but as they develop they are entitled to get much more. I cannot speak too highly of the ser-

vices of Mr. Rendell. He is one of the most efficient young men I have met, and I hope the time is not far distant when he will be sufficiently remunerated. He is now supporting his widowed mother and on that account is more deserving than the majority, but no injustice has been done him in the way of consideration.

MR. CLIFT—There is no injustice done him except this, Mr. Chairman, that a man who has such responsible duties to perform ought to be placed in a better position than a messenger of two or three years' standing in another department. That is all.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—The position always paid the same. He is the third clerk, and while he may have ability enough to be Deputy Minister we cannot alter the position.

MR. GRIMES—The same thing would apply to the deputy head or of the department. He is getting a salary of $1,600, and the deputy head of the Justice Department is getting $2,000. There is no doubt about it that the deputy head of the Colonial Secretary's Department is just as hard worked an official, and in fact I think, more so. We often see the Deputy Minister of Justice engaged at other work besides that pertaining to his office, but the Deputy Colonial Secretary is not in that fortunate position. It takes all his time to attend to the duties of his office. Now with regard to the matter of telegraph censorship and the extra fee of $850, why not accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Jennings, and give an increase in salary and cut out all fees. I think this matter is worthy of consideration. A lot of the public moneys of this country are used up in giving a number of individuals extra fees. It is claimed that this work is outside their regular work, but to my mind the work of censorship is connected with the department of the Colonial Secretary.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Not necessarily.

MR. GRIMES—It belongs to your Department at the present time. Well, I think it is only just and fair to the men who are performing work that entails long hours and which requires the whole of their time that they should be paid according to the work they perform, and any deputy minister is entitled to $2,000. I say, cut out these fees and increase the salaries accordingly.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I would like to point out that the fees in connection with the censorship are purely temporary. These extra duties may cease to-morrow or in six months' time or in twelve months' time. The fees will cease when the war is over, and this work cannot be considered as part of the regular work of the department. It is purely a temporary measure. I quite agree with the hon. member, so far as Mr. Mews is concerned, that he is a most invaluable man in the public service, and I would like to see his salary increased. I don't know anything about the merits of the Deputy Minister of Justice.

As regards the Deputy Colonial Secretary I quite agree with the hon. member that his services are well worth what he is receiving. The hon. member for Trinity, Dr. Lloyd, referred the other day to the stipend paid the Magistrate of the District Court. He or Mr. Coaker pointed out that the Magistrate should receive at least $3,600 a year. I quite agree with him. The position which he occupies is a very important one and requires great ability. I presume the Deputy Minister is in the same position. The Deputy Colonial Secretary has a family to support and it is quite a hardship on him to get along on the salary he is receiving. I would be only too

glad if the Government could see its way clear to do something for him.

MR. COAKER—The objection from this side is not so much because the Deputy Minister of Justice is getting $2,000, but because you have an official like the Deputy Col. Secretary with a salary $400 less. The Deputy Minster of Justice has perquisities which makes his salary $500 or $600 more. Now ,if Mr. Mews leaves what are you going to do? He is a first-class official who knows his Department from A to Z; and if he resigned to-morrow and took up a position on Water Street, a man with his ability and experience would get a salary of $2,000 or $3,000 a year. There are many deputy managers of businesses on Water Street who are receiving salaries to that amount, and they do not do more than Mr. Mews. Again, the Deputy Minister of Justice is now receiving $1,000 from the Magistrate's Court; and that is another addition to *b*'s regular salary. It is on these points that we object—your distinguishing in that way between one official and another. Why do you give one official like the Deputy Colonial Secretary $1600 and another like the Deputy Minister of Justice $2,000? I know the Deputy Minister of Justice is a capable man; but it would be harder to fill the position of Deputy Colonial Secretary than that of Deputy Minister of Justice. On the question of salary for the Prime Minister: I quite agree with what Dr. Lloyd said the other day. I think that the Prime Minister is injuriously affecting himself in the eyes of the country in not having a salary voted for him. There ought to be a vote for that purpose and it should be as large as the salary paid the Chief Justice. Not alone that, but I think the Leader of the Opposition ought to be paid a salary of at least $2,000 a year.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I would assess his salary at more than that. I would put it down to at least $3,000 a year. You see I want it worth something in case I go over there.

MR. COAKER.—You go over here? I hope we will never see you on this side of the House leading the Opposition.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Why?

MR. COAKER.—Why? Do you know you have been 31 years in politics in this country now; and if I have sympathy for a man who is here ten or twelve years, why I have still greater sympathy for a man like you who has been 31 years here in public life; and instead of leading an Opposition I think you ought to be translated to a better and happier region.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—What about providing a pension for me?

MR. COAKER.—Certainly; I would willingly agree to it.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—That is right. I hope that is being taken down.

MR. COAKER—But we should come to some decision on the suggestions made by the Leader of the Opposition the other day with reference to the question of alloting a salary for the Prime Minister. No man should work for the country as he does and give up his professional duties and not be paid. Not that I mean to see him get rich quick at the expense of the country but that he should be treated fair. That Department is now permanently established and is a very important one with the supervision of all other departments under the Government; and you ought to make some provision for him. I think it would only be fair to give the Deputy Colonial Secretary fair-play and a decent increase in salary. I want to stand by good officials in the public service. I know we have

some; and I would like to give them enough to remunerate them to keep them honest anyway.

MR. HALFYARD—In connection with these votes for messengers, I notice that the messenger for the Department of Justice gets $400 or $500, the messenger at Department of Agriculture and Mines $553.50; and then we come to the Department of Public Works, where the messenger gets $708. The messenger for the Attorney General's Department gets $472.50. Now I would like to know what important services are rendered by the Public Works messenger which entitles him to more salary than the other messengers. Is his work of such a nature that it requires all his time, and the letters that he has to deliver of such an important character that he has to be paid extra for carrying them around? There is apparently here quite a difference, and it is only natural that we should ask for some explanation. I hope there is no partisanship being displayed towards worthy officials in the Public Works Department that you go out of your way to give them extra pay from the public funds of the Colony to retain them in the service and keep them on Water Street or around visiting the outports. I hope that you give him instructions that he has not to talk politics. Therefore, I suppose he is a man of such high ideals and character that he is paid accordingly. Well it does seem a little strange that there should be such a difference in salaries given to men who are supposed to do similar work.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—With reference to the statements made by the hon. member who has just sat down, I would say that it is only natural that all officials should talk politics. I do not know why any man should be prevented from doing so. Of course directing him as to the party he will vote for is a different matter. I understand that every official is free in that respect. I think that every man, woman and child in the country should talk politics, the more that subject is discussed the better informed the people will be and a clearer interpretation there will be of public questions, and the better judge the people will become of politicians, myself included.

MR. GRIMES—Are you a suffragist?

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—I am a continuous sufferer in the interests of the public. As to the messenger in my department since I have been there, and it is now 27 years since I first entered public life, he is one of the best I have seen. He is always on duty and attentive to his office and work. The office hours begin at 10 a.m. and our doors are open till 6 p.m. Not that the other Departments are not open as long as mine. I think we were criticized by the Opposition because our doors were not open at certain times. I should like to say that our department is open for business from 10 to 6 every day.

MR. COAKER—Are you always there?

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—It is not necessary for me to be there always. I give instructions to the officials and my instructions are carried out. We always try and attend to the correspondence from Dr. Lloyd and Mr Coaker and any other gentlemen who have occasion to do business with us; and I do not think any discourtesy has been suffered. When you come down to interview us we always try and treat you well; you always find us there and trying to do the best we can for you. I did not know that the messenger had his salary increased. I am very glad to know it; he is worthy of it. When we had the cash system in our Department and the grants were sent out in silver, which was in vogue for the past eight years up to this year, when we decided to pay

grants by cheque, there was a lot of extra work imposed upon him in sending out the allocations, interviewing the Post Office, and seeing that correct receipts were returned and brought back and everything checked up; and Mr. Lockyer was largely engaged in that work for the past 6 or 7 years, and never received anything extra for his services. He often contended that he should be paid extra. I was going to say that he is really a good man and entitled to any extra pay that he gets from that Department.

MR. COAKER—I happen to know this messenger very well, and I know a little about how much time he spends in the Department; with all due deference to the statement of the Minister of Public Works, that he is always present, I should say that that man does not spend 25 per cent. of his time in his office. He is always on Water Street. He does a commission business for several months and sells fish around the city. Every hour you will see him on the street doing commission business. At the present time he is in the District of Bay de Verde, and not alone there on a holiday, but on political work. When I passed by Baccalieu yesterday I passed through 100 boats and every one of these boats told me that Tom Lockyer was down in the places they came from talking politics.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—They were only pulling your leg. He was in the House yesterday. He has been back the past three days.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—He was in the office this morning. He stated to me last week that he was unwell and asked permission to go away for two or three days, and I gave him permission. I did not know he was talking politics, and I did not think he would be guilty of such a thing. As regards going down town, it is necessary for him to do this, as he has sometimes to buy fuel for the various Departments, and only naturally he talks politics.

MR. CLIFT—Would the Minister explan why it is this man gets more than the others. Here this man gets a rise from $600 to $700. It is doubtful whether at the same time he doesn't receive something from another department. I do not see why this man should get such a salary while the messenger at the Department of Agriculture and Mines gets but $550, the one at the Auditor General's $472, and the Justice Department $400. Now surely the work of messenger ought to be paid on the one salary, because they all have the same class of work to do. This man has not been there as long as the messengers of the other Departments, and why should he be getting so much more?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—That is very easily answered. The Board of Works Department hands out more correspondence than any other office. There are consequently many more messages. They have correspondence over the whole island. The man that does more work ought to get more pay. That ought to be satisfactory.

MR. CLIFT.—That is no answer. No matter how much correspondence there is, the work either requires a messenger or it doesn't. It does not make any difference whether there are a lot of letters or whether there are a few. On what basis is the salary paid, is it on the basis of the number of letters delivered? Surely the salary is not based on the number of letters delivered? Surely the salary is not based on the number of letters that have to be carried daily to the Post Office? If this is the way salaries are fixed why do not all receive a salary accordingly. Perhaps the Minister can tell us the number of letters delivered.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—You were there as Minister, why did you not straighten it?

MR. CLIFT—That is not the question. Because I did not pay it, is no reason for you not doing it. You supplanted me, and ought to do better. There is no necessity, Mr. Chairman, for the Minister to become personal at all. Because I did not do something which appears now to be necessary affords no reason why he should not do something. When a member gets up and asks a question, the least that can be done is to give him that information. It is the duty of the Minister to do this.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I have given an answer. I gave all the information I could.

(Re Inspector Weights & Measures)

MR. LLOYD—How is the balance of this salary made up?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—He gets part of the fees, and these come to about $1200.

MR. LLOYD—Now, Mr. Chairman, I could point out the unfairness of this position. He should get a fixed salary. Suppose he gets $1300 or $1400 in fees. He may get this and will be at the same time not entitled to one cent of the increase. This only demonstrates the fact that while the principle is alright, yet each case must be considered on its merits. This gives some emphasis to the remarks of Mr. Clift, that this is a haphazard way of doing things, which is both unjust and unfair.

(Re Deputy Minster of Justice)

MR. LLOYD—The Deputy Head of this Department receives something from being on the Lunacy Board. How much is that?

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—$400.

MR. LLOYD.—Well in addition to this he is now getting $1200 from the Magistrates Court, making $3600 in all. Now Sir, there is another deputy head in the next department but one who receives but one third of this amount. I refer to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines. This man is a very worthy official, equally efficient as is Mr. Mews of the Deputy Colonial Secretary's Department, and yet he gets this small salary.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Of course he gets his perquisites too.

MR. LLOYD.—Yes. How much?

MR. CLIFT.—Only about $500 a year on arbitrations, a mere nothing.

MR. LLOYD.—Suppose it is $500, and during the past year it would not have been that. That would still leave the income a small one. This official has been a long time there, and has never received an increase. His salary is put down here as $1250. Now this is an exceedingly small salary for a Deputy Minister. Perhaps the Minister could reconsider this.

MR. CLIFT.—I would like the Minister to reconsider this matter too. This is unfair not only to Mr. Turner but to the country. I know something of his work as I was with him in the office for four years. He was then receiving $1200, and he is still receiving this small amount. I tried my best to increase it, did everything I could, and these old rates are still being kept up. I think now that while others are receiving increases, and in view of the high cost of living. which is deemed to be of such importance as to cause the Government to appoint a commission to investigate it, this matter should be reconsidered by the Minister. No provision has been made to increase salaries over $1200, but this is a matter which I think should have the attention of the Minister. A man through whose hands passes all the correspondence of the Department of Agriculture and Mines must be a very competent and capable man, and I cannot conceive of a more efficient man for that work than Mr. Turner. Yet in spite of that, he is to-day receiving the same

salary as he received twelve or fifteen years ago. Before that vote is passed I would ask the Minister to reconsider that question and see if it is possible to do something in the interests of Mr. Turner, and not only in the interest of Mr. Turner, but in the interests of the Department of which Mr. Turner is the Deputy Head and the country in general.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman, I must endorse the remarks of the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Clift in connection with this matter. 1 would point out that the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries gets $1400, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Customs $1500 and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines $1200. Now I would like to see these three gentlemen getting a set salary of $1500. I know that the Deputy Head of Agriculture and Mines is a very competent official, for during the past year I have time and time again had to communicate with that Department I have found them very prompt in acknowledging my letters and furnishing me with any information required. So far as I am concerned I have applied to Mr. Turner for information in connection with land grants more than fifty times during the past twelve months and I have always received every satisfaction and I am sure every member of the House would receive the same satisfaction. He is an official who has been in the service over twenty years.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Thirty-five years.

MR. COAKER.—I think you ought to make the salary of these three Deputy heads $1,500.

MR. LLOYD.—If it is any use I would like to add my voice in asking the Government to place these three Deputy heads on similar salaries. I have personally had considerable to do with the Department of Agriculture and Mines and not only in the case of Mr. Turner but in the case of all the officials I have found them most painstaking in obtaining information. But, Sir, that is not the only reason. That is only a supporting reason. The reason for asking for the increase is because the present salary is inadequate. The salary of $1,200 that I understood Mr. Clift to say Mr. Turner is receiving is altogether inadequate. The cost of living has gone up considerably the past few years and that salary will not buy the same amount of food or clothing, or will not keep a family in the same way it would a few years ago. Mr. Turner has a large family, and a family of which this country should be proud. No family has been more generous in offering its sons to the Empire, nor have any boys distinguished themselves more. I only learned this very day that one son of Mr. Turner's not only obtained a Commission, but I learned last night that he had obtained the distinction of the Military Cross for distinguished service in the field. Mr. Turner has done good work in his Department and he is the worst paid Deputy in any Department. His salary has been at a standstill for a considerable time. I therefore think the Government ought to take the matter into consideration and increase the salary and if there is any blame or odium attached to the increase in these large salaries we will take the odium or the blame.

HON. MIN. FINANCE & CUSTOMS—I think the hon. gentleman is mistaken altogether. There are considerable fees attached to these offices. I think Mr. Turner has received something like six thousand dollars within the past five years for railway work in addition to his salary. The same applied to the other Departmentes.

MR. COAKER—Does the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries receive any fees?

HIN. MIN. FINANCE & CUSTOMS —He is Secretary of the Board, and receives something like three or four hundred dollars for that.

MR. HALFYARD—I understand that the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries does not receive anything for acting as Secretary of the Board. If he does the work I do not see why he does not receive the salary.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—It is a very simple matter to settle that question. We can have tabled to-morrow a statement showing what these three Deputies have received in the past five years.

MR. HALFYARD—The Secretary of the Fisheries Board performs most important work. Much of his work is of a judicial nature. Men write him about disputed trap berths and depend on the Secretary to adjust the matter. He often cannot get the Board together and has to deal with the question himself. If he is doing the work he should get the salary and it should not be a dropped balance.

(Department of Finance.)

MR. COAKER—Does the Deputy Head receive anything in addition to his salary?

HON. MIN. FINANCE & CUSTOMS —Yes, two hundred dollars out of the Vote for the Management of the Public Debt.

(Department of Agriculture & Mines.)

MR. COAKER—There is $1760 for Inspectors of timber limits. Last year the vote was only $400. It there any explanation?

HON. MIN. FINANCE & CUSTOMS —Last year two were paid out of Contingencies. There is a vote provided this year.

MR. COAKER—Who is the Examiner of Mill Accounts?

HON. MIN. FINANCE & CUSTOMS —I do not know his name, but I will get it for you.

MR. JENNINGS—I would like to get some information with regard to that vote for the Examiner of Mill Accounts. From information furnished to this House last year we found that many of these small mills operating under the new Saw Mills Act, had not paid the royalty. That law gave these mills certain licenses to operate on Crown Lands and they were to pay a dollar a thousand on the lumber manufactured. Last year many of these mills did not pay this royalty. Now the information I want to get is this, has the Government taken any action in regard to this royalty? Some of the mill owners contend that if they pay this royalty it will ruin them. Now perhaps the law is being ignored, like a great number of other laws. If this law is a hardship on these mill owners it should be repealed; but if it is still considered to be law, it should be carried out.

MR. LLOYD—I would like to support the remarks of the member for Twillingate in reference to this matter. A great many mill owners are operating under these licenses and are being charged a dollar per thousand on their lumber, contend that it is an unfair hardship to their business and that it prevents them from competing with large mill owners who have limits. A number of them came to me to lay their case before me. They said that while a large mill reckoning on the royalty and the acreage pays something like thirty or forty cents, they are compelled to pay a dollar a thousand, and the tax they pay the Government is twice as much in proportion as the large mill pays; and by reason of this taxation they cannot compete fairly with the output of the large mills and a considerable number of them have gone and are going out of business. I intended at some period in this session to bring this matter up and ask that

it be taken up by the Department of Agriculture and Mines and have some information tabled in this House to show how the taxation on the large mills compares with this taxation of a dollar a thousand paid by the smaller mills; because I am sure that neither the Government nor the Department of Agriculture and Mines intends to unfairly tax the small mills. There is no desire on the part of the Government to put these small mills out of business. A great number of mill men from Trinity have come to me and told me they are out of business because of this tax. I mention this matter now because it is appropriate to this vote for the Examiner of Mill Accounts. At a later stage I would like the matter to be brought up when the Government has had an opportunity to enquire into it and lay the facts before the House.

MR. COAKER—Several of these small mill owners have been complaining about this $1 rise per thousand, and they have not only complained but have also intimated to me that the Inspector that goes around in connection with this matter has informed them that the bill authorizing such tax was passed at the request of the Opposition party in this House. I wish to state here that on no occasion has that wish been expressed or intimated by the members on this side of the House. The first session that we were here we did ask that restriction be placed on the large-sized mills. The Government brought in a Bill to that effect and went a little further and placed a one dollar tax on lumber put up by the small mills. But that later tax was in no way suggested by us. Where the Government expected to get twenty-five thousand dollars they got ten and, not only that, but the people who run these small mills are very dissatisfied with things. I think that the best thing that can be done is for the Government to rescind that section. The leader of the Oppostion has asked that information be given on the matter and that someone be made responsible to the House for the taking of this matter up. Sooner or later something will have to be done. We find that quite a number of these owners have escaped these royalties and when we inquired into the reason we found that they were all influential men, who strongly supported the Government. I hope that sooner or later something will be done so that this section may be recinded.

(Inspector of Lighthouses.)

MR. COAKER—May I ask if the Inspector of Light-houses is supposed to be performing his duties. He has not been in his office doing any work for some months past, I believe.

MINISTER FINANCE & CUSTOMS—He is ill. For some time past he has been unable to perform his duties.

MR. JENNINGS—With regard to the Inspector of Lighthouses, I think that he should be a man who is able to perform the duties of his office, especially in visiting the different stations during the year, finding out their needs and being in a position to know what their needs are and to cope with them. If he did this he would well earn his salary. As it is he is dependent upon the information he receives from these conducting the lighthouses, and I think it may be said that these authorities are not always accurate in every respect. I think it ought to be made part of the Inspector's duties to visit all the lighthouses in the Island every year. That is the only way in which this department can properly be carried on.

MR. HALFYARD—I would agree with the remarks that the hon. member for Twillingate has just made. I think it should be the Inspector of Lighthouses that would advise the

Government as to the amount which the salaries of the different keepers ought to be and he also ought to rate the amount which should be allowed for the maintenance of these institutions. You cannot expect the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to know everything about lighthouses and the adjustment of these salaries ought not to be cast upon him. I have already brought to the attention of this Committee the extraordinary discrepancies that exist between the salaries of the lighthouse keepers of certain Islands. Where the work practically speaking is the same, you find one man getting $686.76, another $468.00. Surely this is not quite fair. It must cause a great deal of dissatisfaction between these keepers, and such dissatisfaction cannot be conducive to good work. The Inspector of Lighthouses should attend to these matters and have the necessary adjustments made. We want a live Inspector of Lighthouses. If the man now occupying that position cannot get around, let him be provided for and the position filled by a man who can effect the necessary improvements and adjustments in a proper fashion. Now take for example the case of the man at Change Islands. About 18 months ago a lantern was erected on the south west end of Change Islands. There was a pole, 8 feet high stuck in the ground and a lantern was attached. A keeper was appointed and given a salary of $100 to put that lantern up in position in the evening and take it down in the morning, and he was given an allowance of $50.00 for maintenance. Now, I cannot understand, and the people down there cannot understand, how it is that that lantern consumes $50 worth of oil in a year, because it is only operated during the fishing season—it is not working during the winter; and the allowance is increased this year on the per centage basis. These are things which should be attended to, because I can assure the House that a great many light keepers are not properly compensated for their services, while others get doubly paid for the work which they perform. Therefore, I support the remarks made by the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Jennings, in reference to the duties of the Inspector of Lighthouses.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman: I would like to ask the Minister who are the second and third clerks in the Marine and Fisheries Department?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—The second clerk was, I think, Mr. Devine. I don't know who the third clerk is.

MR. CLIFT—Is Mr. Devine there now?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—I don't know.

MR. CLIFT—What is the explanation of the difference in salaries of the Codliver Oil and Herring Inspectors? There are two at $1200. and one at $1,000.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—One of these inspectors is Mr. Coyell. He is also a cooper, and he inspects barrels and that sort of thing, besides inspecting codliver oil and the herring. Mr. Dee is also an inspector. That was an extra duty thrown on him this year. He was the Lobster Inspector. The new Herring Board took him over in the fall of the year. He is a man of considerable experience, and knows all about this fishery. His salary was increased from $790 to $1000.

(Public Works.)

MR. LLOYD—Is Mr. Harris, the Secretary, in receipt of any other moneys?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—Not that I am aware of.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—No, he has no perquisities.

MR. GRIMES—I understand from the Minister of Public Works that

Mr. Harris is not in receipt of any moneys apart from his salary. That being so, Sir, I think he should be given an increase in his salary. There is no more obliging official in any Department of the Public Service than Mr. Harris. Probably more money passes under his scrutiny and as much detailed work to be attended to or at least equal to any other Deputy Head in the service. He is always on the job. Any time you go up to the Public Works Department you will find Mr. Harris; and he has got his work arranged so systematically that no matter what question you ask him in relation to the Department he has the answer ready to hand at a moment's notice. Now, the services of an official of that kind would certainly, in any private concern in the city, be highly paid. I have always contended that the Government should set an example to private employers by paying their competent men decent salaries. Anyone who is acquainted with Mr. Harris knows that he is interested in his work because of his love for his work and not so much because of the salary he is receiving, and I think a man of that kind should receive some encouragement in the way of decent remuneration. The Minister of Public Works can substantiate what I have said, and he ought to take a note of this matter. As has been pointed out here this afternoon, the salary of any man to-day is only worth a little more than half what it was two years ago. Mr. Harris is a married man, with a family, and a married man ought to be given consideration in all departments. I hope the Minister will note this matter and remember the suggestion.

MR. LLOYD—In this connection I may say that just before Sir Edward Morris resigned the duties of his office there was a gentleman who applied for the position of Minister of Public Works, if we should succeed in retaining the Government, and the reason alleged was that there was nothing to do in the office except sign a few cheques. Now, Sir, if that appeals to my hon. friend who is occupying that office I take it that it was the chief inducement—that all the Minister had to do was to sign a few cheques. There can be no doubt whatever that the Minister of that Department is in a very happy position in having such a competent man as his Deputy. Whoever has been in that office and seen the working of it must have been struck with the efficiency displayed there. Any time I have gone in I have found Mr. Harris engaged up to the hilt with work, but he can nevertheless turn to the matter in hand and discuss it. He knows where to lay his hands on the information, and is always able to give the fullest satisfaction that the office can afford. He is, to my mind, one of the most competent deputy heads that the Government has, and I think that the Government is to be congratulated on having the services of Mr. Harris, and the Minister himself is extremely happy in having such an easy lot. Some remarks have been made regarding the messenger of the Department, and the fact that he is paid a rather high salary. I don't know the gentleman, don't know if I have ever seen him, and would not know him if I met him on the street; but I do know that it is common talk about town that he has nothing to do and that he can find time to go anywhere and everywhere except where the duties of his office should bring him. Court officials know him well, from the amount of time he spends in the court room, and the report of the Minister as to the arduous duties which he performs is certainly not borne out by others. It is common comment about town that the messenger of the Board of Works Department has nothing to do, and that he has so little to do that he is

able to carry on a business of his own.

MR. COAKER—I hope that the Minister of Public Works will see in future that the messenger of his Department is kept to his duties, because it is doing no good to any Department of the public service when an employee is doing nothing. People can say that he is earning a thousand or a couple of thousand dollars a year outside his salary, and if there is any objection to be made the first thing they will say is "Look at so-and-so," why isn't he made do his work instead of making political speeches; he should be made take his duties more seriously. There was a proclamation issued in 1900 or 1901 prohibiting any public official taking part in politics, and yet it is pointed out today that a public official is not alone talking politics, but taking off his coat and working for a party. Under the proclamation this man would be subject to immediate dismissal. It is the duty of every public official to mind his duties, and any man in public office who takes sides in politics is not much better than a fool. I know this from experience. I had a civil service appointment some years ago. I was a young fellow of twenty-three or twenty-four, and I could not remain quiet. I was talking all the time, and as a result I was getting in hot water continually. My experience is that in such a case it is better to leave politics alone, and when a man in a public position enters into party controversies he is devoid of common sense. No party will thank him and he will only succeed in getting himself into hot water and find very soon that he is not wanted. Some public officials can talk politics and not make themselves objectionable, but this man goes out and gets into rows. At the present time he is very much annoyed with Mr. Hickman, and says that he is going to get after Mr. Hickman's scalp etc. I hope the Minister will see that this man doesn't make himself obnoxious. With regard to Mr. Harris, I would endorse the previous speakers' remarks. He is a first class official, and there is not a better one in the whole country. If you want to keep a man like him you should encourage him by increasing his salary. A man like Mr Harris, who is superior in every way, ought not only get this salary, but he should get $2,000. A man in a Department like that, where he is handling so much money, should be given a decent salary so that this money will be no temptation to him. We would have no hesitation in supporting any increase that you might see fit to give Mr. Harris.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—As regards this matter of the messenger going around talking, I can assure you that he is not encouraged by me. I think he ought to mind his own business. Sometimes in ordinary conversation a man can't help talking politics, but as regards his opinions he ought to keep them to himself. I will have a talk with Lockyer, and if he has said anything offensive, especially to Mr. Hickman, I will see that he apologizes. As regards the salary of Mr. Harris, I think if you give him $1,800 a year he will be thankful.

MR. LLOYD—Some reference has been made to civil servants in regard to politics. I, for one, would not wish to put any undue restraint on any civil servant. He is entitled to his own opinions amongst his own friends, he is entitled to talk what politics he likes and to vote as he likes, and to have all the rights of a citizen. The only objection we raise is to a civil servant making himself obnoxious by political campaigning. I take it that that is the only objection on this side of the House. We would never hold it against a man that he doesn't agree with us, and we have no objection to his talking what

politics he likes or voting how he likes. The objection we raise is that he should become a political campaigner. As regards Mr. Lockyer, I don't know anything against him in this way. I am merely stating the position that a civil servant should not come out actively in politics. He does so at his own risk.

MR. JENNINGS—It seems to me that this kind of thing is another result of our voting system. In many cases these men get their appointments because they talk politics and because they are heelers for some party, not because of their ability. Now if that system was cut out it would be different. I think that a civil servant campaigning during an election year for one party or another is one of the most obnoxious things going. I don't know how they get on at all. Of course some people don't take them seriously and simply treat them with charity. But it is certainly the case that some of these civil servants do political campaigning and try to win over votes for the political party that gave them their job, and the sooner this system is cut out the better.

MR. WOODFORD.—Mr. Churchill has done much extra work in connection with the drawing of plans for a number of public buildings in the outports. If these plans had been drawn by an architect they would have cost a lot, but Mr. Churchill did the work free and during the past 8 years Mr. Churchill has been doing all this work and receiving no extra pay. He drew all the plans of the sanatorium on Topsail Rd, and made the plans for the additions to the Lunatic Asylum; and all his work has been so satifactory that he asked for an increase in salary and the Government readily granted it and agreed that he was worth the small increase.

MR. COAKER—When did he get it?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Within the year; a few months ago.

MR. LLOYD.—I do not take any exception to the increase because I think everybody recognizes in him a most competent official.

MR. COAKER—The Superintendent of Public Works $750; who is that.

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—His brother, Mr. Samuel Churchill.

MR. LLOYD—Who are the two road inspectors?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Messrs. Murphy and Parsons.

MR. LLOYD.—The inspector of roads outside St. John's; who is that?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Captain Bonia

MR. LLOYD—What is Capt. Bonia's position. Does he hold that job or does he hold the job of controller?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—He is only acting in the meantime.

MR. LLOYD.—Is he holding two positions and drawing two salaries?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—He has not been paid anything?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—No. He has been appointed by the Department to organize that service. He has no salary and he has been paid nothing. The Minister was asked to organize that department and Capt. Bonia was placed there during the winter months for that purpose.

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—During the summer he is engaged outside St. John's, and during the winter months he was employed here.

MR. CLIFT.—Was any arrangement made to pay him?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—No.

MR. COAKER.—Any vote in the estimates for his salary?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Not yet.

MR. GRIMES.—I would like to call the attention of the House to the votes for these two road inspectors and ask for some explanation re the increase in their salaries.

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—The

schedule increase on their salaries of $900 makes them $926.

MR. CLIFT.—What about travelling expenses?

MINISTER OF FINANCE—You will find that noted on page 8—travelling expenses to inspectors and assistants $1000.

MR. CLIFT.—Was that overspent last year?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I do not think so.

MR. LLOYD—With reference to the correspondence re the Government Engineer asked for me by me?

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I will have it for you to-morrow.

MR. LLOYD—Will you in the mean time let the vote stand?

MINISTER OF FINANCE—Yes.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—We had better go on with the other votes.

MR. COAKER—What is that vote for an inspector.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—That is for a railway inspector.

MR. COAKER—Who is he?

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Liddy, at one time the East end road inspector.

MR. LLOYD.—Before the vote for the Government Engineer's department goes through I would like to call the attention of the House to the railway accident that occurred last February. I understand that it has been investigated; and at all events it points to something radically wrong with the railway, whether it is a matter that affects the Government Engineer or the railway inspector, I do not know, as I have not had the opportunity of seeing any report that may have been made. I would like to know whether the Government Engineer has reported on the accident yet. The accident occurred early in February last and by this time the House should be afforded some information on the subject. It was one of the worst accidents that occurred on the railway. A number of persons lost their lives in a most tragic and horrible manner. Some of them apparently were caged up in the second class car by the sleeping arrangements and were coffined and unable to get out and were burned to death. The accident was connected more particularly with the defective manner of lighting the car; and when the car overturned the oil ran from the lamps, was ignited and set fire to the compartment. Another matter that was apparently considered important was the state of the road bed and the state of the rails. I take it that it should be very easy to report on these matters; and I rise now mainly to enquire as this is the department concerned whether there has been a report on this accident. I do not mean the Magisterial report; but a report from the department of the Government Engineer.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I may say that I shall have the report at the next session; and in any case I shall have a statement to make for the information of the House. This I do know, that arrangements are being made or nearly completed whereby electric light will be installed in all passenger cars, as the outcome of the accident.

MR. LLOYD—I am glad to hear that. It would be well to have a statement on the matter. There is another serious matter and that is regarding the condition of the rolling stock and the state of the road bed and the condition of the rails. I understand that accidents of this sort might be due to the condition of the rolling stock. For instance, when the wheels are not kept in good repair; when they are not kept circular and become rather flattened, they strike with tremendous force on the rails and smash them. It is on such points as that, that we would like to hear

from the Government Engineer and the Inspector and have them assign some cause if possible for the accident, because every other day accidents are occurring. In this particular case there happened to be a further circumstance—viz: the defective means of controlling the oil lights so that the car caught fire and the passengers were burned. The Colony has been most fortunate so far and the Railway Co. extremely lucky in many accidents that have happened but did not have fatal results. That is, they have happened in places and at times and under circumstances whereby the damage has been very limited, whereas under different conditions they might have been even worse than last February's accident. And there is not entire satisfaction or confidence in connection with the inspection of the road. It is a matter that should be taken up by the Government when there is a report before it as to the condition of the road.

MR. COAKER.—I wish to point out that there is very little good going to be accomplished in investigating into accidents on the railway under the present circumstances. There have been a large number of run-offs and accidents and these will continue You are not going to have a railway to give satisfaction until a million dollars are spent on the road. The railway cannot make a speed greater than ten miles an hour. Two-thirds of the ties are rotten. You can go out on the railroad and verify that and find they are not fit to do duty. It is no wonder that we have accidents. Anybody who knows about the condition of the road knows that it is not in a condition for traffic. It has taken the company three months to give us a normal rate on express trains. Will the company find a million dollars to put that road into condition. In my opinion the company are not spending money to any large extent on that railway; and something should be done. It is the duty of the Government to enquire into the matter. One of the reasons why we countenanced coalition was that we wanted to have that railway put in good condition. You have taken precautions in various ways against submarines. What position is the Colony in if one or two of these submarines appear off our coast and disorganize our seagoing freights and traffic? You will be thrown entirely upon the railway facilities to handle all our imports and exports. What condition is our railway in to-day to handle even 50% of our imports You want a larger number of cars. The road bed must be put in good condition. You want proper facilities for handling freight and you need facilities at the terminus for that purpose as well.

This is a matter which should have been considered and a commission appointed twelve months ago, to enquire into the matter of the condition of the railway, and some steps should have been taken to put the railway in first class condition so that it might be ready for any emergency that might arise in connection with the transportation problem. This should not be longer neglected. We are living in war times. We must prepare for any eventuality. If the German submarines were able to get to New York and do damage last year, what is to prevent them coming to Newfoundland this year and if they should sink our ships. would we be prepared to trust our total importation and exportation to the railway. If you cannot export our fish the price must fall two, three or four dollars, and if that comes the people must starve. I would not be adverse to any measure having as its object the betterment of the railway. It will need one million dollars spent on it before it will be fit to trust on.

This is our duty and we must see that it is done and well done. If we do not, then there is a serious blot on this House, because it is our responsibility. This railway is not in good condition. A large amount of money will be required to be spent on it before it can be in good condition. We cannot let it remain as it is longer, even if the country should have to take charge and repair it, because if you go to the railway company and ask them to do it they may say to you, "take it up and run it, take charge yourselves. We have done our best." Suppose the country should be put to this tomorrow. It may be best in the interests of the country to have the Reid Newfoundland Company operating this railway but the line must be kept in good repair, and prepared if needs be to do all the business of the country. It is going to cost a lot of money to put it in good condition, but that money must be got and spent. If the company has not the million dollars to put on it, we will have to let them have it. Everyone who knows anything about our railway, with experience of rails, ties, cars and locomotives knows that if the people knew the real condition of affairs, they would be horrified. We are risking our lives every time we go on this railway, and nothing has been done yet. Now what is going to be done? Are you going to let things go on as they have been for the past few years? I think if the Prime Minister and the Executive got together on this matter, and took all the facts into consideration, they would see that a commission is appointed without delay and as a result of such an enquiry suggestions ought to be made to this House as soon as possible in order that they might be considered and something done to keep this line in perfect running order during the next six months in case of emergency. It is alright to talk of saving one million dollars, but this is investing it, and unless it is done you will find three quarters of our people next year without the necessities of life. I do not know whether you get a report or not from the Government Engineer. I never saw any. There seem to be reports from other Heads of Departments and other inspectors but I have seen none from the Government Engineer or his inspectors. If there is anything to be revealed, let it be made known. There is no advantage in keeping a thing dark, and the quicker any defect is brought to the light the better. There is no good to be done in talking. What we want to do is to have a commission on this matter get down to business, and if this matter passes without anything being done, the Government must take the blame for anything that may happen. These eight lives should never have been lost. The road is not now in condition and you will find it was not then. That accident was caused by bad ties. In this country the ties wear out in 6 or 7 years, and if you look you will find that even in the Bonavista Branch the ties have become rotted, and what is true there is doubly true on the main line. This is an expensive work for the Company having to replace these ties every 6 or 7 years but it is work that must be done, and will be left undone only at the peril of human life. Now this is a serious matter, and when now we have the ways and means, we should consider this matter. The responsibility is ours and we should meet it before it is too late. I should like to see a select committee from this House appointed to look into this matter, and Mr. Hall brought in and asked to explain to us the condition of affairs, and the prospects in case owing to increased submarine tactics on the part of the enemy we should be obliged to depend on the

railway for importing and exporting our supplies and produce.

MR. TARGETT.—While on the subject of the railroad I would like to make a remark or two, and it is about smoking in second class cars. Now Sir, in the first class cars there in a small apartment where men are allowed to smoke, and where their smoking would not seriously effect anybody. This is alright, but now, Sir, in the second class cars there is no smoking car, and smoking is allowed in the car itself. I have had occasion to travel in the second class cars sometimes, and I have found there ladies, respectable ladies, almost smothered by smoke as the result of this practice. Now, Sir, if people are not allowed to smoke in the first class cars, they should not be allowed to do so in the second class ones. This is just a minor matter, Mr. Chairman, but I think it is of sufficient importance to warrant the Government taking this matter up with the railway company and so see what can be done.

MR. LLOYD.—I rise to support the remarks of the member for Twillingate in reference to the railway. I have already given my opinion in reference to the railway on the lines that have been already laid. Since the war started, when this service should be kept at its best, no effort has been made to put the railway into first class condition, and see that the road bed, the rails and the rolling stock are kept in a high state of efficiency. Instead of adopting the course of turning off their employees as this company did when the war started, it should have continued the construction work, and kept the present railway in good repair. I may say that this is not a new matter in so far as the members of the opposition are concerned, but it is a matter which we on this side of the house have given considerable thought towards. We have time and time again considered the matter of making our railway capable of handling the business of the country. We have recognized that the Government and the Company may have information at their disposal which we have not, and that they may be acting accordingly. Their reports of the condition of the line may be different from ours, as they have probably a better chance of finding this out. They may have realized the possibility that the company might throw down the contract and leave it to the country to be operated. We recognized all this but in spite of that there is a National emergency that has to be provided for and the Company or the Government must look into this matter. The country is in great peril by allowing the state of affairs to continue as they are to-day. If the Government would take action in this matter and work with the object of getting this railway put into a state of thorough efficiency, we on this side of the House would support them fully in doing what is necessary. If it is necessary to lend money to the Company to bring the railway up to its proper state of efficiency, we on this side of the House would be prepared to support them fully in doing what was necessary. We would be justified in doing whatever we could, as we would at the same time be insuring the country and the imports and the exports of the country. It is for this reason that I would support the remarks of the member for Twillingate, and I would call the attention of the Government to them, so that when we take up the matter of the Government Engineer's salary they may have considered this matter and be in a position to define their position in connection therewith.

MR. GRIMES.—I endorse in toto what has been said by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the condition of the railway service in

the country. More and more the railway is being relied upon to give a service which it is unable to give to meet the increasing demands upon it. Anyone who is familiar with the amount of goods we are importing from England, Canada and the United States is aware that we are getting less and less from England and that means we are getting more and more from Canada and the United States. We have only one steamer from the United States, though I think we got the service of another from Bowring Brothers; but at any rate they are not able to meet the demands for freight, and that means that the railway has to be brought into service in order to be able to supply the needs of the trade and of the country.. What do we find in the last couple of years? We find that within the last twelve months the Intercolonial Railway has refused to accept the transhipment of goods via North Sydney because the Reid-Newfoundland Co. is not able at certain seasons of the year to relieve the freight congestion at North Sydney. I think the Government ought to give serious attention to this matter because we are liable to get up against a serious condition of affairs not only as regards the question of clothing but as regards the question of our food supplies; and if, as Mr Coaker has suggested this afternoon a submarine were to come off here during the summer months and sink the two or three steamers we have in use then we would be up against it good and hard and we would have to fall back on the railway, a railway that would be able to supply what the country requires.

Another matter that I wish to draw the attentoin of the House to Sir, is, that no statement has yet been made by the Leader of the Government as to whether he is going to carry out the suggestions made in the Report of the Postmaster General as to the method in which the Civil Service should be carried on in future. Throughout the country every Civil Servant is now looking at what this House intends to do during this session and as to whether the Government intends to adopt the recommendation. The Minister of Finance said when introducing the Estimates that he was willing to accept any suggestion made by members of this House. Now we are making these suggestions in the interest of the country as well as in the interest of the Civil Service. They are made in the interest of efficiency and to save the great demoralization that is going on in various departments owing to the fact that you have not given consideration to service and efficiency on the part of employees but have acted on the amount of pull they may have with various members of the Government or with those in a position to grant increases of salary or promotion. Well if you are going to let the same condition go on that has prevailed for the past thirty or forty years despite the fact that every Civil Servant is now looking to see what you are going to do I feel it will have a very bad effect. The Government has the greatest opportunity of its life in connection with the Civil service in getting it to give better service to the country than it has been doing. There is no doubt as has been pointed out in the House this afternoon that there are officials in the service who do not care a button what kind of work they do as long as they get their salaries. The hardest work they do is when they go and draw these salaries; but if you want to get efficiency and want to get good service the only way to do it is by adopting the suggestions made in the Postmaster General's report and the suggestions made by members of this House.

Demands have been made from

time to time that a minimum wage should be established by workers in the different trades and if the Premier when he was visiting the Imperial Conference had consulted the Australian or New Zealand representatives he would have found a method that has been carried on in these countries that could be easily carried on here to satisfy the reasonable demands of the workingmen of this country and if in the future he is to be taken to be sincere on these matters he will have to act now, because nobody will any longer pay any attention to statements of this kind unless something is done to show the statements are sincere. Now if that principle of a proper living wage applies to our industries it also applies equally to the Civil Service. You vote the salaries of the Civil servants here in this House and the Premier can very easily say we are going to carry out an arrangement whereby a man shall at least be given a living wage. Some of the Civil servants are not getting a living wage. A married man who gets five or six hundred dollars to-day is only getting a salary worth about half it was two years ago. I trust we will see something done along these lines before these estimates are passed otherwise the workers in the Civil service and every other workingman in this country will want to know the reason why. These things are not forgotten in a hurry and every demand like that today is kept in the minds of the people and when the right time comes they will judge the words of every member according to the deeds he performs in the House.

Now the Premier has made the statement in reference to an election that the Press of this country has shown no desire whatever for an election. Even the Finance Minister smiles at that because he knows that is hardly correct and that the Prime Minister was astray, when he said the Press with but a single exception.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I did not say that. I did not make even one exception. I said the Press of the country. I was not contemplating the "Advocate" at all.

MR. GRIMES—Now we have in this country nine papers. "The Daily News," "The Evening Herald," the "Daily Star" and the "Evening Telegram" have advocated the postponement of the election. Then on the other hand we have the "Daily Mail" the "Harbour Grace Standard" the "Bay Roberts Guardian" and the "Western Star" advocating an election this fall. How can the Premier make that statement when you have one half of the press demanding an election this fall. How can he expect such a statement to go unchallenged in the face of the fact that these four papers are demanding an election and if you refer to these four papers which are demanding an election you will find that they have greater influence and circulation than the four daily papers of this town that are against an election. Not only has the press of this country but particularly the Government press, by which I mean that section of the press which supports the Government and in return receives Government support, entirely misrepresented the attitude of the Canadian papers on this question of a general election. To-day I see the "Daily News" making a statement to the effect that the Hon. George P. Graham, Mr. Nesbit and Mr. Buchanan were the first to declare themselves in favour of having no general election. The idea suggested by the "News" in the first part of this editorial was that they were opposed to an election this fall. I have here a speech made by the same man in which he speaks in a very different strain. Now according to this speech of Mr. Graham the Government of Canada was preparing for an election

and they strongly preferred an election to a referendum vote on the question of conscription. The reasons which make a general election in Canada advisable apply much more forcibly and strongly here. I have stated that half the press, three-quarters of the press representing the outports of this Island are strongly in favour of an election. Take, for instance, the case of the "Daily Mail" which has an outport circulation of twice the magnitude of that of any other city paper, and you will find that that paper is subscribed to more largely than any other just for the very reason that it so strongly advocates this policy. Surely the Government does not want ampler proof of the sentiment of the people on this question than has been afforded by hon. members in this House. Surely the Government is practical enough to see that the only way to aid the Empire in this present crisis is to obey and follow the desires of the people. It is not because we, on this side of the House desire it, but because the people whom we represent, clamour for it that we adopt an attitude so firm and unswerving on this question. 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?

I would like to ask the representative of the Agricultural Board here, Mr. Devereux, what attempt has been made this year towards aiding the societies to increase the production of potatoes as represented in this report.

MR. DEVEREUX.—Mr. Chairman. The plans adopted to provide a sufficient production for next year are to be found in the report of the department of Agriculture and Mines. The plans referred to have resulted so that the people have been enabled this year to plant from their own production of last year sufficient potatoes to give them a sufficient excess over the output of last year amounting to one hundred and fifty thousand barrels.

MR. GRIMES—I would like to ask the Minister what part the societies played in this increase and what part the Board took?

MR. DEVEREAUX—Since the inception of the Board, it has been working in such a way that I am astonished that you should ask that question this evening. They have been multiplying excessively, especially with regard to potatoes. This has been going on through the course of the years that we have planted a superior seed that gives this great production, of from six to eight thousand of the best potato seed that it is possible to procure. The result has been that there is a surplus of from 30,000 to 40,000 barrels besides what has been planted and eaten. Ten years ago potatoes were given out in the spring through the representatives as a pauper's dole. This year see the difference.

MR. LLOYD—Then why the increase in price?

MR. DEVEREAUX—There is an increase in everything. You have only to compare prices of an agricultural country to see what we have done.

MR. LLOYD—You say that there is an excess production here. Why then is there an increase in the price?

MR. DEVEREAUX—That certainly shows you do not know what you are talking about. Scarcity and not excess causes an increase in price. This year has been the first in the history of the Colony in which we produced more than we needed. If we had to depend upon other countries this year to import seed, we should have had to

pay at least $6.50 a barrel for it. We have given the people potatoes this year at from $3.50 to $4.50 a barrel, and to-day potatoes can be bought in this Colony at $2.80 a barrel.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Potatoes that are selling in Halifax for $9.00 a barrel.

MR. LLOYD—What has that got to do with it?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—It has got a lot to do with it. The reason the price is so high in spite of there being an excessive production is due to the fact that potatoes have taken the place of other commodities that have gone up in price. That is a simple proposition which anyone can understand.

MR. LLOYD—I am not going to accept any such explanation. The hon. member for Placentia said that there was an excess of potatoes last year, and I want to point out that if that were so the tendency would be for the price to lower instead of increase.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—And I answer by stating what in my opinion is the reason, and I leave it to the committee to judge if it is a fair one. It is due to the fact that potatoes have taken the place of other commodities. They have taken the place of flour.

MR. DEVEREAUX—If we did not have that excuse we would be at the mercy of foreign prices, and we would to-day be paying $10 a barrel instead of $4.50 for potatoes.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—If flour were selling to-day at $5.00 a barrel, you could get potatoes for $2.00.

MR. LLOYD—You have said that potatoes have taken the place of flour, but you have not shown where they have taken the place of one barrel.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—The very fact that the potato crop, though largely increased, has been consumed is the very best proof.

MR. LLOYD—There is no proof whatever before this committee that any quantity of potatoes have taken the place of one barrel of flour.

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 remaining orders of the day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, June 27th., 1917

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

PETITIONS.

MR. DEVEREUX—Mr. Chairman: I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Jersey Harbor, in Fortune Bay, asking that a telegraph station be erected at that place. This settlement is an important one. There are eight or ten large schooners fishing from there, and there is quite a large amount of business carried on there, I have been asked to present the petition, and I trust that the department of the Colonial Secretary will give it every consideration, and that the prayer of the petitioners will be granted.

Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from Peter's River, Saint Vincent's, St. Shott's, St. Mary's and Trepassey, asking that a road be built

from Peter's River to Trepassey in order to connect the various settlements which I have named with the railway. This petition is very largely signed by the inhabitants of these places, there being almost a thousand names to it. Amongst whom are the names of Rev. S. O'Driscoll of Saint Mary's, and Rev. O'Flaherty of Trepassey, Magistrate Hogan and other prominent people of those places. These people suffer a great inconvenience at the present time because of having no proper road connecting with the railway terminus at Trepassey. As the House well knows this is a great fishing centre Thousands of people congregate there in the summer months; in fact, at one time or another during the fishing season practically all the people of Placentia Bay visit this neighbourhood. I trust that the House will take into consideration the importance of this petition, and that during the present year a road will be constructed which will not only be a credit to that particular part of the district of Placentia and St. Mary's but to the Government and to the whole country. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

MR. WALSH.—Mr. Speaker. I have very much pleasure in giving my hearty support to the petition which has just been presented by my colleague Mr Devereux, for the particular reason that there is no coastal boat plying between Trepassey and St Mary's, along the settlements named in this petition, and I think that due consideration should be given those people and an amount of money sufficient to give them a decent road should be granted by the Government. There is a road between St. Mary's and St. Vincent's, and it would require a good deal of money to put it in condition. There is a kind of path from St. Shott's to Peter's River, but I would be ashamed to call it a road. This road is a long-felt want, and it should receive serious consideration at the hands of the Government. These settlements all contribute largely to the revenue of the colony; and the people of this neighbourhood are an industrious, hardworking people who deserve more consideration than they have had in the past. I trust, therefore, that the Government will see its way clear to allocating sufficient money to construct the road asked for.

MR. TARGETT.—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present a petition from George's Brook asking for a sum of money to build a bridge. This bridge is very badly needed, and I trust that the Government will see its way clear to acceding to the request of the petitioners. The amount asked for is $150.00. The petition is signed by practically all the inhabitants of the place, and I ask that it be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. MORRIS—Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of this petition. I know the locality mentioned. I walked from Peter's River to Trepassey at one time, and my memory goes back as far as 1884 when the Allan boat Hanoverian was lost up there. She had quite a number of passengers, and they walked from Trepassey to Peter's River, and came to St.John's that way, and at that time the people there were agitating to have this road constructed. This will show you, Sir, and the House that as far back as thirty years ago the construction of the proposed road was considered to be a very great necessity, and I trust that the money will be forthcoming now to build it. I don't know whether a special grant will be required, but I presume it will be, as it will hardly be possible to construct a road of this character

out of our regular grants. I think the members for the district ought to apply to the Executive Government for a special grant to meet this expenditure, and I have no doubt that their request will receive every consideration at the hands of the Government.

REPORTS TABLED.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled report of the Tuberculosis Service; Report of the Public Health Dept.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs tabled a statement of Customs Revenue collected in the Colony during the year ended June 30th 1916. A statement of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the year ended 30th June 1916; a comparative statement of goods, wares and merchandise imported into the Colony during the years ended 30th June 1915 and 30th June 1916 showing the increase and decrease for the year 1915-1916; a comparative statement of Revenue received at each of the outports for the years 1914-1915 and 1915-1916; a comparative statement of Light Dues showing collections at each outport for the years 1914-1915 and 1915-1916.

A return of the Bank Fishery for the year 1916.

A statement showing the Revenue collected on goods, wares and merchandise imported through the Post Office.

A statement showing the movements of shipping during the year ended 30th June 1916.

An Abstract of Shipping for the year ended 31st December 1916.

Mr. Grimes gave notice of question.

Mr. Clift gave notice of question.

MR. LLOYD.—I ask for the correspondence re the Government Engineer's salary.

Hon. Minister Finance tabled the correspondence.

Mr. Hickman asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries who owns the s.s. Desola, and why steps have not been taken to remove her.

Mr. Hickman asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House a full list of all monies sent to Bay de Verde district from his Department and returns received since 1st day of January, 1916, and to whom sent.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES.—With reference to the Desola, I have been trying to find out the owners and cannot. Some tell me she is owned in Halifax, others that she is owned by the underwriters, and others that she is owned by the Reid Nfld. Co. Who really owns her it is almost impossible to find out; but when I do I will let Mr. Hickman know. As regards the second part of the question, we will have to find out first who owns her before we can start to remove her. The only thing that I can find out is that the man from Halifax who bought the Stella Maris tried to raise this vessel and he gave up the endeavor. Mr. Tasker Cook is going to let me have all the information he has on the subject.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Public Service Electric Co., Ltd.,, was read a first time and was ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

SUPPLY.

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. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman, yesterday when discussing the report of

the Agriculture and Mines Department the member for Placentia, Mr. Devereaux, said that as the result of the agricultural policy there were 400,000 barrels of potatoes grown in excess of last year. And the inference which anyone would draw from that statement is that the department is to be creditted with all that excess. In the superabundance of that modesty which is his by nature he has claimed all the credit for his department, and Providence has had no credit whatever Anybody who remembers last summer season will admit that the weather was very favorable for an increase in agricultural products. And the consequence is that we have this increase not only in connection with potatoes but also in connection with hay and root crops and in most of the other crops that are grown in Newfoundland. Speaking for the District of Port de Grave, I have a pretty fair knowledge of what the agricultural societies are doing over there, and I venture to assert without fear of successful contradiction that the societies there have played a very small part in the development of agriculture in that place, not having the means at their disposal to help as they desire. It is true they have done a little, but it is a very little amount in comparison with the amount of agricultural work that is carried on in that district independent of the societies. Last year there was an increase in the growth of potatoes but the amount of seed that was sent over by the Board was small—only reaching a very small portion of the people who had to use seed, the greater part of the people having to buy their seed from people in the neighbouring places. They have to thank Providence and their own energy for the increase that came to them last year. So far as the reports of the Agricultura. Societies are concerned,they are very unreliable, because any person who has any acquaintance with the work of the Societies, knows that it is not expected that the secretaries who only receive a small salary of $20 a year, and the chairman who receives nothing at all, are going around from door to door to find out the number of potatoes and other crops are grown in the locality over which they have jurisdiction. When a meeting of the Society is called, more often than anything else, it is found that these are merely guess work on the part of the members. I doubt if you will find a dozen out of the seventy five secretaries who will go around and secure any information from the potato growers in the country. He has not the time and he is not paid to do it. The secretary of the Clarke's Beach board has a jurisdiction which covers 10 or 15 miles of territory, in which there are 5000 or 6000 people, and this includes about 1000 families. Nearly all these people have their little plots of land, and a number of others have some fairly good gardens under cultivation. The secretary of that board is a busy man. He is home in the Fall, and the time at his disposal would never permit him to get around from the Goulds to the lower end. To do so would occupy about six months of the year; but he is expected by the Board here to give accurate information as to the amount of products grown in every section. The same applies to every other Agricultural Society in the country. I have totalled up the amount of potatoes that the Board report shows. The statement compiled here shows the amount of potatoes grown the past year. In the statement showing the quantity of increase last year, 682,500 barrels of potatoes are put down. But in the report of the Societies as compiled here, I have totalled up the additions, and find that from 51 societies there are only 210,665 barrels

reported, leaving 475,000 barrels to be reported by the other 26 societies. Now anyone can see on the face of it that there must be a great inaccuracy somewhere, when 51 societies report only 210,665 barrels as grown last year, and 26 other societies report nothing. Take the question of turnips: In the statement showing the quantity of turnips grown it is placed at 118,800 barrels for last year. I have totalled up the quantities according to the compiled statement from the various parts and it shows 36,100 barrels. Now I would like to ask the hon. member for Placentia how he makes up the other quantity, upon what basis does he estimate the other 70,000 barrels of turnips. It is no use placing a statement before the House and having it read to this committee representing that this country is growing a quantity of turnips or potatoes or other products, when your compiled statement of the various societies does not bear out the agricultural report. It would be alright for the department to take all the credit for every increase each year if they would show facts that they have something on which to base their opinion. I think it is very possible to introduce some scheme whereby we can get more reliable information as we do in connection with the lobster fishery. The fishery department sends a printed form free of charge to every person employed in the industry; and I think the Agricultural Board could send out similar forms with a request that information be furnishd the department of the quantity of crops grown each year. If that were done we would get nearer the truth, and not be dependent upon information from secretaries who have not the time and are not paid for such work. If the present policy is followed we will never get the information that is so necessary for getting accurate figures as to what our country is growing. I would like to hear from the Commissioner as to how he makes up these reports. The one contradicts the other. There may be some explanation to offer.

MR. DEVEREUX—Mr .Chairman: In reply to the hon. member I would like to say that I will take up this matter where he left off last evening, merely to show how easy it is to put a wrong construction upon anything that is written.

MR. GRIMES—I stand open to correction.

MR. DEVEREAUX—Last evening when reading the report before the House the hon. gentleman forgot to say that what he was reading to the Committee was really a portion of a report that was written three years ago; and if that had been stated to the committee at first there would never have been any necessity whatever for the question that he asked, because the extract from the former report was the answer to the question: "How was it that we had such a large quantity of potatoes in the Colony last year?" We claim that it was so because we set to work very early to instruct the people to go in extensively and intensively for agriculture, particularly with regard to the growth of potatoes and cabbages and the other vegetables that are necessary with us. The consequence of our work for 1914, 1915 and 1916, has been that we have this year more than sufficient quantity of potatoes, which is our principle vegetable, to place in the ground for the present year. That is an occurrence that was never witnessed before in this Colony. Previous to inception of the policy which is known as the agricultural policy of the Morris Government, we never had such a state of things as that; and it is because of the inauguration and the carrying out of

that policy in such a manner—as I shall later show—that has brought about such prosperity of our farmers and our fishermen-farmers. As I stated last evening, the price of potatoes in this Colony has risen, just as the cost of other things has risen; but if you compare our prices with those of the neighboring colony, you will find them 100 per cent. higher than ours; and but for the work of the agricultural board we would be in a position this year of having to buy outside, and instead of paying $4.50 per barrel we would have to pay $9. It is almost impossible to-day to land a barrel of potatoes from the neighboring colony here at less than $11 per barrel. I claim that the work of the Agricultural Board together with the societies all over the country has given us such an abnormal production of potatoes and other cereals and vegetables that we are enabled to say to Canada that we are able to provide for all parts of the Colony with seed potatoes amounting to 150,000 barrels, or $600,000 at $4 a barrel. This year because of the impetus not alone from the Agricultural Board but from all parts of the country, we hope to have, if as the hon member for Port de Grave has said, a kind Providence assists us, as it has in the past, in the month of October or November, not alone the production of last year, but 850,000 or 1,000,000 barrels, for we ought to have according to our calculations at least 1,000,000, or 200,000 barrels over and above what it is necessary to place in the ground next year. You ask then what we will do with this surplus. As some people know and as the hon. member for Port de Grave should have known when he made the statement that 52 societies only gave in returns for 210,000 barrels of potatoes, there are 42 or 43 societies more in existence around the Colony, and these are well able to give us the balance that we calculate upon. Anyone who knows the geography of this country and its agricultural properties, must know that if the 92 Agricultural Societies are divided up it is easy for 42 societies out of that number to account for 410,000 barrels of potatoes.

MR. GRIMES—There are only 75 Societies mentioned here.

MR. DEVEREUX.—They were not all enumerated at that time. That is the consensus of opinion as far as we can gather from our societies,and I may state that these societies are composed of our own people, the fishermen-farmers of our country; and when they send in statements to the Agricultural Board we must assume, at least we ought to assume, that their reports are competent and trnthful, and that they are written by people with full knowledge of what they are doing. Is it proper, is it usual for a Board such as the Agricultural Board to turn around and stultify these reports because we feel that the men are not capable of giving a fair report because they are not paid for doing so, or that the Secretaries are paid only $20 a year? I can tell you that though most of the secretaries get only $20 a year, that the majority of them do their work conscientiously and well, and give ten or or twenty times the value of that salary in the returns their labors bring to the Board. And that is why we have to-day an agricultural policy that is the admiration of all right-thinking people in the Colony. The honourable member also referred to last year as being an abnormally good one for potato growth. That may be; and it may be that to Providence is due all the credit of the increase in production. But if you go back 25 years you will find that the same Providence was watching over us, and then you did not have the condition of affairs that you have to-day; we always had

a lean year, but we seldom had a prosperous one. You will find then, in the Spring of the year hundreds and thousands of barrels had to be bought outside the colony, and given to the people in paupers' doles in order that the people might have sufficient potatoes for seeding etc. This year we never had a personal application for a barrel of seed potatoes, except from one or two or three people in needy circumstances, e.g. widows. Why the production last year was so abnormal that we had to ask the Government to disallow the exportation of potatoes from the Colony. As most of you know there were certain people in this town combining to export potatoes to New York and other parts of the U.S.A. That fact in itself ought to give the honourable member for Port de Grave an answer to the question he asked me yesterday. It is because of the strenuous manner in which this Agricultural policy has been carried out and the earnest methods the Societies adopted and the natural intelligence and breadth of view of our fishermen-farmers that we have to-day sufficient potatoes for use and cultivation, and are in an equal if not better position than our neighbouring colony, a typically agricultural country.

We have had opposition, strenuous, vigorous opposition, and the worst kind of political opposition, I could point out and name to-day several societies that were unfortunately under the domination of political parties, and these persons who were not interested sufficiently to see that the best interests of these Societies and these people were conserved. The Agricultural policy that has helped to make the people of this country for the last five years sit down to a table second to none has been entirely successful. I have read this extended report, and verified its contents. As it is all here in the reports which have been tabled and sent in by the different secretaries. I can tell you to-day that there are millions of pounds of meat—local meat sold in this country, meat from cattle that have been brought up under this policy that is to say—the progress of stock introduced by the Agricultural Board. We have to-day in Topsail section alone some 60 butchers that make a living and a good living out of their produce. These men go from Topsail up Conception Bay and round to Placentia and St. Mary's buying up young cattle, and having reared these they are able to provide meats for St. John's, Grand Falls and the other manufacturing towns of the country. We are doing to-day what Prince Edward Island did ten years ago, and I claim it is as the result of a policy which is not ten years old, and still we have here to-day this criticism and hypercriticism. We all know of course the reason for this criticism. No matter what is done outside, when you come here there is not a favoring word, never a sentence bad enough to utter in condemnation of the work, but pinholes after pinholes are pricked in all the reports. Naturally the member for Port de Grave or any other member in office occupies an important position in connection with a district. He is looked up to and rightly so. Any word dropped from him in favor of his side, no matter how ridiculous, which in his small narrow political view condemns it for some personal reason, he forgets how injurious it is to the whole community, who may take it seriously. There are a great many people in the country large enough to condemn today what they believed some years ago to be the only good agricultural policy. These to-day are our best friends, and yet only incidently our friends but really friends of the country; of Newfoundland, helping to uplift her in the manner in which they

have been shown by the policy of the Morris Government. This year we have handled more than $10,000 worth of seeds, and fertilizers, and not including potatoes. Since we have started business we have brought into this colony nine thousand barrels of potatoes, and these have been distributed around as seed with the result that to-day we have potatoes second to none. This is a simple fact which everybody must acknowledge. There had to be special importations from the Dominion of Canada to satisfy the taste of a great many people, but we have them here to-day. Then people used to look down at the local article and ask for imported potatoes. To-day there is no such state of affairs. There is no such importation because through the importation of these seeds year after year we have made it possible to place on the tables of the most particular in the country potatoes and vegetables second to none in the world. That is the principal reason that potatoes are to-day quoted at $4.50 instead of at $2.50. The prices in Canada are up, and our potatoes are equal in quality to them.

The honourable member for Port de Grave also insinuates that these reports are not as they ought to be. That you could not expect a man paid $20 to do what is right. It is a peculiar sort of reasoning, but that is his statement. Now how do you get it. In the olden days the government sent from door to door, house to house, to ask how much potatoes they were raising. That was the only way and that is the way the census is taken. We have moreover compared these reports with the census in most cases, and have almost always found that the reports of the Secretaries of the Committees have been mainly correct. I believe these reports every one of them, and would be prepared, at any time to swear to their accuracy. These secretaries are intelligent men. They have particular knowledge of the sections in which they are living. They have an interest in what they are about. They are conscientious in most cases, and because of this and other considerations we have to-day approximate knowledge of what is being done all over the country by reading these reports. Of course all is approximate, just for the information of the community. There is consequently just as good reasons for believing the Census returns.

MR. GRIMES—The censors go from door to door.

MR. DEVEREAUX—Yes, but they oftimes are content to ask 12 or 15 year old boys for their information. For our reports of course you have to depend upon the honesty of the secretaries.

MR. GRIMES—Rather their imagination.

MR. DEVEREAUX—Not their imagination but their honesty. As all know, potatoes this year were almost equal to their weight in gold. They were used as exchange in some cities abroad. They were getting there $10 a barrel, and our Government had to disallow the exportation of potatoes from the country. Why was that? Because the policy of the present Government has given such an impetus to our agricultural boards that the conditions here to-day are better, far better than ever they were before. In the olden times, no matter how much fish there was, the table was always bereft of potatoes. They would have nothing in the house but the barrel of flour and pork. This, mind you, was only ten years ago, but what different conditions exist to-day. Nine out of ten homes will have full supplies of potatoes for the winter and early spring. If you drop into the homes now on any day you will find them eating better food. You will find in nine cases out of ten either mutton

chops or other meat when in season, with potatoes and other vegetables. All this has happened since the inception of the agricultural policy of the present Government. We found it necessary to prohibit the exportation of these potatoes, with the result that we have to-day in the ground sufficient seeds to give from 800,000 to 1,000,000 barrels of potatoes. In some sections there was not overmuch seed owing to a short crop last year, but then other places had more than they needed, so the agricultural board were always able to tell such where potatoes could be secured, and as a result we have best hopes for the largest crops of potatoes on record this year. Not alone in this line, but we handled this year more than ten thousand dollars worth of small seeds, and many of these seeds would not have been in the country but for the Agricultural Board. As may be well known it was very difficult this year to get into the country sufficient seeds owing to the extraordinary conditions that prevail, and owing to the fact that their exportation from England was prohibited. On account of this the Board had to ask the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister when he was in England to see if anything could be done in the way of supplying our needs, and as a result of his demonstrating how absolutely necessary it was that we should have these seeds, and the conditions which must prevail if we did not get them, the English Govt. were prevailed upon to allow a limited supply to come out here. We find here only a few days ago a number of people asking that the Government give a bonus to clear land. Why is that? I told you last year that from my knowledge of the policy of the Government going here and there around and from the knowledge given me by the various secretaries of the Boards that our people are taking considerable interest in agriculture and that all their land was under cultivation and consequently it is the outcome of the policy of the Government that petitions are coming in asking for a bonus in order that they may take greater advantage with regard to the position we have adopted in connection with agricul ture.

MR. GRIMES—That is not a result of your policy. They have been forced to cultivate their land owing to the high cost of living.

MR. DEVEREAUX—We have had petitions for the past four or five years and I have spoken to the Premier about it, and I think we ought in the interests of those people who are splitting our flour consumption in half, the people who are growing to-day a million barrels of potatoes and other vegetables, give them any advantage we can to encourage them, so that in the very leanest year that may come, we will have sufficient to supply our own market. It may be that there are those who are not in accord with this policy, but the very people who thought that the policy of the present Government with regard to agriculture was not good, have now turned to it, and it has grown into the very fibre of their minds so that they require now what was considered six or eight years ago altogether unnecessary. There were those who stated that the fishermen would not be able to do anything in the way of cultivation beyond cultivating kitchen gardens before their houses, but all along the line to-day you have large farms and to-day our people are supplying large amounts of agricultural products to Grand Falls and Botwood and other places along the line, and as a result our people are farmers where formerly they were merely gardeners. Up in Conception Bay there has been a phenomonal increase in agricultural products. They are getting something like fifteen or twenty thousand barrels of potatoes at Clarke's Beach and nearby towns, and

they supply largely Bell Island and Grand Falls. Suppose we were in the backward position that we were in nine years ago; supposing our agricultural policy had not been inaugurated. Instead of supplying these large factories and these large towns we would have to import at least twenty thousand barrels of potatoes at $11.00 a barrel for seed alone this year. Talk about the high cost of living to-day. How much higher would it be if we were not able to grow this vegetable that is so necessary for the comfort and health of the people of the Colony. These large towns encourage people to go there and it is only by the help, the intelligent help given to our people to properly cultivate the land that those who are left behind in certain sections of the country are able to supply those who congregate in these towns. These people who congregate in these towns work eight hours a day for those companies, and the residue left behind in the places where they left have to feed themselves and those working people as well. They eat two or three meals a day and potatoes form a portion of at least one meal. There is no doubt about it that we can depend largely upon the people themselves. When they see anything good, they immediately go in for it. Now those left behind not only supplied these large towns but they supplied themselves and this would be impossible unless they had the help, the intelligent help, that showed them about the difference in crops, the cultivation of the ground, the rotation in crops and other matters of that kind and through that policy inaugurated and through that intelligent help supplied, we have reached the position where there is no necessity to import, and it is not necessary for us to be anxious as to our crop, because we have now sufficient to carry us through in comfort until the ensuing year.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman. It is not my intention to delay the House, but I want to answer one or two of the remarks made by Mr. Devereaux in his reply. I repeat again, Sir, that the secretaries do not give reliable information and I say this because I have heard them say in my own presence that they have not time to go around and get that information. Now these secretaries do not belong to Port de Grave District. They say they cannot get time to go around and that at the meetings they talk amongst themselves and say that so and so has so many barrels and so and so has so many more and they put that down and send it in a report and in a great many cases the information they give cannot be relied upon as accurate information. Then again as to the cause of the increase in the products the last year and as to whether it is due to the policy pursued by the Government I do not agree with the honourable gentleman as anyone in this House knows the reason we have this increase is because of the increase in the price of the vegetable and not to any policy of the Government. If the price of potatoes had not gone up to three or four or five dollars a barrel you would not have so many people raising potatoes, but it is because they see a profitable investment that they are going in for raising more potatoes during the last year. How can the Commissioner claim for himself and the Government that they are responsible for this increased product when he sees that the higher prices abroad have cut off the importation of potatoes into this country and consequently the farmers of this country have got the monopoly of the market and are able to obtain higher prices than in other years. Consequently, I think the Commissioner is

altogther in error when he claims the credit for himself and the Government.

MR. DOWNEY—I have no intention Mr. Chairman, of entering into any elaborate defence of the Agricultural Board. I have never done so in the past because I have always been of opinion that the results of the Board's work have always been sufficient evidence of the value of its existence. I would rather attempt to extend a measure of aid to the last member who has spoken in criticism of the Board as I think he would have made a better argument had he dealt with some other article than potatoes. Any argument that he has raised with reference to potatoes I think is best answered by the fact that this year there have been no importations, that the local markets have been oversupplied and to my personal knowledge in the past week potatoes have been offered to us in hundred barrel lots at $2.50 a barrel and we could not secure purchasers for them at that figure. They are selling retail, I think in some of the stores in St. John's for $3.40 or $3.60 a barrel at the present time. It appears to me that there are certain discrepancies in the report which could have presented themselves to the honourable member who has just spoken, and I think he would have made a very much more effective argument if he had taken the item of beef instead of potatoes as a base for criticism. In the report the total quantity of beef carried by the railway is comparatively small compared to the amounts stated in the tabulated returns for 1916 in page 11, and I would like to make a short statement on this apparent discrepancy at the present moment, because this being done everything else of a critical nature that has been advanced, will be answered by the same argument. The honourable member cannot be accused of being biased in favor of the secretaries of the agricultural societies; and in justice to them I am compelled to say, with my ample knowledge of them and their duties, that we have found them almost to a man most painstaking. Some of them are remarkably so; nearly all of them do their best. Like every other class of people in this or other communities they are not all equally well equipped for their work, but all of them do their best and most of them do their work remarkably well. After reports from the various societies came in we found that we needed some additional information, and we sent additional forms of enquiry to the Secertaries and asked them to compile further information for us. I shall read one of these reports—furnished by the Secretary of the Kelligrews Society. This Society controls a large area, larger even than that of Clarke's Beach because it extends from Horse Cove to Indian Pond bridge, a distance of 13 or 14 miles. We wrote this particular secretary, and asked him to state approximately the number of horses, cows, sheep, pigs, and other animals owned by people in his district, and also the quantity of potatoes, turnips etc., grown there last year and what quantities were sold, together with returns for beef, hay etc. The reply came in due time and we have always found that we can depend implicitly upon his statements—and it is as follows:

Owing to the disparity, especially in Beef, as shown by the Recapitulation Table on Page 11, and the Return showing the quantity of Beef, etc., carried by train, it may possibly be desirable to show how this occurred. The case of the Kelligrews Society will serve as well perhaps as any other for this purpose.

In its annual report made in January last for the year 1916, in reply to Query No. 37, as follows:—

"State approximately the number

of horses, cows, sheep and pigs that are owned in the section covered by your Society, and what quantity (as nearly as possible) of potatoes and turnips were grown this year and what quantities (if any) were sold? Also in or about what quantities of beef, mutton, pork and butter, hay, etc., and what number of live cattle sheep and pigs were sold?" the Kelligrews Agricultural Society—whose jurisdiction extends from Horse Cove to Seal Cove Bridge—state that in its section there are 1,200 horses 2,000 cows, 2,500 sheep, 200 pigs, 25,000 brls. potatoes, grown, 1916, 15,000 brls. of that quantity sold last fall; 15,000 brls. turnips, grown 1916, 2,000 brls. sold up to New Year; 400,000 lbs. beef sold, 45,000 lbs. mutton sold, 5,000 lbs. pork sold, very little butter; live cattle sold, 400 head; live sheep sold, 1,000 head.

The aggregate of these figures is as follows:—Beef, 400,000 lbs.; mutton, 45,000 lbs.; pork, 5,000 lbs.; live cattle, 400 head, 160,000 lbs.; live sheep, 1,000 head, 40,000 lbs.; live pigs, 40 head, 7,000 lbbs.; total, 6,577,000 lbs.; or a money value, at 25 cents per lb., of $164,250.00.

Why this large quantity of beef, etc., is not shown in the Railway Return is owing to the fact that the live cattle were not transported by train, there being some 60 odd licensed butchers in Kelligrews who regularly supply the St. John's market and these men take their horses and express waggons every week and travel as far as Northern Bay in Conception Bay and as far as the Cape Shore and other places in Placentia and St. Mary's District and purchase cattle, sheep, lambs, etc., there which they drive and convey by wagon home to destination and which is subsequently sent into St. John's to market, but not by train.

In other places similar conditions prevail and this accounts for the apparent discrepancy between the general statement of values of agricultural products for the year 1916 on page 11 and the quantities shown in the Railway Company's return.

None of the quality of beef that I have just specified—over half a million pounds—is included in the returns furnished by the Railway Co., and consequently the report to that extent is apparently misleading. The Kelligrews potatoes are in great demand in many parts of the country; but the Secretary very justly says that all the beef specified in his report is not to be credited to Kelligrews section. The 60 butchers there who hold licenses from the Department of Public Health, travel around weekly all over the country to Salmonier,the Cape Shore, and around Conception Bay, and they load up their express waggons with lambs, sheep, and also drive along other cattle on foot. That is why this very large quantity of beef does not figure in the returns made by the Railway Co., and makes it differ considerably from the general summary on page 11. I have also a short report from the Bell Island Society, which reads as follows:

Copy of statement furnished by Magistrate Power of Bell Island, of the quantity of cattle, sheep, etc., slaughtered there for local consumption during the year 1916—

Horned Cattle, 130 head	52,000 lbs.
Calves, 150 head	6,000 lbs.
Sheep, 450 head	18,000 lbs.
Goats, 50 head	1,200 lbs.
Pigs, 350 head	60,000 lbs.
Fowl, 3750	15,000 lbs.
Ducks, 400	1,600 lbs.
Geese, 100	700 lbs.
Making a total of	154,500 lbs.

as the local production of Bell Island alone in the matter of beef, etc. and from the aggregated reports and

from reports from independent sources, I have no hesitation in advancing the statement that the returns shown in this report, as tabled, are absolutely reliable; in fact the total values given might be placed 20% higher, because for instance the turnips and every other item are under valued. You cannot expect the Secretaries to do more than they are doing; but the majority of them take a special pride in their work; and but for that we would not have the wealth of detail yearly furnished to this Legislature. The report from one part of the hon. member's district, Clarke's Beach, shows that last year Clarke's Beach shipped 3200 barrels of potatoes in railway-car load lots to Grand Falls and other places in that vicinity; 2500 barrels to Bell Island, and held four thousand barrels for sale the past spring. Bay Roberts and other parts of Port de Grave District have done very nearly as well. I quite agree with him that some of the secretaries cannot cover more than half the ground in their jurisdiction; but that is not the fault of the Board, but is the fault of this Legislature in limiting its grant. I know there is a vast volume of additional work that might be done by the Board if it had more funds at its disposal. We have had to curtail our activities considerably because of that; but it is to be hoped that in the future the Legislature will assist the Board in endeavoring to do more comprehensive work and to enable it to extend its operations in a more widespread way. We have done all that it was possible to do; and I know of no money better spent or for which better returns have been given than the grant that has been voted for agricultural purposes. I have taken a special interest in the development of this industry; and I am happy to say that I was the person who secured the first order for car-load lots of vegetables ever contracted for the Colony. I obtained these orders from Mr. Lewis Miller, who founded Millertown; and the people were amazed when I got an order for five railway-car loads of potatoes. They had never done more than ship individual lots, and when they found that every man could haul his potatoes to the station and dump them aboard the cars, they thought that we had revolutionized the industry. No one is more pleased than I to think that the inovation introduced in St. George's District has extended to Clarke's Beach and other places, and that these places now have the opportunity of shipping their excess products to markets where they find a ready sale. The fact that Clarke's Beach shipped the quantity of potatoes that the report shows ought to convince anyone who has unjustly criticised the work of the Board, that it really is a fact that much good is being accomplished, and that considerable effort, time and attention are being devoted to the successful development of our policy.

MR. COAKER— Mr. Chairman: I would like to make a few remarks in reference to the subject the hon. member who has just sat down has been discussing. I was not going to speak on this matter; but finding that the two commissioners have taken up so much time in elaborating what has been done the past year or so, I thought that someone on this side should say something and have the subject debated. I suppose the commissioners do not take the credit of raising all the cattle specified in section 1. I would like to know what the Board has had to do with that and about which Mr. Devereaux has spoken. Did they give the people bonuses to raise the cattle? Did you give them bonuses to raise sheep? They gave them a bull for purposes of breeding. but what have they done outside of that? They certainly sent out some

seed last year and you might take the credit of raising cabbages and other vegetables; but what have they done to encourage cattle raising? If they go through the reports of the Societies you will find that the whole policy in connection with the improvement of cattle has failed,—apart from the matter of potatoes, altogether. You seem to think that you have done a tremendous lot towards the improvement of cattle. I have taken some time going through the reports, and I am now going to review them.

(Hon. member read a large number of extracts.)

You have sent out 1675 sheep since you formed this agricultural policy, you have sent out 277 bulls and you have sent out 950 pigs, and yet in the face of this, those reports read: decrease, decrease, decrease,; no sheep; pigs a failure.

Now apart from all this, the time is coming for a large general agricultural policy—something big and broad, no mere trifling with agriculture. You want a million dollar loan. Take it and spend it in settling people in farms along the line of railway. Find a considerable portion of land fit for agricultural purposes, where you can place fifteen to twenty families, and give them 100 acres each. Get good men and select them, and put them in a place where there is room for twenty or twenty-five families to form a village. Put a first class man in charge of those sections and give them implements for cultivating the land, and set them to clear twenty-five acres. Then build houses and fences and ask men who are farmers to come in, and they will pay back that money you spend in 20 years, in instalments. You should be able to grow everything needed in the country. Why spend $45,000 outside the country. How much do you spend for hay and oats? This country is able to produce all the oats required. We want to keep this money in the country, and therefore we want a big broad agricultural policy. There are plenty of men in the Old Country who would be glad to come out here, and who have $500 or $1000, but if you don't give them the proper encouragement they will go to Canada or the United States. The C.P.R. has built splendid little houses, and the men have simply got to walk in. In some cases they give them implements and even furniture. There is a big thing in agriculture, but you want to get right down to it. Another thing you want before you can make stock raising a success in Newfoundland, is a flour-mill. Grain should be brought down here and ground. We require 400,000 barrels of flour every year, and it should be manufactured here, so that the by-products could be used for stock raising. Then you will have something to breed cattle on. Then you will have the means to provide for them. The principal reason for the failure of pigs is that you have no food to give these animals, and the people cannot afford to buy cattle feed. Before you can make a success of stock raising in Newfoundland you will have to get those flour mills. This agricultural policy should be a large one, and I would like to tackle it myself. Not on the lines that you have laid down, although, to a certain extent, you have made improvements. But don't take the credit to yourselves for all that is in that report. The potato crop of last year was a splendid one, but we had ideal weather, and this year, so far, we have had the same conditions, and I hope that we will have another good crop this year, and that the hon. member for Placentia will realize his expectation of a million dollar crop. However, I am not persuaded that the information in this report is altogether reliable. If I felt sure that it was so I would feel that we are making

very good progress. In any case we have done well, but we should go on to something better. This country cannot afford to keep parleying with agriculture the way we have done this year and last. Improvement can be had in connection with breeding, but mind you cannot do that unless you get men who know all about it. You should get a man who knows all about breeding to teach the people and give them his ideas. You have done very good work, not altogether satisfactory to us or to the people of the north, but we must recognize that there is some good in it. Now you have come to the parting of the ways, and you must form a policy that will be a credit to the people of this country and to the possibilities of this country, or all the work you have so far done will be in vain.

MR. DOWNEY.—Mr. Chairman: I have listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Twillingate, but they require a little explanation. Now what he has read regarding the places where there has been no increase in cattle, if allowed to go at that, would be misleading. What is the actual condition of things? Why is it that there was no increase in cattle in certain places? It is entirely owing to the fact that the people, in the majority of these localities are unable to provide forage for a greater number of cattle. Take Little River for instance, where there is no appreciable increase. I know as an absolute fact that very many of the residents of this section keep from five to twenty head of cattle, the great majority being milch cows. There is no room for any further development there until they can get a larger acreage under cultivation to provide more forage. They have to sell the young every year, or in many cases they sell the older stock and keep the younger ones. That is the explanation of the fact that in many places there is no "appreciable increase"—because the acreage is already taxed to its utmost to maintain the present numbers, which, in many cases are very considerable. Now in the sections on the west coast referred to, there are many people who keep from a half dozen to twenty-five sheep, and the entire product of the ewes is sold each spring. In the face of that fact in some places the sheep have increased. But it is also stated that there is pasture available for many more than are now kept, but it would be altogether impracticable to keep a given number in the summer when the pasturage is good, if there is not sufficient to feed them in the winter; and, as I have stated, the acreage producing forage is already taxed to the utmost and until increased areas are put under cultivation no great increase can be expected. But the increase already obtained is considerable and it has all been done in the last ten years, and where the greatest increase is noticeable, is in the weight of the carcasses produced now. This is a result of the character and breed of the bulls distributed through the Societies. I think I am safe in stating that the average weight is now 400 lbs., while not so many years ago it was no better than two-thirds of that, so that on the whole, I think the progress made is very satisfactory. With regard to introducing a flour mill, I may state that the Agricultural Board has had before it for some time applications from three different localities for aid in installing mills. They not alone require the mill, but they purpose growing wheat, and I think there are some twenty-five farms on the west coast which are now producing wheat and hope to convert it into flour this fall, and if this prove practicable the Government should, if possible, do something towards the installation of an experimental grist mill. It is

difficult to say to what extent wheat can be grown here on the eastern seaboard, but I think I am warranted in saying that it could not be expected to ripen any oftener than three years out of five. On the west coast it is not subject to this risk, and the population have grown a quantity of wheat evey year for the past twenty years and they have never lost it. So I think very considerable things might be hoped for from this industry. One great advantage to cattle raisers would be the fact that the by-products would provide cattle feeds. Nobody is prepared to admit more readily than I that a very much larger volume of work might be done by the Agricultural Board if they were provided with funds, but at present there is not a dollar to spare for any new feature. The grant has been cut in two, and there is no prospect at present that it will be restored. I much appreciate the criticism of the Board falling from the lips of the hon. member for Twillingate, and I have no reason to complain of the criticism of the hon. member for Port de Grave, and we should be grateful for friendly criticism, because it will have the effect of spurring the Board to greater effort, and thereby enable the country to obtain better results.

MR. LLOYD—With regard to this vote for the Royal Naval Reserve, I would like to ask the Minister whether anything definite has yet been done in reference to the promise of the Colonial Secretary as to increased pay for Naval Reservists, or is it still in the vague state of nothing done. I should like to know if he is in a position to make a statement as to what has been done towards arranging increased pay. Has the basis on which you are to make the increase been settled yet?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—Yes, $1.10 a day.

MR. LLOYD—That is not my point. Has anything yet been established as to the value of the pay already given them, so that you will know the exact increase it is intended to give?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I may say for the information of the hon. member that when this matter was referred to before I communicated with Commander MacDermott in relation to the adoption of the scheme that the Government was desirous of putting in force to augment the pay of the Naval Reservists, and asked him if he could give me a complete list of the members of the Royal Naval Reserve who had joined the forces since August, 1914, and I received a reply from him saying that it was absolutely impossible for him to do so, because every man who left here is out of his jurisdiction. He told me it was absolutely impossible to get that information except through the Admiralty Board, and suggested that I write the Secretary and ask him if it would be possible to compile the information. I did write the Secetrary of the Admiralty Board about three weeks ago, asking him if it would be possible for him to obtain and let us have statements as I suggested, and if it could be done within a reasonable time. I pointed out that I appreciated the difficulties and the large amount of work entailed to supply that statement, and I suggested that if it should be necessary to employ some help outside, he was at liberty to do so at the expense of the Newfoundland Government. I have not as yet received any reply from him, but the Government has already taken the matter up, so far as the current payments are concerned, and provision will be made to pay these men on the first of July, which I understand is their pay day.

MR. LLOYD—But you don't know yet the basis of pay, or the difference in the case of a sailor.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I

take it they will be brought up to the same pay as the army.

MR. LLOYD—You should also take into consideration the separation allowance, and provide for that out of the pay.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In some cases, of course, their pay and the separation allowance makes as much or more than the pay of a soldier.

(Department of Justice.)

MR. LLOYD—What is this item of Colonial Records?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—This is an arrangement made a few years ago by which all the colonial records are being copied. There are now, I think, forty volumes down at my office in connection with the records of the Colony, containing the correspondence that took place between the fishing admirals for over a hundred years. Some day I hope it will be possible to publish these, and they will be most interesting.

MR. LLOYD—What form are they in now?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—They are in handwriting, and are being copied by a lady in London.

(Old age pensions.)

MR. COAKER.—Has anything been done yet with regard to the application now before the Government for additional old age pensions. I think the Premier promised the other day that something would be done immediately to grant pensions to all those who are qualified.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—The matter has not been formally considered yet, but I think I may say, on behalf of the Government, that all the applications that are now in will be immediately considered by the Government. As I pointed out the other day, according to the last census there are only about 1800 men over 75 years of age in the country, and there are at present 1600 receiving pensions, so that really every person in the country who is entitled to a pension ought now to be receiving one. But it appears that there are some who are eligible and who have not got a pension, and I will consult the Finance Minister and see if we cannot have an amount voted to cover them all.

MR. TARGETT.—I would like to ask if the Government cannot do something towards granting an old age pension to old ladies.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I should think that the old ladies very often share the old men's pension.

MR. TARGETT.—I haven't explained what I mean. When the old gentleman dies the old lady is cut off from the pension under the present system, but I think when he dies she should still have the pension. In the past, when all the old men entitled to the pension were unable to get it, it was hardly reasonable to make this request, but now that we are doing so well I think we should be able to go a step further and provide that the old lady should continue to receive the pension if the old gentleman dies. There is a case I have in mind now, where the old man died this spring. What is going to support the old lady? She has no sons or daughters to help her. If she were getting the old man's pension, I daresay she would get through all right. I think the Government should take this into consideration, and I hope they will do so.

(Re salary Government Engineer.)

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman, I have perused the correspondence in connection with an increase in salary to the Government Engineer, but I do not think the conditions are exactly as we were led to believe them on hearing the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. I understood that this increase in salary to $4,000

was under an agreement that had been made between the Government Engineer and the Government of that day, through the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Bond. Now the correspondence makes it clear that Mr. Hall has been engaged under the salary that he has been receiving, and Sir Robert Bond said that after five years the Government might be prepared to consider new terms. Now more than five years have elapsed. An increase has been made to $4,000, but it is clear from the correspondence that no agreement was made between the Government Engineer and Sir Robert Bond to raise it to $4,000. All that was agreed to was that the question of terms should be considered by the Government at the end of five years. As to what those terms should be, that would be considered then. Apparently it was not considered then, but it has been by the present Government within the past year and it was their decision and not the decision of Sir Robert Bond or his Government to make the increase one to $4,000. Now with reference to the railway enquiry, the Prime Minister in reply to a question from this side, hands us this letter from Mr. Hall. He told us yesterday he would have a report for this House. The enquiry has not closed and therefore there is no report. The statement here is exceedingly slim and affords little information. I will read it to the House. (Hon. member reads letter.) Now, Mr. Chairman, it is clearly evident from this statement that unless this session is unduly prolonged we will not get any report from this enquiry this year. This is a matter of extreme importance and, on this report certain recommendations will probably have to be made. I hope the Government will ask the Court to try to finish this enquiry as soon as possible, so that we may have time to consider it. There is another matter. The Minister promised us certain information yesterday re special payments to Departmental heads. Has the Minister been able to have this information ready.

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Not quite yet. There is exceeding little to secure. I will get it for the hon. member.

MR. COAKER.—I wish the Minister would try and let us have this tomorrow. We would like to have it when passing these estimates.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word in reply to my friend the leader of the Opposition. He is quite right when he states that there was no specific agreement between Mr. Hall and the administration of Sir Robert Bond. The only agreement at all is contained in the acceptance by Sir Robert Bond of Mr. Hall's services, and the conditions as laid down in Sir Robert Bond's letter are: "The Government will accept your services as Engineer at a salary of six hundred and fifty pounds sterling per annum for five years, after expiration of which period the Government will be prepared to consider new terms. The Government will pay passage out and back."

Well now, that was an agreement for $3250 a year and Mr. Hall in his letter points out that he allowed six years to elapse without making any demand for an increase or for a discussion of new terms. And even now, he says he would not were it not for the fact that certain responsibilities many of which were incurred before he left England make it impossible for him to maintain himself at his present salary. and he points out very strongly that if he had made application at the expiry of the five years the Government would probably have granted his request. He did not do that, he sets forth in his letter. I have had a good

deal to do with the Government Engineer's work in the country, both during the administration of Sir Robert Bond and the present Government, and I think it is only fair that I should say that Mr. Hall as a man is in a class by himself.

He is remarkably clever and thoroughly understands his business and is absolutely conscientious in his work and throughly reliable. He understands his business thoroughly, especially the work in which he is engaged as Government Engineer. He had a very high reputation before he came to this country, as a matter of fact I have heard that practically h's whole University course was paid for out of scholarships which he won.

MR. LLOYD.—Who is this Inspector in the Government Engineer's Office. What was his position before.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—He was a road inspector.

MR. LLOYD.—Now this is a matter I would like to bring before the Government. In a department like this every man should be thoroughly efficient. Mr. Hall cannot do all the work.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—There are other inspectors who are paid out of contingencies. This is not the sort of work referred to by .he Leader of the Opposition. This is a minor appointment. I will have the matter looked into.

(Re Pensions.)

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman, speaking generally in connection with these pensions. Has the Government taken into consideration the increased cost of living and so made allowances to meet the increased burden on those being pensioned? Mind I am not suggesting that it is desirable to increase pensions, but surely something should be done for the purpose of tiding them over these days of excessive prices. I was just wondering if the Government had considered this matter at all when fixing these.

MINISTER OF FINANCE.—In reply to the honorable member, I beg to say that the Government considered the matter of Pensions when making increases, and decided that the schedule of increases should not apply thereto. Many of the pensioners are able to earn considerable to augment the two-thirds of the salary they are receiving as pensions; the time is their own for the 365 days, and quite a number of them are very active,and certainly can add considerable from several sources to the stipend received from the Government. There are a few more names to be added to the list, one is Miss Redmond of the General Hospital for $375.00, this amount was recommended by the Board of Governors; and Michael Stapleton of the Poor Asylum, $240.00, he held a position as Watchman there for years; Stephen Taylor. janitor of the Carbonear public building, and messenger, is to receive a pension of $180.00, being two-thirds of his salary. The pensions referred to in the Auditor General's report will be brought down in additional estimates. Jas. Murray of the General Post Office has been recommended by that Department for a pension of $266.66 per year. These are the only additions.

(Re Central District Court.)

MR. LLOYD.—I have often commented on this matter before and would like now when passing this vote to have a statement from the Prime Minister as to the intentions of the Government in connection with this position. Is it the intention to fill this office and in reasonable time. I ask this with all due respect as I think the information ought to be given this committee.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—In reply to the hon. member I may say that it is the intention of the

Government to fill this office and within reasonable time.

MR. COAKER.—Are you going to increase the salary?

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —I do not adjust salaries.

MR. COAKER.—What is going to be done in connection with the Inspector General of Police. Could we have some information with regard to the Government's decision in this case.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.— I do not think there is anything to say. The Inspector General has had a little illness, but nothing more.

(Re Education.)

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. Before this matter proceeds further I would like to make a few remarks. I am glad to learn that one of those objects which I have been desirous of seeing accomplished here in this Colony is likely to be effected, if not already an accomplished fact to-day. On Friday last I spoke of the general spirit of conciliation which prevailed among the various religious denominations in relation to the matter of education. I may say that they are now working in complete accord. One of the matters to which they are directing their attention is the question of the grading of their teachers and adopting a uniform system for all denominations. I also referred to the establishment of a summer school for the training of teachers. I understand that such a school is to be started next week. That is not the object to which I especially referred, however, in my opening remark. I learn to-day with great pleasure that the Superintendents have with the approval of the heads of the different churches given their consent to have a common normal school for all denominations and it is the intention of all to provide a provisional training for teachers in our schools. I think this matter is one of the greatest importance to this House and it is a question fraught with much of the future of Newfoundland and I hope that the Government when the matter is brought to their attention will do all it can to foster this project. I am not speaking of the ordinary scholastic education that they receive in the schools but of a special training in the art of teaching, in which respect we here in Newfoundland have been somewhat backward. The difficulties in the past have arisen from the fact that no one denomination has been able to sustain such a school by itself and this fact has necessitated denominational co-operation. This is the best way imaginable for teachers to receive the benefit of this training.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— I would like to say a few words in connection with this matter. I may say that I had not heard that an agreement had been arrived at between the Superintendents.

MR. LLOYD—I may say that my information came from Dr. Burke.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— I am indebted to the leader of the Opposition for this information. I have no doubt that a communication will be made with the Government after a while. I was aware that the matter was under discussion, and with the leader of the Opposition I entirely concur in the method by which the scheme has been adopted and appreciate fully the great advantages that must result from its inception. Dr. Lloyd, who himself was a leading teacher in one of our principal schools in this city, will probably know more about these advantages than anyone else in this House, and probably as much as anyone outside of this House. I have myself had the opportunity of inquiring into this system, and am in full accord with its aim. In the past we have had to depend entirely on teachers who were

never trained to teach. What we most need are teachers of method, and these can only, speaking generally, be obtained where you have a Teachers' Training School. Teachers having been educated must be taught to teach. It is not the education that matters as much as the knowledge of how to impart education. There are thousands of people who are able to pass any examination, but are unable to impart their knowledge. This has been our trouble in the past. We often see the exception, where a man has by observation or natural skill acquired this learning of himself, and many is the case where good teachers have never been trained to teach. But this scheme will take the public teachers after having been educated and give them a year's training in how to teach. In the past it was always impossible for any denomination to undergo the expense. Mr. Barnes, a very capable and competent teacher, who made a study of what is technically known as Teachers of Method, in New York and Canada and other places, and successfuly conducted a school here along these lines to see if that could be accomplished. There can be no doubt that such a scheme is most surely calculated to uplift the whole system of education in this Colony.

MR. GRIMES—Might I ask if any provision has been made for the increased cost of living in the allocation for the maintenance of the Lunatic Asylum.

MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Yes. You will see it has been raised since last year. If any extraordinary increase is necessitated by circumstances at present unforseen I think this can easily be provided for in the additional estimates. The amount was increased to cope with this possibility last year.

MR. CLIFT—What is the cost per head of these various institutions?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—I have not figured it out.

MR. CLIFT—Is there any information at the Board of Works?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—I don't know. I will enquire.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think the information is at the Board of Works. It was compiled, if I remember rightly, two years ago.

MR. CLIFT—It would be a very valuable statement to have.

MR. LLOYD—What is the actual salary paid Dr. Duncan? His salary is down here at $1700, and I think elsewhere there is an amount of $50, increased to $75, voted him as Attendant Physician of the Poor Asylum. Now, according to the Auditor General's report his salary is $1850 and his allowance for the Poor Asylum $130. Is not his total salary, then, $2,000, and not, as represented, $1750?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I might explain that Dr. Duncan applied last year for an increase in salary. I took the matter up with Mr. Harris, and he communicated with the neighboring Provinces to find out what salaries were paid similar officials there, and he found that Dr. Duncan was underpaid to the extent of about $200. His salary for his work at the Lunatic Asylum was consequently raised to $1850 by Minute of Council, and he gets $50 as attendant at the Poor Asylum.

MR. LLOYD—Then why is not the correct amount put in here? He is already in receipt of that salary, is he not?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes, since last year.

MR. LLOYD—Then why is the amount down at $1700?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—The correction will be made later.

MR. LLOYD—But why not make it now? Other items have been cor-

rected as you went along. Why not correct this one?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—The corrections were made beforehand. To make any changes now will throw the totals out. We will make the change in the Additional Estimates.

MR. HICKMAN—May I ask where is the Lazeretto?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—At Signal Hill.

MR. HICKMAN—For what purpose is it kept?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—For smallpox, fever, and diseases of that kind. We did have twenty patients there, but they have been removed to the Government Sanitarium.

MR. HICKMAN—Then why do you keep it now?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—For infectious diseases.

MR. HICKMAN—What about the Fever Hospital?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is for typhus.

MR. COAKER—Might I call the attention of the Minister of Fisheries to the matter of three or four lighthouses that were erected last year under the new system, and ask him if he would give us to-morrow a report or some statement as to how they worked out? We would like to know.

HON. MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Certainly.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

The chairman from the committee reported that they 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, June 28th, 1917.

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

QUESTIONS.

MR. GRIMES asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the Table of the House copies of the tenders received on account of repairs to the King's wharf last November.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is being prepared.

MR. CLIFT asked the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, on behalf of Minister of Agriculture and Mines, to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of all Expenditures made out of the Agricultural Grant from 30th June to the present date.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Part of the question has already been answered, and the information tabled. I shall have the other part of it prepared.

MR. JENNINGS asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary for a statement of the rates charged travellers on the S. S. Clyde and Home this present season.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is being prepared.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister tabled the Report of the Commission of Internal Economy.

SUPPLY.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported Certain Resolutions, which were read a first time as follows:

Civil Government..	$250,508.00
Pensions	1,061.66
Administration of Justice..	200,914.00
Legislation..	34,560.00
Education	84,300.00

Public Charities 517,819.70
Public Debt and Management 12,000.00

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 to.

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. COAKER—Yesterday, when speaking on the lighthouse vote, I drew the attention of the House to the new lighting system recently installed. I would like to know how that system turned out.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman, I wish to give the hon. member the information he desires. Here is a statement showing the total cost under the old system, (reads.) The new lights which I had installed last year carry the light the same distance, if not further, but they give a better light, show it much clearer, and cost very much less. Here is a statement showing expenditure on this account: (reads). I may say that since these lights have been installed on the northeast coast, they have given every satisfaction. They throw the light fully 9 miles; in fact Capt. Kean has told me that on a dark clear night he has seen that light for 14 miles. There is another one on the southeast coast, and Capt. Joe Kean and Capt. Blandford and the other men who coast around up there tell me they are the best lights on the coast. You will see for yourself that they are the cheapest lights, and you can put in two or three of them for the same amount that one of the old ones would have cost. There is very little trouble with them. We had some trouble with them on account of the lighting valve; but that will happen to any light. All the others worked quite satisfactorily. These lights are all over the world; and in the first place were made by a Danish concern. These people later came to the United States and started in there, and have been manufacturing them for the past four or five years for Great Britain, the United States, and the Governments of Peru, Argentine, and right down the South American coast. The Paama Canal is lighted from one end to the other by them. They have everywhere proven satisfactory. In a few years we will be able to light up the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador for the same cost that we incur now under the old system.

MR. LLOYD—How many of these lights have you?

MIN. MARINE & FISHERIES—Four.

MR. COAKER—Are you going to instal any more this year?

MIN. MARINE & FISHERIES—I have asked for the money to do so. I want two this year.

MR. COAKER—Are you going to abolish the old system?

MIN. MARINE & FISHERIES—Eventually when the old apparatus wears out. We have to let it go on as it is at present, but just as soon as the old apparatus wears out, we will put in the new lights.

MR. STONE—I hope you have not forgotten your promise to put a light on Old Fall's Island.

MIN. MARINE & FISHERIES—Did I ever promise you that?

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Chairman, in regard to Change Islands I notice the vote is increased from $100 to $150. Those who are in a position to know, fail to see why $150 should be given to the keeper of that light. I have spoken of this light before. It is just

a lantern; and the keeper does no more than a man on a schooner who lights a side light, putting it up in the night and taking it down in the day. And why the salary was raised to $150 nobody knows. The reason people cannot understand why this man is getting such an amount for doing such little work is that there is another public servant, a ferryman there who has to give his whole time to the work and who is only getting $110, and this man who has so very little to do is getting $150. It is very unfair to the public servants to have them discriminated against in this fashion. Now I brought this to the attention of the committee when considering votes for lighthouses last year, and I suggested that the two votes be combined, so that the ferryman could light the light in the night and extinguish it in the morning. The Finance Minister thought that it could be arranged so that the man who did the work might get the pay, but the Minister of Marine thought that it would not work satisfactorily to have the two offices combined and was not enthusiastic over the recommendation, and the Minister very kindly offered his services to interview the Minister of Public Works with regard to getting the salary of the ferryman raised, and we waited upon the Minister of Public Works at his office and represented the matter to him as clearly as we could. He kindly promised he would do all he could to have the ferryman's salary raised, but nothing has been done so far. I have written several times to the Colonial Secretary, and I think to the Minister of Public Works, who also communicated with the Colonial Secretary on the matter. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister also received a resolution in connection with this matter, recommending that the salary of the ferryman should be increased. It is the most important ferry service in the island. Over 20,000 passengers passed over that ferry during eight months of last year. This settlement is composed of two Islands and this is the only way of going back and forth. Children have to use it to go to school and return, and the people have to use it to go to Church.

There is a lot of traffic on this Tickle, motor boats, coastal steamers and schooners are always going back and forth and you want a man who can handle oars and the boat properly, and you cannot expect a reliable man to continue at that service for the small sum of $110. In fact I do not believe you would have a man continue this service only we are always holding out promises of increasing his salary. And I would not be surprised for the service to be discontinued if nothing is done for him during the next month or two. Some one has suggested that the man resign and then tender for the position, and when the Government found out that the work was of such a nature that nobody be induced to take it at a smaller salary, that he would get it at the increased rate. That is a strange way of doing things. You surely are not going to have this man go without an increase. Now as I already said for the lightkeeper, or lantern keeper,for it is just a lantern put on a post eight feet high to get $150 while the ferryman gets $110, is shameful. While speaking on this point I do not know whether it was brought to the notice of the Minister of Marine, but I have been asked to ask the department to have a post put there about 20 feet, for then even if there is no better light, that lamp will show over the island. Now it is obscured. At any rate they told me last March past that it should be higher, but I understand that this light was only temporary and that a better light would be put there after a short time,

but I do not know what the Minister intends to do in connection with that light, whether it will be too expensive to install one of these new lights or not. But to sum up these remarks, it is a most important matter that servants who are performing work in connection with any country should be rewarded for work they do and according to the responsibility of the office they hold. There is scarcely any responsibility in connection with this light that any boy could not perform. It is simply to light the lantern and put it on the post and take it down again. During the working hours of the day there is nothing for the person to do, and yet he is paid $150 whereas the ferryman who has to stick to his work the whole day long gets only $110.00. These things cause dissatisfaction and the public do not get the good that they otherwise should get.

I find also in going through the estimates that the amount for maintenance for this lantern is $50. The people cannot understand how $50 was spent last year in connection with this light. If this was a lighthouse and it had to be heated it would be alright, but this is simply a lantern, and the only expenses would be oil, wicks and chimneys. These are things which I would like to have explained or adjusted, and I speak as I do not in a carping spirit but only for the purpose of having this adjusted at as early a date as possible, in the interests of the ferryman himself and in the interest of the public service.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman, I may say in reference to what the member for Fogo has said that last year when he brought up this matter I went with him to the Minister of Public Works to try and get this ferryman's salary increased. I have been to Change Islands several times, and I believe that if there is one ferryman in the country that works faithfully and incurs responsibility, it is that man. This man has to bring across a lot of small children, and I think if you should run down this list you will find that this man is very poorly paid, and we should, if the Government is at all able, increase his salary. It is the like of this man that deserves an increase Now with reference to that light down there I think the great trouble is not with the light, but about the man. The wrong man has been appointed to look after this light down there. I do not know the man myself, just met him casually once when Mr. White sent him up to my office, but I have found out that the trouble is that he does not see eye to eye with Mr. Halfyard. Now as far as I can learn that light was put there at the request of the people through Mr. Halfyard. It had been promised by the Bond Government year after year and lumber had been shipped down there to build it and my intention was to put a better light there than that I had intended to put up one that would suit the requirements according to the information at hand from the fishermen and traders down there, and in fact I was going to and am contemplating putting one of these new lights there, or at least one there that will suit the requirements of the place. It has been said that any boy could run this light. I suppose any boy could, but any boy could run any of these lighthouses. Yet if you were coming in from the Atlantic, you would not like to feel that the guiding lights off the shore were being manipulated by boys.

MR. HALFYARD—That is different altogether.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Similar conditions exist at Change Islands. Life is of the same value there as anywhere else, and for that reason I am hoping to be able to have this matter settled this sum-

mer. While I am not against the boys, there is quite a lot of responsibility, and you must have a man to take this responsibility. I agree with you that the ferryman is not getting enough. It is ridiculous. As regards the light, it is only a makeshift and we are going to have a better one there this summer. We will put a better one there this summer if we can get these estimates through.

MR. HALFYARD—I am very much pleased with the remarks of the Minister. However, he misunderstood me with reference to the boys. Of course this man has not to watch the light. He lives perhaps half a mile away. He merely lights the lantern and goes homes and goes to bed and and takes it down in the morning. Sometimes if he is not up very early it may be burning for three or four hours of the day. That light is merely a lantern on a pole.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I would like to say with regard to the matter of the Change Islands ferry that it has been referred by the Minister of Public Works to the Government for adjustment, but the Government appreciates the fact that in view of the other increases that have been made something will have to be done in connection with the ferries generally. It is quite true that the ferries are really contracted for but the small ones are the same as other Government officials. Requests have come in from all over the country with regard to the ferries and it has now become almost an unanimous demand for an increase and not alone is this the case with regard to the ferries but the small couriers are in the same category. I have discussed the matter with the Minister of Finance and he has intimated to me that before the House closes some provision will be made for the adjustment of the salaries of the ferries and mail couriers. It is perhaps difficult to do so on the same basis as other public services, namely, the percentage basis, as there are some cases that require more consideration than others and it will be best handled I consider by the departments which have these matters in hands. I think the Postmaster General can be trusted to look after the matter of the mail couriers and to point out which are deserving of increases. I think his recommendations would be accepted by the Government; and in the Department of Public Works Mr. Harris or some other official conversant with the ferry system would be able to recommend cases where increases are desirable. I can assure the committee that these matters will receive the consideration of the Government and I hope they will be adjusted in such a manner as to satisfy all parties.

MR. LLOYD—I wish to express the satisfaction of members on this side of the House for the manner in which the recommendations made on these matters have been received.

MR. HALFYARD—I have already spoken about these three lights on Wadham Island, Peckford and Penguin Island; but the Minister happened to be out of the House when I was speaking. I do not want to go over what I have said, but the Minister will notice the difference in the salaries. I do not know whether there is any explanation or whether the difference which has existed for the last six or seven years is going to be allowed to remain. I think it is time that the matter was attended to and a change made. I understand that the work to be performed is the same in the three cases. This man on Peckford's only gets $360 and he has to pay an assistant. It is too small altogether. If the salary were made equal to the others he would

have no cause for complaint, and if he does not like the work then he could resign. I have been told that the work on the three is the same.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Yes.

MR. HALFYARD — Somebody should attend to this matter and have it adjusted.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Please understand I did not regulate.

MR. STONE—While this work is open for discussion, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the manner in which the Light House salaries are adjusted, and how much more it takes to run some of the Lighthouse stations than others, which are situated in a like manner. For instance, take Cape Bonavista Light station and compare with Catalina Light station, and what do we find. Two of the same kind to operate exactly the same alarm, and near about the same light, the only difference Bonavista Cape Light is a revolving light while Catalina's light is fixed. Now as to the number of men and salaries. Bonavista Cape has four men who get or will get according to the estimates $1818.66, while at Green Island station, Catalina, there are only two men employed at a salary of $998.52 altogether,what a vast difference between the salaries. Now take Puffin Island Greenspond, the fog alarm, and light there cost in salaries $1144.00. I just mentioned this matter to point out how unfair the salaries are adjusted,therefore some good competent light house Inspector should be appointed, who would know how to make some suggestions to the Department, which if reasonable should be accepted by the Government. I know that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has nothing to do with the salaries, or they would be better adjusted, anyway the time is now ripe for something to be done. I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in reference to the promise he has made in assuring me that a light house will be erected on Hopeall Island, therefore ,I hope that this important matter will not be overlooked.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I might say for the information of the House that before we started to build the alarm on Cape Bonavista I thought of the difficulty and I sent Engineers down there to locate a position for the alarm. I wanted the fog alarm if possible to come under the control of the light keeper. We made a test and found that the fog alarm would not be of any use if put in the same place where the lighthouse is. We even tried Gull Island. If we put an alarm up there we would be up against it, because instead of having one man we would need three or four in order to give them relief- A family man with children would want to get them off the Island to give them an education and then there was the difficulty of obtaining fresh water. Then from conversation with the old people of Bonavista and Cape Bonavista we came to the conclusion to go around the point and put the alarm where it is now. We had to put up two stations which entailed an extra expense. That is why the four salaries are different. Now at Green Island, Catalina it is easy enough for the two men to attend to both the alarm and the light. But at this place, the light is at the other end of the Island. He pays his assistant manager to run the fog alarm. At Cape Spear the alarm is some distance away and in consequence there are two officials running it. But I agree with what you say that there is lots of room for improvement in the system. If the Government will have the lighthouses inspected as has been suggested it will be necessary to

have a boat. In certain places it is impossible to put a fog alarm under the present system but if you had a boat going around inspecting you could have an automatic lightbuoy. Quite a number of alarms at present operating could be dispensed with if these automatic buoys were used. They could be used at places where under the present system we are unable to place fog alarms.

MR. JENNINGS.—I would like to endorse some of the remarks that have been made here this afternoon. I do not speak in a fault-finding way as I consider that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has not been responsible for many of the discrepancies which exist in the salaries of Lighthouses. But to my mind the manner of deciding the amounts seems to be by rule of thumb and is generally decided upon the political services rendered to the particular Government then in power. I see no other explanation to account for the differences that are apparent in the salaries received. If fair play is to be given to all these men you will have to go through the whole list and readjust the figures. There are certain stations where five hundred dollars is not worth more than three hundred when you take into consideration the difference circumstances of each case. Compare the case of a man at Cape John or Cabot Island who is cut off from all the world, whose children if they are to be educated must be educated by him at home or boarded at some place ashore, to one situated at a place such as Long Point, Twillingate, where conveniences exist so that his children have the advantage of attending school. To give these men fair play you must consider the different circumstances in which they are situated and regulate their salaries on that basis. I wish also to call the attention of the House to the amount voted for the Light Station at Michael's Head. The salary is now increased to $275. That man is in a position where he can follow his daily avocation, whatever it might be. Of course, he couldn't go to the French Shore fishing, or engage in any work that would take him away from his post for twenty-four hours at a time, but he can certainly perform his usual work, because his duties simply consist of making two visits each day to the light, one in the evening to light it and the other in the morning to put it out; and that salary is altogether too much, to my mind, for the work which he does. Now, I know that I am taking a different position from most of the other speakers on these matters, as nearly all of them suggested increases, but my suggestion in this case is to decrease. I think this man was well paid for his work at the $200.00 which he received. Of course, I don't suppose that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was particularly conversant with the facts of the situation and that brings me to a point to which I have already referred,namely, an Inspector of Lighthouses who will perform his duties in such a way that he will be acquainted with all these conditions. It is not to be expected that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would know all these incidentals, but the Inspector of Lighthouses should know them; and he should also know just what was needed in the way of repairs,so that no more money than is necessary would be spent in this way. I spent four years and three months in a lighthouse, and I only received one visit from an Inspector during that time, and that was accidentally. I would never have seen the man, never have known what he looked like, except that accidentally he happened to come along about dark one evening. I suppose I performed my duties satisfactorily, but at any rate

his duty was to come along and see whether I did or not. This is a thing that will have to be attended to in the future. Also, as I mentioned the other day, with regard to repairs, there should be some man who has no particular interest in deciding what those repairs shall be; his interest should merely be to see that they do not cost more than they ought; and, as I said before, the Inspector would more than save his salary to the country in that respect. I know that there is a tremendous difficulty in the way of an Inspector visiting all the stations around this island under present circumstances. It would certainly be necessary to have a boat for that purpose, as the Minister has said; but after things get back to normal and the Minister prevails upon the Government to buy that tug for the rescue of shipwrecked crews and work of that kind, he might also use her for this purpose of visiting lighthouses.

MR. COAKER—I hope that the Minister has not forgotten that rescue tug. I don't think he has; it is one of the things that are so important that I suppose it is very seldom absent from his mind. But he should keep this matter before the Government until he gets the boat. It is probable that the present is not a very opportune time to purchase a new boat, but as soon as things get back to normal he ought to see that the boat is secured. Now, I also wish to draw the Minister's attention to the Labrador stations. Out of 10, eight receive salaries of $468 and two receive $623. Why are these two stations receiving so much more than the other eight?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—These were the first two stations erected.

MR. COAKER—And they were paid good wages?

MR. JENNINGS—They were probably particular friends.

MR. COAKER—However, I suppose these appointments were made before your time, so you are not responsible.

(Maintenance.)

MR. LLOYD—What items come under maintenance generally? What do they consist of?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Coal, oil, linoleum, stoves, towels, sponges—a hundred and one things.

MR. COAKER—In your new stations there is an amount of $75 for maintenance. What is that for?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is for gas. That is the only thing. That vote is for the old one; the new one will not cost as much as that.

MR. TARGETT—I would like to ask a question before this vote passes. Supposing a lighthouse is on a point in a harbor and it never has to use coals. Do you supply coals to a place like that?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Not unless they ask for it and we know they want it.

MR. TARGETT—I have heard that some places receive coal that never use it, and I don't see why you go to the expense of supplying coal to places that don't need it.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—What do they use—wood?

MR. TARGETT—They don't use anything. They never make a fire.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Do you know that to be true?

MR. TARGETT—Well, I have been told it. Certainly, I never saw it myself.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Was it reliable?

MR. TARGETT—I think it was. I have been told at different times of cases of this sort, and I was won-

dering why the Government went to unnecessary expenses in these cases.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—If you will give me that information when the House closes, I will have the matter investigated. But you shouldn't believe all you hear, you know.

MR. TARGETT—I don't believe half. I don't even believe what the clergymen tell me. But I was going to say that it is hardly wise to give coals to lighthouses that don't really need them when there are places in the country that need lighthouses and have not got them. Now, I know the keeper at Hant's Harbor got an increase of $75 on his salary. He is a personal friend of mine. I don't say he gave me a vote; in fact, I don't think he did; but that doesn't make any difference. However, this man was receiving $150.00. He has not got any extra work to do this year any more than any other year, and his work doesn't take him away from his occupation now any more than any other year. Now, the point I want to make is this: There is an Island up in Trinity Bay called Hopeall, which has not got a lighthouse and which should have one, as my friend, Mr. Stone, pointed out; and if instead of giving coal to lighthouses that have no use for it, and increasing the salaries of lightkeepers that are already sufficiently paid, you would put a lighthouse on Hopeall Head, you would be doing something that would really be a benefit to the people in that neighbourhood.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—We are not going to put a lighthouse there.

MR. TARGETT.—You are not?

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—No, but we are going to put a light there.

MR. TARGETT—You will want something to put it on. You are not going to put it on the stones, are you?

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—Yes, we are going to put it on the stones.

MR. JENNINGS.—I would like to call the Minister's attention to the fact that he promised us some information regarding the vote for the wharf light at Twillingate. I think the amount is $562 this year. In the absence of the Minister of Marine & Fisheries, I think the Minister of Finance promised to get us the information. The reason I mention this matter is that this is simply a wharf light, and the amount voted seems to be extremely high, and I would like to have some explanation.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—I will look into it at once.

MR. HALFYARD.—I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the allocation for maintaining the Musgrave Harbor Light, $50. There are two leading lights there and therefore the maintenance should be double the amount required for Change Islands North West. These are things I can't understand.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—These maintenance grants are being increased on a 20 per cent basis. I think myself that the one at Twillingate is a printer's error, and I will find that out. Mr. Cornick is a careful man and he and I went over these together.

MR. STONE.—I find that it takes $1500 more for maintenance at Cape Bonavista than it does for Green Island Light and alarm. I should like an explanation of this.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—I might say that if the gentleman gave this matter some consideration he would see the reason. You can get a schooner to take freight to Catalina and land it at Green Island when you will not get a schooner to

go to Cape Bonavista and land freight there. There is only one man down there who will have anything to do with freight for Cape Bonavista, and it is only the like of him that would tackle it. The year before last we had to pay a man for his boat, which was broken up when he went to hoist it, and it is a wonder that he didn't sue the Government for trying to make away with him. Therefore that increase is handled on that basis. You can get coal for instance to Catalina for three dollars a ton, and you won't get it to Cape Bonavista less than $5 a ton and land it. Then there are repairs of course which also come out of this. Green Island wants some repairs and Bonavista wants some new work. Now you are down around that place, and if you only give this matter a little scrutiny you will see that there is no comparison at all. You know that as well as I do. Every member who knows anything about Cape Bonavista knows that the alarm is on the cliff there and that it can't be compared with Green Island. I suppose because Catalina is your home you would like to see things flourishing on Green Island. With regard to that Twillingate wharf I think there was an error there, and I will make enquiries.

MR. STONE.—I would like to point out to the Minister that when there is a big sea on at Cape Bonavista there is a big sea on at Green Island, and a schooner has to wait until it is over before she can land freight. That has always been the case. On the other hand a schooner going to Cape Bonavista may take more time than one going to Green Island, but so far as sea is concerned they are about the same, and when you can't get supplies to the lighthouse at Cape Bonavista you can't get them to Green Island.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES. —You know that you can get insurance on a schooner to Catalina when you can't get it on a schooner to Cape Bonavista.

MR. LLOYD.—I should like the Minister to explain the increase at Baccalieu from $600 to $1800.

MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS. —I take it that it is for repairs to buildings, increased freight, etc., but the Minister will be right here in a minute and will explain it.

(Grant for destroying dogs)

MR. COAKER—Has that grant of $120 been spent. What does it mean? Is it for shooting dogs?

MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS. —It is to cover the cost of proclamation and also the shooting of dogs A policeman gets $1.00, I think it is, for every dog he shoots.

(Surveys)

MR. COAKER.—What is this item of Petty Surveys?

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER —It covers the expenses of two surveyors going around. It is not a salary. The salaries are all separate in the estimates.

MR. COAKER—Is there any vote for exploration of coal areas?

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER —Not for some years.

MR. COAKER—Is there anything about those coal areas at all?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.— The position as regards the exploration of the Howley seam is this. While the Prime Minister was in England Mr. Scott of the Anglo Nfld. Development Co. called to see me regarding an effort being made to re-open the Howley coal seam. He said they were very seriously concerned over the supply of coal and whilst they required a very large quantity they had no tonnage to bring it to their works at Botwood, and thought it

would be worth while to make an effort to re-open the Howley seam for the purpose of seeing if some coal could not be secured. I communicated with the Prime Mnister in England, and he took up the matter with Lord Rothemere and sent out instructions to the Government to use every possible effort to have it undertaken. Mr. Scott came to town and it was decided that he would undertake to re-open those areas by mining and pumping out, and have an investigation made as to the possibilities of the place. The Government agreed that Mr. Scott should undertake this work, not altogether on behalf of the A.N.D. Co., and agreed to subscribe $3,000 a month towards this object. That was done by order of minute of council, and Mr. Scott undertook to open the mine up on behalf of the Government. At the time an arrangement was made whereby an expert would be imported from England who would have had considerable experience in the Belgian coal deposits, as it was pointed out that the Belgian coal deposits are very similar to those in this country (The Sydney mines are different from our deposits). Mr. Scott communicated with his principal; and I understand that Lord Rothermere promised to secure such a man. I understand the work is being undertaken but we have had no report as yet. I spoke to the Government Engineer the other day on the matter, he is waiting an opportunity to go and make a report and see how far they have advanced. I do not think they have started more than a month; and before the House closes I may have the opportunity of giving some further information to you; but at the present the Government has had no regular report.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman: I think that some provision should be made in the estimates for this investigation. I am glad to hear that an effort is being made to develop these deposits, and it may be that under commercial pressure there may be a chance of success.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I understand that the Hon. Finance Minister intends to bring down some provision in Supplemental Supply.

MR. LLOYD—I would like to know the position generally in connection with another coal deposit, e.g., the seams in St. George's District, at one time owned by Capt. Cleary. These were taken over by the Government. What is the position now?

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: The position is really this. For a number of years these seams were owned by private parties,—Capt. Cleary; and the rents were paid for something like 30 or 40 years by him, and during that time certain examinations were made by coal experts that were brought in. Then the properties came back to the Government by reason of their surrender by the representatives of the Cleary Estate, and the non-payment of rents, and then they were applied for in the regular way under the Crown Lands Act. The Government took the position that they should not be granted; and an application was made to the Supreme Court; and the Court held that there was no power to refuse the application; and these areas have now passed into the hands of private parties and are being exploited by them, and an attempt is being made to interest New York capitalists in their development. That is only in relation to the Cleary seams. All the rest are in the possession of the Govenment; and the Reid areas are at present held by the Crown under surrender.

MR. COAKER—With reference to the vote for agriculture. Before that is passed may I ask if something is not going to be done to increase it this year so as to give a bonus for

land-clearing? We have presented a petition very largely signed and well supported, asking for this bonus; and the petition was ably supported by the Minister of Public Works and the hon. member for Hr. Grace, Mr. Piccott, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and by other gentlemen on the other side. This side also supported it. It seems a pity that you cannot take this matter up in some way. It is hardly fair to the petitioners to refrain from doing anything in matters of such importance. I do not expect you to get up and announce exactly what you are going to vote for it; but there should be some encouragement given to the people particularly in these times of war, even to the extent of $10,000. Perhaps the Hon. Minister of Finance will draw the attention of the Government to this matter, so that a vote of $10,000 might be included in Supplemental Supply. I know my friend, the Minister of Public Works, is in favor of it; and also Mr. Devereaux; and if they support me in my present request, I think that something may be done.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—$10,000 would not be enough; it would be only enough to make a row about.

MR. JENNINGS—Why not devote $10,000 from the present grant to this purpose, or devote the whole $20,000?

MR. COAKER—Are you going to increase the grant for the Fiona?

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE.—The overdraft will be taken up in Supplemental Supply I do not know why you should put it in the estimates. The present vote is sufficient for this purpose. Last year the "Fiona" did extra work, and it may not happen this year; and if you put anything extra in the vote they may be inclined to spend it.

MR. COAKER.—I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the question of public wharves vote. Last year the vote was for $50,000. Half of that went to public wharves There is not the slightest doubt that there is not a public wharf that does not need repair. In Twillingate last year we got $4,000 extra granted; and we did immense work. We have 7 or 8 public wharves in Twillingate You have a certain amount of surplus revenue. It is not proper to cut down that vote for wharves. If you do not put something additional to this vote you will have to bring it down in Supplemental Supply. Wherever we go there is always trouble with these wharves. It would be money well spent, for they are a great convenience. Our normal grant for Twillingate is something like $1500. What can you do with that? I would be very sorry to allow these votes to go through and not make an effort to have this one raised. $15,000 is not a great amount when it has to be distributed over the whole country,—it merely means $3,000 or $4,000 for a district like Twillingate.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I may say that this is a matter that has been impressed upon the Government, and the desirability if possible of an additional vote for marine works has been pointed out. It may be that some addition will be made to the vote for roads and bridges; and the Finance Minister has that matter under consideration, and he has been asked by the Government to find out the largest amount that he may be able to recommend to the Committee for that purpose; and I think when we go into Supplemental Supply he will be able to do something. The vote referred to by the hon. member for Twillingate refers to a special class of wharves repaired and kept up, called public wharves—wharves in every district where the coastal boat calls. Lower down you will find a vote of $15,000 that is divided up per capita.

It is quite true that $15,000 does not go very far when one remembers the number of wharves in the various districts. $15,000 would be a small amount to vote for some of the larger districts, like Twillingate or Trinity or Placentia Bay. Take Placentia district: there you have that district divided up in large sections like St. Mary's Bay, Trepassey Bay, and Placentia Bay, and you give them three or four or five hundred dollars to keep up 40 or 50 public wharves. The same is true as regards Twillingate, Trinity or Bonavista. The trouble is that one has to cut one's garment according to one's cloth; and these estimates are in no respect a measure of the needs of the country, but merely the most that can be done with the revenue at our disposal. That matter will be considered, and I think something of a satisfactory character will be done before the House closes.

MR. LLOYD—I am glad to hear that there will be some additions to the vote for marine works and also the vote for Public Works Department. The position as far as Trinity is concerned is that the Marine Grant is absolutely inadequate; the whole of the grant could be easily taken up in the repairing of two or three wharves or the building of one new one. There are now a number of wharves that are tumbling down and there is no possibility of repairing them out of these grants, and the only thing left to do is to let them tumble down unless more money is provided. In connection with road works a great deal has been spent in connection with building roads and extending bridges, by the Government, and the increased mileage has meant that there is an increased annual cost of maintenance, and the amount allowed for this purpose is entirely insufficient. Well, for a number of years when we had big surpluses, most of this surplus money was used in this work, and this really was an additional grant for this purpose, but since the war there has been very little in the way of ordinary grants, and consequently there is at the present time a very large number of bridges, etc., in a state of disrepair, and something really big is needed to place these buildings and roads and wharves in a state of efficiency.

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Chairman: I would like to say a word or two about the district of Burgeo. There we have only twelve wharves, and we get the munificent sum of $490 for maintenance. With this money we have to keep these wharves in a state of repair so that our men can land freight when the steamers call, keep the breakwater in good condition, and in fact keep the whole 130 miles of coastline attended to. Everybody knows and feels sure there will be a large drop balance at the end of the year. I hope the Government will be able to carry out the policy that has been laid down here to-day, and increase this grant.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS—Last year this House voted my department $50,000 for repairs to the various public works. I am glad, and I am sure all the members of this House will be glad, that the Prime Minister hopes to be able to grant us a similar amount this year. $50,000 when divided equally between Marine and Land works is not a large amount. $25,000 divided among the districts for each service does not mean much. As Dr. Lloyd has explained, we had severe storms in October last, and these carried away many of the wharves, especially those on the North-East Coast and the Northern Bays, with the result that nearly all will have to be rebuilt, some of which are already under construction. And again there are long, lengthy roads which can be called railway connecting roads if you like, and these have no special votes.

They are therefore paid out of the grants for the districts. with the result that the districts suffer thereby. For instance, now when this $50 is voted, the members will vote so much for repairing connecting roads. Now this is unfair to the district: yet these connecting roads are fast going to decay. The member for Bonavista has suggested that we vote these moneys individually here, and I have consulted the Minister of Finance about this matter, but if we get this $50,000 again this year, or if by any manner or means we could get $100,000, there would be no need, as there would be sufficient for all purposes. As Dr. Lloyd has pointed out, there have been no new roads built, and through shortage of funds these roads have been neglected, with the result that they require special attention now. I hope the Government will be able to do what they have announced as their intention here to-day.

MR. LLOYD—Yes, just take one section of my district for an example. The Shoal Harbor road has two bridges, both of which are in need of repairs. Now, these two bridges, if repaired as they ought to be, would use up the whole grant for the district.

MR. CLIFT.—Mr. Chairman. What the Minister says and what Doctor Lloyd says is perfectly true also as regards Twillingate. We have a large number of roads there, which may be called main roads, but there are not sufficient moneys to keep them in repair; and very frequently the money which has been spent on them is entirely lost because there is no grant for annual repairs. And whilst speaking Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House the report of the Government Engineer in reference to the condition of Shoal Tickle Twillingate. You will remember the Government Engineer went down there for the purpose of making enquiry in Shoal Tickle as to the probable cost of erecting the necessary breastwork. If any report has been made I would like to see it. We made an allocation last year of $1000 out of special grant, but that was not sufficient to do anything with, and the amount has been held over until a further grant is made.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say in relation to the votes for marine works, that I think that nearly every member of the House made application to the Government for some extra grant in connection with marine grants for particular districts. Now I do not know that in my experience there was ever a greater need for some additional votes for this purpose. Last year a heavy storm swept the North East coast and the great majority of old wharves were swept out of existence and obliterated, but as there was no money left, nothing could be done. In several instances however, the Government undertook to make provision for rebuilding these, but there are still many outstanding matters to be considered. I know that the necessary repairs to the wharves at Catalina, Spaniard's Bay and Saint John's East, will more than eat up the whole marine grants for these districts, and I feel sure the Government will make due provision to have these works replaced, because wharves play an important part in mercantile life, and therefore it is an important matter that they should be made safe, and convenient and useful for the people. And what is true of wharves is true of the roads. It is impossible for the Legislature to forecast the actual expenditures that will be necessary on works such as these, but sufficient moneys must be allocated to meet such emergency. I do not think it is extravagant to spend money on roads, as it will have to be spent sooner or later. I

wish to endorse the wish of the Prime Minister that the Government will be in a position this year to make allocations to meet the necessary requirements. The members for the district may think that their requests are not being attended to. These have all come to me from the Department of Public Works and from the Minister of Finance, and I can assure them they are not being neglected, and I feel safe in saying that just as soon as the Government finds itself able, these matters will be attended to. I would repeat the wish of the Government that they be able to increase this vote in the near future.

MR. HALFYARD.—I think the most important matter in connection with the carrying on of the public service, is the matter of Marine Works and roads and bridges. As the hon. the Colonial Secretary has just said sooner or later money must be provided for this service, for if once they are allowed to decay, they will cost much more to be repaired, if they can be rebuilt, and the probabilities are that they will have to be rebuilt. There is a request in the hands of the Colonial Secretary from Barr'd Islands, Fogo, asking for about $600 for repairing two bridges that are about worn out. Now if this comes from the regular grant, I cannot see how the rest of the district is going to come out. The allocation for the district is only $640, and if it takes $600 to repair these bridges, there will be $40 left for the remainder of the district.

Then we have lots of connecting roads which are simply impassable. There are quite a number of people at either end of these roads and the population is increasing and they are making great use of these roads. These roads are getting worse from year to year. Now if we cannot get the money out of the current revenue we should borrow nothing less than a million dollars for the maintenance of these roads and bridges for main lines alone. Some roads have the advantage of the railway, but Fogo District has not that advantage, and yet the district is one of the greatest revenue producing districts in the country and though they provide their pro capita tax for the advantage of the railways, still they do not get the same advantages of those other sums that have been borrowed for the railroads. That is very unfair. This money should be provided and as I said before if we cannot get it out of current revenue, we should borrow it.

MR. WINSOR—I am glad to hear the statements from the Hon. Premier, also that of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, regarding their intentions of the special amounts for roads and bridges. The Minister of Public Works has already stated that my colleague, Mr. Abbott, and myself sent a statement to him on this matter showing the requirements of our district. We have some eight or ten railway connecting roads in our district for which there is no annual grant. The Government has spent eighteen or twenty thousand dollars to build the roads; and if it was a necessity to build them surely it needs keeping them in repair. Parts of these roads at present are impassable. They are grown over and are of no use. There is one road from Alexander Station to Salvage Bay which is nine miles long, and the annual grant for this road is only $50.00. There is on it the Terra Nova Bridge and the bridge across South West Tickle. I have never travelled over this bridge, but people tell me that there are four telegrapn poles erected along it. That will give you some idea, Sir, of the length of this bridge and yet there is only $50.00 annually to keep this road in repair. The people of Sal-

vage Bay and other places have a great deal of traffic over this road; it is used for the transport of agricultural products and the people of Glovertown use it to connect at Alexander Station. Now, it is all right to vote a special sum to repair a road like this, but what is wanted is an annual grant to keep it in repair. Then we have the railway connecting the road from Gambo to Middle Brook; this road is over three mlies long. The people there have no other means to convey any of their traffic to and from the station only by this road, as nothing whatever can be done by boat. Then we have one leading from Loo Cove to Safe Harbour, one from Shalloway Cove to St. Brendan's, another from Charleston to Sweet Bay, another from Charlottetown to Port Blandford, from Bunyan's Cove to Port Blandford, from Bunyan's Cove to Musgrave Town, from Musgrave Town to Canning's Cove. Now, Sir, none of these roads I have mentioned have any annual grant. A great deal of money was spent on building these roads and it is only reasonable that a sufficient sum be voted to keep them in repair. Now it is all right to give a special amount to repair these roads this year, but it must be kept in repair. What is required is an annual grant and it will be only useless for the Government to spend money on repairing them if this annual grant be not given. If you spend a certain amount of money one year and do not keep an annual grant, that money will be the same as that which has already been spent. It will be wasted. These roads are used for agricultural and other purposes by the people of Bunyan's Cove, Musgrave Town and Charlottetown and many other places and in the winter, when the Bay boats are not running, the people need them to connect with Port Blandford in case a doctor or anything else is required and parts of these roads are so overgrown that they are impassable. Now, next, Sir, is the question of bridges; there is a bridge at Newtown which is out of repair and which cannot be repaired for less than $1200. There is one at Hare Bay that will require $600, and there is another one at Middle Brook. The people had to do some work themselves, and put fencing across the bridge to prevent cattle from crossing as it was so much out of repair that it was not strong enough for the cattle to go over. We have another bridge that will cost $300 and Bunyan's Cove bridge and Terra Nova bridge are not passable. The same applies to those bridges as to the roads. It is not sufficient to allocate a special sum to repair them, but there should be an annual sum to keep them in repair. Now, as regards the grant for marine works: We have a wharf at Wesleyville which would take nearly all of that grant to keep it in proper repair. For a portion of the year this wharf has to serve all the North Side of the Bay, and sometimes as far as Musgrave Harbor. We have the two Labrador boats, the Prospero, the Bay boat, and an occasional steamer besides calling at this wharf. I hope the Government will consider these matters and make a special effort to meet these demands, especially the Annual Grants for these roads I have mentioned.

MR. GRIMES.—Mr. Chairman, what the honourable member has just said with regard to matters in his district as to the necessity of repairing the roads that have fallen into disuse, applies to the district of Port de Grave as well. Now, it is well known that the district of Port de Grave is one of the best agricultural districts in our Island and that several roads were built for the purpose of encouraging agricultural development and it resulted in the increase of output of

agricultural products from that district. I remember that under the administration of Sir Robert Bond a sum of $500 was allocated to build an agricultural road known as Black Duck Pond Road leading from Port de Grave Road up to the back of North River. Since that road was built no money has been provided for the upkeep of that road. At the time it was built some 25 families took up tracts of land along it; they made several demands since that time for road repairs, so as to keep the road easy of access to their gardens and to keep their carts from being broken up easily or worn out, but no attention has ever been paid to the requirements of these people up to the present time and the result has been that the people have given up cultivating these tracts of land to the extent they did in the past and have the small gardens around their own houses which are two or three miles distant from that road being satisfied to raise only enough agricultural products for their own use, whereas if that road had been kept in repair they would have raised enough not only for their own use but for sale as well. A great deal has been said in the House during the past two or three days as to the desirability of encouraging agriculture in this country. A petition was presented the other day by the Minister of Public Works asking that a sufficient sum of money be granted to extend the road from Roche's line to Mahar's Junction and this petition was signed not only by the people of Harbour Main district but by a great many people around the lower part of Port de Grave district, because it is their intention if the Government accedes to this petition (to build that road) to take up some tracts of land to cultivate. I hope that the Premier with his Executive will see the necessity of allocating a sufficient amount to meet the requirements of the people and particularly those interested in agricultural developments.

MR. COAKER—While we are speaking about the roads. I wish to congratulate the various Road Boards around the country that were elected a couple of years ago. Their term will expire on the 16th of December next and we will have elections just as we had two years ago. As regards the district of Bonavista and the district of Twillingate I know a great deal about these Boards and they have done their work very satisfactorily. They have given every satisfaction in expending the money allocated to them and I have not heard any dissatisfaction and I have not known of a single case of any man receiving money from them which he did not earn. From what is here now I would like to congratulate these Road Boards on the way in which they have performed their duties. I hope that even greater interest will be taken in them in the future and that the best material each place affords will be availed of. I consider this one of the best Acts that we have had passed in the last four years. I am sure that it will be a great pleasure to all members of this House to find that it has worked so satisfactorily. I hope that all districts that have not availed themselves of that Act will do so as soon as possible. I would recommend this Act to every member of this House. They can take the suggestion from me that it will obviate an immense amount of worry I think the Prime Minister in his statement wherein he intimated to the House the intention of the Government to grant an increase for the new grants in the supplementary supply in connection with roads and wharves is following a policy that will recommend itself to every member of this House. The $50,000,00 that was spent was money well spent and was really appreciated by the people of the coun-

try. It is my earnest hope that the next year will see a further development of this scheme.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Chairman, I would like to endorse the statement made in this House this afternoon by the member for Trinity Bay, Dr. Lloyd, when he referred to the road boards. There is a great deal yet to be done throughout the country and especially in Trinity Bay. Bad weather and rough seas in many places play havoc with the wharves and there is an imperative need of money to maintain them. The destruction of a wharf, either total or partial, is a tremendous calamity for a district and supends work and business to a sometimes great extent. I remember on several occasions presenting a petition from a certain settlement in Trinity Bay where the wharf owing to rough weather had been entirely demolished and the people in consequence put to great inconvenience. The money that is allocated under this vote is one step towards the palliation of the discomforts that the fishermen and laboring men have to undergo when overtaken by a calamity such as the case I referred to but still the sum at present allocated in that behalf in no way suffices to meet the full demands that arise. Another instance presents itself in the case of New Chelsea, where the people, owing to lack of railway connection with the rest of Trinity Bay, are compelled to depend upon their supply of provisions by steamer, which, of course, when in running order there is satisfaction enough, but when, as happens in certain periods of the year, owing to heavy sea and the difficulties of navigation at that place, the steamer is unable to call there, the people suffer intensely the need of communication with the rest of the Bay by railroad. Fish is unable to be shipped. Other produce remains on the hands of the people. All business is suspended, and the resultant inconvenience is the cause of a great deal of dissatisfaction among the people of that place. I sincerely hope that the Government will attend to this matter promptly, and that a way out of the difficulty will present itself to them.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman: I would like to endorse what has been said by the hon. member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker. In reference to my own experience in Elective Road Boards I have always found that they worked well, exeptionally well. My only fault is that it is not made compulsory by legislation, for all allocations whether made by this House or not, or made by the recommendation of members through the Board of Works, to be paid over to these Boards to be spent by them. Since I have been representing Trinity Bay in this present Assembly I have made a practice of refusing to make any person, as such, as an individual, the party responsible to the people for the spending of public monies. There is only one case during the last four years where a recommendation was made in favour of an individual as distinct from a Road Board, and that case had special circumstances as the matter was urgent and the Road Board's term of office had expired and it was found impracticable to inaugurate a new one. A large bridge had fallen down at Bay Bulls Arm, which accident rendered impossible the continuance of traffic between one end of the settlement and the other. As there was no Road Board I recommended that the grant be paid to a private person. That is the only instance during these years. I have found no dissatisfaction whatever in connection with these monies expended by the local Boards. I only remember one case where I made a recommendation in favor of a Board and got a letter objecting to it,as the recommend-

ation would have been unfavorable to the party writing. Now, our attitude has ever been this: If a settlement elects a Road Board, we abide by that Board's decisions, and the Board must incur all the odium which results from their decisions and actions. No responsibility is to be thrown on us. It is a system that works in Trinity Bay exceedingly well. I think it would give very great satisfaction if these Boads were made compulsory under the Act.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reprted 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.

WOOLLEN AND KNITTING MILLS CONTRACTS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woollen Mills, Ltd., and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman: I think the Government would be better advised if they would withdraw all except that 5 per cent. guarantee; and, if they so desire, they have it in their power to make some additional agreement under the Act of 1910. Certainly, they could not give concessions to the extent to which it is proposed to go here, but I cannot conceive of the Company asking the Government to go as far as that. I would suggest that the Government take this matter into consideration, and allow this suite of resolutions to be limited to the guarantee; and if it is found to be necessary to aid the Company, they have the power to do so under the Act of 1910.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I might say that since this matter was last before the Committee I have not had the opportunity of discussing the agreement with the representatives of the companies here. However, I have no desire to force the thing through, and if it can be modified along the lines suggested by the Leader of the Opposition I shall be very glad, and I have no objection to making an effort in that direction. We want to meet the wishes of the House in every possible way, and I will endeavor to arrange with the companies to have the matter so fixed that there will be no objection whatever. For this reason, I move that the Committee rise.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Public Service Electric Company Limited" was read a second time and it was ordered to be referred to a Select Committee as follows:—Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Downey, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Coaker.

GENERAL HOSPITAL BILL.

On motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the Bill "An Act Respecting the General Hospital" was withdrawn.

JULY FIRST CELEBRATION.

Mr. Speaker read the following letter to the House.

To His Honour the Speaker,
House of Assembly.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the Committee appointed to make suitable arrangements for the Commemoration of July 1st I have the honour to invite His Honour the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly now in session, to be present at the Colonial Building on Sunday afternoon next at 4 o'clock when addresses suitable to the occasion will be delivered by the Rt. Hon. the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

Please assemble in the Legislative Council Chamber, entrance from the east gate on Bannerman Road.

Yours faithfully,
Jos. Peters, Sec. Com.

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

THE QUINTON CASE.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Speaker. I beg to draw the attention of the Premier and the House to an editorial in to-day's Herald headed "Demands an Inquiry" The facts in the case regarding this soldier are laid bare by the editor of the Herald who seems to have a full grasp of the situation. It only came to my notice this morning. I received a letter from his father and mother asking me to have this matter attended to. Now the case of this chap goes to prove the statements made here on this side of the House in connection with our military affairs. I believe the time has come when the Government must take this up in a very serious way and assume more responsibility. This work involves so much expenditure and the matter of the looking after the affairs of the Regiment has become so great that we ought to have some department or some person holding a position in the Government responsible to the House for all matters in connection with the expenditure of money for the Regiment. We ought to have a Militia Department. The people who are now doing the work are undoubtedly doing it as well as could be expected, but they are not able to give the time and attention to it which is necessary. They are doing the best they can, but they are not responsible to the House, and they can't come here to explain matters. We are voting a couple of million dollars this year, and yet we won't have any more than that to do with it. After the vote is made the money will be handed to people outside this House to spend and we won't know how it is spent. I trust the Government will seriously consider this position. We are satisfied to do anything we can to establish a department to look after expenditures in connection with the Regiment. It may not be necessary to have an elaborate system, but someone should shoulder the responsibility and be able to give us information in connection with these expenditures. I am not satisfied to see the money spent in the way it has been in the past and I want to see someone responsible to this House. Regarding this young man Quinton, it is a very serious matter, and there should certainly be an investigation the result of which should be reported to this House.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—There is a great deal in what the honourable member for Twillingate has said regarding this matter. We are reaching a point where it is very desirable to consider the advisability of having a responsible head of a department dealing with our military affairs, both as regards our soldiers and sailors. I don't mean to imply by

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House, Dr. Rendell's Report, respecting the establishment of the Sanatorium. Also Report of Nurses visiting Outports during the past year.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I will have that information at the next sitting.

MR. COAKER asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to table the exhibit and the recommendations of Commissioner Knight respecting the Postal Telegraph enquiry.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to table that information.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of the House to the question (No. 3) I asked yesterday. It might have been answered, but I was not present.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I stated that I had sent to the Reid Nfld. Co. for a statement; and as soon as I receive it I shall send it to the hon. member.

SUPPLY.

Mr. Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Lighthouses and Blockhouses	$146,707.72
Agriculture and Mines ..	19,900.00
Marine and Fisheries ..	123,300.00
Roads, Bridges and Ferries	178,726.00

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 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. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the Postmaster at Burin and the position at Burin North. The Burin position has a salary of $442 while in Burin North the salary is only $150. Now Burin North does the larger business, yet it is the office getting the smallest salary. The boats give their mail to the North office, and this is in fact the main office while the other is the Way office. I was surprised when I was down there to find things arranged like this, and the people there asked me if I would have the matter looked into. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary could give us some information.

MR. CURRIE—The hon. member has made a slight mistake. The Burin or Collins' Cove office is the main office, while that at Burin North is the way office.

MR. COAKER—Which does the most work.

MR. CURRIE—Collins' Cove is the distributing centre. The distribution there covers Burin, Great Burin, Burin Bay, Epworth and other places. It does seem strange that with the steamer calling at Burin North, the business centre, that the mail should be taken over to Collin's Cove for distribution; but in some respects perhaps that is the most convenient distributing centre for the places I have named. That office was there long before my time.

MR. LEFEUVRE.—As a matter of fact that office was not put there by our predecessor. The present man was appointed many years ago and he moved to Collins Cove and took the office with him and it has been there ever since. Since then a Way Office has been established at Burin. In those days people did not mind calling for their letters, they did not worry

much about them. Increases have been given from time to time to this man which have brought up his salary to what it is at the present time.

MR. COAKER.—I would draw the attention of the Minister to the two Superintendents in the Post Office, the Superintendent of the Money Order Office and the Superintendent of the Parcel Post. One it will be seen gets $1250, while the other gets only $1150, and I think the man getting the smaller salary is the man who has been there longer, that is the Superintendent of the Money Order Dept. getting $1200 but I think they ought to get the same salary.

MR. HALFYARD.—In connection with this mail clerk for Fogo. Who will get this.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—That is the Susu vote. That will be a drop balance. The work will be done by the other man.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Chairman, in connection with the Bonavista Branch railway, there are two clerks. They were receiving $900 but are now receiving $1100. One of these clerks who is a married man receives $32.50 per month while the other who is a single man gets $40. What I cannot understand is where the distinction comes in.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I do not know exactly, but I will enquire. I think one must be longer in the service than the other.

MR. STONE—I do not think that is the case. I think they went to work at the same time, and I know they are doing the same work.

MR. COAKER—May I ask the Colonial Secretary if it has been decided to act upon the recommendations of Commissioner Knight in connection with the Postal Telegraph Office. I don't intend now to enter into any discussion upon the merits or demerits of that report, not at present at any rate; but I would just like to know whether the Government intended to act upon the Commissioner's recommendations?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—The matter has not yet been considered by the Government. It will be taken up as soon as possible after the House closes.

MR. COAKER—I am glad to know that the Minister in charge of that Department intends, as soon as possible after the House closes, to have this matter brought before the Government, and probably acting upon the recommendations of the Commissioner. I take a special interest in that department, and I have gone into the report very fully, and anyone who reads it must come to the conclusion that things are not as they should be in that department. You will really want to go to the root of the whole trouble, when you once take the matter up, and revise the whole Department. The matter is a very serious one, and I am glad to know that the Government intends to deal with it as soon as possible.

MR. HALFYARD.—Mr. Chairman. Now that reference has been made to that vote for $2,000 for new routes, I would like to ask the Colonial Secretary if the Government has come to any decision with regard to the erection of the wires to Carmanville?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I replied to the hon. member the other day on that subject. The matter has not been considered since.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks in reference to the couriers at Jamestown and Sweet Bay, North-west Arm, and Jamestown Railway and also King's Cove and Openhall and King's Cove and Plate Cove. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that there is quite a lot of dissatisfaction amongst the people of this neighborhood in connection with this service, brought about mainly by the meanness of the

that or admit that up to the present time both of these services have not been well looked after. Of course, so far as our Navy is concerned there is not very much to do, but so far as our soldiers are concerned, the amount of free work, voluntary work generously put in by citizens all over this country can never be over-estimated and will never be fully known. Up to the present, for very nearly three years this military organization has been carried on without any cost to the colony—work that is done everywhere else under departments at greater cost in England under the War Department, in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa under regular Militia Departments. We have had all this work done free, and it should be remembered that it is not fair to continue to call upon the over-taxed resources of private individuals and impose this additional work upon them, and the Government has had that matter recently impressed upon it. The case under consideration is a very sad one and will, of course, be investigated. I hope that this investigation will show that there was no blame attached to those referred to. There may be an explanation forthcoming which will at least establish this was no neglect. We will have the matter immediately enquired into, and as regards the larger question that matter will I think receive early consideration.

MR. CLIFT.—I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, as one who has had a great deal to do with Committee work in the various committees of the Patriotic Association, that I have felt for a long time that the administration of the Association, so far as military organization is concerned, should be in the hands and under the control of some responsible Minister. It is only fair to the country and the House that there should be a Minister here who could acquaint this House with any details or information that may be required in reference to the whole organization and its administration. The work is now being done by several different committees, and whilst the committees have been working most harmoniously and things have been going very well, yet I think that some one person, some central head, should have control over the whole expenditure, so that one person would be acquainted with everything that is going on and be in a position to make proper reports to this Legislature. It is not fair, either, that we should expect private individuals to take upon themselves this responsibility. With regard to the particular case which has been brought before our notice, it is of course most regrettable that this young man should have met his death under such circumstances; but I think, from what I know of the case, and I do know something of it, that it will be found that after he became ill every care and assistance and attention was given him, and that his death was the result of the illness he contracted; and that the article in the Herald, dealing with it, will be found to be unjustifiable.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, June 29th 1917.

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

QUESTIONS.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to a question asked by me on June 25, in references to contingencies 1915-1916 re Postal Telegraphs.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I understood that was tabled. I shall make enquiries and have it for you the next sitting.

politicians who had charge of affairs in the district. The first case that I wish to refer to is that of Mr. Walter Brown, of King's Cove. Previous to the last election Mr. Brown was the mail courier in that section, and was universally liked by the people of the whole locality; and is to-day, but as he voted for Coaker, Winsor and Abbott, he was dismissed. Two or three days after the result of the poll was made known, Mr. Brown got up as usual very early in the morning, harnessed his horse, and proceeded to get the mail; but when he reached the office he found that the mail was gone. He had been replaced without having received any notification whatever, notwithstanding the fact that all the people of the place wanted him to carry the mails. The point I want to bring out is, that the people's wishes, except at election time, are only a secondary consideration. The next case is that of Mr. Christopher Haines, of Jamestown. He was also mail courier previous to the election, but like Mr. Brown, he changed his political coat and lost his job as a result of his act. The people of Jamestown, Brooklyn and adjacent settlements prefer that Mr. Haines carry the mails, but you see the people are nobodies except when they are asked to vote. Then of course they are all in all. I asked a question on the floors of this House in 1915 for the objections if any to Mr. Haines carrying the mails, and for the correspondence "if any" recommending Mr. Blunden to replace him. The reply that I received was that there was no correspondence in connection with the matter but that the Government thought it wise to make the change because Mr. Haines belongs to Jamestown. Now this, to my mind, was nothing more than a mere piece of bluff. When Mr. Haines was given the appointment a Jamstown man was preferable. If I am rightly informed Mr. Haines has in his possession at the present time a letter from the late Postmaster General, the Hon. H. J. B. Woods, to the effect that no application for the job would be accepted unless the applicant belonged to Jamestown, yet the Government informs us that they thought to make the change because Mr. Haines belonged to that locality. Mr. Haines was not dismissed because he belongs to Jamestown, he was not dismissed because he failed to do his work faithfully and was not dismissed because of any irregularities in the mails, but simply because he thought it wise to vote different from what he hitherto had voted and from the way that the Powers that be desired. I know exactly how Mr. Blunden replaced him, and I know how Mr. Devine replaced Mr. Brown. Undoubtedly the gentlemen who created these changes against the wishes of the people thought they were doing all for the best, but I take it for granted, Mr. Chairman, as far as the good will of the people are concerned they did exactly as an English member of Parliament said one time in the British House of Commons, "They killed the fatted calf that lays the golden eggs," and you will find, Sir, that you cannot "fool all the people all the time."

MR. JENNINGS.—While this matter is being discussed, I would like to say a word in reference to the appointment of couriers. It seems to me that this service is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and it will continue to be until you get down to the position where you will put this service up to tender—really and truly up to tender—so that the best man who will do the work at the lowest figure will get the appointment. Only then, it seems to me, will you have satisfactory service. I have in mind one particular instance in which the man

who secured the appointment makes $150.00. He sublets the contract and makes $150.00 on the job. Now, I think that even if there were only this one case it would be a sufficient reason for dropping this system altogether and put the services up to tender. The men who get that subcontract consider themselves fairly well paid for the work they perform, but if they know that the original contractor was making $150.00 they would certainly put up a kick. This instance might be multiplied by a score or more of the case which I now bring before the Committee. Not until that service is put up to tender and contracted for in a business-like manner will you get the work done in a satisfactory and economical manner, and the sooner that is done the better for the country and for all concerned.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman. With regard to that vote for $2,000 for new routes. Is it the intention to make any increase in the vote for couriers? A great many of these couriers use horses, particularly in the northern districts; it costs them quite a bit to keep up these horses, and the cost of living has gone up in every way. I do not mean that you should increase each courier separately, but you might put in a lump sum, which could be used in cases where it was shown that increases were necessary.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS.—I might say that it is the intention of the Government to put in a lump sum in the additional estimates for this purpose.

MR. GRIMES.—With reference to the Labrador service, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries if some arrangement could not be made for the steamer to call at Cupids as well as Brigus, and when calling at Brigus to land the men at the wharf instead of from the steamer's side, which creates a lot of inconvenience. This would only mean the fraction of an hour's delay at the most, and the water at the public wharf there is quite deep enough. Now in connection with the calling of the steamer at Cupids, I might say that when the people from Cupids are landed at Harbor Grace it is a great inconvenience to them, as they have to cart their goods up from Harbor Grace or get them up by rail. It would mean an hour's delay for the steamer to call at Cupids, and I think if a little pressure were brought to bear on the Reid Nfld. Co. it could be managed. It would be a great advantage to the people there, and nobody knows the needs of the people of Cupids better than the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries himself.

MR. COAKER.—Could the Minister inform us what arrangement has been made regarding the Labrador boat?

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—I might say that I have enquired about the Hawk, and I expect to get a reply next week. Mr. Bowring is here now.

MR. TARGETT—I would like to ask the Hon. the Colonial Secretary if any arrangement has been made regarding the "Wren" meeting the train coming to Heart's Content.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Yes, I have written the Reid Nfld. Co. regarding that matter, but I haven't yet received an answer.

(Postal Telegraphs.)

MR. LLOYD.—I should like to see the matter brought up by the Hon. member for Twillingate responded to by this department. No one knows better than the Hon. Colonial Secretary that it is desirable to establish confidence in that branch, and until confidence is established, you cannot expect the public, and particularly the business men, to support it.

MR. STONE.—In looking over this vote it has occurred to me to ask

whether any arrangement has been made yet in regard to getting a telegraph office at English Harbor. This place is about five or six miles from Port Rexton. There are no means of communication, and the people have to walk about 5 miles to find out about a train or steamer, and very often they have to make more than one trip. Now I think a petition was sent in asking for a telegraph office at English Harbor, or if that could not be done, for a telephone. I think if there were a telephone installed it would answer the purpose all right. The poles go right through from Trinity East to Port Rexton and it would require only a few more poles. I hope the Colonial Secretary wlll give this matter some consideration, because it is something which is certainly desirable and for the best interests of the people who reside at that settlement.

MR. LLOYD.—I might say with reference to this matter that I wrote the Colonial Secretary I think last August and received a reply that was somewhat favorable, and later received a visit from the Superintendent of Telegraphs. Now the request of the people was, not for a telegraph office at English Harbor, but for telephone connection to Port Rexton, so that both places might be served from both Champneys and English Harbor. We communicated with the people of both places. I find it received no sympathy. The same line would go through Champneys and English Hr. I wrote the department in regard to it some months ago; but since then I have not heard anything about it, and apparently there has been nothing done. I would like to ask the Colonial Secretary, if he has no actual information on the subject, that he make enquiries and find out if anything has been done. With reference to Bellevue. The people there find it a great inconvenience; they cannot communicate with the railway station or obtain medical assistance without great difficulty; and they are very desirous of having telephone connection. I would therefore impress upon the Government the importance of the requests from English Hr. Champneys and Bellevue in reference to this matter; and I think it would be well to consider the question of telephone connection between these places. The superintendent told me the department did not very much favor the idea of telephone connection; but I have had a consultation with Mr. Stone, and he tells me that they have had great satisfaction with it both at Elliston, Catalina and Melrose.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY — Mr. Chairman, I might say that I have perfect knowledge with regard to English Hr., Port Rexton and Champneys; and I understood the work is being done. As far as the department is concerned, I instructed the Superintendent to attend to this matter. The first idea was to install a telephone service, but the Superintendent did not agree with it; and my impression at the present moment is that I instructed him to go ahead with the telegraph installation. The matter is not a new one—I think Mr Stone brought it up last session, and I had some interviews with him about it; and I recollect I instructed Mr. Scott to proceed with the work as it did not entail much expenditure. In fact it was a small matter and it was represented to be a great public convenience and there was no reason why it should not have been attended to. The objection there was to the telephone service was that it would have to be connected with the telegraph line. As as far as Bellevue is concerned, that is a new matter. I have had no information in regard to that; but I assure the honourable member that it will be attended to.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Chairman: I am sure we are very pleased to have the assurance of the Hon. Colonial Secretary that these matters are being and will be attended to.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman. A few days ago I presented a petition from Bareneed, Upper Bareneed, the Dock and Otterbury signed by a large number of people asking for a telegraph office to be placed at Upper Bareneed. There are about 1400 people interested, and the cost of installation would be small as the poles pass right longside the Post Office, and it would only mean a very small outlay. The present postmistress could act as operator, and for that purpose her salary might be increased somewhat.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Is she an operator?

MR. GRIMES.—No, but she could learn in a short time. She is a very qualified young lady, and I do not think she would take long to learn the business of operator. The people of Cupids have been demanding it for some time; and the last time I brought it before the House the Hon. Colonial Secretary promised to give the matter his attention. The distance between the nearest pole and the Post Office at Cupids is about half a mile; but I think the people would help in providing and placing poles; and so the cost would be small if their wishes were met.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—It is the operator's salary that is the trouble. The amount of business in some of these places as a general rule does not compensate for the salary.

MR. GRIMES—If you would make some small addition to the salary of the postmistress I think she would be satisfied.

MR. WINSOR—Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks now that the vote for Outport Telegraph Offices is before the committee. A few days ago I presented a petition from the inhabitants of Hare Bay and Wellington asking for telegraph and telephone commuicattion. These places are very much isolated, no connections whatever with any of the outside places, either by steamer or otherwise. If these places were connected by telegraph it would be very convenient not only for the people living there, but for other people as well. Further it would be a great help to our winter mail rout on that side of the Bay. Sometimes it is impossible for the couriers to get along without help. Yet nothing can be done to send anybody to their aid, owing to none of the places between Gambo and Greenspond being connected with telegraph, also it would help these people of Hare Bay and Wellington a lot when a doctor is needed, they have to go from ten to twenty-five miles and sometimes to be disappointed, where if they had some kind of communication with these places where the doctor resides they would know the right direction to go. We have had some communications with the Postmaster General on this matter. He has taken it up with Superintendent Stott, the cost is esimated by him to connect Hare Bay with the general line, as $1070, to proceed to Wellington would be about $1400. I think the people there would be relieved somewhat and satisfied as well if Hare Bay alone was connected. In making up this amount I imagine the full cost of poles has been counted on. This would be reduced a considerable amount, because the poles can be cut along where the line is to be built. If the Postal and Telegraph Office were combined the expenses to operate this would not be very great. The Government proposes to give the postmistress there $75.

This is $50 more than that recommended by the Postmaster General. Then there is a drop balance of $40 from the post office previously. Shoal Bay which is now renamed Wellington and has a vote beside for that purpose, so with little additions this office could have a decent salary and not increase the public expenditure very much. Here is what the Postmaster General says:

"Your letter of the 25th inst., with Mr. Stott's report have been forwarded to the Executive for their decision. On general principles it is of course desirable that Hare Bay should be connected by telegraph, but there are so many places of similar importance and equally isolated that are looking for telegraph connection, that the decision in these matters rest with the Government."

I hope that when the matter comes before the Executive they will give it full consideration.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Chairman, I wish to endorse what my colleague, Mr. Winsor, has just said. These people of Hare Bay and Wellington suffer considerably because of the lack of telegraph extens' n and connecting roads. They have been living in an isolated fashion fo.' the past quarter of a century and I think the Government should attend to this matter as soon as possible. I am surprised at the state of affairs existing in Bonavista District. It seems to me that the people in certain parts of that District have been greatly neglected. To give you an idea, Sir, I will just mention a few facts in connection with some of the places. Take Charlottetown, for instance: this place is situated about one mile from Port Blandford by land. It has been inhabited over 30 years. Its people are hardworking and industrious, but they are neglected. They are cut off from the outside world, so to speak. They have no connecting road, "only a track," no telephone connection. If the people want a doctor they must either go to Port Blandford in boat or cross Clode Sound to Bunyan's Cove, and after that travel a distance of five miles to Musgravetown before they reach telegraph communication. I think this is unfair treatment to accord these people. Then there is Bunyan's Cove, that is situated about five miles from Musgravetown and is similarly isolated. Last April when I was travelling down there I met a couple of men near Musgravetown, travel-stained and tired, and when questioned they told me they had just come from Bunyan's Cove, a distance of five miles, over mud, stumps and windfalls in order to find a doctor for a sick woman; but they feared she would be dead before they got him. I thought then what a disgrace it was for this and past Governments to have this condition of affairs existing. Why not give them telephone or telegraph connection with Port Blandford or Musgrave Town. Bunyan's Cove has been inhabited for 30 years. They are hardworking people; and desire and deserve the necessary convenience. Canning's Cove is another place about four miles from Musgravetown, with no telephone connection. The road or track that leads to that place is absolutely impassable. If the people there want a doctor they cannot get one without a hard day's work. The people up at these places have petitioned the Government time and again for connecting roads and telephone, but all to no avail. Their petitions seem to have been consigned to the waste paper basket. These places that I have mentioned are not the only places in the District that are in the same condition and who have petitioned the Government for telephone connection. Petitions have been presented from Summerville, Stock, Knight's Cove, Redcliffe and a number of other places. So I think the least the Government can do is to consider

these people's requirements and accord them fair play.

MR. COAKER—Mr. Chairman: There is a petition from Boyd's Cove asking for telegraph office. In going through the estimates I find $300 credited to Twillingate for telegraph extension. If the Colonial Secretary had that $300 handed over for the erection of telegraph office at Boyd's Cove, it would cover the expense.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—$300 for what.

MR. COAKER—For telephone extension. I regret that the Postmaster-General referred to this matter so strongly in his report without first looking into the matter thoroughly. I have found that these telephones work very satisfactorily and the people like them. It affords communication between the settlements, and were there no telephones they would have no communication outside. I regret, I say, that he did not further consider this matter, as I think they are a great benefit to the people in these places and are appreciated.

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.

ST. GEORGE'S DISTRICT ACT.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the District of St. George's" was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. It is intended to deal only with the District of St. George's. Under the law as at present the local option applies all over the country in relation to the keeping of dogs, that is on the receipt of a petition signed by the majority of the electors and certified by the Magistrate, to the Governor in Council, asking that the keeping of dogs be prohibited, the Governor in Council can issue a proclamation bringing the wishes of the people into effect. But there is a special act in relation to sheep farmers. That has been read to mean, and I understand that the Department of Justice has advised, that the Collie Dog was excluded from that general law and it is desirable that an opportunity should be afforded the people of this district to include the Collie in the list of prohibited dogs. The collie dog was introduced into Bay St. George by people when it was intended they would go in for sheep-raising, but as they have not been used for the purposes, and not being trained, they have become very injurious to the keeping of sheep. The collie dog is a very valuable animal for regular shepherds when the dog is trained, for he is then just as valuable as a man looking after sheep. He circles around the sheep and is thus able to look after five or six hundred sheep, and should one wander away he will lead it back. His whole work and training is to look after sheep and keep them, but when he becomes wild he loses that instinct and degenerates into a mongrel. He then worries the sheep, and in many cases kills them. Now, the people in Bay St. George are awakening to the fact that there is good money in sheep raising, and are thinking of stocking sheep, not alone for the wool, but for the food, and the possibilities are that in the very near future there will be a very large demand for wool for the local foctories, as well as the farmers' homes where spinning for themselves will be prosecuted. They can keep the sheep more easily probably than they could keep any other animal, because they can

turn them out in the spring and not bring them back until Christmas, and while one sleeps, this animal is increasing in weight and in wool, and it would be a pity if some encouragement was not given the people by the killing of these animals. The whole purpose of the Act is that,

Anything in any other Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding, it shall be lawful for the duly qualified electors resident within the District of St. George's to present to the Governor in Council a petition praying for a proclamation prohibiting the keeping of shepherd dogs and collies within such district, and thereupon the like proceedings shall be had as in the case of a petition under Section twenty-six of Chapter one hundred and forty-one of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, praying for a proclamation prohibiting the keeping of dogs generally, and upon the signatures to the said petition being certified as provided in Section thirty of the said Chapter the Governor in Council shall issue a proclamation or public notice prohibiting the keeping of shepherd dogs or collies within the said District, and thenceforward sections thirty-one and thirty-two of the said Chapter shall apply to the said District without any exception in favour of such shepherd dogs or collies

I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I do not see any objection to having this read a second time, but I think that in committee the matter should be considered a little more. Whilst it was perfectly clear that there are cases where collie dogs have run wild and are no longer effective for sheep raising, still it may be a considerable hardship if these dogs are not wild. If a shepherd has a perfectly trained dog he is not allowed according to this to utilize his services because he would then be worth probably a dozen men. I will reserve until we get in committee any extended remarks, but feel that some provision should be made so that a shepherd who has a perfectly trained dog may be allowed to retain him under license while other dogs will be done away with. I have no other objection to the Bill.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, I have no objection whatever to the amendment Doctor Lloyd has suggested. In fact, I would be very sorry to have a useful dog done away with. I do not know of any such condition existing in St. George's, but if there is I think that man should be protected. Of course this Act will only apply to those districts where petitions come from, but the Government will be very glad to consider that suggestion.

MR. COAKER—I am glad to see the Prime Minister taking some interest in this matter of sheep dogs in the district of St. George's. At present there is no need for them there, but if we have the hopes for development in agriculture and sheep farming in that district, these dogs will be necessary and it would be very unfair to cut them out. There should be provision made whereby the Agriculture and Mines or some other department would be able to grant a license to keep sheep dogs where necessary.

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

WRECK AND SALVAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 122 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled 'Of Wreck and Salvage'" was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is intended to extend the operation of the Wreck and Salvage Act, now the law of the Colony, so as to include merchandise or chattels of any description which may have or have not been lost or cast from a vessel or broken away from moorings or boom (for instance, like pitprops) or drifted from the shore. Now the amendment is made by adding these words to section . . . . the word includes cargo, stores and tackle of any vessel wrecked, stranded or in distress at any place in the limits of this Colony or its Dependencies, and all parts of the vessel separated therefrom and any boat, anchor, cable, materials, apparel or furniture belonging to such vessel and the property of the ship's company or passengers and also any goods or chattels, jetsom, flotsam, lagan or derelict, or any vessel or boat or any part of any vessel or boat, or any cable, anchor, tackle, apparel, furniture, stores or materials of any vessel, or any goods, merchandise or other chatels, which shall be found floating, sunk or cast ashore within three miles of the coast or shore of this Colony or dependencies" and it is proposed to add the words "without regard to whether such goods, merchandise or chattels have or have not been lost or cast from a vessel or broken away from moorings or booms or drifted away from the shore."

The policy of the Wreck and Salvage Act has always been in relation to wreckage arising out of vessels wrecked on the coast of the colony. Now, these words of the amendment will include the class of case where property has drifted away, where formerly the person recovering the property had no legal claim for compensation. Of course, in these cases the parties who recovered the property have often been awarded compensation by the owners. It is necessary to alter section 19 of the Act and the following new section is proposed: "Where within the limits of this Colony or Dependencies services are rendered by any person in saving any wreck as defined by this chapter, there shall be payable to the Salvor by the owner of this wreck a reasonable amount of salvage including expenses properly incurred." I think that this amendment will meet with the approval of the House.

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

NEW BILLS.

Rt. Hon. the Premier gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the law relating to the Exportation of Timber.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that on Monday next he would move the House into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill to raise a loan for Military and Naval purposes.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act Respecting Retiring Allowances.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, July 2nd, 1917.

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

PETITION.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Nipper's Harbor in the District of Twillingate, asking that $100 be given to finish the public wharf now under construction there. Though it is but a small settlement, there is a great need for this wharf, and this petition is very largely signed by the majority of the electors there. I would ask that it be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

LOAN BILL.

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

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill "An Act Further to Amend the Law relating to the Exportation of Timber," was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Retiring Allowances" was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

SUPPLY.

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. LLOYD—There is a matter here that I would like to refer to. Take the case of the Customs Officer at Bay of Islands. I do not know the name of the man and I only take this salary as an example. Now under the old regime his salary was $360.00 from the Treasury and a percentage on duties collected, not to exceed $909.50. Now, does that $909.50 include everything, or is that the maximum amount he can make from his percentages on amounts collected. This year that amount of $468.00 increased to $480.00.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—That $909.50 is the total salary he can make. He gets a salary of $468.00 to start. He gets that even if he does not collect any duty. If he collects any duty he gets five per cent. on the amount collected; but from both sources the maximum amount he can make is $909.50.

MR. LLOYD—Now that that is clear I want to point out that these increases to Sub-Collectors are on a different principle than increases to other civil servants who are receiving a fixed salary. Take the case of a man receiving a salary of six or seven or eight hundred dollars. He does not receive this one hundred dollars increase; therefore these sub-collectors are a favorable class. They are getting an increase on their minimum salary. At least that is how it appears to me.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the salary of the sub-collector at Bay Roberts. The amount of duties he collects there will bring his salary up to $700.00, but in the last seven years he never has brought his salary up to that amount as he has not collected enough duties there. His salary goes down to $500.00 and $400 some years. This man is living under very great difficulties. As a matter of fact he has written me scores of times about it. He has asked that

he receive a stated salary. As it is he has to live on $20.00 or $25.00 a month.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—He knows that when he takes it.

MR. LLOYD—I would like to refer to the position of the Customs House Officer at Gambo. In another place I see just a little farther up the page there is a man getting the same salary but he also receives a bonus, and the increase is different. The amount of increase in both cases is exactly the same, whereas the income is different. Therefore the straight basis of percentage is not coming out as it was expected to.

MR. CLIFT—Why is the bonus not to exceed $708.00 at La Scie when the regular salary is only $270.00?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—He has to go up and down the coast to collect these duties, and this is put in as an inducement.

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.

DISTRICT OF ST. GEORGE'S BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the District of St. George's."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: When this Bill was read a second time at the last session of the House it was suggested that a provision might be inserted to provide for the retention of collie dogs under proper safeguards, and I now propose to amend the section to meet that suggestion. The section will read as follows:—

"Anything in any other Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding, it shall be lawful for the duly qualified electors resident within the district of St. George's to present to the Governor in Council a petition praying for a proclamation prohibiting the keeping of shepherd dogs or collies within such district," then add the words, "with or without an exception in favor of shepherd dogs or collies kept under the control of a shepherd and actually and bona fide used for herding flocks of not less than 100 sheep" (unless that number is considered too high. It is not likely that a dog would be kept for less than that number, but if it is considered too high it can be reduced). "And thereupon a like proceeding shall be had as in the case of petitions presented under section 26 of Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) praying for a proclamation prohibiting the keeping of dogs generally, and upon the signatures to the said petition being certified as provided in section 30 of the said Chapter, the Governor in Council shall issue a proclamation or public notice prohibiting the keeping of sheppard dogs or collies within the said district," then add the words, "with or without such exception as aforesaid, according to the prayer of the said petition, and thenceforward sections 31 and 32 of the said Chapter shall apply to the said District without any exception in favor of such shepherd dogs or collies otherwise than such as may be contained in such proclamation". Now, I think that will meet the views of everyone; but whether the number should be limited to 100 is the point upon which I feel that I should have the views of the Committee. Some may think that 100 is not

too high, and some may think otherwise.

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 to-morrow.

WRECK AND SALVAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 122, Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled 'Of Wreck and Salvage.'"

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—As I pointed out, the Committee will remember, when this bill was being read the second time, the first section simply means an enlargement of the word "Wreck."

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.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, July 3rd, 1917.

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

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Postal and Telegraph Department $771,749.83
Customs 293,390.87

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.

DISTRICT OF ST. GEORGE'S BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the District of St. George'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.

WRECK AND SALVAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 122, Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second series, entitled of Wreck and Salvage," 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.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, July 5, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. PARSONS.—Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon member for Carbonear, I beg leave to present a petition on the same lines as one presented by me a few days ago in this House, asking that a bonus be granted for clearing land. It is signed by fifty inhabitants of Carbonear. I ask that it be referred to the Department of Agriculture and Mines.

MR. PARSONS.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Harbour Grace. I am not aware that a petition similar to this has ever been presented to this House. I certainly have no recollection of it. For the sake of the House I will read it (Hon. member read petition asking for pension for one Williams, late school-teacher). I may say, Sir, that I cannot find words in which to emphasize the facts set forth in this petition, and I can only appeal to the sympathy of the House and to the consideration of the Government. The petition is signed by Rev. J. J. Higgett, Rector of Harbor Grace, Bishop March, Rev. Mr. Holmes, Rev. Father Walker and Canon Noel, Chairman C. E. Board, and by some seventy others, and I ask that it be referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary for consideration.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Mr. Speaker. I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of this petition. Those who have appended their signatures to it are well acquainted with Mr. Williams and with his circumstances, and they would not have adopted this course unless the necessities of the case warranted it. I may say that I know Mr. Williams personally, have known him for a number of years; and since he left the teaching profession he has endeavoured to earn a livelihood by corresponding for newspapers and writing up old and interesting facts regarding Hr. Grace and Conception Bay generally. Now, I understand, the man has become totally blind, and it is not possible for him to support himself. He served his country for twenty years, his father before him served the governments of his day in the capacity of Police officer; and I would certainly recommend that the Government give this matter their very best consideration and do what they can to relieve a very worthy case.

MR. DEVEREUX—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present three petitions—one from Sound Island, one from Haystack, and one from Woody Island—referring to the mail service in Placentia Bay, and particularly in the vicinity from which the petitions come The petitioners complain that the service at the present time is anything but efficient, and they advocate that the branch railway which has been constructed in that part of Placentia Bay be conected with the cross-country railway and a motor boat connection be made to these places. This is a very important matter. The "Argyle" has done good work; there is no special fault to find with her; but the trouble is she has too much work to do. There are so many ports of call that in the fall and winter and spring it is almost impossible to work on schedule, and the consequence is that business men in this vicinity are put to very great inconvenience. I ask that the petition be referred to the Department to which it relates, and that the Government take this matter into serious consideration.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker: I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition.

LOAN ACT BONDS BILL

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 Bonds issued under "The Loan Act 1916" without amendment.

MILITARY LOAN BILL.

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 the raising of a loan for Military and Naval purposes.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE AND CUSTOM.—Mr Speaker. It is not necessary for me to make any extensive remarks on the resolution now before the Chair, as we are all familiar with the facts leading up to this expenditure. Our total expenditure up to the present under the heading of War Loan amounts to something like $100,000 per month or $3,400,000. In the resolution before the chair to-day we are asking for a further loan of $?.-000,000 under two headings, one for military purposes and the second amount for paying the naval reservists their back and future pay. The Government some few weeks ago decided upon paying the naval reservists the same amount as is paid to the Army, $1.10 per day, and when you take this $1.10 a day and apply it to the number of reservists recruited from 1914 to the present day the total estimate will be in the vicinity of $1,000,000. The amount of $2,000,000 will be appropriated for the carrying our troops and paying them till, I hope, the end of the war. I hope this amount will be sufficient to see the end, but if not we will have to come to this House and ask for more money at some future date. The two millions asked for in this bill should carry us along for at least a year. We to-day pu[illegible] the average monthly pay sheet down at about $150,000. The machinery is increasing day after day and month after month, and we will find at the end of the fiscal year that this amount will no more than meet the expenditure for that period. The first section provides that the Governor in Council shall have power to raise, upon the credit of the colony, a loan not exceeding the sum of three million dollars, which sum, together with interest thereon at a rate not exceeding five and one-half percent per annum, payable half yearly on the first days of January and July in each year, shall be changeable upon and and payable out of the funds of the Colony in the manner here-in-after provided, on or before the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven. The members will see from this that the bill calls for a ten year loan and that the interest provided for in the bill is 5½%. Section 2 states that the said sum, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be applied to the conduct of naval and military operations in or beyond Newfoundland, and to the defence and security of the Colony.

After going into the matter as well as we could with the data before us, we decided that one million dollars would meet the expenditure of paying back pay of the Naval Reservists and carry us along until the end of the fiscal year. The Bill is practically a copy of the Bill before the House last year. If there is any other information, Mr. Chairman, that I can give on the matter while in Committee I am prepared to do so.

MR. LLOYD—I think, Sir that we should have a statement of just how this amount is made up. We were given to understand that this loan would be one million dollars, and now this has been trebled. I presume there is sufficient reason for it, but I think we should have some clearer statement.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—The answer to this is that we need two millions of dollars to pay the the expenses of the soldiers. We already have $1,250,000 from the British Government, but the object of raising this loan is to pay that off, and to carry us on for one fiscal year. The estimated cost is $150,000 per month, which would be about $1,800,000 for the year. We have recruits coming in all the time, and it is only natural to think that the expenditure will be $160,000 or $175,000 each month in future. If the recruits keep on coming in for the next twelve months our expenditure ten or twelve months from now will differ as we go along. It is an overestimate to estimate two million dollars for the next fiscal year. In the next three months we are getting $1,250,000 from the British Government, and we hope to raise a loan of two million dollars and out of it pay off that $1,250,000. As regards the back pay of the Naval Reservists, it has already been stated in the House by the Colonial Secretary that he was looking for further information in regard to this matter and had taken the matter up with Commander MacDermott and the Admiralty; but it is slow in coming. Therefore we cannot go much closer to the actual figure than the estimate before the committee.

MR. LLOYD—That is exactly what we want to get at. As far as the $1,250,000 is concerned, we do not question that at all. It is a sum to be raised for future uses. and when you have your market to raise the loan of three million dollars you will pay off the one and a quarter million dollar loan.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I want to make that point clear. It was stated to the Committee the other day that we are obtaining one and a quarter million dollars now, and in the near future we will raise another three million dollars; but that is not correct. Out of the three million dollar loan we will pay off the one and a quarter million dollar loan.

MR. LLOYD—I do not think it was supposed that you wanted four and a quarter million dollars. The position is on what do you base your expenditure of three million dollars. As I understand it, you expect that this three million dollars will roughly take you over this fiscal year, and that on June 30 next in all probability the three million dollars will be exhausted. In the first place there is one million dollars to go towards the back pay of the Naval Reservists and also to provide extra pay for them up to June 30, 1918. What I was asking was: how do you estimate that? All that we know at the present time is that the Colonal Secretary has been in communication with Commander MacDermott and the Admiralty Office; but we do not know of any reply from these sources. In the absence of such reply, can you inform us on what do you base that expenditure of one million dollars? How did you arrive at that figure?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—It is only a rough calculation.

MR. LLOYD.—How do you make this calculation? How much of that one million dollars do you calculate is already owing for back pay? And how do you estimate the remainder? What is the basis of it? You must have calculated from some basis in order to get one million dollars. We have been told that the average expenditure for the past 34 months has worked out at $100,000 per month. Of course it must be clear to anyone that that average must be over that figure now.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We figure now on $150,000. And we also figure on a surplus of somewhere in the region of $500,000 to supply

anything we may get in the way of recruits for the coming year.

MR. LLOYD.—What has been the expenditure for the past three months

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I have no figures here, but I can get them. I think it was between $400,000 and $500,000—perhaps $450,000.

MR. LLOYD.—That practically means that your present rate is $150,000 a month. There is a possibility that the large number of men we have here now may be with us for a considerable time; so that if anything the estimate is not an over-estimate but an under-estimate.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We have provided for that.

MR. LLOYD.—Permit me to say that I do not think you have provided for it. If that $450,000 has been the average for the past three months it practically means that your expenditure now is about $160,000, and that means that if you do not go higher you will be up to your two million dollars. I would like to point out that the only possibility of your coming out right at the end of the year is not on the two million dollar question, but on the basis of an over-estimate for the Naval Reservists' pay. We were led to understand that you were relying on about one million dollars from current revenue. Apparently you have cut that out entirely, and what you are looking forward to is to pay off everything by the new loan.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—No. I have a surplus of $500,000 for 1916-17. If we are under-estimated at the end of the fiscal year there is no reason why we should not use part of that $500,000. We cannot figure our estimates down to the exact cent. It is very easy to get up and cross-examine our figures. You can make figures say anything.

MR. LLOYD—We are not giving any interpretation to figures except so far as they are laid before us. We are asking in the first place, how you make up that one million dollars; whether that is a short or long estimate. We do not know; we have no basis before us. All you say is that it is a rough calculation.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We figure 1600 men at 50 cents per day. That would be $800 per day; multiplied by 365 would give you $292,000; multiplied by 3 (for the three years) would give you $876,000; or roughly a balance of nearly a quarter of a million dollars. That quarter will assist in carrying us along for the balance of the fiscal year.

MR. LLOYD.—What is the average for the Naval Reservists pay for the past three years?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We cannot say; we cannot get that information from the Commander of H.M.S. "Briton".

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Between $1000 and $1200.

MR. LLOYD.—That would be $6,000 or $7,000, roughly up to the end of August, and then you have to provide for your 1600 men for the next four months. Reckoning an average of 1600 men for the next twelve months, that would bring it somewhere in the neighbourhood of one million dollars. That is apparently a pretty fair calculation of the extra cost of naval reservist pay. So far as the two million matter is concerned; that is apparently an under estimate, and you will have to depend on your revenue to make it up.

MR. CLIFT.—I think the Opposition ought to have some time to consider this matter before it goes through. I have heard the explanation of the Hon. Minister and the purposes to which he proposes to apply this fund; but I think it is too important a matter to rush through. I am not satisfied as to the principle upon which

the Minister is going to administer the back pay of the Naval Reservists. I think there is more in the calculation than appears at the present moment. I would like to know for instance if, in making up his estimate, he allowed for the whole of the amount that the Naval Reservists are getting. We know what their pay is, but we do not know exactly what the average daily value of their allowances would be. I think we ought to be afforded some information on that subject. I do not wish to see a situation created whereby the Naval Reservists would be getting more than the soldiers.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—They cannot get any more in any case.

MR. CLIFT.—They may.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Oh, no.

MR. CLIFT—I would like the Minister to lay on the table some details showing how he made up his calculations.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—We cannot lay on the table information which we have not got. We cannot give you any information; but we can raise the committee for you. We will give you all the information we can and we cannot give you any more. I can raise the Committee if you wish.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think I stated to this House before, Mr. Chairman, the conditions under which this matter had to be considered. It is quite true as the Minister of Finance has stated that it was a very difficult matter to try and get the information necessary. We have in the first place to apply to the Commander of the H.M.S. Briton, who merely handles the money of men resident here or on furlough. He cannot give us the information we require. He is only the source through which men on the Briton and at present in the country are paid.. Now when we decided to augment the pay of the Naval Reservists the first thing we had to do was to get a complete statement to show the pay of each man in what we call the Newfoundland branch of the Royal Naval Reserve. That as I have said we were unable to obtain from the Briton, and the commander advised me to communicate with the British Admiralty as the only source from which we could get information. I wrote the Secretary of the Admiralty some three or four weeks ago, and pointed out, what the Government had decided and that it was desirable to get a full statement. Appreciating that the securing of such would necessitate considerable research, as the paymaster's department did not likely include our men as a unit but just as regular men of the navy, I intimated to the authorities that if necessary an official might be appointed to go into this matter, and that any reasonable expense in this connection would gladly be paid by the Newfoundland Government, for expeditious service. That is where the matter stands at present, except of course the fact that the Reservists on board the Briton and in Newfoundland under local pay are receiving from the first of July their increased wage, all back pay will be paid later. As regards the estimate made by the Minister here this evening every member of the committee will appreciate the difficulty in the way of making this esmate. In the first place we do not know how many men of the navy are married or how many are not married. Married men in the navy receive a separation allowance of $20. This I understand is in addition to the regular pay, and if this is the case, these men are receiving more than those in the Regiment. In other words if a Reservist is getting from $20 to $25 a month; if he is married he also gets a separation allowance of $20

per month. That would make his pay $45 a month which would be higher than that received by men of similar rank in the army. Such therefore would get no consideration, for the whole desire of the Government is to bring the pay of the men at sea equal to that of the army. Of course a man who attains higher rank will be paid according to payments made similar ranks in the army, or in other words, a man who is Petty Officer in the navy might rank as Sergeant in the army, and his pay would be raised accordingly. The ordinary men who are receiving 48 cents a day, we would place on the same footing in the army as the private, who would get $1.10 a day. Now having duly considered this matter we thought an average of fity cents a day per man would cover this matter in full, and this would mean say $300 per annum for the past three years. We will have to be in possession of all the facts, and will have to have the statement of account of every man both here and overseas before adjusting these accounts. All this will take a little time. At the present time it is exceedingly difficult to get information, but as soon as this is forthcoming, and I am expecting it soon, we will be able to distribute it to those who have so bravely gone and served us as Royal Naval Reservists since the outbreak of hostilities.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman: I thank the Colonial Secretary for the information that he has given. He was very lucid, and I appreciate it very much. At the same time I would like to have a little more time to think over the matter. I have not seen yet in looking through these resolutions anything that would authorize the Minister, and I presume this is a matter which would come under the Department of the Minister of Finance, to proceed on the lines which have been laid down here to-day. What is there here to-authorize the payment of back pay? The second clause reads, "The said sum, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be applied to the conduct of naval and military operations in or beyond Newfoundland, and to the defence and security of the Colony. I do not see where any authority is given the Minister to make payments for back services. This is only to be applied to the conduct of naval and military operations, and that means presumably "current" operations. I think for these reasons that the committee had better rise and have time to consider the matter.

MR. LLOYD—I support the suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that it would be advisable not to proceed further to the stage of passing these resolutions until we have had time to consider them. We do this not because we are going to embarrass the Government in passing these resolutions, for there is no one in this House who does not think it desirable to level up this pay and provide a fund for the levelling up process, and further that we are of one mind in the necessity of providing for the conduct of naval and military operations. Nevertheless at the same time there are matters that might be considered in connection with these resolutions, matters which it is incumbent on this House to consider, that is general responsibility for the expenditure of this money. We are now asked for $3,000,000 to be expended in the current year, and information is given us that the three million is already expended. Now, such sums as these are not sums which should be paid into the hands of private committees. No matter how painstaking that committee, this House should have a greater degree of charge and responsibility in this matter, and there should be someone in this House responsible for these sums of money. I may draw your at-

tention to the fact that there have been millions of dollars expended and the expenditure of these sums has not been before this House. Money has been raised and handed over to private committees and it is expended. What has been done with it? There is no report before this House. Now, surely this is not the proper way to have the business of the Government in dealing with millions of dollars, conducted, and I think that stage has arrived in the matter of the expenditure of military moneys when we should have some official in this House responsible for the expenditure of this money. It may be that it will be necessary to create a new department, to take charge of the matter, assume responsibility to this House, and table reports and statements just as any other departments of the Government would. Now, Sir, while these matters may not be directly concerned with raising money, they are in my opinion germane to the question and ought to be considered.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: Just one or two words in reply. I think that we are all in sympathy with the principle laid down by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, that where large expenditures are being made, that this branch of the Legislature, which alone has the power of voting money, should be conversant with the manner in which the money is being expended, and it is quite true I think, as has been stated here, that up to the present time the details of our war expenditure have not been before this House. In fact I have no doubt but that it had also escaped the eye of my friend on the other side, and for that reason he did not ask for it. In any case I am quite satisfied that the Minister in charge of these resolutions will be only too glad to furnish the full details of the expenditures made. I may say here that the main part of the expenditures has been on account of wages. We have to-day something like four thousand men under pay. It is not a very difficult calculation. Taking it at $4.00 a day, we have 365 days in the year, and you would very quickly run up the total as we have it of $150,000 or $160,000.

Now, as regards the other Committees, the Committees that have been referred to, most of them never see a dollar. They do not expend a dollar, and as I have said, nearly the total expenditure is devoted to the pay of the men. I do not think there is any expenditure that is not carefully gone into. The Recruiting Committee, the Finance Committee, and indeed all the committees work free and really do not authorize any expenditure without grave thought and deliberation. The expenditure for original equipment, the cost of transportation, the pay of the men is really the only expenditure. I believe there has been a little money spent on recruiting, but in every case vouchers have been given, and in no case I believe—certainly not in the case of civilians—has one cent been paid for services. I think the most that has been done was to pay the travelling expenses of a few men out on recruiting campaigns. However, all the information will be tabled, and all the accounts from the outbreak of the War will be brought down for the information of the House.

MR. LLOYD—Of course, we knew that by asking for information we could get it, but still that does not alter the fact that there is no Department in this House given control over these expenditures and there is no person in this House who is responsible to this House for these expenditures, and there is a difficulty in criticising many of these matters because we are criticising persons who are not only not responsible to this House, but who are offering voluntary

services and who will naturally resent criticism by the Legislature. The matters might be looked after more closely if under a responsible Minister. I know that the Minister of Finance is a member of the Finance Committee, but he is not responsible to this House in that capacity. I think someone should be responsible to the House.

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.

IMPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Law relating to the Importation of Timber," was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker: In moving the second reading of this bill I would like to point out to the House that early in the year it was brought to the notice of the Government that a very large quantity of pitprops probably about the value of half a million dollars were in the country and had been paid for by the owners and it was impossible to export them to the countries for which they had been cut owing to the impossibility of procuring tonnage. There were somewhere in the neighbourhood of one hundred and thirty thousand cords. These were all cut previous to January 1917 and it was thought that permission might be granted to export them to the United States and Canada. Now it will be remembered that when the war broke out one of the first difficulties that presented itself in England, and indeed in France, was the shortage of pitprops, that is a shortage of pit props for working the mines. Previous to the outbreak of the war a great number of these was obtained from Russia, Finland and those other countries with great forests of spruce. That supply was cut off and seeing the danger of the supply failing and recognising that the working of the mines was as essential to the success of England and her Allies as the manufacture of shells or the recruiting of men, coal and other minerals being most important—the Board of Trade took the matter up immediately and sent out a representative to this country and Canada and large pit prop institutions in England had representatives come out also with the result that our people were induced to go into this business. It was a speculation to a certain extent because of the mere fact of the pitprops being cut and paid for did not ensures that they themselves would be paid. Now a shortage of tonnage —the number of ships that have been sunk and the demand for ships to carry more important cargoes such as food into England—makes it absolutely impossible to get any tonnage whatever. When I was over in England this year there were representatives there in London, representing this Colony, who were largely interested themselves in pitprops here and it was perfectly impossible to do anything. I met representatives from Cardiff and other places who were interested in pitprops in this country and it was the same story, and with that condition of things staring us in the face here and with deterioration taking place in the cut pit props, because after a couple of years the pitprops lessen in value as they begin to rot, it was considered by the Government that it would serve no purpose whatever to refuse to allow them if owners could export them to Canada and the United States. That

guarantee has been given by the Government, but I am sorry to say that up to the present time owing to the extraordinarily high prices that freights on this side are offering for, I understand no charters are being obtained, but it is well if freight can be obtained—if tonnage can be obtained—that the people who own the property will be able to export them to the United States and Canada where they will probably make a ready sale to re-imburse them for their loss.

That is the first section of the Act. You will notice that permission is given under this section to export timber to Canada and the United States, providing that timber was cut before the 1st of January 1917. It is not intended to permit or license any person to cut and sell, but is a beneficial permission for those who have pitprops, which owing to the present difficulty of sending these pitprops to the other side, to dispose of them in Canada and the United States.

Section 2 creates a lien as regards the cutters of pitprops. As this matter has been fully discussed in this House, it is anticipated that this section will meet with the approval of hon. members. It was drafted with a view of following the pitprops so that ample lien should be created. I shall be glad to receive any suggestions when we go into committee on this section so that it will be quite clear that this lien shall attach, in the same way as the current supplier has a lien on the fish.

Section 3 sets forth that the validity of a claim may be determined in a summary manner before a Magistrate or a Justice. It reads as follows:

3.—The validity of a claim of lien under this Act may be determined in a summary manner before a Magistrate or a Justice in an action of debt by such cutter against the original debtor, subject to the right of appeal provided by the Act 1, Ed. VII. (1901.) Chapter five.

The remaining sections are obvious and require I think no explanation from me.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker. As far as section 3, 4 and 5 are concerned they are sections that have been drafted practically at my suggestion to the Attorney General that protection should be given to the cutters of pitprops. The trouble has been in the past that those interested in the obtaining of pitprops have at times made contracts with persons of little or no means and the unfortunate cutter has found himself in the position of being unable to obtain his wages from the contractor and has been without redress. There have been many such cases, and it has become incumbent on this House to see that they have a lien. As regards the first section I may say that I am not convinced that this is of any practical use. A few months ago I had a communication from the Colonial Secretary enclosing a copy of the correspondence with those who were desirous of having the right to export timber to Canada and the United States, which at that time, as at the present, was not permissible under the law. The law had for its object the giving of facilities for export to Europe where the coal mines and other industries were in pressing need of them, to the exclusion of Canada and the United States. It is a well-known fact that owing to difficulties over the tonnage questions, other means of obtaining timber have been devised and there are battalions working in Europe cutting wood to make up for the deficiency that cannot be sent across the sea in ships. Although I was in receipt of that communication from the Colonial Secretary I was unable to give any assent to or concur-

rence in the course proposed by the Government for two reasons. One reason was that I thought that this was a matter that should be dealt with by the House and not by the Executive. I consider it an objection that the Executive on their own responsibility should finalize a measure such as this which means a reversal of the law and this is a course which if established as a precedent means that the Executive can suspend the law. While war measures may make it necessary to take such liberties, it did not seem to me that this was a matter for the Executive to determine at all. I notice that in this Act itself there is no indemnity asked for in as much as the Prime Minister said that no exportation had been made under an Order in Council. Now that brings me to the second point. I consider that the permission granted one of little value as the tonnage necessary for the exporting of pitprops was not available. Another point was that even if tonnage was available it was all green wood and owing to the present high rates it would never pay to send green wood to Canada and the United States. I am not raising that point just for the sake of objecting to the section. It may be possible that freights will go down or that something may happen that will make this permission to use and if the Government is desirous of modifying the law, I may say that I have no objections. The remaining sections in the bill have my hearty support.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY— I would like to make a few observations relative to the remarks of Hon. the leader of the Opposition. A communication was sent to me early in the year by gentlemen who were largely interested in the pitprop industry and considered that, as a large amount of capital had been invested in this industry, it would be well, considering prevailing conditions, that a market should be found for the pitprops which had been cut but, owing to transport difficulties, still remained undisposed of. This industry was one that Newfoundland expected to turn to her own advantage, but I think that events have shown us that she has got the worst of the bargain. The small quantity of pitprops that have gone over to England and France is nothing to the quantity left behind and wasted, owing to the lack of means to transport them across the Atlantic. It was represented to me that there was somewhere in the neighbborhood of half million dollars worth of pitprops tied up in this country, and that if they were allowed to remain for another year it would mean a total loss, because they would be no longer suitable either for pulp wood or for pitprops owing to deterioration. I pointed out that the policy of the Government in relation to the exportation of pitprops was one to which the Opposition in the House of Assembly was a party, and that it would be manifestly unfair and unjust for me on behalf of the Government to express any opinion as to what should be done in this regard without consulting the Leader of the Opposition, and, through him, his following. It was urged that something should be done quickly, as at that time they saw a possibility of obtaining tonnage. Mr. Harvey, Mr. Horwood, and others who were very active in this matter, pointed out that they thought it possible at that time to get quite a lot of those pitprops out of the country, and I consequently communicated the facts to Dr. Lloyd. He replied that he was unable to agree (which, of course, constitutionally, he had a perfect right to do); and that he would prefer to wait until the House opened before

giving any opinion on the matter. However, the matter became acute, and I brought it to the attention of the Executive Government. They came to the conclusion that in view of the fact that considerable loss would ensue if these pitprops were not allowed to be exported during the next few months, while if the exportation were permitted the revenue would benefit considerably (it would mean at least $1.00 per cord export duty) they would take upon themselves the responsibility of allowing the exportation, and would bring in an Indemnity Bill covering their action when the House opened. I am sure we all regret that our efforts in connection with this matter, which were made with the best intentions both from the standpoint of revenue and of the investors, did not materialize in the way in which we hoped they would; and I am sure that we hope that in the coming months it will be possible to get a great deal of this wood away, as otherwise it will mean a loss to the revenue and also a loss to those who put their money into this proposition.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker, if I am correctly informed by those who are engaged in the cutting of pitprops and who know something about this matter, their opinion varies somewhat from the representations which have just been made. While it is perfectly true that pitprops which are unrhinded will deteriorate within two years to such an extent that they will be perfectly wortthless, the rhinded pitprops are good for five years; and as most of the pitprops are rhinded and would consequently not suffer very much from deterioration, those who handle these things thought that it would be better to wait until the end of the war and export them across to England, as there was no commercial gain to be obtained by exporting them to the States and Canada. However, I don't offer this as any objection to the power which is sought in this first section.

The bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Speaker: I wish to call the attention of the Government to the fact that at the present time salt is unobtainable in this city, and that any stocks which are here are probably held on orders given, perhaps, early in the spring. The possibilities are that if some action is not taken within a week, the price of salt will advance $1.00 or so a hogshead. I myself tried to obtain some salt to-day. I wanted 5,000 hhds. but could only procure 1,000 as there was no more obtainable. Now, this is a very serious condition of affairs. I might say that the whole northern part of the country is without salt, and many places are asking for it. Of course, quite a lot of it has been shipped out during the last week; we ourselves shipped about 5,000 hhds. but the demand is very largely in excess of the supply, and I certainly think that no advance should be permitted on stocks which are at present held in the city. If there is any possibility of getting a load of salt from the other side, steps ought be taken immediately to get it it. Then, there is a matter to which I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Finance. He will remember that he has promised me on several occasions information regarding the sale of liquors by the Controller. I would like to have that information. I may say that I am not

seeking it for any personal reasons; I was asked to get it by the clergymen of the district which I represent, and I would like very much to have it.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—If the hon. member would call at the office he could see the statement. It would take considerable time to copy it out.

MR. COAKER—That will do, as long as I can get it.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—I will have the matter of the salt enquired into immediately.

MR. HICKMAN—I would like to call the attention of the Hon. Minister of Public Works to question No. 5 on the Order paper of June 26th.

HON. MIN. OF PUBLIC WORKS.—I shall have that statement for the hon. member to-morrow.

MR. GRIMES—I wish to call the Colonial Secretary's attention to a question which I asked regarding the fees collected by the salaried physicians at the hospital. That information has not yet been furnished.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I may say that I wrote Dr. Keegan asking him to have this matter looked into, but I have not yet received any reply from him. I know that he has been talking to the visiting surgeons, because Dr. Anderson spoke to me about the matter the other evening, and pointed out that it would be unprofessional for him to give a list of the patients from whom he received fees. I told him that I did not think it would be necessary to give the names of the persons, if he would give the amounts that he received. I don't know if I am correct, but I think the hon. member asked for the names and fees.

MR. GRIMES—Yes.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I don't think any doctor would be inclined to give that information. They would be prepared to give the amounts, but I question whether they would give the names.

MR. GRIMES—The main thing that I wanted to find out was the amount of fees which had been collected within the last two years—1916 and 1917 to date. I am not particular about the names, so long as I know what fees have been collected from patients. The Act states that fees received from patients in this way should be turned into the Minister of Finance and Customs for the use of the colony, and I think it is due to members of this House to get information of this kind when they ask for it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I may say that Dr. Fraser, who is the leading attendant physician, is out of town, and I cannot get a complete answer until he returns. Of course, he keps his own accounts and no one has access to them but himself. I will telephone Dr. Keegan in the morning in reference to the matter.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, July 6th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. STONE.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Lancaster, in the district of Trinity, asking for an allocation of $40.00 for the purpose of building a road connecting with the Ellis-ton Road. The petitioners are of opinion that this road would serve the best interests of that locality, and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant their request. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from

the inhabitants of George's Brook, in the district of Trinity, with a view to the full understanding of the subject matter of the petition by the House, I wil read it. (Reads Petition). The train schedule, as at present time, seem to interfere with Divine worship in that settlement, and the people would like, if possible, to have the schedule changed. I have another petition of a similar nature from the inhabitants of Shoal Harbor. These petitions are very largely signed, and I trust that the Government will take some steps in the matter to meet the wishes of the petitioners. I ask that the petitions be referred to the Department to which they relate.

MR. ABBOTT.—Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Brooklyn, in the district of Bonavista, asking that the post office, which is at present in the south west end of Brooklyn, be removed to the centre of that settlement. I think this is the third time that a petition has been presented on this subject. The people are very much dissatisfied with the present situation of the office, and I hope the Government will see its way clear to have it changed. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

SUPPLY.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Contingencies	$10,000.00
Pensions	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 to.

MILITARY LOAN BILL.

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 the raising of a Loan for Military and Naval purposes.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. LLOYD.—What is the object of that section?

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER —To enable the stock raised under this Act to pay off the annual amount which we pay under the Loan Act of 1895. In that Act there is a clause by which the Government has to pay off a certain amount every year, so that in forty years the whole amount capital as well as interest, will be paid. We are paying, I think, 13,000 pounds sterling every year out of the general revenue of the colony. Twenty-two payments have now been made. Under the Act we can pay either in sterling or in approved Newfoundland bonds.

MR. CLIFT.—I should like to ask the Minister if he considers he would have power under this resolution to pay the back pay of the reservists,so that it would agree with regimental pay. The section as it stands includes, I take it, the conduct of the present and the future naval and military operations. I don't see that he would be authorized to pay any old debt out of that.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —I think that section would enable us to pay anything in connection with the conduct of naval and military operations, no matter when the debt was incurred.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the resolutions and recommended the introduction of a Bill to give effect to the same.

On motion this Report was receiv-

ed 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 to-morrow.

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL.

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the chair of committee.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I think section 1 may be in conflict with the provisions of another Act, under which no green timber shall be exported if cut on the three-mile limit, without satisfying the Customs Officer that such timber was not cut on the three mile limit. Under this Act a general power is given to export timber to the United States and Canada notwithstanding anything in any other Act to the contrary; and the effect is that green timber cut on the three mile limit can be exported to the United Kingdom or France. I take it the intention is not to release the prohibition in the other Act or to amend it in reference to green timber cut on the three mile limit, but merely to provide that other timber shall be or may be exported to the United States and Canada just as it may be exported to the United Kingdom and France. I think some proviso should be inserted in this Act safeguarding the provisions of the other Act.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Does the honourable member recollect the title of the other Act?

MR. LLOYD.—I think it was the Exportation of Timber Act 1915.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—You refer to section 2 of that Act?

MR. LLOYD—Yes.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I propose then to add the following words to this Act: "Provided nothing in this Act shall be held to affect section 2 of the Act 6 Geo. 5 cap."

MR. LLOYD—Yes.

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 said bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill respecting Naval and Military Pensions.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, July 9th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a petition very largely and influentially signed by people of all denominations at Bay of Islands dealing with a matter of unusual character. It refers to the case of a man, Mr. Clarence Elgood, who has been stricken stone blind; and his wife and family of five children are left in a position of actual destitution in consequence of his affliction. The people around there have been con-

tributing very largely to the cost of procuring treatment for him in Canada and elsewhere; and they now ask this House to take the matter into consideration so that some assistance may be given his family. I ask that the petition be referred to the Department to which it relates and bespeak for it every consideration.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker. I have been forwarded a petition from the district of Saint Barbe from the inhabitants of Conche, which in the absence of the member for the district, who is at present in England, I desire to present to the House. It is for a motor ferry. It is very largely signed by the people around there, and also by Dr. Grenfell, Mr. Fitzgerald, J.P., Father Thibault, resident clergyman, and a great many other people. It reads as follows (reads). I know the locality in question, and I think it would be of great service to the people down there if the prayer of the petition were acceded to. The ferry would be required only four or five months of the year, because from December till nearly May the arm is frozen over. I shall ask to have this petition referred to the Board of Works with a view to seeing if a small amount cannot be recommended to meet the case.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Speaker: I beg to support the petition.

PUBLIC SERVICE CO. BILL.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries presented the Report of Select Committee on Public Service Electric Company Limited as follows:

"The Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Public Service Electric Company Limited." beg to report that they have considered the matter to them referred and present herewith the Draft Bill for the consideration of the House.

(Signed) A. W. PICCOTT,
W. F. LLOYD,
W. F. COAKER,
R. MOULTON,
(With reservation) J. F. DOWNEY

House of Assembly,
Speaker's Room,
July 9th, 1917.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Bill "An Act Respecting the Public Service Company." be referred to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill "An Act relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors."

NAVAL AND MILITARY PENSIONS BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Naval and Military Pensions" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Law relating to the Exportation of Timber" 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.

MILITARY LOAN BILL.

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 to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs 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 on to-morrow.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, July 10th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. HICKMAN—Mr. Speaker: I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Daniel's Cove, praying for the sum of $200 for the purposes of building a road from that place to Bay de Verde. I ask that it be referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. HIGGINS—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present two petitions from Flatrock, one dealing with the replacing of the public wharf which has been gone from that place for some time past, and the other for the purpose of providing for a tramway to assist in conveying fish. Both petitions are signed by all the people of Flatrock, and both concern matters of great public importance; and in asking that they be referred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries I would ask that if the suggestions made whilst the House was in supply, as to some additional grants for extra marine works, bear fruit, that these matters will receive the earnest and prompt attention of that Department.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker: I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Lord's Cove, in the District of Burin, asking for telegraph communication. The petitioners point out that business there is retarded considerably because of the absence of this convenience. The wires pass through Lord's Cove on the way to St. Lawrence, so that the cost of giving these people the service would not be very great. I do not know that the office would pay its operating expenses, but there is no doubt as to the need or the great benefit it would be to the place. I have great pleasure in supporting this petition and would ask that it be recieved and referred to the Department to which it relates.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present a petition from Lieut.-Col. Otway, District Commissioner and officer in charge of the Salvation Army in Newfoundland. The petition asks for a small amendment to the Act incorporating the Salvation Army. It will be remembered that in 1916, the Legislature granted a charter of incorporation to the Salvation Army in relation to their work and property in the country. Now they ask that a slight amendment be made by the introduction of a bill providing for the vesting of grants of property which may be hereafter made, in the Salvation Army. At present they hold all their property throughout the country by different persons as trustees, and they ask now that these various conveyances, devices and bequests should vest in the Salvation Army, which should be given certain powers to change, and modify these from time to time. There is a short bill attached to the petition, and I would ask that it be

referred to a select committee to report on it to this House.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Speaker: I would support this petition, as I understand they are asking for the same powers as the other denominations have.

On motion, the said petition and accompanying Bill was referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Piccott, Mr. Hickman, Mr. Devereaux.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister presented the following report:

MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Joint Select Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to consider the Municipal Bill, take evidence, and report a Bill for adoption by the Legislature, beg to report as follows:

The Commission has held a great many meetings, has had before it the Commissioners who framed the measure, and also representatives of the Citizens' Committee, and has given very careful consideration not alone to the draft bill, but also to the recommendations made by the Citizens' Committee whose work has been of a most painstaking and thorough character.

From the commencement of the work the Commission saw that to do justice to a Bill consisting of some four hundred sections, a great many of which were novel, would make it almost impossible to have a Bill ready for this session in view of the fact that most of the members of the Commission have already their time severely taxed by public duties. Notwithstanding that, however, the Commission have been sitting regularly on the Bill. Generally, the Commission finds it impossible to bring in a complete measure this session and recommends that a short Bill as per annexed draft be substituted.

The Commission also recommends that it be continued in office to sit out of session, so that a Bill may be ready at the opening of the next sitting of the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

E. P. Morris, Chairman; W. J. Higgins, Secretary; J. R. Bennett, W. F. Lloyd, W. F. Coaker, J. A. Clift, M. P. Cashin, S. D. Blandford, John Harvey, M. P. Gibbs.

On motion this Report was received.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that he would on to-morrow move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's.

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLY.

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.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Mr. Chairman: On the desks of honourable gentlemen will be found the printed statement showing the total Supplemental Supply on account of the fiscal year just closed, amounted to $517,150.89. The principal items are as follows: For Civil

Government we ask $99,316.39, the details of which are exhibited in the first statement for Civil Government. We ask $215.00 for the registrar of Vital Statistics to pay Outport Clergymen bonuses for prompt returns, and $350.00 to provide for the increase of salaries of Mr. Butt and Mr. Rendell for last year. For the Public Works Department we require $1,050.00 to pay increases to Messrs. Wm. and Saml. Churchill, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Public Works; the former is increased from $1,200.00 to $1,400.00, and the latter from $750.00 to $900.00 from July 1st, 1914, for services in connection with heating and power plants in various public buildings. The next item under this head is $6,810.00 for Fuel and Light, Public Buildings, made up thus. Museum, $650.00, Government House $550.00, Customs House $200.00, Post Office and Telegraph Buildings, Outports $3,000.00, Departmental Buildings, St. John's, $300.00, Harbor Grace $100.00, Departmental Buildings, Outports, $2,000.00; the buildings comprised under this last vote being Carbonear, Bay Roberts, Spaniard's Bay, Freshwater, Grand Falls. These sums are due mainly to the necessary increase of cost of coal, and are based on the actual expenditure. We next come to repairs to Public Buildings, which are grouped in two classes, special authorized expenditure of $33,617.08, and the ordinary incidental repairs, totalling $44,674.31. These special repairs include extensive alterations to the Lunatic Asylum Kitchen, Laundry, etc., $8,476.34. Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Bowcock's Farm $19,800.00, Water Service for Change Islands $1,460.00, Temporary Oil Storage Quidi Vidi $3,225.00, Post Office, Riverhead, Hr. Grace, $426.15, repairs Half-Way House, Heart's Content, $150.00, repairs Half-Way House, Salmonier, $30.00. For ordinary repairs to Public Buildings the statement is as follows:

1916-1917.

Expenditure on Account of Repairs to Public Buildings to June 12, 1917.

Government House .. .. ..$	3,400.00
Government House Furnishing	500.00
Custom House, Hr. Grace..	2.27
Imperial Property	166.27
Harbor Grace Hospital	64.00
Telegraph and Customs Bldg. Carbonear	67.55
Custom House	650.00
Clocks in Offices	200.00
Departmental Building	800.00
General Post Office	950.00
Cabot Tower	900.00
Outport Telegraph Offices...	1,273.85
Court House	2,400.00
Outport Customs Offices...	146.71
Fever Hospital	900.00
Museum	850.00
Kero. Oil Store, Expenses, etc	1,300.00
Constabulary Barracks	2,900.00
Fire Halls	3,600.00
Penitentiary	2,250.00
Outport Court Houses	4,200.00
Colonial Building	980.00
Lunatic Asylum	2,523.66
General Hospital	10,800.00
Poor Asylum	1,600.00

Lazaretto	2,350.00
	$45,774.31
Less Vote	$10,100.00
	$35,674.31
Additional to carry to June 30, 1917	$ 9,000.00
	$44,674.31

I might explain with regard to this list that the over-expenditure is due to the following causes, short vote of $23,000.00, the expenditures beginning last year on the first of May and continuing to the present date, bringing the outlay into the fourteenth month; increased cost of materials and labour, additional public buildings, the cost of heating, lighting and power machinery for the General Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum in particular, and the payment to Kennedy Bros., by Order-in-Council, of $8,500.00, the balance due on contract for alterations and additions to the Lunatic Asylum, which should be on Capital Account, and is not a charge against ordinary repairs.

We next ask for $12,600.00 on account of Contingencies for the various Departments. Public Works $1,000.00 for office expenses, made up of stationery, printing, cab hire. For Government House $500.00, this is for telegrams, etc., arising out of the war. Prime Minister's Office $1,000.00, for similar services. Marine and Fisheries $3,000.00, necessary owing to the inadequate vote in the past being provided, the higher cost of printing, stationery, and the enormous growth in the work of the Department year by year, necessitating a much larger vote. Marine Disasters, $500.00 to pay claims. Department of Justice $500.00 to pay telegrams and incidentals. Cod Liver Oil Inspection services $6,100.00, the amount expended on inspection of Cod Liver Oil Factories, and to cover outlays to the end of June, this being a new service for the last year.

Under Head IV., Administration of Justice, we ask $19,201.58. Supreme Court $300.00, to cover increase in salaries of Messrs. Butler and Kent, Clerks of the Court. $333.32 in the Deeds and Companies Office, to cover the increased salary to Mr. Mulcahy, the Clerk. For the Fire Department $534.35, to cover payments to reserve firemen in the city stations, as there have been heavy requirements for their services latterly. For Civil and Criminal Prosecutions we need $2,-800.00, for Registration of Jurors $400.00, Inquiries and inquests $550.00, Lodging Allowance to Constables and rent of Outport Barracks $333.00. With regard to all these services, totalling $4,000.00, the explanation is the growth in the services, and the higher cost of everything. The group of items totalling $10,980.00 is represented by the increased cost of Fuel and Light. Supplies for the Supreme Court, Constabulary, Fire Halls and Penitentiary, all due to the great price of coal, etc. In the item for Fire Halls is included $1,200.00 for forage for Fire Horses. The salary increase at the Penitentiary is Mr. Rose; the item for $4,000.00 for Industries is to cover the increased cost and freight of broom material. Broom corn now

costs 20c. against 5c. before the war; the freight is now $14.00 a bale against $4.50. The item Fuel and Light and Maintenance is represented by $800.00 for Fuel and Light, $1,200.00 maintenance, due to the higher cost of every thing, as already explained. Contingencies for the Supreme Court amount to $1,250.00, and the Magistrate's Court $1,750.00, are the last items under this Head.

Under Head V., Legislation, we ask for $13,758.54, represented as follows: The Legislative Council, printing $1,550.00, Contingencies $126.56, House of Assembly $7,256.00, Contingencies, $1,083.00; for General Legislation, which may be described as the Solicitor's Department, printing $3,038.40; and for Fuel and Light $700.00. These increases are due, first, to the greater number of bills being passed, and the printing incidental thereto, and to cover the printing of debates in more papers, and the increased cost of the improved system of reporting now in vogue, the higher price of every form of service, and the cost of Consolidating the Statutes, which is now in progress.

Under Head VII., Public Charities, we ask for $67,000.00. The distribution is given in the papers before you, but I might say that the item of salaries represents increases to all members of the staffs of the different Institutions, and the items of Supplies and Maintenance, and Fuel and Light, are explained by the high cost of living. The item of $2,500.00 for the Tuberculosis Campaign is an exceptional expenditure occasioned by the fitting up of the Bowcock Sanatorium in which forty-two patients are now housed, as well as the staff of nearly twenty, all the equipment for whom had to be provided. The Public Charities Department requires $17,000.00 as stated on the printed paper, all occasioned by the extra demand for the various services the past year.

Under Head VIII., we ask for $36,970.00 for maintenance of Light Houses, amount due to the cost of everything supplied for these Institutions. Included also in this Light House outlay are four new lights, at Harbor Deep, Williamsport, Grey Islands, and Pushthrough; five iron towers to replace old ones; extra cost of kerosene oil, and larger use of same on account of more Fog Alarms than in former years, extra freights and general increase of labor, as well as repairs due to storms and unforeseen circumstances.

Under Head IX., Agriculture and Mines, we ask for $1,500.00, occasioned by several costly forest fires the past year.

Under Head X. we ask for $67,000.00 for Marine and Fisheries. The first item is $28,500.00 for the Fiona, representing the extra cost of supplies, wages and coal, the installation of wireless, pumps for engine room, the paying for repairs due to her being ashore, and will be refunded by the insurance, and the cost of keeping her in commission longer than usual so that she may make recruiting tours. For Marine Works $14,850.00 will be required to pay damages caused by storms. For dredging $9,000.00 is requested to meet the cost of extra supplies and coal, and repairs to the ship. For the Propagation of Lobsters $6,500.00 is called for, due to paying 10c. for each spawn bearing lobster put back into the sea, instead of 5c. as previously, and also the increased motor boat hire, and the rebuilding of the new King's Wharf, $3,170.00, and the outlay under

the new Herring Fisheries Board, totalling $5,300.00, this being a new service started last year.

Under Head XI., Public Works, we ask for $13,000.00, $12,000.00 roughly on account of roads, due almost altogether to damages caused by wash-outs and storms, and, roughly, $1,000.00 for ferries, due to establishing some new ferries, and paying increased cost of gasolene for motor ferries.

Under Head XII., Post Offices, we ask for $10,000.00, to pay the over amount of subsidy due to the Labrador boats last summer.

Under Head XIII., Customs, particulars are as follows:

St. John's Coal ....$	5,000
Customs' Refunds and Drawbacks	24,734
Outport Contingencies, viz:	
Outport Tidewaiters	6,900
Travelling Expenses	2,500
Telegrams	200
Printing and Stationery	2,000
Miscellaneous	3,000
Boats, Boat Hire, Office Rent	1,000
	$45,324

The explanation of the above is: St. John's Coal. Importation of Coal exceeded amount estimated for the year. Customs Refund and Drawbacks. Due to quantity of goods supplied to Army and Navy units in St. John's, refund on exportations of Boots and Shoes for Army and Navy, also to shortages due to pilfering cargoes. Outport tidewaiters. Increase in number of small vessels employed in voyages outside of Colony, and to extra rate of pay required by supernumerary tidewaiters. Travelling Expenses. This vote has always been exceeded, the expenditure is kept as low as possible. Telegrams. Excess due to extra business. Printing and Stationery. Due to increase in cost of paper and printing. Miscellaneous. Due to extra cost of materials required in Customs' service, extra services, repairs to boats and maintenance service on harbor of St. John's. Boats, Boat Hire, Office Rent Outports. Votes are $490.00 for "Boats, and Boat Hire"; $85.00 "Repairs to Office"; $1,000.00 for "Rent of Offices". Have 102 offices in outports to maintain on the sum of $1,575.00 or $15.44 per office. Cannot possibly do it.

Under Head XIV., General Contingencies, we ask for $45,000.00 made up as follows: Hudson Bay Company, $1,981; Marine Docks Insurance and interest, $1,825.00; Bell Island subsidy and interest, $3,000.00; lighting Carbonear and Bay Roberts streets, $1,000.00; Capt. Hy. Dawe, Labrador service, $400.00; Thistle, Timber Inspector, $400.00; Cattle killed, $1,500 or $1.600; Refunds for Licenses, $2,000.00; paid the Premier, $8,000.00; advertising in the English papers, $1,500.00; Jas. Baird, hire of Diana, $4,200; Reid Nfld Co., $800.00 for Glencoe, and General Contingencies Account, for which the particulars are in detail, and have already been furnished the House.

Finally we propose to vote $50,000 for Roads and Bridges, and $50,000 for Marine Works, in accordance with the views expressed in this House a few days ago as to the necessity for special provision for these two services.

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 motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into 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. 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.

MILITARY LOAN BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorize 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

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.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Public Service Electric Company Limited."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Mr. Chairman: I would wish to draw the attention of the House to a petition from the people of Heart's Content and Carbonear asking this House to pass this amendment. I ask that it be sent to the Select Committee. I understand that the Select Committee went into the Bill very thoroughly,and that they came to the conclusion that there was nothing in it which would interfere with the franchises of any other company doing business in Conception Bay.

MR. HIGGINS.—Mr. Chairman: Before that section (2) passes, may I ask the hon. Minister who is in charge of the Bill if he would substitute the words "Spaniard's Bay" for the word "Holyrood" (Minister assented.)

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman: Might I ask the hon. introducer of the Bill what is the meaning of sub-section (a) of the Preamble? What area does the river basin thereby granted cover?

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I suppose it means the streams tributary to the stream which runs into Heart's Content Harbor?

MR. CLIFT.—But what territory does it cover?

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I cannot tell that off hand, but I can get the information.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS—Mr. Chairman, I beg to draw the attention of the Committee to the words in section 6, "and the electric energy developed therefrom." I take it that this clause means that everything the company imports can be admitted free of duty. I move that it be stricken out.

MIN. OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—If the minister will compare this section in this bill with that in the

original bill he will see that it is all right. I will read the section in the original bill (Reads) You will therefore see that the taking out of the word "use" makes the clause all right, and that we are not asking for any more than other people.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS.—Well, the clause is a doubtful one and should not be left there.

MR. MOULTON.—I think the reason for this extension is that one gentleman intimated that the company would in a year or two introdu e something new—the supply of electric energy in batteries for motor boats, and that is why we, as a committee, agreed to that extension. We decided that the company was not getting any more than any other company, but simply what was necessary for the erection and equipment of their plant.

MR. LLOYD.—One of the objects in striking out that clause would be to make clear what it means. As it stands at the present time I am puzzled to know the meaning of the section. I agree with the Finance Minister that it should be made clearer. If the company in time decides to take up the making of storage batteries the matter could be then dealt with by the Customs. This is an enigma and is bound to give rise to trouble and I don't think it should be let stand.

MR. COAKER.—It is not the intention of the Committee to allow this Company to import what they like duty free, but it is the intention to allow them to import batteries to supply motor boats with electric energy. Now there should be some way to get over the difficulty and to fix that section so that this would be made clear and if it was made clear that nothing else except batteries are to be admitted free of duty I think it would be all right.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I move that in order to meet this difficulty the words "batteries for motor boats" be inserted after the word "utensils", and the words "and the electric energy developed therefrom" can be stricken out.

MR. CLIFT.—Mr. Chairman: Before section A passes I would like to have some information as to the area covered by these streams that flow into Heart's Content river; and I would like to know something of the water because we are giving an exclusive power of Heart's Content stream right to that stream. Now I am not prepared at the present moment to cast my vote in favour of giving away an exclusive right to a stream that I know nothing of. I would like the Minister to give us some information as to the extent of that stream and whether there are any other water powers to be or being developed there

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I will do my best to get the information, and I am more than pleased that you are taking such an interest in the matter.

MR. CLIFT.—I do not think it would be right to vote until I know what we are voting about.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—Certainly not.

MR. COAKER—I think Mr. Clift is justified in asking for that information, but if we look further down the section we will find that if any trouble comes during the following year the Government or the people of Heart's Content have the right to take over this water power as a going concern. We thought that in the interests of the public that clause should be put in—similar to what was inserted in our bill covering our industry at Catalina. And it does protect the public interests. But perhaps the Minister may be able to give us some more information.

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—I will supply it to-morrow if I am able to get it.

MR. CLIFT—I think in the meantime the Committee should rise.

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.

Rt. 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 dealing with the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, July 11th, 1917.

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

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of the Permanent Marine Disasters Fund for year ending Dec. 31st, 1916.

PILOTS AND PILOTAGE RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider Certain Resolutions respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES.—Mr. Chairman, In introducing these resolutions, I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that for a number of years the Pilots have been working at a great disadvantage owing to the prices charged for pilotage in this port. I might say that since war broke out, a number of vessels which used to visit St. John's and included in these are some of our own steamers, have taken up work at other places, and tonnage entering the port of St. John's has not been sufficient to allow the pilots sufficient incomes to supply them with the necessities of live. On making inquiry in connection with this matter, I sought for my information from the different Master Mariners that visit this port off and on. Not our own men but men who come in here, from Great Britain, United States and other places in the world. I have asked them what they thought of the pilot charges of this port, and they have readily given me their opinion, and said that pilotage charges of this port were cheaper than those of any other port they had visited, and that the work that had to be done was done just as efficiently, if not more efficiently, by our pilots. But owing to the high cost of living and the scarcity of tonnage coming to St. John's, the Pilot Commissioners have been giving this matter their cosideration for 18 months, and have come to the conclusion that they would ask that the act in connection with this pilotage be improved. These resolutions now before the House will give the hon. members an idea of what they ask for. It consists of a slight increase in the rate per tonnage of each vessel entering the harbor. The increase is from $2 to $5 per ton, according to the ship. A vessel on which they used to collect $10, will now be called upon to pay $15, or an increase of fifty per cent.

You will see that the old rates on a ship eighty tons was $5.35. Now

we propose to make that $6.70. Where under the old rates the figure on vessels from eighty to one hundred tons was $6.35, we now proposed to make it 8.70, and on vessels of 100 to 120 tons which was formerly $7.35, we propose to make it $9.35. On vessels of 120 to 160 tons we have raised the rates from $8.00 to $10.70, and on vessels of 200 to 240 tons, we have raised the rate from $9.30 to $11.70, and on vessels of 240 to 280 tons we have raised the rates from $10.00 to $15.00, and on vessels of 280 to 300 tons, we have raised the rates from $10.70 to $16.00, and on vessels from 700 to 800, which was $26.70, to $40.00.

I might say that even with this advance we still remain the cheapest port that any of these vessels enter. From that figure, that is to say, vessels over eight hundred tons, every hundred tons or part of one hundred tons additional, we propose to charge an extra $2.00. Of course the question might arise about our coasting vessels. In reference to this point I may say that we propose that all coasting vessels which may take pilots shall pay half of the above rates of pilotage in proportion of their tonnage.

MR. LLOYD.—What is the subsection (a) of Section eighteen, referred to in the second paragraph.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES.—The pilots have asked that the Pilots' Fund, which it created and provided for by this section, be suspended until six months after the declaration of peace. This fund is one similar to an insurance scheme. The pilot pays so much of his salary for the creation of an Old Age Pension when he retires. They ask, however, that the money that has already been paid by them in pursuance of this object be refunded, as the high cost of living renders it practically impossible to maintain the fund under present conditions. They desire to draw out what they have paid in.

This Act was passed in 1914. Before this Act was passed there was a fund down in the Pilot Commissioner's Office that was not very satisfactory. Under this scheme if a pilot met with an accident which prevented his going in a vessel or boat, the applicant or applicants for the position he has vacated contribute a proportion towards his maintenance. His position may be relatively the better of the two, as he may have two or three sons working or some private means. But this system had been going on for years. I know of one case where a man paid $2500.00 for the maintenance of another. A man was not made a pilot because he had passed the necessary examinations, but rather because he was content to sign a paper giving away one half of his earnings, which another man would not be satisfied to do. The pilots themselves called on me and expressed their dissatisfaction with this method. A number of widows were in receipt of money from pilots. It was considered by them that the best way of providing for these accidents was the method embodied in this Act. This Act worked very well up to last year. But as it is well known, last year very few ships came in this harbor and some of the pilots found themselves in strained circumstances and had to come to Capt. English to ask if the money that they had paid out under this scheme could be refunded them. Eventually the conclusion was reached to ask the Government if this Act could be suspended. It really concerns no one else as it is their money, contributed towards a sort of an insurance scheme. He paid about $50.00 per annum, I think. So unfortunate have some of the pilots been this year that they have had to go fishing or in some way earn money. Every Master Mariner is, I think, in favour of this

idea. I have indeed received several letters pointing out that they did not expect the pilots to do their work for the low rates that they were paid.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the said 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 respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committe of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions dealing with the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.— Mr. Speaker, These resolutions are the outcome of a report submitted here on yesterday by the members of both branches of the Legislature who have had this matter under their consideration for some time. It will be remembered that two or three years ago a considerable agitation took place in the city in relation to improved municipal government. A very largely signed petition was presented to this House asking for a suspension of the municipal law and the appointment of a Commission. That prayer was acceded to by the Legislature and a commission of twelve, was appointed. After a year or two, and after very careful study of municipal problems, that Commission reported a Bill to the Government, which was introduced last year and referred to a Select Committee, which Committee was afterwards commissioned by His Excellency the Governor in Council to enquire into the whole matter and report to this House. The Committee met very many times during the months of January and February and later in the present year, but the proposed legislation was of such an important character and so voluminous that, having regard to the many duties imposed upon the members of the Committee, they were unable to do justice to the whole Bill and recommend its adoption at the present session. They thought, however, that there were one or two amendments proposed in the Bill which might be adopted at the present session and which would enable the Council, which has since been elected, to introduce some of the reforms recommended by the Commission. I might say also that this matter has been under the consideration of what has been termed the Citizen's Committee, who have done very good work, and who have devoted an amount of time to the consideration of every section of the Bill reported by the Commission that would be praiseworthy in any circumstances, but when we have regard to the fact that these men were all working free and that it was a tax upon the time of many of them, redounds to the credit of everyone concerned. Now, the Committee, of which I am a member, have had their recommendations before them, and the present resolutions are in harmony with these recommendations as well as with the recommendations of the Commissioners. The whole meaning and effect of the present resolutions is, really, to cast upon the owners of the property the obligations and responsibil-

ity of the collection and paying of the taxes, and at the same time giving them full power to collect it back from their tenants by an increase of rent or in any other way they may chose to adopt. In the past thousands of people have availed of the municipal utilities—water and sewerage and all the other civic improvements that the taxation of the people of this town have been building up for years—and after spending six months or a year in the houses which they happened to occupy, folded their tents and walked away without paying anything whatever towards the upkeep of the town. The landlord was not interested; he paid his tax; but the tenant, having no responsibility and nothing for the city to come on, refused to contribute. Now it is proposed that the owner of the property shall be responsible to the City, and on this the Council and the Commissioners have all agreed. In nearly every municipality the law is that the responsibility attached to the property, and the owner can add the amount of the tax to the rent of the house or land, as the case may be. This in no way affects the man who is prepared to pay his taxes; it can only affect the person who wishes to evade his liability in this respect. Now, we cannot have municipal improvements in this town unless everybody pays his share towards the upkeep. At the present time well-to-do people pay higher taxes than others, and properly so, because after all the more valuable a property is the more advantage it derives from civic improvements. The man on the back street, with his small property, is not advantaged in the same degree by a park or improved lighting, or any other civic improvement, as the owner of a more valuable property; and for that reason higher rates are charged the well-to-do, but everyone ought to pay something. The Council now are making an effort not merely to collect water and sewerage rates, repair the streets and keep them clean, but to uplift the whole civic life of the town by providing a better class of houses for the people and better sanitation, and by giving some attention to the health of the people.

When we come to the last resolution I shall ask the House to consider a further section, giving the Council power to advance money up to a certain amount for the acquiring of land to build houses for the poorer classes. If that can be accomplished it will be a great thing for the town. There are probably a hundred or a hundred and fifty insanitary houses in the town to-day, but if these could be removed and a better class of house built in their places it would have a very great effect not alone on the people who are living in these houses but on the whole town.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I would like to make some observations with regard to this Bill, as one of the Select Committee to whom the Bill was referred last session, in the way of expressing an appreciation of the efforts made by the Citizens' Committee and ex-members of the Municipal Commission in formulating a scheme or an Act for the better municipal government of the city. It will be remembered that the charter which was submitted last session was of a very comprehensive character and required much more time than this House could give it in the period of time available then for its consideration. Since last session the Select Committee have met frequently and have endeavoured to handle the question, but as was pointed out this afternoon by the Prime Minister the Bill is voluminous and it is almost impossible to bring in the whole bill. But if it has been impossible to bring in the whole Bill, or Charter as it is known, I think we have acquired a

fund of information which we could not have otherwise acquired, and which will be of great benefit in the future. During the past winter and spring meetings were held with representatives of the Citizens' Committee, and the Select Committee was struck with the very industrious manner and very efficient manner in which the Citizens' Committee had undertaken the work of going through the Charter and make recommendations of improvements which they thought wise. It would be a valuable record for the archives of this city if that report could be published in all its details, and with all the suggestions made by the members,which, I am sure, if the Charter is eventually perfected, will occupy a very prominent part. It is quite true that the municipal affairs of St. John's require the very best efforts of the citizens, not only in their official capacity as Councillors, but of the citizens generally, and they must realize that they should pay as much regard to the city in which they live as to their homes, and take the same pains to have it bright, attractive and habitable, and I think if the people will waken up to that fact that we will have a very much better city in future. Now, Sir, the object of this Bill this afternoon, which is merely a small fraction of the whole Charter, is to put the Municipal Council in the position that they can collect the taxes. Every one will remember that every statement issued by the Council showed a lot of arrears, and that is brought about by the fact that the city authorities find it very difficult to collect the taxes from the tenants as pointed out by the Prime Minister. Very many tennants occupy houses for three to six months and then fold their tents and steal away without paying any taxes. Under this new legislation the owner will be called upon to look after the collecting of these taxes, and he will be able to do it very much better. One feature about our affairs which should not be lost sight of is that for the past eight or ten years we have been spending very large sums annually for the perfection of our water service. Now, I have some knowledge of what has been done, as I was in the Council when the first steps were taken to float the movement, and I have taken a great deal of interest in it; and I must say that I think we can pride ourselves to-day upon having as efficient a water service as it is possible to have under present conditions, and as good a one as any town the size of St. John's on this side of the Atlantic or the other. The system is known as the Compensating System, and it renders impossible any shortage of water in the future. This was demonstrated a short time ago when that large factory of Callahan Glass's was burned. This factory was always looked upon as a menace to the safety of the city, and yet the splendid supply of water which was available enabled the firemen to confine the fire to this one building. Those that had an opportunity of being there were struck with admiration, and this result was brought about by the recent completion of a system which was started some years ago. Since I have referred to this I might say that I think it is up to the Council now if they are going to put on additional taxation to get a compensating reduction in fire insurance premiums. The premiums charged here are very high, and that is because we had an insufficient water supply. The rates were raised some years ago, and they are still maintained. I think that today, having this service, it is up to the authorities to see that the premiums are reduced. When the Insurance Board sent their expert here, Mr. Jarvis, he intimated that unless certain work were carried out he would

have to recommend to his Board an increase in the rate of insurance, which would cost the property owners about $24,000 year. We obviated that necessity by introducing an improved water service at a cost of $100,000, and this has saved the people $20,000 a year. I think this matter is of very great importance and should be given serious attention. I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution, and hope that next session we will be able to bring in a bill that will meet with the acceptance of the House and be for the betterment of our whole Municipal Government.

MR. HIGGINS—As one of the members for St. John's, I should like to join with those who have spoken in endorsing the measure before the Chair. As has been stated, the effect of the proposed legislation is only to vary the method of collecting the taxes. I think it is important to clearly state under the times in which we live, that it will not affect taxation in any other way. The measure proposes no new taxes of any character,and accordingly the citizen, who after all is the one to be considered with regard to the imposition of any taxation, will not be affected in any way by the measure we are now considering. On the other hand, I think that the new method of collecting the taxes will justify the expectations of those who formulated the charter in that it will probably result in collections being made with greater facility and to a greater degree. Perhaps it is only right to say to the House that whilst the members have already had before them copies of the Charter and whilst it has been discussed at considerable length the Committee will still have much food for deliberation before coming to a position where a conclusive report can be made. I should also like to add a word of praise in recognition of what has been done by those outside this House,—the Citizens' Committee. I think a fine example has been set by these gentlemen. The task they set themselves to perform was no light one; but they performed it intelligently and well, and gave ungrudgingly of their time and attention. We who have been associated with them were particularly impressed by the unusual display of intelligent application of effort on the part of these gentlemen; and I heartily accord them this word of appreciation of the capable manner in which they carried out their work.

MR. LLOYD.—Mr. Chairman. I hesitated to rise earlier for the purpose of paying tribute to the Citizens' Committee for a reason which I shall explain later. There can be no doubt that words cannot adequately pay due testimony to the efforts made by these gentlemen. They certainly set a fine example; but an example too high unfortunately for the Committee of this House to follow. Recognizing that, I hesitated to say anything about it; because however industrious and praiseworthy their efforts were, we certainly cannot say that we followed their example. It is somewhat of a reflection upon this Legislature that the Commission should have been sitting so long and that at this stage the Select Committee—of which I am a member—cannot do more than bring in a few sections dealing mainly with the taxes and the channels through which they are to be paid. I am somewhat reluctant to join in their praise not from any lack of admiration for the work of the Committee but because the praise comes from this House, which under the circumstances is a more or less tainted source.

MR. CLIFT—Mr. Chairman: Before the Committee proceeds further, I should like to express my appreciation of the work that has been done,

not only by the Citizens' Committee, but by Mayor Gosling and the Commissioners who originally planned this incorporation Act. I was a member of the Joint Select Committee; but unfortunately I was never able to attend any of the meetings. And the reason for that was that all the meetings were held at the same time that I was obliged to attend another meeting in connection with the Patriotic Association—meetings of the Standing Committee of the Patriotic Association; and consequently I had to attend to that. Nevertheless I followed to a very large extent the reports and workings of the Citizens' Committee; and I feel as a citizen that I must express my appreciation of the valuable work they did. Praise, however, must go to the Commissioners who originally drew up the Charter. Mayor Gosling and those associated with him certainly deserve the very highest praise for the time and labour and valuable services they have devoted to this matter. Whilst one may not be inclined to agree with all its provisions and suggestions, yet there is a great deal in the Charter that everybody must hail with pleasure; and on the whole it lays a foundation upon which we ought eventually to be able to work out a scheme which ought certainly prove beneficial to the whole city. I hope that eventually there will be some improvement in the construction of the city and water systems, such as has been outlined by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, so that substantial reduction may be made in the fire insurance rates. The Fire Insurance Companies write a risk in accordance with the nature of the locality in which they are effecting the insurance. They would rather, I take it, do their business at a lower than higher rate because if the nature of the risk is such as does not lend itself to great danger, the companies in spite of the reduced rates would naturally prefer the risk of the least danger. All the surroundings have to be taken in consideration in assessing the rate. I understand that there has been some communication between the Insurance Companies and the Municipal authorities on this subject; but I do not know what conclusion has been come to. It is unfortunate that we have not before us at this session the whole Bill, but circumstances were such that it was found impossible to bring it in this session; and I think it will be better not to bring it in this session with a likelihood of its being put through hurriedly, but preferably to bring it on at a later session when ample time to consider its provisions would be afforded.

I merely rose, Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of expressing my appreciation of the work that has been performed by the Citizens' Committee and by the Commissioners; and to say that I am in accord with the principle of the resolutions now before the Chair. Might I suggest that the last section should not operate until the House is vacant for at least six months. It might be vacant for only two or three months; and it would entail unnecessary work to apportion taxes for such shorter periods than six months.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— There can be no objection to amending this so.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the said 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 Further to Amend the St. John's Municipal Act, 1912," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, 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 provision.

MILITARY LOAN BILL.

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 first 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.

SUPPLY.

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.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT:

Contingencies Public Works Dept., $1,000.00.

FUEL and LIGHT:

Government House $300.00, Customs Buildings $300.00, Post Offices and Telegraph Buildings $2,500.00, Departmental Building, St. John's, $300.00, Departmental Bldg., Hr. Grace $100.00, Departmental Bldg. Carbonear $50.00, Departmental Buildings, Outports, $1,-150.00, Museum Building $700.00. Total, $5,400.00.

REPAIRS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

$33,990.00.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:

(a) Supreme Court: District Court $48, Electric Lighting,Coal,Dietry Prisoners, Furniture, etc., $1,532, (e) Constabulary (2) Fire Dept.: Fuel and Light for Stations $1,250.00, Forage $2,200.00. (f) St. John's Penitentiary, Industries: Material for Brooms, etc., $1,500.00; Contingencies: Stationery and Printing $10.00, Sundries $10.00; Supplies and Maintenance, $1,500.00; Fuel and Light, $500.00. (g) Court Houses and Gaols: Fuel and Light $800.00. Total $9,350.00.

LEGISLATION:

Fuel and Light $500.00.

PUBLIC CHARITIES:

(c) Lunatic Asylum, Contingencies $60.00, Supplies $12,300.00, Fuel and Lignt $3,750.00. (d) General Hospital: Allowance Resident Physician, upkeep horse, carriage, ecc., $200.00, Contingencies $100.00, Supplies $5.-550.00, Fuel and Light $7,600.00. (e) Poor Asylum: Contingencies $20.00, Maintenance $3,420.00, Fuel and Light $900.00. (h) Fever Hospital: Maintenance and Supplies $3,000.00, Fuel and Light $1,600.00. Tuberculosis Campaign $2,500.00 Total $41,-000.00.

ROADS, BRIDGES and FERRIES:

Main Line, Railway Conn. Roads $2,350.00; Ferries: Britannia Cove to Burgoyne's Cove and Petley $75.00, Foster's Point to Clarenville $170.00, Across Little Bay, Mortier Bay, $100, Sandy Point to South Side, new motor ferry service $450.00, Curling to Summerside new motor service $600.00, Harbor Grace motor ferry service $1,800.00, Salmonier to Branch motor service $800.00. Total $6,345.00.

For the Completion of Unfinished Stations and for Urgent Repairs to the following Lighthouses:

Gull Island Alarm, work left unfinished last season, $200.00; Nipper's Harbour, landing appliances, $100.00; Black Island, N.D.B., new road from dwelling to landing, $50.00; Grassy Island, repairs to station caused by iceberg foundering, $300.00; Lower Sandy Point, concrete breastwork to protect station from ice rafting, $300; Mill Point, necessary additions to station for keeper's use, $200.00; St. Michael's Head, sills to house, etc., $30.00; Baccalhao Island, repairs to road and coveredway, $100.00; Burnt Point Alarm, new landing boom and other requirements, $100.00; Brook's Point, new landing boom, $50.00; Tilton Harbour, light tower shingled, $30.00; Wadham Island, drinking water tank to be repaired etc., $150.00; Puffin Island Alarm, new oil store, etc., $150.00; Denier Island, new mast and boom, $50.00; Cape Bonavista, to protect station from sea, $600.00; Squarry Head, repairs to iron bridge damaged by sea, $100.00; Random Head, new coveredway and porch, $150.00; Baccalieu Light, new landing boom, $50.00; Carbonear Island, extensive repairs to dwelling and landing wharf, $600.00; Bay Roberts Point, station shingled and new stove, $100; Brigus, road, winch and other appliances for derrick, $100.00; Fermeuse Alarm, additional to alarm and oil store, $100.00; Powell's Head, repairs to tower and dwelling, $300.00; Cape Pine, repairs to coveredway, new porches, ceiling, tower and lanterns, $250.00; Cape St. Mary's, Extensive repairs to Station and new landing appliances, $2,000.00; Dodding Head, new landing site and appliances, $250.00; Green Island, Fortune Bay, wooden cooling tank and provision for drinking water, $400.00; Grand Bank, repairs to tower, $50.00; Pass Island Alarm, a new oil store, $100.00; Gaultois, repairs to ladder over cliff to lighthouse, $50.00; Ramea Island, repairs to tramway, storm sashes, etc., $50.00; Ireland Island, general repairs, $200.00; Caine's Island, Rose Blanche, new landing appliances, etc., $150.00; Sandy Point, repairs to station, $100; Cape St. George, engine house chimney taken down and rebuilt, $300.00; Long Point, Port au Port, light alteration, $30.00; Eagle Island, to complete this station, $3,000.00; Little Port Head, new light installation, etc., $200.00; Lobster Cove Head, house shingled and kitchen extended $200.00; Griguet, a small store, $60.00; Musgrave Light, new light, $3,000.00; Tanks (iron), storage, $2,500.00; Pass Island, new dwelling, $3,200.00; Wesleyville, new light, $2,000.00; Bay Bulls, concrete foundation and dwelling, $100.00; Great Harbor Deep, road to lighthouse, $30.00; Cape St. Francis, general repairs, $300.00; Point La Haye, repairs to bridges and road, $20.00; Marticot, sinking well and new road, $80.00; Propagation of Lobsters, $6,000. Total, $28,530.00.

MR. CURRIE—I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the fact that nothing has been done in connection with providing Burin with an efficient motor service. Under Head 11, provision is being made for improved ferries, but still there is no increase vote for Burin, though for some years the people of Burin have been petitioning this Legislature. The present ferry service is stated to be from Burin to Stepaside, but this ferry not only goes to Stepaside, but to the various other places, with the

result that the service is slow and unsatisfactory. As it is, it is useless and a waste of public money. The people now use ther own motor boats, for they cannot wait for the ferry to come. The mail service has often been held up for several hours through the inefficiency of this service, and I myself have waited a whole day at Burin North for a chance to get to Great Burin or Burin Island. I hope the Minister of Finance will look into this matter now that this vote is being increased, and will see his way clear to-morrow to ask the House to grant an increase that will provide a motor service that will give this large and important centre the facilities that are so urgently needed.

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.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Public Service Electric Company, Limited."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CLIFT—When this matter was before the House yesterday I stated that I was not prepared to vote in favor of the granting of the exclusive right to the streams running into the Heart's Content River and its tributaries, without having some information as to the extent of the area that would be covered by this watershed, as well as the extent of the water power that might be derived from that river. Although I have made endeavor to get some information in relation to this case now under discussion I regret to say that I could obtain very little. There is no information on record in the Department of Agriculture and Mines with regard to any of our water powers, and I could think of no other place where any information could be available. It is a curious position to be placed in, to come in here and vote the exclusive right for twenty years to the water powers covering an area the extent of which we have no idea. It is most regrettable that there is not some source of reliable information on this subject. It might even be worth while to cause a survey to be made of some of the remaining water powers with a view to getting some information. One would think that in a place like Heart's Content that information of this kind would be available. Possibly the petitioners themselves could provide it, although I do not think it right that we should ask them for it. Before we are asked to vote away these grants, we ought to be provided with a plan of such particulars as a survey would reveal.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member I would point out that the difficulty to which he has referred is one that has been experienced by this Legislature since its establishment. There are thousands of possible water powers in the country that may be developed from time to time the surveying of which would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Take the present case. There is no reason why a mere topographical survey should not be made and reported upon by the Department of Agriculture and Mines. But to determine fully the possibilities of the

water power would require the services of an hydraulic engineer. Take a single illustration. There was a chain of lakes near the Goulds near Petty Harbor which no one regarded as being of any great importance but which the hydraulic engineer obtained by the Reid Nfld. Company clearly established to be able to give a horse power of from four to eight thousand by the connecting of them together by a small stream. This is the water power that now gives electric light to St. John's and runs many of its industries. Even the water powers of our two large industries at Grand Falls and Bishops' Falls we have no one here capable of surveying. The cost of a survey of the whole Island as suggested by the hon. member would be thousands of dollars and might well be worth it, but we have matters of more pressing importance to spend our money on first. But at the same time it would not by any means be impossible to procure a superficial topographical survey to convey a general idea of the extent of the streams, their width and depth and their possibilities. That could be obtained from a regular electrical engineer.

MR. CLIFT—In reply to the Prime Minister I may say that I quite appreciate what has been said. I did not contemplate the survey by an hydraulic engineer. I think that it would not, however, entail much expense to have a rough survey made, so that we could know the size of the area we are giving away and exactly what the Company is asking for. I quite appreciate the fact that a survey by a hydraulic engineer would be very costly.

MR. LLOYD.—I would like to make a few observations. No doubt it would be very useful if we had the information at hand referred to by Mr. Clift. It would be doubtless useful to this House, the Government and the Department, but I would like to point out in reference to this that a great deal of this information is absolutely foreign to the bill and in fact has nothing to do with it. I do not know whether the promoters desire to acquire the basin of this river but there is no indication of any such request in the petition. No such area has been granted by this bill. All that is granted is the water running into the Heart's Content river and the tributaries running into that stream. Nothing more. There however is this aspect to be considered. In that basin there would be a great deal of water over which this company would have no right at all. They have the right to nothing more than what is naturally flowing into the Heart's Content stream by its tributaries. This is not a grant of water over any area or over any water basin; it is merely a grant of the waters flowing through the Heart's Content stream and its tributaries, and nothing more. There is no provision and there is no right to link up with those waters any lakes which at present have no outlet into this stream, even though they may be in the same water basin.

MR.. CLIFT.—I did not suggest for one moment that this bill contemplated making a grant of any area.

MR. LLOYD—If the hon. member will pardon me. I was not referring to his remarks, but rather to the remarks of the Premier in reference to the illustration of the linking up of the lakes in the case of Petty Harbor. This is not a general concession. It refers merely to a particular stream and its tributaries.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—I would like to explain that my remarks as to Petty Harbour had no reference to this particular case. They were made to illustrate what might be accomplished if we had a proper staff; and, on the other hand, the impossibility of our being able to give this Committee or this House any

idea as to the value of any particular stream or water shed in the absence of a proper hydraulic electrical engineer.

MR. CLIFT.—The point I make is this: The Heart's Content stream or some of its tributaries may run through some good land, for instance —some land that persons may want to utilize for some industrial purpose; and because under this section an exclusive right is granted to these streams, they could not be permitted to use them. That is the point I want to get at. My remarks were of a general character. I do not wish to raise any objection to this particular. I was merely talking of the advisability of having some information in relation to our water powers, even if it were only the information that could be got from a very casual or rough survey. Might I ask, while I am on my feet, whether there are any rights now existing over this stream or over any of the tributaries that run into it?

MIN. MARINE AND FISHERIES.—As far as I can learn, No. I made enquiries about that before I had anything to do with the matter.

MR. CLIFT.—I submit that we ought to have something on that point from the Crown Lands Office. It may be that some of these streams are already leased for some purposes. One of them may be leased for running a small mill, for instance. I don't know of any mills down there,but still there may be something, and, if so, there would be a record of it in the Crown Lands Office.

MR. LLOYD.—This is not an exclusive right. It is merely a grant of the exclusive use for a particular purpose, and apart from that purpose, the public have as much right to use those streams as they had before this right was granted.

MR. CLIFT.—I don't agree with Dr. Lloyd on that point, because the words of the section are very clear. It says: "The exclusive right to use the waters of Heart's Content Stream."

MR. LLOYD.—Read on.

MR. CLIFT.—"And of the tributaries thereto, for the purpose of the development of electrical energy," That would mean an exclusive right to this Company for these purposes, and I question whether anybody else could use these streams for any other purpose.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

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

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Acts Relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors." was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker. This is one of those measures which I am quite sure will meet with the approval of every member of this House and everyone outside it. As will be noticed, it is an amendment to the Act relating to the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The advantages which have already flowed from the adoption of that measure will, I am sure, suggest to the House the propriety of making the measure as perfect as possible. Now, it will be remembered that in both the Prohibiton Act of 1915 and 1916, there was a definition of intoxicating liquors, but it is particularly in relation to the Act of 1916 that this measure is introduced.

Under the 1915 Act, intoxicating liquors were defined as "All ale,wines, malt, brewed or spirituous liquors containing two per cent or upwards of alcohol in volume, except wines for sacramental purposes; and in the Act of 1916, this section was re-enacted with the addition of the following words: "Except such drugs as medicines as may be excepted by the Governor in Council.

Now, since the adoption of the measure, a number of drugs, patent medicines, perfumes and toilet waters have become popular as drinks. Quite a number have taken up florida water instead of rum. Why, I don't know; it may be that it has some special attraction in flavor as it has in perfume; but that can only be decided by the persons using it. On enquiry, however, the Department of Customs, the Department of Justice, and the Analytical Chemist, have all come to the conclusion, after carefully studying the question, that the methods provided by the Act of 1915 will not meet the case, and the present bill is for the purpose of changing that method. Under the 1916 Act the law is: Except such drugs and medicines as may be excepted, etc." That would mean that the whole pharmacopoeia would have to be gone through by the Governor in Council in order to make these exceptions. Now it is proposed that they will all be excluded except those named by the Governor in Council. In other words, it is proposed to have a Committee appointed to deal with this matter; and they will have brought to their notice by the Police and Customs Authorities, chemists and other persons, drugs, toilet and other preparations that contain 2 per cent. and upwards of alcohol; and these will then be put on the blacklist, and only imported as by law permitted. In other words, a reversion or reversal of the manner provided in the Act of 1916. That is the amendment proposed, and it has been agreed to only after very careful consideration by several departments, including the department of Justice and the Government Analyst, and there does not appear to be any more effective or better way of dealing with the matter than the way proposed. The next amendment is the incorporating into the Prohibition Law certain sections of the Intoxicating Liquors Act, in order that they may be availed of to carry out the Prohibition Act. The sections proposed to be incorporated are 39 to 41. Section 39 deals with constables visiting unlicensed houses; 40 deals with the seizing of liquor found in these houses by constables; and 41, the indemnity of the constable who seizes the liquor. Sections 46 to 53 are also to be incorporated. 46 gives the power to search ships; 48 deals with the penalty for keeping a shebeen or being found in a shebeen; 49 is the procedure to be followed in Courts in relation to these matters; 50, evidence of sale; 51 deals with what constitutes a prima facie case on prosecution; 52, the burden of proof; and 53, sale by wife or servant. Also 61 which empowers a search warrant to be issued in certain cases. Also sections 67 to 71. Section 67 is the right of appeal from magistrates to the Supreme Court; 68, stay of proceedings; 69, that no conviction shall be quashed for want of informality; 70, that a married woman is liable under the Act; and 71, appropriation of penalty. There are very many more sections in the Intoxicating Liquors Act, but these are the only ones necessary to incorporate. I beg to move the second reading.

MR. LLOYD—I see no great objection, Mr. Chairman, to the passing of this Bill, but the first section involves some activity on the part of the Governor in Council. The trouble with the Prohibition Bill was that it also involved this activity on the part

of the Governor in Council, and required that they should do something. They did nothing, and consequently we had all the trouble in connection with "Beef, Iron and Wine" and such like. Assuming this bill is passed, every grocer shop can be a liquor saloon so far as patent medicines are concerned, unless the Governor in Council takes up this matter in the right way and takes much more interest than was taken during the past twelve months. The only protection that can be afforded is that such intoxicants or such beverages and patent medicines as can be used and are used with evil effect, not only from their intoxicating nature, but from the evil they do the organs of the body from containing excess drugs which the body does not need—that these intoxicants will be watched carefully. I can well understand, Sir, that it will be more practicable to do so under the proposed legislation, and I trust that in the near future they will take action and actually make a list of such patent medicines as are used for intoxicating purposes. I can conceive, Sir, that it will be possible for the Governor in Council to deal with these evils as they appear. For instance, we have the notorious case of the sale of "Beef, Iron and Wine." From time to time it may be found that other patent medicines are being used and the Governor in Council can then take up that matter and put these on the black list. But I say, Sir, that this will involve that the Governor in Council shall take an interest in the matter and make up its mind to put on the black list all patent medicines that are being used as intoxicants. I think, however, that this form of the amendment is far better than the form of last year's Bill. I can readily conceive that there would be difficulty in going through the whole list of drugs and patent medicines and saying which shall be imported and which shall not. I can quite understand that if the Governor in Council should wish to consult the medical fraternity the latter would say: "Well, so far as patent medicines are concerned, none of them are necessary, cut them all out." In view of these things I have no objection to the passing of the measure.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Before voting on the measure I would like to say to the House that the Governor in Council has already arranged for a standing committee in relation to this matter, to consist of the Government Analyst, Mr. Davies, and two city chemists, Mr. Connors and Mr. McNeil, and from time to time they will report to the Governor in Council, a list of such patent medicines and drugs that are taken as beverages and that they consider injurious will be excluded. What might appear to be dilatoriness on the part of the Governor in Council in the past was not due to any intention to weaken the provisions of the Bill, but rather to meet the needs of the country and not to impose on the country a severe measure; because it has to be remembered that in this country there are hundreds of settlements where there is no doctor at all, and where the people trust very largely to patent medicines. These have in the past been of value to our people, and it would be hardly fair to force those who use these medicines properly to give them up because others are drinking them. Now, that has been the difficulty in the past, and I hope that in the future the committee I have mentioned will look after the situation by making recommendations from time to time as to those medicines which should be excluded.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I would like to say in this connection that I have had something to do with the matter, and it has been my endeavour to enforce the Act in the

strictest sense possible, but there have been great difficulties in the way. Now in the first place the Governor in Council, shortly after the passage of the measure took the matter up with the Government authorities with the idea of getting samples and having them analyzed to ascertain the amount of alcohol contained in them. That covered such a very large proportion of the drugs, medicines and compounds imported into the country that it was found to be too great a task, but in the meantime, the Governor in Council thought that we should get the advice of the medical fraternity to know what concoctions were imported that should be disallowed because of their injurious compounds. We appreciate the fact that there are certain compounds imported into this country that can be used as beverages and are and have for some time been so used to the injury of the health of the people who use them, much more so than the ordiary spirituous liquors. The result of the request from the Government was, as Dr. Lloyd intimated this afternoon, that the medical fraternity reported that there was a number of these preparations unessential and dangerous, and they advised they should not be allowed to be imported. But there are other compounds not used as beverages that are useful in other ways, and, as the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister stated this afternoon, in certain parts of the country where no doctors practice, these preparations have general use for purposes other than drinking, and it would be hard to disallow the importation of these; but the matter has been referred to the Government analyst, the public health officer, Dr. Brehm, and two city druggists, Messrs. Connors and McNeil, and they have already sent in a report that covers three or four well known preparations that are being used as beverages, and they suggest that they be put within the restrictions of the Prohibition Act, viz. "Wincarnis" 'Beef Iron and Wine' and another beverage. This list, I take it, will be enlarged as time goes on, because it is more than likely that if these things are prohibited substitutes will be found; but when it will be ascertained that people are using other compounds too for beverages they also can be blacklisted. I can conceive that this thing will take some years to work out before it is a thoroughly efficient measure; but in the meantime something has been done. The difficulties in the way were not at all small, and I only hope that this measure is now in such a position that the black-list contemplated will cover all these articles that we know are injurious to the health of those who drink them.

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

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, July 12th, 1917.

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

SUPPLY.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported the following Resolution which was read a first time.

Suplemental Supply—$517,150.89.

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.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of

Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Public Service Electric Company, Limited," 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. GRIMES—I would like to ask the Premier if he has any intention of increasing the Old Age Pensions grant.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—In reply to the hon. member I may say that I have asked the Department of Finance and Customs for a statement as to the number of applicants, etc., but so far have received no information. I understand that it is being prepared, however, and I shall endeavour to table it at the next sitting.

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.

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Acts Relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors."

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 to-morrow.

Cn motion this Report was received and adopted, and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on to-morrow.

PILOTS AND PILOTAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, July 13th., 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Speaker I ask leave to present a petiton from John Rorke and Sons, William Duff and Sons, J. and R. Maddock, W. H. Soper, Joseph Udell and Sons, Baine Johnstone and Co., R.D. McRae, and Co., James Cron, and others in relation to the International Grenfell Association, which, for the information of the House, I would ask the Clerk to read:

The Clerk read the petition.

Personally I am prepared to extend the hand of fellowship to anybody who comes in here to do legitimate busin-

ess; but if companies, corporations or societies are given certain privileges in this country for certain purposes,and they abuse these privileges, they should be punished. As the petition states, competition along that section is very keen, and that alone will regulate prices. I would ask that this petition be referred to the Department of Customs, and I hope that the whole matter will be investigated, and if the statements made in the petition are found to be correct, that the guilty parties will be brought before the proper authorities.

MR. PICCOTT.—Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the prayer of the petition; and in doing so I would say that in my opinion it is time that the Customs authorities took this matter up and looked into it very carefully. I have been up and down that coast for a number of years, and I know for a fact that certain things which have been brought in duty free, and which were expected by the donors to be given to the people of Labrador, were sold, or, to put it charitably, exchanged. Complaints have been made by the people along the coast more than a dozen times to the authorities, but the thing has been allowed to go on year after year. I am not now speaking against the Deep Sea Mission particularly, but I think that if conditions right along the Coast were investigated, we would be in a better position to handle the poor of Labrador than we are now. In the past it has been the custom of all Governments to leave the matter of relief in the neighborhood of Cartwright and Rigolet in the hands of the Hudson Bay Co. officials. These people say that they have relieved the sufferers down there, and in return got them to do some work; but I don't think there were ever any returns from either one of these stations until a few years ago, when I had some ladders that were made,and some boats that were built brought up from the Labrador for the use of the lighthouses around our coasts. You have got to go amongst these people to find out how they are treated. Mr. Schofield, the Hudson Bay Co., Manager at Rigolet, said to me three years ago that the Government would have to look after the people in the winter time, as it would be impossible for the Hudson Bay Co. to give them any more credit. Now, what really happens is this: When the people come out of the bays in the spring, the Hudson Bay Co., give them a little food and a little salt, and send them away to catch salmon or trout; then they send them fishing and take their entire catch; and then when the winter comes, the Government has had to support them. This condition of things has been going on year after year, and the people of Labrador have really had no chance to look after themselves, and nobody has taken a sufficient interest in them to see that they get a chance. Then, when you go down to Hopedale, Macovik Bay and Nain, where the Moravian Missionaries are operating, you find a similar state of affairs. Go amongst the people, and ask them what they have received during the winter, and you will find that they just get enough to keep life in the body; but nobody knows anything of what has been going on, and nobody takes sufficient interest in the matter to find out. Now, I think it is time that the Government took this matter up and made a thorough investigation along the whole coast. It will mean a little expense, but it will be money well spent. These people are under our jurisdiction and they should be looked after by us. It is true that the Government has always tried to do the best they could in the interests of the people in the way of arranging for food and that sort of thing, but they have allowed

those companies and societies to look after the distribution of supplies, believing that everything was alright. Now, I wish to make it clear that I am not speaking in any way disparagingly of those who have had charge of this supplying; I am speaking of the rights of the people of Labrador, and I am of the opinion that they are not being treated as they should be. I have seen some of their accounts, and the prices that they were charged for things even when times were normal were enormous. I have not seen any since the war broke out,but if they have added to them in the same proportion as they did in normal times, then God help the people of Labrador—they will be in debt for ever and ever. Now, these people deserve to be looked after. The independent ones amongst them pay their taxes just the same as Newfoundlanders. They get no share of any road moneys, or of any marine grants; the only thing they get is the food that is sent down to them year after year; and it is time that something were done to ensure them better treatment than they have had in the past. I have no doubt that there are other members in this House that can corroborate what I have said in this respect.

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Speaker: I would ask leave to support the prayer of the petition that has just been presented. I happen to know a little about this matter. Some ten or twelve years ago I was doing business on the Canadian Labrador, and everywhere I went the people complained about this matter. They told me that they were being charged for second-hand goods as high a price as if the goods were new; and I also got reports and letters along the same lines from Newfoundland Labrador. I brought the matter to the attention of the House at that time—it may be that some members will remember my doing so; but nothing was done at the time. I suppose the House found it hard to believe at that time that things like that were being done, and not much interest was taken in the matter. I think it would be a good thing if the matter were taken a hold of now and investigated, so that the Government might satisfy itself as to the way in which matters are handled down there. I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition.

MR. CLIFT.—Mr. Speaker: I would like to say in relation to this petition that its contents are altogether new to me I am aware that some time ago there was correspondence between the Government and the Grenfell Association or the Mission,when certain articles were allowed to be imported free of duty—articles of clothing and things of that sort—but this petition reveals a state of things which I think ought to be enquired into. I am most heartily in accord with the prayer of the petition, which is that this House will cause an enquiry to be made as to the correctness of these allegations, with a view to their removal or remedy; and I think that no time should be lost in setting the enquiry on foot.

MR. HALFYARD—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the residents of Joe Batt's Arm, in the district of Fogo, asking that a fog alarm be erected at the Lighthouse at Brook's Point, Joe Batt's Arm. It is quite within the recollections of the House that a very sad disaster occurred at Joe Batt's Arm on the 7th April last, when six of the bravest and best of the men of that place lost their lives on the ice, owing, it is said, chiefly to the presence of fog. The men left their homes early in the morning in search of seals, going towards Little Fogo Island. In the meantime the fog settled down, a strong tide began to run, and the ice opened, with the

result that the men found it impossible to reach their homes. They evidently were astray in their calculations as to their situations, and it was thought that they drifted away to the north-west and were lost. No trace of them has ever been found. Everything that could be done under the circumstances was done both by the residents of Joe Batt's Arm and the neighboring settlements, but all to no avail. The Government also did everything possible, but the elments seemed to be against the efforts that were made to rescue the men. The Diana, whose services were engaged as quickly as possible, got stuck in the Narrows for seven or eight hours, and then when the Captain did get north there was a succession of foggy days, and he found it impossible to do anything. I may say that the people—both the relatives of the deceased and others—recognized that all was done that could be done, and they have no fault to find in this respect. Now, that was a very costly undertaking for the Colony, not alone from a monetary standpoint, but also because of the loss of six wage-earners. One of these men left a family of eight children, and three of them were brothers and amongst the best wage-earners of the place. The petitioners think that if there had been a fog alarm on this point then, it might have given these men their position, and they might have reached the shore safely. As it happened at that time, the boats that went out from Joe Batt's Arm to search for these men actually picked up 20 or 30 men who had gone out from a near-by settlement and had lost their way; and if these boats had not gone out. one of the worst disasters in the history of the country might have happened at that time. I beg to support the prayer of the petition, and I ask that it be referred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries for consideration.

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Acts Relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors."

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 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.

PILOTS AND PILOTAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

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

SALVATION ARMY BILL.

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

July 13th, 1917.

The Select Committee appointed to consider and enquire into the Petition

of Lieutenant Colonel Otway with respect to an amendment in the "Act 6 George V. (1916) Cap 2 entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army" beg to report that they have considered the same and present the accompanying Bill for the consideration of the Legislature.

(Signed) E. P. MORRIS,
A. W. PICCOTT,
R. J. DEVEREAUX
W. F. LLOYD.

On motion this Report was received and the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. (1916) Cap. 2 entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army." was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider Certain Resolutions relating to the Placentia Water Company.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, July 16th, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. STONE—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Elliston, asking that Elliston be made a port of call for one of the coastal steamers. It might be possible for the Earl of Devon to call at Elliston on her way north and south. I trust the Government will give this matter the consideration which it deserves. The petition is signed by Rev. Mr. Dotchen, and a large number of others. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. DEVEREAUX.—Mr. Speaker,I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of North Harbor in the district of Placentia, asking that a telegraph office be established in that place. The people suffer great inconvenience because of the lack of that service, and as there are one or two business places there there is no necessity for my repeating to this House how necessary it is that they should be able to communicate with the different places of the country. I have the greatest pleasure in supporting this petition and I would ask that it be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. MORRIS.—Mr. Speaker, I have very great pleasure in supporting this petition.

MR. WALSH.—Mr. Speaker, I too would endorse this petition.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL.

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 district of St. George's" without amendment.

PLACENTIA WATER CO. BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relating to the Placentia Water Company.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Chairman, the object of the resolutions before the Committee this afternoon is to increase the capital

stock of the Placentia Water Company by $2,000. This is needed because some serious mishaps occurred to the cables across the Gut at Placentia, and representations were made to the Government for this sum to remedy this defect. Mr. O'Reilly, the Secretary of the Company visited town and laid the matter before the Government and in a Memorial he set forth the necessity of asking for this amount. To enable the Government to decide as to the desirability of granting this further increase, the matter was referred to the Auditor General for his report as to the capabilities of the company and whether this increased interest could be paid. This is the report I received from him under date the 25th of June (Reads).

The Government therefore, Mr. Chairman, in face of the pressing needs of the company and the recommendations of the Auditor General decided to introduce these resolutions to authorize the company to raise this additional capital. Copies of these resolutions are on the desks of all the hon. members, and will speak for themselves. I do not think there is need for me to say more, but I would move that they be now read.

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 Further to Amend 56 Vic. Cap II, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

PILOTS AND PILOTAGE BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the port 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.

SALVATION ARMY BILL.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 Geo. V. (1916) Cap. 2. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to inform the House that for the last week or so both political parties in the Legislature have been negotiating with a view to forming a National Government. I am pleased to be able to announce to the House that all the terms have been agreed to, and that at the sitting of this House to-morrow, I will be in a position to announce to the House the names of the gentlemen who will form the new Government.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY July 17th. 1917.

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

NEW GOVERNMENT.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.— Mr. Speaker, I desire to inform the

House that since we met on yesterday a new Government has been formed and sworn in for the Colony. As nearly every member of the House is aware for some time past negotiations have been taking place between the two parties in this legislature for the purpose of bringing about a National and Colonial Government, one that will be strong enough to grapple with the storm and stress if it should visit us that has arrived already in other portions of the Empire. It is a matter of congratulation to this House to know, and I think the Colony will appreciate also, that in these negotiations everything of a personal character has been laid aside. Both parties have seemed to be impelled by the desire to put Country first and Party second and to forget their personal desires and ambitions and leave their own interests entirely in the background. Indeed any other sentiment would be entirely foreign to what one would expect from the members of this Legislature, all of whom I think I may say are Newfoundlanders. It was with that spirit and with that desire that the negotiations were taken up and I am pleased to be able to announce to the House that they have been perfected and a new Government has been sworn, whch consists of the following members: Hon. W. F. Lloyd D. C.L., Hon. M.P. Cashin, Hon. J.R. Bennett, Hon. R.A. Squires K.C., Hon. J.A. Clift K.C., Hon. J.C. Crosbie, Hon. M.P. Gibbs K.C., Hon. W.F. Coaker, Hon. W.J. Ellis, Hon. A.E. Hickman, Hon. W.W. Halfyard and myself. This change in the Government has not been brought about without grave thought and consideration. We have now almost reached the end of the three years of the great inter-national struggle now going on in the world, in which the Britsh Empire of whch we are a part is taking so important a place. As a part of this great empire we have grave responsibilities and heavy burdens cast upon our shoulders. England has taken up the challenge thrown down; as far as we as a part of the Empire are concerned up to the present time I may say that our work has been splendidly accomplished by our soldiers and sailors who have gone forward. But more remains to be done. If we are in earnest, we must make up our minds to hold the place we now occupy in the great Imperial procession, so that when the great victory that will some day be ours comes we shall be able to say that we have done our part and done it nobly and well. This is one of the many things that the National Government will have to take up and grapple with. How that may best be done is a matter of study and enquiry and a matter requiring the best judgment of the Government. Then there is the question in connection with the trade of the Country. Any moment, any day this Country from a tonnage standpoint may be seriously affected by the great menace of this war. Already we have felt it in some measure but we have been fortunate in being able to overcome the difficulties to a certain extent as they arose. But as other countries have suffered, so may we. We must prepare for a period of storm and stress. Therefore the country must be united and we must place behind us party and personal considerations. I think it is only fair that I should say that in all the negotiations that have taken place in connection with this National Government that I have found the gentlemen on the other side of the House, with whom I have been associated, most reasonable and most fair and ready at all times to consider the matter fairly from a national and patriotic standpoint. We all are familiar with the difficulties

that such negotiations entail and I think the manner in which all members of this House have laid aside all personal considerations and political interests is an example to the whole country. In the ordinary course of events an election would have been held next autumn as Parliament expires in January next. After that date there will be no Parliament and no way or voting supplies for the public services. Had this National Government not been formed there would have been two ways that an extension of Parliament could have been effected. One way was to extend it by party vote, the other by agreement. Both have their merits no doubt and both have their objections, but it was seen by both sides and by the friends outside this House of both parties, that such a climax should not be allowed to come upon us, that would let out soldiers and sailors know that while they were fighting and laying down their lives for us that we were squabbling and fighting at home. That was the spirit, the motive and the desire actuating both parties that enabled both sides to jettison for the time being many cherished convictions and policies and party shibboleths, and coming together make a supreme effort for the Colony to do our best for the men that are fighting in the trenches and on the seas for our country, and in addition to that, show to the world that we consider Newfoundland a part of the Empire ready to take her part of the responsibilities of this war. And I may say that I am satisfied no matter where this coalition may lead to, no matter how long it may last, that the future historian of Newfoundland will justify the position we have taken. As far as the Government party is concerned, we were in power as it is termed and it was necessary in order that a National Government should be arranged to increase the number of our Executive Council in order that our friends on the other side of the House might find a place in that tribunal. It was also necessary that we should have vacancies in the departments to confer upon them. In fact the whole principle of the coalition was absolute equality; and they have come to us on that basis. It was thus necessary for some of our friends in the Government to make way; and I am glad to be able to state that when the occasion arose we had men in our ranks who were able to put aside mere personal considerations for the sake of the general good. I would like particularly to refer to Mr. Bishop who had been my colleague for nine years. He is a man who has given as much of his time and detailed attention to the public life of the Colony as any man I have ever been in council with, and I am speaking from an experience of thirty years. I have never known him to miss a council meeting or any other public duty when in the Colony. He placed his resignation in my hands in order that I might be perfectly free to act in this matter. It is a personal regret for me to feel that he is not able to be with us; but I am happy to inform the House that the new Government has his very best wishes, and that he will continue, in other departments of public life to support such of our policy that may commend itself to him. What I have said about Mr. Bishop, I also say about my friend, Mr. Piccott, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Not to-day or yesterday but years ago, when this thing was first mooted, Mr. Piccott came to me and said "you can have my resignation any time you like if it is in the interests of the Colony." He did this unconditionally and left me with a free hand. With such a

spirit as that prevailing, ought we doubt that what has been accomplished to-day will find an echo of approval in all the constituencies in the Island. Beginning under such auspices—with a well understood policy in view and a thorough understanding that no national government can get on unless there be a give and take spirit—I have no doubt that good will come to the Colony, and if the storm and stress of public life reaches us, we will be better able to cope with the difficulties and obstacles that come in our way.

I thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity of making this statement, and I thank the members of the House on both sides for the patience which they have shown during the last month or so when legislation and other public business have been retarded for the purposes of considering this question from time to time; and I feel that we are glad, now that it has been accomplished, that we have patiently suffered the little inconvenience that may have arisen.

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL.

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 Continue in Force for a Further Period the Act 5 George V. Session 1. Cap 4. entitled "An Act Respecting a Volunteer Force in this 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 Respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve" with some amendments in which they request the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.

SUPPLY.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House reselved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

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 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.

S. A. INCORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. 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 Geo. V. (1916) Cap. 2. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army".

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.

MUNICIPAL BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the

Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the St. John's Municipal Act 1902." was read a second time.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. I have a communication here from the Citizens' Committee asking for certain additions, but this is a matter which can be attended to while we are in Committee. There is only one important section asked for, and that is in relation to the landlord's raising the rent of the house on having to pay the taxes. They suggest a section to protect the tenant in such a case as this. We can go into this matter more fully to-morrow, when I will be in a position further to inform the House. I beg to move the second reading now.

The Bill was read the 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 Colonial Secretary the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend 56 Vic. Cap 11 entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

The remaining orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, July 19, 1917.

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

PETITIONS.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker. I beg to present a petition from Alexander Bay on the subject of a road. I also ask leave to present a petition from St. Brendans on a similar subject. I ask that these petitions be referred to the departments to which they relate; and bespeak every consideration for them.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to present a petition from Searstown in the district of St. George's. The prayer of the petitioners is as follows (reads)

I commend this to the sympathetic consideration of the Government and ask that it be refrered to the department to which it relates.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL.

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 Chapter 122 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Wreck and Salvage," without amendment.

NOTICE OF NEW BILLS.

Hon. the Minister of Justice gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill relating to the establishing of a Department of Militia and Defence.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill to extend the term of the present Assembly.

S. A. INCORPORATION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 Geo. V. (1916) Cap. 2 entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army" was read a third time and pas-

sed 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.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WILLS AND ESTATES BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Council's amendments to an Act respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —Mr. Speaker, the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the bill respecting the wills and estates of deceased soldiers in the Newfoundland Regiment and the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve, now before the committee. are I think, in a way an improvement. They introduce no new principle but are merely amendments for the purpose of making the bill more perfect and including members of the Forestry Battalion not before included in this act. I have had the bill reprinted and if the members of the committee will look they will find the alterations printed over the black lines. These are the amendments.

The first section definition of "Volunteer" as originally sent up read:

"Volunteer" means a member of the Newfoundland Regiment or of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve. these words have been added: or of the Newfoundland Forestry Companies, or a person,who being at the outbreak of the present war a resident of Newfoundland, became a member of any of His Majesty's Naval, Military, Medical or Nursing Services or organizations or served as a Chaplain in His Majesty's Service.

I take it there will be no objection to that.

The definition of "A deceased volunteer" has also been changed in accordance with the preceding change. The bill as sent up read

"Deceased Volunteer" means a Volunteer who has died while on actual military, or naval service. The word service has been removed after-Naval and the words have been added: or forestry service or while actually serving as a member of such medical or nursing organization as aforesaid or as a Chaplain in His Majesty's service.

The next amendment is in section 3 When this bill came in the minimum estate was fixed for the purposes of this act at $500. This chamber changed it to $1,000. The Upper House preferred to have the amount $500, and has amended it accordingly. Section 6 has been amended to read thus:

6.—Application to the Court for probate or administration to the will or estate of a deceased Volunteer may be made on behalf of the Newfoundland Regiment Pay and Record Office by the Attorney-General on his own petition and affidavit as to the facts, and he shall have power to designate the person to whom administration is to be granted in cases of intestacy or failure to appoint an executor, without regard to the right of such person or any other person, apart from this Act, to obtain such grant.

The alteration has been the insertion of "Newfoundland Regiment Pay and Record Office" in place of the words "Parties interested." This is merely an amendment as a matter of form.

In section 7 of the act sent up, no security was required from an administrator appointed under this Act. The

Council has changed this to read "under the last preceding section," and the Section now reads:

7.—No security shall be required from an administrator appointed under the last preceding Section, but he shall be required to take and subscribe the usual administrator's oath: provided that in cases where there is no Commissioner or other person authorized by law to administer oaths, etc.

Now you will remember there was a new section inserted in the Bill with respect to the performance of duties in connection with these matters. In the Bill sent up, this section, which was entitled section 8, was to apply to the Attorney General and the Department of the Attorney General. The Council has added the name of the Deputy Attorney General and made the section apply to him. This is merely a verbal change, and there can be no objection to it. I think that as a matter of fact the section would be construed the same without the alteration, as what the Minister has had to do, the Deputy would also have to do. This section will now read:

8.—The performance of the duties set forth in this Act by the Minister of Justice or his Deputy shall not entail any charge or payment out of the Public Funds of this Colony, or out of the estate of the deceased; but the said duties shall be deemed to be covered by the Salaries voted for the Minister of Justice and the Deputy Minister of Justice.

In other words, the work in connection with this department will be done by the Minister and the Deputy Minister as a part of their regular duties. I have no objection to these amendments and I would consequently move that they be passed.

MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask whether in making that alternation to section "1" the Legislative Council have not exceeded their limits. It is well known that no power outside this house can introduce legislation which would mean the expenditure of public monies, and I was wondering if the including of these words in the definition of "Volunteer" was not making an increased charge upon the Colony. While I have no special objection to the amendments I would like to have some information on this point.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—In reply to my Honorable friend, I might point out that before the act went to the Upper House it was to apply to members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve. Now while the Forestry Company has nothing to do with the Newfoundland branch of the Royal Naval reserve, it is probable that it can be included under the terms "Newfoundland Regiment," but of course that would depend entirely upon how the Forestry Companies were formed. If the Forestry Battalion is an entirely distinct body outside the Regiment, then it is necessary that this Bill be changed accordingly so that they might participate in the matters to which this act refers, but I would point out to my honorable friend that this act deals with wills and estates of deceased members of the Newfoundland Regiment and the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve, and that the members of the Forestry Battalion have joined with the understanding that they are to have the same privileges as members of the Regiment, and that even if they were not to be included in this term, that there is practically no expenditure of public monies involved, and thus nothing that would preclude the Upper Chamber from initiating this alteration. It is quite true that they cannot initiate any measure involving

the expenditure of public monies. The custom has been when such a question has arisen as to the Council's overstepping its powers, that this chamber shall set forth that such is not the purpose of tne Act. However in this case I can see no reason for interpreting this as an expenditure of public monies, because it specifies that this shall be done without cost other than that included in the salaries of the Minister and the Deputy Minister. I would consequently hold the opinion that this could not be classified as an expenditure along the lines indicated.

MR. CLIFT.—Under these circumstances in connection with this matter I would point out for the information of the hon. member that even without the addition of the words Newfoundland Forestry Companies I think the members of the Newfoundland Forestry Companies would come under the provisions of the act because the Forestry Companies were formed as part of the Regiment, and are enlisted as members of the Regiment in the Forestry Department and are given a number on the roll of the Regiment so that I submit, the words Newfoundland Forestry Companies are really not necessary, but seeing the Legislative Council has seen fit to add the words, I can see no objection, as no alteration has been made as a result of the addition.

MR. COAKER.—I have no objection to the amendments. My only point is the question whether these are amendments which the Legislative Council is authorized to make. I wanted to know exactly where we stood before this amendment went through and I think it would be well to intimate to gentlemen of the Upper House that in matters of this kind it would be very much more prudent if they were to emanate from this House. Probably, however, the position taken by the Prime Minister should be sustained.

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 this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said amendments be read a second time on tomorrow.

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Chairman, since the Committee last considered this Bill, representations have been received by the Government from various sources in relation to further amendments of the measure. You will remember that the Bill before the Committee earlier in the session dealt with the question of drugs and toilet preparations. It also incorporated into the law the sections of the Intoxicating Liquors Act which were likely to be of value in the administration of this Act and now we have been asked to add a further section providing what is to be known as a Board of Control, to stand by and take an interest in the carrying out of this measure, in other words, something along the lines of the Licensing Board, inactive and yet active. The section proposed is as follows:

(quotes section.)

Now, as far as I understand, this section is asked for by certain members of the community who represent

a very large section of our people all over the country and who take the position—a reasonable one—that now that this law has been passed and the great majority of the country have agreed to it and are willing to suffer the inconvenience that follows in some cases from its enforcement that the law should be carried out. Up to the present time, as far as the Controller is concerned and his Department, I have heard of no objection or no difficulty in that respect, but very large powers are entrusted under the Bill to chemists and doctors. There was no way of getting out of it. We would hardly have been justified to exclude it entirely because spirituous liquors and alcohol enter very largely into the prescriptions of medical men. There are times when it is found very effective in illness. There are many classes of cases where drugs lose ther potency and lose their value where spirits sometimes are of great assistance; but then that must be left to the judgment of conscientious, respectable doctors and if every doctor was the same in that respect there would be no need for this amendment to-day. This amendment now is submitted in the interest of the Act and in the interest of the public and I think, will be found to harm or injure no person who wants to carry out the law. It is very proper that a power should be in the hands of the medical profession to prescribe alcohol, but it should not be availed of by certain persons merely as a new source of revenue and given to parties without discrimination or the exercise of any judgment. Under the old arrangement of the License Board we found from the experience of years that it worked all right and the Board had to very rarely meet except at the annual meeting for the purpose of issuing licenses, but it was there, and its existence was a very important factor and it had its effect as this Board, when appointed, will, I think, have the same effect.but I am free to admit, that its value will depend upon the men constituting it. We want to have the members of this Board, the three men who are to be appointed, without any interest whatever on either side, but merely to carry out the law as this Legislature has passed it. Then there will be no difficulty and no one will feel any injury. All the rules and regulations will have to be approved by the Governor in Council and will have no force or effect and will not become law until they are published in the Royal Gazette and I think every possible safeguard has been thrown around the Bill. The Bill is not intended to affect those who want to keep the law. It is only intended to affect those, who are working overtime to evade the law and if this thing is properly carried out I think it will remove a great deal of bad feeling in relation to the Act. People are prepared to curtail their rights and curtail their liberties in the interests of the whole community but many persons object to doing that and refuse to participate in that curtailment unless the law makes it general. The amendment, Mr. Chairman, that I propose is to substitute this section that I have already read for Section 31 of the present Bill and then renumber that section and call it section 4. and insert: "There shall be a Board to be known as the Board of Liquor Control consisting of three members."

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

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. MR. BENNETT.—Mr. Chairman, in preparing this Bill one reference was omitted which it is desirable to have incorporated in the section. It is the Act 5 Edward VII., Cap. 12, 1905. I consequently move that this section read as follows:—"2. The Acts named in the foregoing section and the Act 5 Edward VII. (1905) Cap. 12, may be cited collectively as 'The Placentia Water Company Acts, 1893-1917'."

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 it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would move the Suspension of the Rules of the House in relation to all matters now before the House.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, July 20th, 1917.

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

MR. PARSONS.—Mr. Speaker, with your permission, Sir, I wish to correct a statement which appeared in yesterday's "Star" regarding one of our boys now at the Lunatic Asylum. I think it is only fair to correct this statement as I have been dealing with the matter reported there since Monday week and I would like to remove any misapprehension that may exist. For the information of the House and the public I will read the item in the "Star."

I may say, Sir, that on Monday week on my return here from a week-end, a gentleman met me and said that on Saturday one of your chaps from Harbour Grace was removed to the Lunatic Asylum. I came down here and attended the session and on Tuesday morning got in communication with Dr. Duncan and asked him about the condition of the soldier. He told me that he was under his treatment and advised leaving him there for a certain time. I sent a message to his father that his son was at the Asylum under the care and treatment of Dr. Duncan and that I would see that every comfort was arranged for. I put myself in touch with Mr. Bennett and he advised me to make every arrangement regarding the boy's comfort, and said that as soon as he was conscious of his surroundings that he would endeavour to get him into the Donovan's Hospital. The next morning I heard that they had measles there at that Hospital and knowing the boy's weak condition and not knowing whether he had had measles or not, I decided to consult the boy's father when I went to Harbour Grace. On the following Sunday when I was home I saw his father and he did not know whether he had measles or not. He said his mother had died some time ago. I advised him that the best thing for him to do was to find out from friends of the family if the boy had had measles and to telegraph to me. On Tuesday, the House adjourned and I went home and I met his father and asked him if the boy had had measles, and he said yes. I told him that I intended going to St. John's the next evening, and that he had better come with me

to see the boy so that he would see exactly his condition, and accordingly he came over with me on Wednesday evening. Before that, after seeing Mr. Bennett, I had sent this message to the father: "Your son improving. Will be sent to Donovan's Hospital and looked after and given every comfort." Now, when his father came here and discovered how matters were he came in here yesterday afternoon, into this House at 2.30, and I asked him how his son was. He said he was all right and was conscious of his surroundings and had every comfort. I asked him did he think the boy was well enough to go home and if the conditions were favourable for him at home. He said that he would like to leave him for the present under the doctor's care. Mr. Bennett came in while we were talking and I introduced him to Mr. Bennett and he said that the boy was very comfortable under present conditions and that the doctor was the best authority and he would leave everything to the decision of Dr. Duncan. Now, I do not know that anything more than that could have been done, and I think it is my duty to rise here in the House and explain this matter. I think that it is due to the country and to the people of Harbour Grace and to the authorities that everything possible has been done and that every possible comfort has been furnished. Mr. Bennett can bear me out in what I have stated on this matter.

HON. MR. BENNETT.—I would like to say a word in connection with this matter It is quite true, as the hon. member has said, that this matter was reported to me, as Colonial Secretary, not alone by Mr. Parsons but Hon. Mr. Clift and by Major Macpherson. They came to me a week or ten days ago in relation to the two cases in the Lunatic Asylum| There two young men were suffering from shell shock and they represented to me that they thought it would be desirable if arrangements could be made to have the soldiers removed to some other surrounding as soon as they became conscious where they were, that it would very likely have a better effect as regards their recovery. I intimated to Major Macpherson that he could have them removed to Donovan's Camp as soon as he thought desirable and suggested that he see Dr. Duncan and intimate that decision to him. Now, I think a day or two afterwards one of the young men was returned home recovered. Since then the young man from Harbour Grace, alluded to by Mr. Parsons, has been in there and every consideration has been given to his case. When Mr. Parsons came to me I told him that Major Macpherson had the matter under consideration, that everything was being done for the boy's comfort, and when he said he would like the boy's father to come over, I said that if the father could not afford to pay his passage over, that the Government would be ony too glad to facilitate him in any way. Yesterday I met the old gentleman and asked him if he was satisfied that everything had been done for his son's comfort. He said that everything was all right and that he was perfectly satisfied to leave the case in the hands of Dr. Duncan. During this visit he showed symptoms which proved his return undesirable. I think it is regrettable that these reports should be spread throughout the country. Several instances have arisen where statements have been made, that subsequent investigation has proved groundless, cases where it was alleged that returned soldiers were not properly looked after. The Hon .the Minister of Justice drew my attention a couple of days ago to a couple of cases on board the "Briton" which, regarded superficially, seemed

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

MUNICIPAL BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act Further to Amend the St. John's Municipal Act, 1902."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—It will be remembered in reference to the Bill now before this Committee to amend the St. John's Municipal Act that the further passage of this measure was deferred as the Committee of citizens represented that it ought to be deferred in order that due consideration might be given to the measure. It has been decided that in future the landlord should be held responsible not alone for the water rates and sewerage rates but also for the tenants, and the Committee were of the opinion that there should be a sort of control exercised to prevent the landlord from increasing the rent more than the actual amount of the tax. Now this bill provides that as the owner now has to pay the tenant's tax that he will have the power of adding to this rent the amount of the tax so paid. There can be no objection to that, but the Citizens' Committee were afraid that the landlord might avail of the opportunity to increase the rent in excess of the amount of the tax and they ask that an additional section be inserted in the bill. There can be no possible objection to that, I take it. The landlord, even if he does desire to raise the rent, cannot do so by reason of this section. This is merely for the purpose of providing a simple procedure for the tenant, who may consider himself in any way entitled to the protection of the section. Then a small amendment is suggested as regards section "e." This section provides that the Council shall have the power to make rules, regulations and bye-laws providing for the granting to the owner or builder of any house hereafter erected within the City limits not exceeding eight hundred dollars in value, of a bonus not exceeding ten per cent. of the cost of such house. That is for the purpose of encouraging the landlords to build better houses for the poorer classes of people, those who cannot afford to pay high rents. The Council thought that the sum of eight hundred dollars was hardly sufficient, that between eight hundred and one thousand dollars would effect that purpose better. A very great many houses of that class are being put up. A great many working men now get a nice sanitary house for one thousand dollars, such as you may see on LeMarchant Road or Cornwall Avenue. As this section has been carefully considered, I would strongly recommend its adoption.

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 said Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

PLACENTIA WATER CO BILL

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. John R. Bennett, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled, "An Act Further to Amend 56 Vic. Cap. 11, entitled, "An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

irregular, but which, when examined, were found to be of perculiar circumstances which explained any lack of attention. In one case, the patient was suffering from a disease which prohibited his being placed in any other institution and in the other case he was removed as soon as arrangements could be effected. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that in future if any of these cases come under the observation of members of this Houre or of the Press, that it will first be referred to the proper authorities that an investigation may be made or an explanation offered in order that unnecessary anxiety and worry may be spared their relatives and friends. I am aware that these disclosures are made with the best of intentions, but a little thought would very often spare a great deal of mental anguish to those at home. We all desire to do the best that can be done for our returned heroes. We desire to alleviate to the best of our ability any of the unfortunate circumstances which they may find themselves in. It is in the best interests of recruiting that this course should be adopted. I concur in everything that has been said by the hon. member for Harbour Grace, and feel sure that, as he has stated to this House, that everything that could be done under the circumstances has been done.

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 Authorize the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval and Military Purposes," and "An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances," amendment.

MILITIA DEPARTMENT BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Justice the Bill, "An Act relating to the Establishment of a Department of Militia and Defence," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

TRADING IN NECESSARIES OF LIFE BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill, "An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on-morrow.

EXTENSION OF PARLIAMENT BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill, "An Act to extend the term of the present Assembly," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

RULES SUSPENDED.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister moved the Suspension of the Rules of the House in relation to all matters now before the House.

PROHIBITION BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled, "An Act to Amend the Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors," 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 provision.

MUNICIPAL BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the

Bill entitled, "An Act further to Amend the St. John's Municipal Act, 1902," 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 provision.

PLACENTIA WATER CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett, the Bill entitled, "An Act Further to Amend 56 Vic. Cap. 11, entitled, 'An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company," 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 provision.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the amendments made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill sent up entitled, "An 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," was read a second time and passed, and it was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the said amendments had been concurred in by the House of Assembly.

VOLUNTEERS AND RESERVISTS WILLS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relative to the Confirmation of an Agreement with the Riverside Woolen Mills, Ltd. and the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Ltd.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

WOOLEN MILLS CONTRACT RESOLUTION.

HON. J. R. BENNETT.—Mr. Chairman, since these resolutions were last before the House the matter has again been under the consideration of the Government and as members will find by reference to the copy now lying on their desks, an entirely new set of Resolutions has been drafted which will most probably meet with the full approval of every member of the House. The sections in the previous set of Resolutions that were submitted, received a large amount of criticism. Sections three and four received most criticism, and it was considered desirable by the Government that these should be entirely expunged from the whole bill. Section 3, referring to the deduction of thirty-five per cent. duty on all woolen goods coming into the Colony for the next twenty years, was particularly objectionable as was also section 4, which provided that in the event of the Government at any time during that period reducing the duties, that they would make up the equivalent in cash to the Company. The Resolutions now before the Committee merely provide for the guaranteeing of 5% per annum on the paid up capital stock of the Company. It also provides that the capital stock shall not exceed $100,000.00. I do not think that that will be otherwise than acceptable to the House. Section 3, sub-sections a and b, merely refer to the amount of construction material and machinery for the original installation and the materials and goods necessary, which are to be admitted free of duty for one year. It may be pointed out that under the Act passed in 1910 further concessions are given, but these are concessions that are general and do not re-

quire to be again brought before the Legislature. I don't know that there is anything further that I have to say. This matter has been before the Committee on several occasions and its different aspects have been gone into very thoroughly. I therefore move the Resolutions.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that there is nothing in the resolutions now before the Committee that can be considered in any way objectionable. They merely guarantee the interest on capital up to a certain amount and provide for the admission of certain articles free of duty for twenty years. If it is necessary to assist the companies in other ways, that can be dealt with under the enactment passed in 1910, so that there is no need of introducing any new features of legislation in these resolutions. The principles of the previous resolutions to whch we took exception, nave been dropped, but under the Act of 1910 the Government has power to grant these companies privileges which the House approved of in 1910, and still approves of inasmuch as no change has been suggested.

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 the Bills entitled, "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Limited," and "An Act Respecting the Riverside Woolen Mills Limited," were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time 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 at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

SATURDAY, July 21st, 1917.

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

SHIPBUILDING BILL.

Hon. the Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, gave notice that on to-morrow he would introduce a bill to amend the Shipbuilding Act.

MILITARY PENSIONS BILL.

Second Reading of Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Naval and Military Pensions."

HON. J. R. BENNETT—Mr. Speaker: This bill has not yet been printed, and I would ask to have it deferred until Monday. In the meantime I would state that I have had placed on the desk of each member a copy of an Address delivered by Dr. McGrath to the Patriotic Association on the 10th of October, in relation to War Pensions for disabled soldiers and sailors, and which I commend strongly to each member of the House. It will be found of great use in the consideration of this very important bill coming before the House on Monday. The lecturer has gone very thoroughly into this question, and I think all information which the introduction of this bill necessitates will be found concisely expressed in its pages.

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL.

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 Pilots and Pilotage for the Port 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 Further to Amend the Law relating to the Exportation of Timber," with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first and second time and concurred in, and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the said amendment had been agreed to.

TRADING IN NECESSARIES OF LIFE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessities of Life," was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Speaker. In moving the second reading of this Bill, "An Act Respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life," I would like to point out to the House that the intention of the Bill is to control, if possible, the prices that are being charged now not alone on food, but the necessaries of life which would include coal, salt, and other commodities that might in a country, such as Newfoundland, well be regarded as the necessaries of life in addition to the food supply. It is proposed that this will be effected through the establishment of a Board to be appointed by the Governor in Council. The duty and powers of this Board will be based on the enquiry and investigation into the quantities of food available, the persons in possession and the price charged. Also, I may say, the requirements of the people of the country of the necessities of life at any time. They will also have to deal with the equitable distribution and transportation, in and out of the Colony. The Board will be given all power to make regulations governing the prices of everything that is comprised in the phrase "necessaries of life." Also, in relation to the conservation, that is, the prevention of the waste of the necessaries of life; also in relation to the production in this country, either from the fields, the ocean or the factories, of the necessaries of life; and giving the Board general power to purchase, if necessary, requisition, store, sell and deliver these necessaries, which under this Act shall consist of food, clothing, coal and other fuel, such as kerosene oil, and food for domestic animals. The Act shall come into force immediately, and shall continue in operation until six months after the declaration of peace.

I think this Act will meet with general approval of the people of the Colony. There is a very widespread feeling to-day that prices have been tained for the articles mentioned in this Act that were in excess of what ought to have been charged, having regard to a fair and legitimate profit. That will be the principal matter, I take it, that the Board will have to investigate. It is inconceivable that anyone, especially a British subject or a member of the British Empire, should trade on the misfortunes of his fellowcountrymen at a time like this. The man who takes advantage of the war in this respect is really worse than a German, because the German is an open foe, and we can deal with him; but the man or the firm that intentionally trades on the misfortunes of the country and the people at a time like this, well, there are no words strong enough to use in his condemnation. Now, we have had several eports made by a Board appointed by the Governor in Council to look into this matter; and there is no doubt about it that any fair-minded person who reads these reports cannot fail

to be struck by the suggestion which runs right through them, and through every section of them, that excess profits have been made.

This matter has been under the consideration of the Government for some time, but it was desirable, before taking any action, that we should, if possible, know what was being done in other countries, so that we might formulate a measure which would contain the best possible machinery. Now, a very great deal will depend on the Board. They have before them a difficult task. The ramifications of trade, especially in a country like this, having regard to the class of business in which our people are engaged and the conditions under which the trade is carried on, are of such a character that no Board and no enquiry can be successful unless it be composed of men who are thoroughly acquainted with all these matters. I hope that the Board, when appointed, will be sufficiently capable to thoroughly investigate this entire matter, and sufficiently strong not to hesitate to do what is necessary in the interests of the public. I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased indeed to hear the expressions of the the Hon. the Premier on this measure, which I am convinced is one of the most important measures which could come before the Legislature at this time. I think, Sir, that it is high time that such a Board as is contemplated under this Act were appointed, and I think the Government is very wise indeed in not neglecting to deal with this matter at the earliest moment and to appoint this Board of Control. Every one of us knows, Sir, that those people in this country who trade in the necessaries of life have gone to the extreme of taking advantage, as the Premier has said, of our present misfortunes, of the war in which unfortunately nearly every nation upon earth is engaged. It has been suggested that certain business men in this country have held the stocks which were in their hands or under their control with a view of making huge profits on them, and they have done so, and as a result the common people have suffered very severely. I agree with all that the Prime Minister has said, and I am delighted to hear his expression of his sentiments upon this matter; and I sincerely trust that the Board which will be appointed will do its duty irrespective of any political pull or of any governmental influence which the parties concerned may be able to bring to bear. I feel that this is one of the best measures that have ever been introduced into this House, and I heartily support it; and I think that the Prime Minister has, at any rate, introduced one measure that is going to be appreciated by the public and that will redound to the credit of this House.

The Bill was ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

EXTENSION OF PARLIAMENT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to extend the term of the present Legislature." was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker: As I have already informed the House, this is an Act merely for the purpose of extending the term of the present Assembly of Newfoundland to such date in the year 1918 as shall hereafter be fixed by proclamation by the Governor in Council; and for the same reason for which the Legislature is extended, namely to avoid the turmoil of elections, it was thought desirable that

members who may take office should be relieved from the necessity of having to go to an election in order that their appointments might be confirmed. It might not be necessary for all the Ministers to have their appointments confirmed in this way, as in many cases it is a mere transfer from one office to another; or of taking office under one Administration which had already been held under another. Even on that point, however, that point may not be clear, and as the period of extension is a short one, and as it is desirable that, if possible, no by-elections should be held when there is likely to be a general election in the near future, it was considered desirable to introduce a section to the effect that notwithstanding anything contained in any Act, a member of the present House of Assembly shall not vacate his seat by reason of his acceptance at any time before the 31st December 1918 of an office of profit under the Crown. In other words, if any member of this House who has not held office before should take office, and an election is not held until next spring or next autumn, there would be a period during which he might be prevented from holding his seat. We have had cases of this nature here. The last one that I remember was that of Mr. Kent, about eight years ago. He was unable to take his seat by reason of having held office without going to an election. I think he took office in July 1907 and went to an election in November 1908, more than twelve months afterwards. It is true that a Minister can hold office for six months without going to an election, but under the circumstances I think that the procedure contemplated will commend itself to the House. I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

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

KNITTING MILLS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Limited." was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

RIVER SIDE WOOLEN MILLS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Riverside Woolen Mills Limited." 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 House to consider the Bills entitled respectively: "An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life." "An Act to extend the term of the present Legislature." "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Limited," and "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Woolen Mills Limited."

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 matter to them referred and had passed the Bills with some amendment.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bills be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life," 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.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to extend the term of the present Legislature," 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.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Limited," 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.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Riverside Woolen Mills Limited," 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.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY July 23rd. 1917.

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

SHIPBUILDING BILL.

Pursuant to order 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 tomorrow.

MILITARY PENSIONS BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett, the Bill entitled "An Act to provide pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their widows and children and other dependents," was read a second time.

HON. MR. BENNETT—Mr. Speaker, In rising to move the second reading of this Bill, I would say that I feel that the House will agree with me that any measure of such far-reaching importance as a Bill to provide for the future care, maintenance and support of our disabled soldiers and sailors and the dependents of those who have rendered up their lives on behalf of their king and country, is one that requires the most serious consideration, and it has received the most serious consideration at the hands of those gentlemen who have been instrumental in formulating the measure that is now before the House. The great amount of care that was necessary in this connection prevented anything being done at an earlier stage; but fortunately for us there exist among us a certain number of gentlemen who, for purely patriotic reasons, have given their time and energy to the carrying on of this work temporarily, with the greatest amount of satisfaction. I refer to the gentlemen who compose the Pensions and Disabilities Board. They have during the past two years very successfully met the situation, and with funds which they have obtained from the moneys at the disposal of the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association, they have been able to take care of, unfortunately for us, the many claims that have been made on them during that period. This work, Sir, called forth continuous supervision and self-sacrificing efforts on the part of the gentlemen, and the country is certainly indebted to them for their very

excellent and gratuitous services. The gentlemen who compose that Committee are all very busy men—prominent business men, professional men and others—who have a great deal to take up their attention, but in spite of that fact they have, as I said before, partriotically and unselfishly devoted a great deal of time to the consideration of this matter. They were appointed on September 26th, 1916, at a meeting of the Patriotic Association, and since then they have been carrying on this work. They are: The Hon. P. T. McGrath, Hon. M.P. Cashin, Hon. J. A. Clift, K.C., Hon. M.G. Winter, the Paymaster of the Briton, Major George T. Carty, Mr. Charles P. Ayre, Mr. H.E. Cowan, Mr. R. Horwood, and Mr. R.A. Templeton.

The consideration of the Bill before the House this evening, Sir, will, I am sure, receive the undivided attention of the House. I may say that the Bill is identical with the Bill now before the Canadian Parliament. The Canadian authorities, like ourselves, have given a great deal of consideration, time and research as to the best methods and the best principles to adopt in formulating a measure that will meet at least the great majority of the cases that will have to be dealt with. The changes in the local Bill are purely to meet local requirements. The rates of pensions set forth are exactly the same as in the Canadian measure, and the basis on which they are to be applied is also similar. It will therefore be conceded and upon reflection we must certainy come to the conclusion that no more suitable measure could be introduced than that which is before us this afternoon. The pensions, both for the Army and Navy, are of two kinds—disability pensions for the men themselves and mortality pensions for the dependents of those falling in the war. The disability pensions will be found under Schedule A, and the rates are given there for total disability. It will be remembered that on Saturday I tabled a phamplet giving the address of the Honorable Dr. McGrath before the Patriotic Association on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1916 with reference to pension for disabled soldiers. That address sets forth very lucidly the different features of this question, and I have no doubt that the honorable members of the House have had an opportunity of studying this for themselves. The disability pensions are determined by the medical board which examines the applicant, and a rating is given in accordance with the physical condition of the man. This of course may be varied from time to time as the circumstances change. Mortality pensions apply to the widows and children and other dependents of deceased soldiers and sailors. Broadly speaking, the principle is that any dependents who are being supported wholly or mainly by the deceased soldier or sailor are entitled to the pensions prescribed by the Act, Widows are entitled to four-fifths of what the total disability pension would be. Thus, the widow of a private soldier would get $32.00 per month. Her husband's pension, if he had lived and been totally disabled would have been $40.00. In addition there is $6.66 a month for each child until the boys are 16 and the girls 17. His father or mother would get 60% of the total disability pension, or $24.00 a month, and for other dependents the pension would be the same. With reference to the Bill itself, it will be noticed that the first section reads "Interpretation," which defines the terms throughout the draft, and these explain themselves The second section, headed "Commission" deals with the appointment of commissioners having jurisdiction and powers to conduct investigations

and to appoint agents to take evidence in remote localities. Section 21 validates all that has been done by the Pensions and Disabilities Board of the Patriotic Association up to this time. Section 22 gives power for dealing with individual cases not covered by the general provisions of the Act. Section 23 provides that all money already paid out shall be returned to the Patriotic Fund and the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association by the new Pensions Board. In connection with this I may say that the Finance Committee, under the authority of the Patriotic Association, has been continuing the allottment made to dependents, pending action by the Legislature, and when this allottment has been insufficient the Patriotic Association has supplemented it. In both cases the persons receiving this money have been notified that the amount is given merely as a payment on account, and is to be deducted from any pension that is afterwards paid. Therefore in all such cases the money advanced will be deducted from the pension and returned. In the case of the Finance Committee it is merely a case of transferring the public moneys from one pocket to another, but in the other cases the money is returned to the Association. The next portion deals with children and is also self explanatory. Step children and adopted children come within the scope of the Bill. It will be seen from a perusal of the Bill that provision is made for all classes, such for instance as lunatics, etc. Section 31 provides machinery whereby the amount of the pension may be reduced by not more than one third in the event that the pensioner refuses to undergo any treatment recommended by the medical board. Last comes the section relating to penalties, and this also is self explanatory.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to delay the House with any further comments on this Bill, as this is a subject, which, as I have said before, has been given very serious consideration by the members of this House; and before concluding I think it only right that a special meed of praise should be given to the Chairman of the Pensions and Disabilities Board for the very able manner and the great deal of work he has put into this movement. Not alone has he worked industriously here in Newfoundland, but on one or two occasions when he took a vacation to Canada and the United States, he took the matter up with the authorities at Ottawa and Washington, with a view to getting as much information as possible to enlighten us and enable us to bring in a Bill that would meet our requirements. And the Committee generally are to be applauded for the very valuable services they have rendered. The Ladies' Committee I understand, was of considerable help in adjusting many claims. This Committee is one we have heard very little about. They have not shouted their work from the housetops. but they have done the work silently efficiently and in such a manner as to meet an emergency that it would be almost impossible to otherwise meet. Therefore I think the thanks of the whole community should be extended to these ladies and gentlemen who have so efficiently carried on the work. The Medical Board also certainly had no light task in satisfying the different claimants. They had to act in an entirely impartial manner, and perhaps were sometimes misunderstood; but I am sure that what was done was done to the very best of their ability and with all consideration; and I have no doubt that if they erred at all they erred on the side of liberality. I think that the coming Commission will undoubtedly

have a great deal of help and a great deal of experience at their disposal from these gentlemen who comprise the Medical Board and also the gentlemen who comprise the main board in their deliberations in future. I feel sure, Mr. Speaker, that the country today will feel that a very long step has been made in a direction we have all championed and expressed our determination to see carried out, and that is the caring for and looking after, not alone the men themselves who have gone and fought and come back disabled perhaps for the rest of their lives, but the dependents of those who rendered the supreme sacrifice, those who have gone when the country needed them and fought and died like heroes and have left behind them dependents who will be for years to come perhaps entirely dependent upon the consideration of this Legislature for their maintenance. I feel sure that this Act now before us is one upon which we will look with pride—considering it our duty and the right of those who have suffered for us that ample protection be provided for them and those dependent upon them, so that the relatives of our dead heroes and those who return to us may never see the day when they will regret that those they loved so well have died or suffered in vain for their country. They will I hope in the years to come realize that their fellow countrymen have appreciated the sacrifices they have made and that no effort has been spared to provide against their facing the future in want or discomfort. I therefore have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, and ask that it be referred to a Committee of the Whole presently.

HON. MR CLIFT.—Mr. Speaker, I have much pleausre in seconding the proposition just made by the honourable introducer of this measure; and as one of the members of the Pensions and Disabilities Board I felt that I must acknowledge on their behalf the kind and flattering remarks which he has made in reference to the manner in which they have performed the duties assigned to them. One cannot speak too highly of the work that has been accomplished by the chairman of the Board. It will be in the knowledge of the House that when the matter was first mooted, when the question of providing pensions for wounded and discharged soldiers as well as pensions for the dependents of those who lost their lives at the Front, came up, Mr. McGrath on behalf of the Government proceeded to Canada and the United States for the purpose of acquiring all possible information upon the subject. During that time, Mr. McGrath accumulated a very considerable amount of very valuable information, all of which is contained in the pamphlet referred to by the Honourable introducer of the measure, and is now in the hands of the members of this House. I commend it to their perusal and consideration. I also acknowledge the manner in which he has recognized the services of the other members of the Board. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Board that we deemed it a privilege to be allowed to serve in such a cause. They gladly gave their time and the best of the ability at their command to the performance of the work that was allotted to them. You will readily understand, Sir, that in taking up a work of this kind, the Board was dealing with a subject that was entirely new, and it became necessary to originate and organize the whole system. True, we adopted or adapted as far as we could the system prevailing in other countries, yet under the particular circumstances existing in this country, we had to organize

various departments of the work without any precedent whatever. Up to the present time we have been dealing chiefly with the cases of discharged men,—men who had been wounded or through illness rendered unfit for further service and had come home for discharge. These cases had to be dealt with each one on its own merits and according to the scale laid down. But there is another branch of the work which provides for allowances to dependents of men who have been killed in action. There are now a number of cases outstanding, about eight hundred I understand, to be dealt with, in all of which the applications made by claimants have to be gone into very carefully by the Board, i.e. full enquiry has to be made into the circumstances surrounding the cases and into the liability of the Board for the payment of such pensions to dependents. In the Act now before the House the meaning of the word "dependent" is defined. It reads as follows: (b) "dependent" means the parent, grandparent or great grandparent of a member of the forces or the person who has been for a reasonable time in the place of a parent with respect of a member of the forces, who, at the time of the death of the member of the forces and for a reasonable time previously thereto, had not sufficient earnings or income to provide for his maintenance, and who during such time was maintained wholly or to a material extent by such member of the forces. Dependents in receipt of earnings or income, equal to the amounts provided for dependents in Schedule B, shall be deemed to have sufficient income for their maintenance.

That in itself is a matter that will call for really judicial treatment. It will have to be dealt with by the Board in a semi-judicial fashion, and great care will have to be exercised in making allowances under that section. The Board as at present constituted has, as I have already stated, dealt with a great many of these cases; but there are many more to come before it or the Board that may be constituted under this Act. You will notice, Sir, in the bill now before the House, that it is provided that three commissioners be appointed for the purpose of taking up the duties of this Board, instead of the gentlemen who compose the Board This recommendation was made by the Board after a great deal of consideration. It was felt that the time would come when the work of the Board would grow to such an extent that it would require the constant attention of two or three commissioners so that not only the interests of the Colony might be conserved, but that the interests of the claimants might be fairly and properly dealt with. Great care should be exercised in the selection of these commissioners. I am happy to be able to state that the present members of the Board are prepared to continue their work, until such time as the new Board of Commissioners is appointed under the act.

I do not know that I need add anything to what has been said by the Honourable introducer of this Bill as to the merits of the measure or as to the machinery that it provides for giving it effect; but it is a very important work, a work that will call for the expenditure of a large amount of money, and it will require to be administered with a great deal of care so that no injustice is done to a bona fide claimant and that the interests of the Colony are properly preserved. As we proceed with the Bill I may find opportunity for some further comment upon the various sections.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate

myself in a word or two with the gentlemen who have just spoken so eloquently to the Bill now before the House. It would be impossible to conceive any measure coming before us that would elicit such universal and complete support from every member of this House more so than a Pensions Bill for the Sailors and Soldiers of Newfoundland—for themselves and their widows and orphans. Nothing that we can do is too good for them. No amount that we can afford to vote will be in any way a measure of what we owe them. Only those of us who have been forced to remain home and have had the opportunity of seeing things as they should be seen can realize what these men have lost for us and the value of the work they have performed on our behalf. It would be an everlasting disgrace to this country and to everyone of us if their dependents or themselves should ever have to look for charitable support or other means to put them in the position they occupied before they enlisted on our behalf and in the defence of our country.

It has been a principle recognized away back in the earliest days. In the great Roman Empire, the victorious Emperors and Generals were accustomed to partition the lands to the victorious soldiers. Many of the great estates in England held now by earls, dukes and lords in that country were given to the founders of these families in recognition of services on the field, in recognition of services to the country; and not alone for services rendered and performed but in payment for services to be rendered in the days to come; and whilst we are in no way able here to so fully and amply recognize the services of our brave defenders we are at least doing our very best and I think I express the sentiments of this House and everyone in this House when I say that to a measure like this we are all willing to give our fullest sympathy.

The introducer of this measure, as well as my honorable friend on the other side of this House who himself has been an active member of the Pensions and Disabilities Board, have told us of the excellent work done by that Board. I have not had the advantage of being a member of that Board, but I have been able to follow their work, and I desire to corroborate all that has been said in connection with the work of the Chairman who has been of such vauable service in connection with this whole question, and I may say that as the measure passes through this House in its various stages, the information gleaned from the addresses referred to here this afternoon will have an illuminating affect on the whole question. As the introducer has pointed out a great deal depends upon the way in which this measure is administered. We have today quite a number of pensioners and their dependents who will have to be permamently provided for in the administration of this act, and it will require not alone an ordinary Board but a Judicial Board, because the services to be performed will be of a varying character. Pensions will not be the same tomorrow as they are to-day. To-morrow they may be more. Questions as to the education of the children, questions as to looking after them; the question of looking after the widow in her varied circumstances will have to be considered from time to time and so will those of the soldier himself and the question arising as to hospital work and sanatoria and all the other departments embraced under the heading Pensions and Disabilities. All these will have to have the continuing consideration of the Board such as is called for un

der this Act, and for these reasons the suggestion thrown out by my hon. friend that the present Board doing this free of cost should be permitted to continue this for a little while longer until the whole work is safely lodged with the Board which will have the future administration of these pensions, is well taken.

I hope the present lists of pensions may not be augmented or increased, but we have to take the risk of that. I hope the list will not be increased, but if it is and more of our men fall, and more of those at present at the front, or who leave the country hereafter, it is for us here in this House to provide the best measure that can be provided so that they may be all able to participate in its benefits. We have no idea here what these men are doing. You have read from time to time accounts in the press, but no account, no picture, no painting, no matter how carefully written, no photograph, can in any way portray what these men have gone through. What they have suffered on all the fronts no matter where. It might be Mesopotamia, it might be the Dardanelles, and it might be the Western Front; but you cannot portray what these men have to face, in every department of this fearful titanic struggle. Conditions unheard of and unimagined in all wars before this have had to be faced and all forms of disease have been prevalent, and all forms of accident have been sustained until it is almost inconceivable that at such a time as this in the world's history so many millions of men should be so cruelly robbed of life and limb. Up to to-day it is estimated that over seven millions of men have fallen. Seven millions of people, or nearly the population of Canada, merely to satisfy the whims of two or three people who ought to be locked up if allowed to live at all, and not alone seven millions, but in addition to that thirty millions have been maimed for life. And we here to-day, in contributing our quota, in providing pensions for those people who have suffered, and the relatives of those who have died for us that we may live protected in our homes, are only doing what England, France and our other Allies are doing for their gallant soldiers who have fallen. This is all we can do. This is the only thing left to us, and I am sure that there is no one in Newfoundland. no matter how poor, no matter how small his income may be but would not contribute willingly his share so that in the future these soldiers and their dependents should never want. I give the measure, Mr. Speaker, my entire support, and I am very pleased to be able to have this opportunity of giving my support to such a measure as this.

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

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to provide Pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their widows and children and other dependents."

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 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.

Rt. 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 in relation to the application of Cold Storage for the preserva-

tion of the fishes of this country for food and bait.

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, July 24, 1917.

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

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 Act 6 George V. (1916) Cap. 2. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army." without amendment.

MILITARY PENSIONS BILL.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consder the Bill entitled "An Act to provide Pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their Widows and Children and other Dependents."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. J. R. BENNETT—Mr. Chairman: Yesterday when we were in Committee to consider those resolutions it will be remembered that on the suggestion of the honorable member for Twillingate, Mr. Clift, section 3, under head of Commissions was allowed to stand until he had an opportunity of discussing the provisions of that section. The idea was to consider the position that would exist after the passage of this measure and before the appointment of the Commission under the Act. It has been thought desirable to have section 3 read and passed as it stands and the last clause, passed yesterday reconsidered, which would enable the difficulty to be bridged over, by putting in, instead of the words "the first day of August, 1917" "on such date as may by proclamation be fixed by His Excellency the Governor in Council." That will meet the situation and enable the present Board to continue their work until such time as the Governor in Council may appoint Commissioners to take the work over. Therefore I move that section 3 be read and adopted as printed and section 52 be amended as I have stated.

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 said Bill be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to provide Pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their widows and children and their dependents," 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.

MILITIA DEPARTMENT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Justice the Bill entitled "An Act relating to the establishment of a Department of Militia and Defence"' was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

SHIPBUILDING BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries 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 on to-morrow.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill to Amend the Education Act 1916.

Rt. 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 matters to come before the House.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, July 25, 1917.

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

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL.

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 Amend 56 Vic. (1893) Cap 11. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company" 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 Amend The St. John's Municipal Act 1902" with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendment was read a first and second time and concurred in and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the said amendment had been agreed to.

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

BUDGET.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Mr. Chairman: In presenting to-day my ninth Budget, I trust I may be permitted to remark that this is the first occasion on which. in the history of the Colony, it has fallen to the lot of a Finance Minister to perform such a task nine years in succession, or to be able to record so uniform a series of favourable annual statements as it has been mine to submit to the House.

It is also unique in the fact that, for the first time also,in the history of the Colony, the accounts for two complete fiscal years are being dealt with at the same time. In the first session the present Government held office, the Budget was presented on June 8th, 1909, due to the second election having taken place in that spring, and the figures then dealt with covered a fiscal year some three weeks of which had still to expire. Now the fiscal years 1915-16 and 1916-17 have both been completed, and in reviewing them I can congratulate the Colony on the fact that they will disclose in their respective transactions the largest credit balances ever yet achieved in our fiscal history.

The Revenue on current account for the fiscal year 1915-16, the accounts of which have been finalized, was $4,-

600,271.66, which was an increase of $1,347,632.33 over the amount received the previous year; $981,942.53 more than received for 1913-14, and $681,-231.13 larger than the Revenue for 1912-13, which was the largest previously collected.

On the other hand, the expenditure for the year 1915-16 amounted to only $4,110,885.39, an increase of but $102,-262.63 over the expenditure for 1914-15 This left a surplus on account of 1915-16 of $489,386.27; but from this we must deduct $57,832.51, an exchequer balance due the Bank of Montreal on account of 1914-15, so that there was at the end of June, twelve months ago, a net surplus of $431,553.76, the largest surplus up to that time ever resulting from a year's transactions of the Colonial Treasury. This surplus we propose to apply to the cost of the Colony's participation in the war.

For the fiscal year 1916-17, which ended three weeks ago, but with respect to which it is, of course, impossible to submit already a finalized series of accounts, as the ultimate adjustment cannot be made until the books are closed at the end of October, when the last of the 4-months' Customs bonds expire, I estimate the total Revenue to reach $5,145,465.75, and an expenditure of, say, roundly, $4,-735,000, less, say, dropped balances totalling $60,000, or a net expenditure of $4,675,000, leaving a net surplus for the fiscal year just ended of $470,000. Included in this expenditure will be Supplemental Supply to the amount of $517,000, which I tabled recently, and the largest individual items of which are two sums of $50,000 each, which we propose to take out of the prospective surplus and apply, one to the improvement of roads and bridges, and the other to the improvement of marine works throughout the Colony, following the policy in the same direction which we adopted in previous sessions; and $28,000 to augment the salaries of school teachers from January 1st to June 30th of this year, as requested by the teachers last week, we having previously proposed that this should come into effect from the first of July in this year.

In the fiscal year just opening I look to secure at least as large a revenue from general sources as in the year that closed on June 30th, which, as I have just stated, I estimate will reach $5,145,000; but I think it is safe to calculate that in view of the highly promising outlook for the price of fish, oil, and other products of the Colony, stimulated as these will be by the operations of new cold storage companies and the competition by our neighbours to the West, for stocks of our fish, we may look upon a substantial swelling of the Customs receipts, increasing the total to say, five and a quarter million dollars. To this I would be disposed to add a quarter million dollars as a minimum receipt from the new Business Profit Tax which we propose to impose, and legislation for which will be introduced hereafter, so that the total of Revenue may be safely put down for the fiscal year now just begun, at five and a half million dollars.

The expenditure for the fiscal year which has just begun I estimate will likely reach $4,733,676.43; or, let us say, four and three quarter million dollars in round figures. Already the House has voted in Committee of Supply, general estimates on account of the present fiscal year totalling $4,-511,311.43, but besides this we have tabled additional estimates totalling $222,365.00. I allow a margin of over $16,000, and suggest four and three-quarter millions as a fair estimate of expenditure. Therefore, with an estimated revenue of five and a half million dollars, I should look for a surplus of three quarters of a million

dollars ($750,000.00), a not unreasonable figure, I submit, seeing that the surplus for the fiscal year just closed is $470,000.00, in addition to the $128,000.00 in the three special items above-mentioned, namely, $50,000 for marine works, $50,000 for roads and bridges, and $28,000 for teachers' salaries, so that really we might claim a surplus at the end of last June of about $600,000.00.

This is, I submit, a most remarkable showing on the part of the Colony, and one which must make every well-wisher of Newfoundland rejoice at the good fortune which has attended it during the troubles that have beset the world during the past three years. It would, indeed, be difficult to imagine a greater contrast than that which is presented by the condition of our country to-day, and that which it faced when the war broke out three years back. At that time, it will be remembered, the financial stability of every civilized country was effected. Even our great American neighbor was severely buffeted by the storm of monetary insecurity. The Stock Exchanges in American cities had to be closed, extraordinary measures became necessary to maintain credit, and though the United States was not a belligerent nation at all, she was constrained very speedily to enact legislation to assure her of adequate revenues because of the altered conditions in her fiscal economy to which this war in Europe gave rise.

For a time here in Newfoundland matters looked serious, and but for the energy and courage with which all classes faced the unknown, grave consequences might have ensued. But, thanks to the good judgment, resolution, and pluck of every element making up our population, the gale was weathered, and Newfoundland to-day rejoices in the enjoyment of a material prosperity never approached in her previous history. Although she has sent nearly six thousand of her young men to fight for King and Country, by land and sea, their places have been nobly filled by those left at home, and the tasks which they gave over when they took up arms to fight in the righteous cause in which they have been striving for thirty-six anxious months, have been manfully grappled with by others, so that in no respect has our country suffered any detriment, through their springing into the breach to do their duty in this momentous period in the history of civilization.

The prosperity of the Colony is reflected, perhaps, more than anything else, by the growth in the value of our imports, and in the Customs duties paid thereon. The Customs Returns already tabled show that the imports of Newfoundland from other countries during 1915-16, were valued at $16,427,336, against $12,350,756 for the previous year, and that the Customs Revenue for the twelve months 1915-16 amounted to $3,950,688.42, against a similar revenue for 1914-15 of $2,744,567.85, being an increase for 1915-16 of $1,206,120.57. For the fiscal year just ended I estimate that the Customs Revenue will show a further advance of, roundly, $600,000, my estimate therefor being $4,536,000, a result ascribable to the same conditions prevailing, though to a greater degree, namely, an increase in the value of our imports and a corresponding increase in the amount of duties paid thereon.

To import, however, implies the possession of commodities exportable in sufficient quantity, and realizing sufficient returns to make possible the acquisition of the articles imported, and it is gratifying to note that the total exports of the Colony for the fiscal year 1915-16 amounted altogether to $18,869,493.00, against $13,136,-

$80.00 for the previous year. It should be noted, too, that the value of our exports was, roughly speaking, two and a half million dollars more than our imports, or, in other words, that the people of the Colony received this amount for their fishery products, forest products, and mineral products, over and above what they had to pay for the articles they imported, or an addition to the wealth of the Colony by this large sum.

While it is too early yet to estimate what the value of the imports and exports for 1916-17 will be, as the fiscal year closed only on June 30th, and it takes several weeks to compile the statistics as they have to be brought in from so many outports, I think we may safely conclude that they will show no lessening of volume or value as compared with those of the previous year. On the other hand, we have had a remarkably satisfactory result from the operations of our fishermen, whose catch has brought to them prices far larger than any in the previous history of the Colony, prices, indeed, far and away beyond what any observer would have believed possible a few years ago. Similarly, the value of our iron ore has increased and the companies engaged therein are maintaining their operations on the largest possible scale, owing to the demands for the raw material for munitions and industrial works in Canada. The shortage of shipping for Transatlantic requirements has, it is true, tended to reduce the magnitude of the undertakings in the pulp and paper making sections of the country; but these enterprises will be conducted on a moderate scale and employment will be available in other directions for all those who have been deprived of their occupations by the shut down. For instance, many are enlisting in the Forestry Companies associated with the Newfoundland Regiment for forestry work in the British Isles; more are going into mining and other occupations in the country where there is a virtually unlimited demand for labour; still others are securing work in the steel mills and coal mines of Cape Breton; and goodly numbers have returned to the codfishery, which promises this year to return to those engaged in it, a much higher yield than any other occupation which attracts the attention of our people.

How the Colony has advanced materially is evidenced by the figures of the past five years. The exports show as follows:

1911-12	$13,874.809
1912-13	14,572,889
1913-14	15,134,543
1914-15	13,136,880
1915-16	18,969,463

It will be seen from this that there was a steady expansion up to the first year of the war; that in that year, for our fiscal year 1914-15 covers eleven months of the struggle, the value of our exports declined by two million dollars and reached a lower figure than any in the three preceding years. This was a decline due altogether to the unsettled condition which prevailed during that period; but as the world steadied itself and its trade and commerce resumed their normal activities, Newfoundland began to get the benefit of the change and twelve months later we see a valuation of exports realized far and away beyond anything ever previously attained, and five million dollars worth more than in the previous year. Similarly, with our imports during the same time, the figures are:

1911-12	$14,733,499
1912-13	16,012,365
1913-14	15,193,726
1914-15	12,350,786
1915-16	16,427,336

In the same way, the first year of the war witnessed a decline in the value of our imports of nearly $3,000,000 due entirely to the apprehension engendered amongst us by the critical phases of the war during that time. Then came a reaction and in 1915-16 the value of our imports, mounted away up to $16,437,336 exceeding as with the exports, anything in the five-year-period and being more than $3,000,000 above the twelve months preceding it. These facts and figures tell their own story,the story of a country which in recent years has advanced along its own lines at a rate probably not exceeded by any other country similarly conditioned, at a rate which finds visible evidence in the improved housing, feeding, clothing, and general comfort of our people in even the smallest settlements in their more expensive fishery appliances, in the motor fishing boats they operate, in the fine vessels they are purchasing, and in every avenue of their industrial life.

That the people of the Colony hold in tangible available form a substantial portion of the increase indicated above, will be evidenced from the following figures of bank returns. The annual report of the Savings Bank shows the amount on deposit at the end of December 1916 as $2,410,939.93 virtually, the same as the previous year. The four Canadian banks doing business in the Colony show interest-bearing deposits and savings bank deposits totalling $11,129,889.43 as compared with $9,906,154.43 the previous year. This is an increase of $1,223,235 or that the people put away as savings in the banks during 1916 the large sum of nearly 1¼ million dollars. Similarly at the end of December 1915 there were in effect in this Colony, 5,895 life insurance policies of an aggregate value of $9,014,390.27, representing an increase during the year of 417 policies of a face value of $689,061.21. The reserve or re-insurance value of all the life insurance now in force would be $1,988,727.61.

In the light of this widespread and unmistakable prosperity, the Government have felt that the time has now arrived when it can safely embark without any fear of embarrassing the trade upon a policy which has already been adopted by the mother country, the neighbouring Dominion of Canada, and our great ally, the United States, and which is known as the Excess Profits Tax or the Business Profits Tax. In England it has been in force since shortly after the beginning of the war, and perhaps the best evidence of the prosperity and of the enormous bounds which industry has made in the Mother country is proved by the fact that for the fiscal year ending on the 31st of March last, the receipts from this tax amounted to £140,000,000 against an estimate of £88,000,000. In Canada in the same way, the receipts from this tax were estimated for three years at 25 to 30 million dollars will yield so the Finance Minister estimates 15 millions for the first year, 20 millions for the second year, and possibly an amount equal to both sums for the third year, as the levy has been increased at this session. The policy has only been inaugurated in the United States quite recently and that because of the great Republic having entered the war on the side of the Entente Allies, but it is estimated that it will yield a sufficient sum to bear a large part in the financing of the war so far as the United States is concerned, from now until the struggle ends. Here we are making a moderate estimate of $250,000.

We propose to apply the surplus of $430,000 on account of 1915-16 and the estimated surplus for the present year of say, $528,000, towards meet-

ing the expenses of the Colony's participation in the war so as to lessen the permanent burden which will have to be borne on account thereof. These two sums, totalling somewhat over a million dollars, will be added to the fund which is being used in financing the Newfoundland Regiment, the Home Defence Movement, and the other various branches of our war activity, and should suffice to meet the obligations on that account for the next six months. We find, however, that it will become necessary to make further provision in this regard in view of the present outlook as to the war and the probability that the struggle may be continued for another twelve months. We have also undertaken to level up the pay of the Naval Reservists to that of the men of the Newfoundland Regiment, and we estimate that this will call for an outlay of another million dollars. We have borrowed from the Imperial Government 1¼ million, we need 1 million for the Naval Reserve, and we will require about another ¾ million for our war needs till next June so we are asking for a Loan Bill for three million dollars. The net funded debt of the Colony at the end of June 1915-16 was $32,230,405.67 and it has been increased during the past fiscal year by 2¼ millions more,standing now at $34,489,765.60. To this will, of course, have to be added the three million dollars we are now asking the Legislature to vote, so that the obligations of the Colony may be regarded as about 37½ millions or $150 per head. This may seem large at first, but the Canadian Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, delivered on April 24th, last, estimated that at the close of the current fiscal year in that country, or in next March, three months before our next fiscal year ends, the public debt of Canada will probably reach $1,200,000,000 or exactly the same rate of $150 per head, estimating our population at 250,000 and Canada's at 8,000,000.

It must be remembered, though, that this figure for Canada represents only the federal debt and that the provincial, county, municipal and other debts in that country represent a sum equally great, so that the burden of taxation borne by the people of Canada now is twice that borne by ours. As to our ability to carry this burden it is pleasant to be once again able to quote in support of the proposition that Newfoundland is enjoying a degree of prosperity never yet equalled, the utterance of the Board of Trade, which may be regarded as voicing the views of the commercial community. In its eighth annual report, adopted in January last, the council or governing body says: "It is pleased to be once more in a position to congratulate the members and the Colony upon the general satisfactory position. The enormous increase in prices of imported articles has been fully offset by the increased volume of exports. For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1916, there is a most satisfactory balance of exports as against imports, and it is confidently believed that a favorable balance will again be shown for the current fiscal year. With the single exception of the important market of Greece all the regular fish markets open to us have consumed largely during the past season, and are still open for large supplies. The closing of the Greek market to our Labrador fish, which is hoped will be only temporary, is throwing a considerable strain upon the Spanish and Italian markets, so far as Labrador fish is concerned, but, nevertheless, present indications warrant the hope that the stocks still remaining unsold may be absorbed by them without serious de-

preciation. The extra demand for fish food and fish oils created by war conditions has enhanced values to an extent that could hardly have been expected, even by the most optimistic, and whilst the problem of tonnage for transportation of our exports of every kind has been a serious one, and the fluctuating war insurance rates a cause of great anxiety from time to time, all these problems have been satisfactorily solved up to the present."

This testimony, conclusive in itself, will be confirmed by the personal judgment of every honorable member of this House. The seal fishery last spring, though prosecuted almost altogether by a fleet of old-time ships, furnished a very generous yield and the prices paid for the product, some 20 per cent. greater than ever before in modern times, enhanced the value of the catch materially. To-day the prosecution of the codfishery is being undertaken on a scale larger than for many years, and the outlook for high prices and all-absorbing markets is even better than last season. The new cold storage enterprises at St. John's and Bay Bulls, and the probable extensions of this development to other centres throughout the Colony, the rapid extension of shipbuilding by our own people in various outport sections, the promising new shipbuilding plant at Harbor Grace, the certainty that for some years at least there will be demands for vessels which can be profitably satisfied right here amongst us, all point to the inauguration of what is likely to become a permanent industry of great value. Other projects, too, are taking shape, all of them calculated to become avenues of labor for many of our people, and to help us in no small measure to meet the new problems which will arise when the war is over, and those whom we have sent on active service return to resume their places in the various walks of life which they left to uphold the country's honor on the field of glory.

Inspired, therefore, by all these fortunate circumstances, rejoicing in the good fortune that has been our portion during the eventful three years that have passed since the great war began, we are hopeful that in the struggle Newfoundland may be favored as heretofore with relief from the worst of the evils which war brings in its train, and that the circumstances of the Colony and its people may be no worse than so far, and that they may meet the dawn of peace and a new era with unimpaired ability to adjust their country and themselves to the altered conditions to which that will give rise.

Arising out of this Budget Speech, we propose to make some trifling alterations in the Customs' rates respecting molasses and leather. Henceforth we intend to charge duty on molasses as gauged instead of on the invoice quantities as at present. The Board of Trade has made representations that molasses coming from the West Indies in open casks and these losing part of their contents, meant that the dealers had to pay goodly sums for duty for molasses which had been lost, and the unfairness of this being evident, we propose to alter the practise and have every cask gauged on arrival and the duty paid on the contents thereof. With regard to the leather, the position is that some of this material coming here tanned pays thirty per cent., while other leather dyed pays only twenty, and it is proposed now to put the whole on the same footing.

We likewise propose to enact a Food Control Bill. Heretofore the Government has assumed that it could safely leave to the business people of the community the matter

of keeping within reasonable bounds the profit exacted by them on the food supplies which they imported and sold; but the evidence adduced in the recent reports of the Commission appointed to investigate the cost of living, justify the Government in providing the necessary official machinery to bring the whole problem of our food supply into conformity with the course already taken by the United States and Canada in this regard.

I have attached hereto extracts from the Auditor General's report, containing various financial statements of interest, but I will not burden the House with them now as they will appear in print. In order, too, that honorable gentlemen may have an opportunity of considering these figures, I move that the House rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again to-morrow.

As we are making a general increase in salaries this year, I include in this address my statement in introducing the Estimates so that it may form a permanent record.

EXTRACT'S FROM AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

SURPLUS TRUST AND LOAN EXPENDITURE, 1915-16.

Act	Service	Additions and Balance from 1914-15.	Expenditure 1915-16.	Balance to 1916-17.
61, 62. 63 Vic. Cap 33.				
	Agricultural Bounty	$913.79	.....	$913.79
61, Vic. Cap 10.				
	New Market House	10,000.00	.....	10,000.00
1st. Geo. V. Cap. 32.				
	New Poor Asylum	148,426.37	.....	148.426,37
	Marconi Installation	8,836.37	.....	8,836.37
		$157,262.74		$157,262.74
4th. Geo. V. Cap. 24.				
	Light house Construction	1,374.79	983.45	391.34
	Marconi Works	3,200.00	2,200.00	1.000.00
	Addition to General Post Office	2,704.07	2,385.82	318.25
	Lunatic Asylum Improvements .	19,018.74	18,096.83	921.91
	Colinet Bridge Repairs	1,050.00	692.67	357.33
	Custom House, St. John's	41.90	41.90	.....
	Penitentiary Repairs	342.70	342.70	.....
	St. John's Court House Repairs	2,359.85	2,308.10	51.75
	Poor Asylum Repairs	486.93	486.93	.....
	Museum Repairs	225.15	225.15	.....
	Public Buildings, viz:			
	Freshwater	2.95	.....	2.95
	Spaniard's Bay	507.60	507.60	.....
	Bay Roberts	96.69	65.05	31.64
	Harbor Grace	73.69	70.00	3.69
	Channel	36.40	.....	36.40
		$31,521.46	$28,406.20	$3,115.26

Surplus Trust:—			
Marine Works	892.72	892.72	.....
Elections	47.01	47.01	.....
St. John's Agricul. Soc. for Hay	1,742.75	.....	1,742.75
	$2.682.48	$939.73	$1,742.75
4th. Geo. V. Cap. 23.			
Railway Con. and Arbi. Awards	$ 166,017.68	$ 39,152.58	$ 126.865.10
5th. Geo. V. Cap.			
War Loan. amount realized	$1,985,673,24	$1,780,643.52	$ 205,029.72
6th. Geo. V. Cap. 31.			
Railway, War, and for Repayment of Temporary Loans realized ..	$4,896,286.60	$3,838,571.06	$1,057,715.54

As it is desirable that the Legislature should be more fully informed with regard to this expenditure, Ishall treat the several items more in detail, dealing, first with the

SURPLUS TRUST FUND

The account of this Fund sinceits inception works out as follows:

DR.

To amount received from Consolidated Account from 1901-12 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, 1916, as follows, viz:—		
Roads	$501,480.96	
Lighthouse Construction	57,000.00	
Harbor Impros. and Marine Works (for 1915-16)	242,613.56	
Outport Government Buildings	23,347.82	
Extension Marconi System	14.000.00	
Completion of Fever Hospital	3,000.00	
Construction of Museum (in aid of)	30,000.00	
Extension General Hospital (in aid of	30,254.48	
Encouragement Herring Fishery	26,067.94	
General Elections 1908 and 1913 (for 1915-16) .	92,328.59	
To cover part deficit Current Acct. 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 Agricultural Society (for hay) ...	6,757.25	
Post Office Contingencies (in aid of)	8,000.00	
		$1.271,064.72

Balance to 1916-17	433,296.51
	$1,704.361.23

The general statement above shows the expenditure on the balances of this account in 1915-16. Of the balance now on hand of $433,296.51, $1,742,75 is held on account of the St. John's Agricultural Society's debt for Hay purchased in 1913; this debt has been paid off and the balance in hand should be applied to some other purpose. The remainder, viz.: $431,553.-76 is the surplus from 1915-16 awaiting appropriation.

LOANS.

Loan 61, Vic. Cap. 10.—$10.000.00. Voted under the Appropriation Act credit of the Agricultural Loan in the Bank of Montreal. No expenditure was made of this account in 1915-16.

Loan 61, Vic. Cap. 10.—$10,000.00. Voted under the Appropriation Act of 1898 for the erection of a New Market House, this sum has not been expended. It remains to the credit of the Loan in the Bank of Montreal. As there seems to be no inclination to use it, and as it would be, in any case, inadequate for the purpose for which it was originally intended, it seems to me desirable that the Act should be so amended as to permit of its being utilized for some public work in the City of St. John's which may be more immediately required.

Loan 1st, Geo. V. Cap. 32.—As there was no expenditure under this Act in 1915-16, the statement of its position remains as given in my report of last year. viz:—

Service	Amount Authorized	Expended 1912-13 & 1913-14	Expended 1914-15	Total	Balance to 1915-16
School Buildings	$100,000.00	$100,000.00	....	$100,000.00	.....
New Poor Asylum	150,000.00	1,573.63	....	1,573.63	148.426.37
Lt. House and Marconi	100,000.00	91,163.63	....	91,163.63	8,836.37
Dredge	50,000.00	50,000.00	....	50.000.00	.....
St. John's Mun. Council	32,000.00	32,000.00	....	32,000.00	.....
Hr. Grace Public Bldgs.	15,000.00	15,000.00	....	15,000.00	.....
Imrovements Gen. Hos. .	73.000.00	72,997.91	2.19	73.000.00	.....
	$520,000.00	$362,735.07	$2.19	$362,737.26	$157,262.74

Of the balance of $157,262.74 apparently on hand, the sum of $135,-250.00 has not been raised. There is consequently only $22,012.74 available for expenditure, $13,176.37 on account of New Poor Asylum, and $8.836.37 on account of Marconi Installation. The expenditure noted as having been spent on account of New Poor Asylum, was really spent in connection with some repairs to the Lunatic Asylum. I have asked the Government to amend the Act so as to make the Loan applicable to the latter institution.

Loan 4th Geo. V. Cap. 24.—The several amounts authorized by and the expenditures and balances under this Loan are as follows:—

Service	Amount Authorized	Expenditure to June 30, 1916	Balance to 1916-17
Telegraph Construction	$140,000.00	$140,000.00	.....

Erection of Lighthouses	56,000.00	55.608.66	391.34
Marine Works	3,200.00	2,200.00	1,000.00
General Hospital Improvements	62,000.00	62,000.00	.....
Addition to General Post Office	14,081.31	13,763.06	318.25
Improvements Lunatic Asylum	20.287.44	19,365.53	921.91
Repairs Colinet Bridge	1,400.00	1,042.67	357.33
" Custom House, St. John's ..	41.90	41.90	.....
" Penitentiary	342.70	342.70	.....
" Poor Asylum	486.93	486.93	.....
" Museum	2,359.85	2,308.10	51.75
" Court House, St. John's .....R. J. Hopkins			20.00
Construction and Improvements Public Buildings in Outports, viz:—			
Freshwater	5,250.00	5,247.05	2.95
Grand Falls	16,250.00	16,250.00	.....
Spaniard's Bay	9,678.88	9,678.88	.....
Bay Roberts	17,500.00	17.468.36	31.64
Harbor Grace (in aid of)	3,267.37	3,263.68	3.69
Channel	7,628.47	7,592.07	36.40
	$360,000.00	$356,884.74	$3,115.26

The balances not being required have, for the account 1916-17, reverted to the unappropriated balances account, and are available to re-allocation to other service permissable under the Loan Act.

Loan Act. 4th. Geo. V. Cap. 23.—The expenditure under this, the Branch Railway Loan, during 1915-16 was distributed as follows, viz:—

To Reid Nfld. Company for construction, etc ....$	29,752.58
To Dept. of Agrictulture & Mines for aribtration awards	9,400.00
	$ 39,152.58
Leaving a balance for 1916-17 of	126.865.10
Balance from 1915-16 ....$	166.017.68

WAR LOAN.

5th Geo. V. Cap. 8.—This is really a temporary loan for war purposes advanced by the Imperial Government.

The total loan was for £400,000 stg. which realized ... ..$	1,985.673.24
Of this sum there had been expended to June 30, 1916 .	1,780,643.52
Leaving a balance in favor of the loan of ....$	205,029.72

The expenditure of $1,780,643.52 is distributed as follows, viz:—

Retained in London for expenses of the Pay and Record Office in connection with the Regiment Overseas, £128,000 stg. @ $4.86 2-3 ... ...$	622,933.24	
Draft from amount in St. John's to cover credit short of expenditure to June last, £4,000 stg. ...	19,111.00	
Total expenditure in London		642,043.24
Expended for Regimental purposes by the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association of St. John's		1,044,000.00

Expended by the Accountant of Contingencies by Order of the Government for Home Defence	94,600.28	
		$1,780.643.52
To this should be added the expenditure under the Audit Act for war purposes in 1915-16, recouped to the Treasury on account of 1915-16 Revenue, but not charged to Loan until 1916-17	16,629.09	
Total war expenditure to date....		$1,797,272.61

The amount borrowed under this Loan was repaid out of the proceeds of the Loan raised in 1916, viz:—

6th Geo. V. Cap. 31.—By this Act authority was given to raise the sum of $5,000,000 for the following purposes, viz:—

1. To complete the six branch lines of railway	$1,000,000.00
2. To conduct the naval and military operations in or beyond Newfoundland and for Home Defence	3,000,000.00
3. To repay temporary loans due the Bank of Montreal	1,000.000.00
	$5,000,000.00

The amount realized from this Loan was as follows:—

Issue in New York at 97.34%	4,887,500.00	
Nine days interest from date of issue to date of payment	6,250.00	
Premium on transfer of portion to Newfoundland	2,536.00	
Total realized		$4.896,286.60
Less charges, viz:—		
Cost of cabling and telephoning	$ 125.06	
Cost of bonds (5,000)	216.00	
Travelling expenses	389,72	
Signing Bonds (5,000 @ 25c. each)	1,250.00	
Commission, one-sixteenth of 1%	3,125.00	
		5,105.78
Net realization		$4.891.180.82

The expenditure on account of this Loan is as follows, viz:—

On account of Railway Loan remitted to London from New York, £200,000 stg. @ $4.76 5-8 ...		
On account of War Loan remitted to London from New York £400,000 @ $4.76 5-8		$1,906,500.00
Ditto—discount on £400,000 the Imperial Government having originally deposited the total loan at par £2.870.16.2, remitted from Newfoundland @ $4.77 3-4	13,715.28	1,920,215.28
Repayment of Temporary Loan to Bank of Mon-		

treal		960,000.00	3,833.465.28
Balance on hand			$1,057,715.54

In order to arrive at the correct amount of this balance due to each service under the Loan, it will be necessary to divide the difference between the amount authorized and the amount realized, i. e.—$108,819-18 into five parts of which three are chargeable to War Service and one each to Railways and Temporary Loans, and from the result to deduct the payments made on the several accounts. The result works out as follows:—

RAILWAYS.—Amount authorized		$1.000,000.00	
LESS one-fifth of cost of Loan	$21,763.84		
Repayment of advance from Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.	953,250.00	975,013.84	
Balance available for railways			$24.986.16
WAR SERVICE:—Amount authorized...		$3,000,000.00	
LESS three-fiftfhs of cost of Loan ...	65,291.50		
Repayment of advance from Imperial Government	1,920,215.28	1.985,506.78	
Amount available for WarServices			1,014,493.22
REPAYMENT TEMPORARY LOANS—Amount authorized		$1,000.000.00	
LESS one-fifth of cost of loan	$21,763.84		
Repaid Bank of Montreal	960,000.00	981,763.84	
Amount over requirements for this service			18,236.16
			$1,057,715.54

Adding the above credit balance of $24,986.16 for railway purposes to the credit balance for the same purposes under the 4th Geo. V., Cap. 23, viz: $126,885.10 there was on the 30th June last, $151,851.26 available for railways.

For war purposes the above balance of $1,014,493.22 added to the credit balance under 5th Geo. V., Cap. 3, viz: $205,029.72 (balance of the Imperial Government advance) gives a total of $1,219.522.94 available on the 30th of June last, about sufficient to meet the expenditure to May of this year (1917.)

In order to be able to utilize the $18,236.16 which is over and above the equal amount required to cover the repayment of Temporary Loan an amendment of the Act will, in my opinion, be necessary.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Funded Public Debt of the Colony was increased by the following amounts during the fiscal year under report, i.e.—

Act 5th Ed. VII. Cap. 1—@ 4% interest.—Issue of Bonds of a larger denomination to replace smaller bonds, and for Debenture Conversion	$5,500.00
Act 59, Vic.—@ 4% interest, Issue of Debentures for Arbitration Awards account of property taken in connection with the widening	

of Carbonear Streets.....	12,197.00	
Act 5, Geo. V. Cap. 3.—@ 4 1-2 per cent War loan from Imperial Government	973,333.33	
Act 6th, Geo. V. Cap. 31.—@ 5 per cent. Interest.—War, Railway and other purposes ..	5,000,000.00	
		$5,991,030.33

And reduced by the following, viz:

Act 2, Ed. VII. Cap. 28.—Cancellation of Bonds for others of larger denomination	5,000.00	
Act 56, Vic.—St. John's Rebuilding Act.—Cancellation of Debentures and conversion into coupon bearing bond of $500 the difference being paid in cash from Debenture Conversion Account	513.34	
Act 4, Geo. V. Cap. 23.—Cancellation of Loan from Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., for railway extension purposes, this amount being paid off from proceeds of Loan of 1916	973,333.33	
Act 5, Geo. V. Cap 8.—Cancellation of Loan of £400,000 stg. from Imperial Government for war purposes, repaid fromproceeds of Loan of 1916	1,977,196.51	
		$2,956,043.18
Net increase during 1915		$3,034,987.15
Add balance of Public Debt from 1914-15		31,454,678.45
Gross Public Debt on June 30th, 1916		$34,489,665.60

To arrive at the net Public Debt of the Colony it will be necessary to make the following deductions, viz:—

Gross Public Debt as given above		$34,489,665.60
Less:—Due to the Colony by the St. John's Municipal Council	$1,429,631.22	
Script of the Harbor Grace Water Company held by the Colony	13,700.00	
Amount paid off by the operation of the Sinking Fund established under 56th Vic. Cap. 13, as on the 30th June, 1916	762,396.27	
Invested in Imperial Treasury Bills £11,000 stg. at three months renewable from time to time as necessary. The Colony's agents in London were unable to obtain any Government of Nfld. 4 per cent. Loan, 1895 Stock, there being none in the market, and no immediate prospect of their being able to make further purchases, they in accordance with the terms of the Agreement with the Colony, invested in the Treasury Bills as above stated @		

$4.86 2-3	53,532.60	
		$2,259,260.00
Net Public Debt		$32,230,405.51

BALANCES (Current.)

The balances to the credit of the Colony at the close of the fiscal year 1915-16 were as follows, i. e.:—

Surplus Trust Fund	$433,296.51
Agricultural Bonus	913.79
Conversion of Debentures	111.41
Loan 1898—Market House	10,000.00
Loan 1911—Deposit Receipt	22,012.74
Loan 1914—Deposit Receipt	3,115.26
Railway Loan, 1915	126,865.10
War Loans, 1915	205,029.72
Loan, 1916	1,057,715.54
	$1,859,060.07

Ther are no Debit Balances due by the Colony.

It must be borne in mind that the foregoing credit balances, with the excepton of $431,553.76 surplus from last year, part of the Trust Fund unappropriated, are for specified services and are therefore available for those services only. These balances therefore are merely held in trust by the Treasury for the said services.

I have not included the debt due by the St. John's Municipal Council nor the script of the Harbor Grace Water Company in the above, as I have set them off against the Public Debt.

In addition to the foregoing balances there were, at the close of the year under report, certain balances in the Bank of Montreal to the credit of the several Departmental Trust Funds. These consist for the most part of moneys required to meet allocations for certain purposes which have not yet been completed, but for which the Departments affected are liable. They are as follows:—

IN THE BANK OF MONTREAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT:—		
For extension of the Telegraph system in Twillingate District	$308.90	
For British Postal Orders awaiting transmission to Imperial Post Office	460.43	
		$769.33
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT:—		
For Constabulary—purchase of machinery	20.01	
For Education. Balance of votes to the credit of the several denominations	1,482.86	
		1,502.87
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MINES:—		
For Railway Awards—Balance from 1914-15	2,118.91	
Received from Loan in 1915-16	9,400.00	
Received Account repayments	12.50	
		$11,531.41

Paid out Awards & Fees in 1915-16	$10,675.40	
Balance to 1916-17		$856.01
MARINE & FISHERIES DEPARTMENT:—		
Marine Works, to cover allocations issued the work on which was not completed at the close of the fiscal year	$595.24	
Musgrave Harbor Breakwater	66.29	
		$661.50
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:—		
Un-allocated Road Grant and returned allocations awaiting re-issue	$1,071.83	
Cash Notes, for redemption of balance of old issues of Cash Notes issued by the Public Works Department and still in circulation	$3,476.01	
Tuberculosis—for construction of new sanatorium being part of balance of vote 1915-16, unexpended	$7,500.00	
		$12,047.84
Forwarded		$15,837.58
TREASURY DEPARTMENT:—		
Treasury Cash Notes—Bal. on July 1, 1915	$27,398.30	
Notes redeemed and cancelled during 1915-16	$14,327.75	
Balance to 1916-17	$13,070.55	
Outstanding Letter of Credit cheques of the several Departments for 1914-15; being provision for their encashment	$1,543.19	
		$14,613.74
		$30,451.32

IN THE SAVINGS BANK.

Cash to the credit of the Teachers' Pension Fund, viz:—

Balance from 1914-15		9,917.93	
Amt. added in 1915-16, i.e. Int. for 1 yr.	327.61		
From Agricultural Grant	5,069.01		
Annual Contribution from Government	1,600.00		
Interest on Debentures held for Fund	2,400.00	9,396.62	
			$19,314.55
LESS—Withdrawal for year 1915-16			7,506.57
BALANCE to 1916-17			$71,807.98

The Teachers' Pension Fund, established under the Education Act of 1912, stood as follows on the 30th June last:—

Bonds of the Colony in the custody of the Savings Bank	$60,000.00

Cash to credit of Current Account in the Savings Bank	11,807.98
	$71,807.98

The only balance to the debit of the Colony, not shown on the regular balance sheet, is that of $40,071.91 due the Bank of Montreal for Money Orders. This account is really a clearing one and a very large portion of the balance is acconted for in this way.

Newfoundland pays more Canadian and United States advices than these countries pay of ours. There is, consequently, always a balance in our favor as between us and the U. S. and Canada, the former settles this balance quarterly and the latter monthly. The result of this arrangement is that the Money Order Department here will always be in debt to the Bank of Montreal, for, by the time the settlement is made, a further indebtedness of these countries will have accrued. I have asked the Postmaster-General to endeavor to secure a more frequent settlement with the United States. The smaller portion of this balance, over and above the foregoing, is covered by cash held by the St. John's and Outport Offices for change.

The Old Age Pension Fund amounting to the sum of $200.000.00 in Bonds of the Colony is in the custody of the Bank of Montreal. The interest thereon ($6,000.00) is used in reduction of the expenditure of Old Age Pensions.

Of the Copper Coin imported, viz: $4,000.00, $1,840.00 was sold up to June 30th, 1916. From these receipts the sum of $1,055.88, cost of issue, was paid to the Bank of Montreal, leaving a profit of $784.14, which was paid into the Exchequer Account for 1915-16. A balance of $2,160.00 in copper coin remained on hand on June 30th last.

The Register of Life Insurance Companies has been examined by me and compared with the receipt certificate given by the Bank of Montreal in which Bank these securities are deposited. I have found the entries, amounting to $1,803,693.94, correct.

In July last I completed the usual annual audit of the accounts of the Harbor Grace, Carbonear and Placentia Water Companies. These accounts were properly kept and were correct. The Harbor Grace Water Company is in a slightly better position than was shown in my report of last year, insomuch as it had, on the 30th June last, a balance in hand of $193.16 Current Acct. as against a debit balance of $421.23 in 1914-16. The Company is, however, still unable to pay the interest on the £13,700 of its shares which the Government holds. This interest, amounting to $548.00 per annum, has remained unpaid for three years to June 30th last. In addition to this the Government has been called upon to pay $804.00, one year's interest due on the script of the Company held by the Savings Bank. I see no prospect of this indebtedness ever being paid. The affairs of the other two Companies are in a satisfactory condition, but both have to exercise the greatest economy in order to make revenue meet expenditure.

I have checked the following stocks of Postal and Inland Revenue Stamps and un-issued British Postal Orders as on the 30th of June last and found them correct.

Postal Stamps	$205,525.73

Inland Revenue	94,553.25
British Postal Orders	8,365.04

Under the provisions of the Registrar Supreme Court Act, 1913, I have examined the accounts of that official and have found the same correct. The Debenture and other Securities, to the amount of $236,350.00, were checked by me and found correct. The amount, in cash, to the credit of the Registrar I also found correct as follows:—

In the Government Savings Bank	$51,948.33
In the Bank of Nova Scotia (Savings Depart.)	4,328.67
	$56,277.00

Te balance in the Savings Bank to the credit of Supreme Court Funds, found to be $2,735.38.

The accounts of the Newfoundland Government Savings Bank are audited by me weekly. The latest monthly balance sheet, i. e.,—that of March 31st, 1916, has been examined by me and found correct. I also checked the securities belonging to the Bank and found them correct.

The accounts of the Pilot Commissioners are examined by me monthly. Thery are correct as on the 31st December last. A small deficit shows for the last two years, due doubtless to war conditions. The accounts duly certified by me will be presented to the Legislature.

Under the provisions of Section 3 of the Act respecting Companies operating Marine Docks, application was made by the Government on behalf of (1) the St. John's Marine Dock Co., and (2) the Harbor Grace Marine Dock Co., for the amount by which the profits of the said Companies for the year ending (1) December 31st, 1915, and (2) May 31st, 1915, proved to be less than five per cent. on the actual capital stock of the said respective Companies paid up in cash. Acting under the instructions to me, set forth in Section 3 of the said Act, I examined the accounts, etc., of these Companies, and found them in the case of (1) the Company was not in a position to pay the full 5% interest on their stock; the Government had, therefore, to supplement the amount at their disposal by the sum of $560.97. With regard to (2) the Company was unable to pay any interest whatsoever and the Government, consequently, had to pay the full interest of 5%, i.e.—$1,885.50.

Application was also made by the Bell Island Transportation Company for payment by the Government of interest guaranteed by the Government under Section 13 of the Act relating to that Company. This Company was also unable to pay any dividend and the Government had to liquidate the charge for interest, vi: $2,059.00, on its capital stock for which, after an examination of the Company's accounts, I issued my certificate.

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.

EDUCATION BILL.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. 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 presently.

Whereupon the said Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education Act 1916." was read a second time.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —Mr. Speaker. In moving the second reading of this Bill I desire to say that the last two sections deal merely with the distributions and expending of the monies we have just voted. It will be remembered that when the House was in committee on Supply we voted something like seventy-nine thousand dollars for education. Now under the education act of 1916, it is provided in Section 22 that the Board of Directors of the Church of England College shall consist of any members of the Church of England not exceeding twenty-one. Now they have asked that this number be raised to twenty five. I see no objection whatever to this slight alteration. It is purely a private matter concerning that College.

The second section amends section 31 of the act of last year dealing with the quorum of the Council of Higher Education, and it is proposed to reduce this number from eleven to nine. At the present time there are quite a number of the members of the Council living out of town and very often in dealing with unimportant matters it is difficult to get a quorum. This alteration would enable the Council to meet and transact this less important business more speedily.

Section 3 repeals section 64 of the Education Act and a new section is provided. I may say in passing that all these amendments have been recommended by all the Superintendents who have written me to that effect. Under Section 64 provision is made whereby the Governor in Council may nominate and appoint an Assistant to the Superintendent of Church of England Schools and also an assistant to the Superintendent of Methodist Schools. Now it is proposed to add the power to nominate and appoint an Assistant to the Superintendent of Roman Catholic Schools. There is at present a gentleman doing this work, Mr. McDonald, B.A., son of Magistrate McDonald of the West Coast, and the object is to give him an official status.

Section 4 with its seven sub-sections deals with the apportionment of the money voted by this Legislature. As I have said this sum is seventy-nine thosand dollars, is the largest sum that has ever been voted by way of increase in the history of the country. It speaks well not alone for this House and the members who voted this sum, but for the sentiment outside this House who have heartily endorsed what has been done in this matter. A feature of the allottment is that by far the greater portion of it, sixty thousand dollars, goes direct to teachers salaries, and in this way this act will carry out what we have all been endeavoring to do. What we need in this country is something to encourage teachers to remain in the profession. At the present time the best teachers have to leave the profession for the want of sufficient inducements to retain them there. Now this Bill goes a long way towards improving these conditions. It is not so much even the amount as the principle, the thought and the sympathy that goes out from this House to the poorly paid teacher. It is not alone the amount received, but the guarantee for the future held out, for it is not unreasonable to hope that this vote to-day will be augmented when the condition of the country justifies such. In the past nor indeed today are those teachers recognized as civil servants, and yet one would find it hard to find a more important branch of the civil service. These are the people

who mould the children who are to be the future citizens of the country. If they are not taught and trained properly, they will not be prepared to take the places of the citizens of to-day. We have now a very fine body of teachers all over Newfoundland, men and women all doing faithful work. No better proof can be given of their character than that they were prepared this summer to give up their holidays, come to St. John's and go to school themselves and sit down day after day under the tutorship of professors, doctors and teachers of method, those who understand the art of teaching and how to teach. They have given up their personal vacation, and anyone who knows anything of the drudgery of teaching understands what it means to barter away the few months allowed for holidays, and in recognizing the teachers of the country we are doing what anyone might be proud to be a party to.

Now the next section deals with the Augmentation payments. Now if any of the honorable members will refer to the augmentation tables in the Act of last year they will find that there was no increase in the augmentation for a teacher after fifteen years service For the lower periods there was an increase stated, and these took effect after five years, and after ten years. Now by this section there is provided a further augmentation for those who have been teaching for fifteen years. As I think it may be of interest to the House I will read the paragraph in the Memorial presented to the Governor in Council in relation to this matter:

> "It seems to your memorialists a mistake that the Augmentation to salaries of teachers holding Associate Grade is not stepped upwards at the end of five and ten years of service, as in the other grades. They also consider it important that the augmentation paid to teachers of all grades but the third should be increased more than is at present provided for after ten years of service, and that a further increase should be made in the augmentation for the same teachers after fifteen years of service . . . . . By putting these proposals into effect, your memorialists are of opinion that many more teachers will be encouraged to remain in the profession with much of advantage to our educational system."

I may remark in passing that this is the Memorial presented to the Government by a Joint Committee of Delegates from the leading denominations of the country. Now it will be found that the increase in this augmentation will mean payments to those who have been in the profession over fifteen years. In other words the teacher in the third grade will get $81 if he or she remains in the profession over fifteen years, or no increase over his present augmentation. The second grade teacher gets $180 if male and $126 if female, or an increase from $144 and $108 respectively. The first grade teacher after fifteen years service will receive if male $234 and if female $157 as against the present augmentations of $189 and $135 respectively, and if an Associate teacher remains over the fifteen years, if male he will receive $306 instead of $252 at present, and if female, she will receive $189 instead of $171 at present. Now this is as honorable members will see nearly double the amount teachers received heretofore, the idea being to encourage them to remain in the professions and qualify for the higher

Associate Grade work and in the higher grades for the increased augmentation. It might seem rather strange that the persons with smaller salaries should be the ones receiving the smaller augmentations, but the object of that is to encourage all to go forward to the higher grades, and it is for this reason that the augmentation grant is always on the increase. This increased augmentation means that the teachers will all aim now at the Associate Grade. Did the lower grades offer the same inducements they might not be so tempted. With these few observations Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

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

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to 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 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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education 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.

RULES SUSPENDED.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the Rules of the House in relation to all matters to come before the House were suspended.

SUPPLY.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committtee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed 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.

MILITIA DEPARTMENT BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Justice the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entited "An Act relating to the Establishment of a Department of Militia and Defence."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.— In introducing this Bill I, want to make a few general comments on it. The object of the bill is to take over the administrative work which has been done in the past by the Patriotic Association and its committees. The Association has charge of the expenditure of more money than any spending department of the Government. The proposition in this bill is to transfer this to a regularly con-

stituted department which would have its Minister in this House and would be fully responsible to this House and to the country for everything that goes on regarding the expenditure and general administration. In laying this matter in detail before the House there is not the slightest intention in any way to take away credit from the work which has been performed in the past by these committees. They have set a splendid example of whole-souled devotion to the cause of the State. In my recollection nothing finer has occurred in Newfoundland within the past twenty-five years than the services voluntarily, freely and unstintingly given by these committees and particularly the more active members of these committees. The Standing Committee of the Patriotic Association took in hand work which was absolutely new to them. They organized the Newfoundland Regiment, arranged about its equipment and transportation and carried on every work connected with the administration of that Regiment that could be carried on in Newfoundland, and except for some mere clerical duties, the whole of the work has been done absolutely freely, at an immense expenditure of labor and time; and I don't think that this House or the Government itself, would be doing justice to these gentlemen unless some acknowledgment was made publicly of the services rendered. The work has now become so great and is so onerous that it is necessary that some persons should give their whole time to it, and that the work should be organized and brought under one head, and more than that, that that head should be a member of this House and responsible to this House. The Bill that is now before the House is comparatively short. We haven't had much experience in this matter and on that ground it has been thought desirable to make the proposition in each of these clauses as general as possible, so that afterwards if any detail is needed that Act could be amended without any trouble and without any conflict with the Act as it stands at present.

The first clause is merely an interpreting clause and defines the word Militia. This term was thought less pretentious than 'Ministry of War,' and it was decided to use the term Minister and Department of Militia. The term Militia is defined as meaning all the military forces of Newfoundland, and the Department will have a head known as the Minister of Militia appointed in the usual way by the Governor in Council. The third clause enables the Governor in Council to appoint such officers as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the said department. That will largely entail the taking over of the clerks and others employed by the different committees of the Patriotic Association. Section 4 details somewhat the duties of the Minister (reads) It has been thought possible that it might be necessary to acquire a building, or to acquire land on which to erect a building for offices or other purposes, and that it was therefore well to have the power to acquire such buildings or land. Amongst the duties of the Minister is included the control, regulation, management and supervision of the Newfoundland Regiment and its Foresty Companies. That is a duty that will of course require the utmost attention, because one of the problems today is to keep the Newfoundland Regiment at the highest

state of efficiency possible. I am not amongst those who are apprehensive that the Newfoundland Regiment is going to go down in strength. I think the response in the past has been magnificent and far exceeded the early expectations of the members of the Patriotic Association or its Recruiting Committee. It is true that the recruiting has come unevenly from the different settlements and the different districts, but I think that the experience of the Committee in charge has been that it has been largely a matter of education. In the districts like St. John's, Harbor Grace, Harbor Main, Trinity, where the people have had fuller advantages of knowing more about military and naval matters, there has been a greater response from the first, particularly in St. John's, where the brigades have been established some twenty odd years. The response from the city has been magnificent from the first—due largely—I won't say entirely, but due very, very largely--to the brigades and the officers and members of the brigades. There are other places where campaigns have been carried on and where efforts have been made by influential men, clergymen and others in the districts, and the response has been magnificent. I have particularly in mind the district of St. George's. There are other districts where the response has been much slower, but if there is one thing to be learned by the experience of the past winter it is that the recruiting campaigns on the West Coast are at length bringing forth abundant fruit, and recruits are now coming in from the West Coast continuously. The West Coast has been slow in showing results, but I have no doubt that as recruiting campaigns go on, we can expect her to show gratifying results, but that would be the work that will be left to be taken over by the Minister for the Department.

The next section deals with Home Defence. This, too, comes under the Militia Department. The next clause provides that the Minister shall make an annual report within fifteen days from the commencement of the session of the House of Assembly.

Clause 7 brings me back again to the Patriotic Association. "The Governor in Council may apoint an Advisory Board to be called the 'Military Board,' of which the Minister shall be president, whose powers, dutties and functions shall be to advise the Minister generally in all matters appertaining to his department. The Governor in Council may also appoint other advisory committees with such special functions as may be laid down by the Governor in Council."

Now, Sir, I said that that brought me back to the Patriotic Association. I have already attempted to pay some tribute to the work already done. The object of that clause is to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the members who form these committees. The idea is to utilize the ability which has already been shown, to enlist the fullest co-operation in work to be done, to give them or those who succeed them under the Ministry an opportunity of carrying on in co-operation with the Department, the work which has to be done. It is probable that the members of the Boards will be the members of the Committees who have served under the Patriotic Association, and that they will be invited there by the Governor in Council to join these Boards. One of the particular purposes will be for

recruiting, another will probably be a board to advise on finance, another to advise in matters concerning re-education and employment of soldiers returning to civil life, and other committees for other work. Section 8 merely deals with the powers of the Governor in Council; and section 9 amends chapter 4 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, and authorizes the Minister to be a member of the House of Assembly. I beg to move the second reading of the first section.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. —Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one or two words in relation to and in support of this measure, and principally to associate myself with what has been said by the introducer of the Bill in relation to the splendid work performed by the Patriotic Association which consists of citizens of the whole country, not alone in St. John's but all over the Island, for there are branches to carry on the work of the association in all the larger places in the country. We cannot place too high an estimate upon the work of that Association, and particularly the members of the Committees, the Standing Committee, the Recruiting Committee, the Finance Committee and the other committees who have borne the heat and burden of the day and who have performed duties that not many can fully estimate. I do not know any other country in the world, certainly not in any of the British Dominions, where work has been carried on free of cost. The reason that it has been so successfully carried on here is that members of the Patriotic Association have practically sacrificed their own business in meeting after meeting never missing a meeting in the interests of this work. One has only to take up their report to see the enormous work entailed on these committees. They have freely given of their time and abandoned their homes to deal with those matters so that you cannot too highly estimate their work. The public fully appreciate the work they have done, and I think it would be a mistake if on the introduction of this Bill there was no appreciative comment on these services. From the Governor down, everybody has helped. His Excellency the Governor, who presided over the Association, made a new departure, because in taking upon himself the head of practically a public department he was coming in daily contact with the public and daily assuming responsibilities unusual for a Governor to assume. The position taken is one which places upon the Governor responsibilities which he ought not be called on to assume. Everybody knows the Constitutional law on this subject is that the Governor should perform no act without having Ministers behind him to shoulder the responsibility which may be incurred by his action. Now in this work there was no such support and he incurred considerable risk in doing this, and for that reason alone we ought, and I know we are, and the whole country is grateful to him. His is a position that brings new duties every hour, and the idea of his assuming the responsibility of not merely presiding but following with great interest and zeal the details and work of the various committees is one which on the face of it will convince the members of this House of the amount of work done. And what can be said of him can also be said of certain members of the Association and the various committees in their various capacities. The Association which has been able to

raise and send over seas over 4,000 troops, has accomplished no mean task, and I would endorse the statement of the Attorney General when he said the intention was not in any way to withdraw any of the responsibilities or the advantages gained by the experience of the past. What is contemplated is to remove from time to time as much of the work as is possible and place it in the department. Enormous work has to be done in connection with the raising, equipping, housing, training and transportation of these men, and private citizens cannot be expected to give their time freely to this work. Then besides that there is the supervision of the Pay and Record Office in London and the preparation and forwarding of all the details and information in relation to every man that goes there. And then there is the Pay Office here, and then the larger question of pensions. All this is a great mass of work, as can be best judged, as the Attorney General has pointed out, by the fact that it has now a larger payroll and larger expenditure than any other department of the Public service, and it will go on increasing. I don't know that it is necessary that I should mention these matters at all, but I want to put myself on record and say on behalf of the country and on behalf of the Government to these people who have been working so hard and travelling from one end of the country to another to stimulate recruiting, so that we would do our part, that their work is fully appreciated. I should not conclude without a word of praise for the Opposition. This Patriotic Association is not a party matter, and from the very first the Opposition has co-operated in every possible manner. On many and many an occasion opportunities were afforded to advance party interests, but it was not done. For this reason we can all join together in our eulogism and praise for the work of the Patriotic Association.

HON. MR. BENNETT.—It would be fulsome for me to add anything to what has been said by the Attorney General and the Prime Minister in relation to the work of the Patriotic Association, but I would like to associate myself with everything they have expressed as regards that organization. I think it is an object lesson of the work of the British Empire that in a country such as Newfoundland where there was never any military organization, that we should not alone have raised an army, but could practically administer the affairs of that army without expense to the people of the country. We can pride ourselves on the achievement of our Army and Navy, and we can also pride ourselves on the achievement of the private citizens of this country. We can look back with regret that we did not come forward in the time of need and do our duty to the best of our ability. I was struck Mr. Chairman, when the Attorney General was speaking with relation to the early days of recruiting, on the stimulus that was given to recruiting by the different brigades of this city. Now I think that since the outbreak of the war the establishment of the different boys' brigades in this community has more than justified itself. I think it can be claimed without fear of contradiction that the raising of the Newfoundland Regiment was made very much easier owing to those who composed the officers and boys and ex-members of the different brigades

in this city. They formed the nucleus of our army, and today they are still training soldiers for the future; and I think, Sir, that the time has arrived when some public appreciation for the efforts of these organizations should be forthcoming. It is a fact that in the past the Government of this country has never given any assistance whatever to those brigades, and it is a fact that even when they go on their short holiday of a week or ten days in the summer they have had to pass around the hat to the friends and supporters of the different brigades to give those boys an outing they they so well deserve. Now Sir, I hope this matter will receive the consideration of the National Government. We owe a great deal more than we can every repay in this country to the different lads brigades, and I think that in justice to them and in justice tc the country some way ought to be found to subsidize them and assist them to carry out the good work they have been carrying on so well and faithfully. I feel sure that this will receive a ready response, not alone from members of this House, but from every right thinking person outside. These brigades have not alone trained soldiers, but they have made creditable citizens and built up ambition and inspiration in the minds of these boys which they could not get in any other direction. They have been an asset of great value in the past and will be of greater value in the future, and therefore I take advantage of this opportunity to express the hope that in the very near future something will be done in the way of providing financial help to carry on the work so creditably performed in the past. I only trust and hope Sir that the department that is to be organized will fulfil the desires of the Government in its efficiency. I realize that the department will be one that will call for a great deal of time, effort and attention, especially at the beginning, but one, I think, that will be endorsed by the whole country and particularly by those who have had the experience of the work of the Patriotic Association. Many of these gentlemen have expressed their pleasure that the work is now to be more centralized, and their intention to still continue any work allotted to them. They have work outside which has been well done and will I hope continue to be done, such as Red Cross Work, Aeroplane fund, etc. That being so, I feel sure that our military affairs and defence affairs will possibly be put on a more satisfactory basis—not that the past has been unsatisfactory—but it would be unfair and unjust and unreasonable to ask people with so many private affairs to look after to carry on work which should be looked after by the Government and the public. I have very much pleasure in endorsing the Bill before the chair, and I trust it will be the first step towards establishing a Department that will be a credit to the country.

HON. MR. CLIFT.—Mr. Chairman, Before the measure is finally adopted I would like to make a few observations. In the first place, Sir, I desire to endorse all that has been said by the introducer of this Bill and by Right Hon. the Premier. Having had a great deal to do with the work of the Patriotic Association, particularly during the past six months when, because of the absence of Sir Joseph Outerbridge, I assumed the position of chairman, I have had a greater opportunity than I otherwise would have had of seeing and appreciating its work and the work of its various committees; and I do not think that anything that has been said gives too much praise to those who have been

actively engaged in that work. In a particular way, Sir, I endorse all that the Premier has said with reference to the volume of work that has fallen upon the shoulders of His Excellency the Governor. I know of no member of the association who has given more time and attention to its work, particularly in regard to regimental matters than His Excellency the Governor. He has been in close touch with the various committees and he has had to conduct a very considerable amount of correspondence; and I feel that the whole country is very much indebted to him for his services in connection with the organization and administration of the affairs of the Association. I feel, also, that I must acknowledge particularly the services that have been rendered the country by Major Montgomerie. No man connected with regimental affairs has rendered more excellent service than he has. His services have been both valuable and efficient. I think I ought to say that the only occasions on which any remuneration was made to Major Montgomerie for his services were when he went across the Atlantic as officer in charge of the troops; when he was allowed a certain amount for his expenses and his regimental pay of his rank. Beyond these occasions nothing has been paid him for his services, which have been of a most valuable character. He is now constantly engaged—all his day practically is given up to regimental affairs. I think I can safely say that nobody connected with the regiment has given more of his time and attention or rendered more efficient service than Major Montgomerie; and I think it my duty in this place to acknowledge our indebtedness to him for services he has rendered to the Regiment as well as to the country.

As to the work that has been performed by the various committees, I feel sure that in all cases those who were actively engaged in the work were doing it as a matter of duty, and regarded it as a privilege to be allowed in that particular way to serve their country. I have long felt that it would be better to have the affairs of the Regiment under one responsible head. It is not right in principle that private citizens should be expending public money; and it is not fair to the citizens that they should be asked to undertake that responsibility. I am very glad to know we have now before us a measure which will concentrate all the work in relation to our military affairs under one head, and at the same time that military head will have the advantage of the advice and assistance that advisory boards will be able to afford.

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 relating to the Establishment of a Department of Militia and Defence." 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.

SHIPBUILDING BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the House resolved itself into a 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.

MIN. MARINE & FISHERIES, (Mr. Stone).—Mr. Chairman, just a word in explanation as to the object in repealing section 6 of the Shipbuilding Act 1916. It is for the purpose of removing the difficulties which at the present time exist in relation to the importation of blocks and Pumps used for shipbuilding purposes. As a matter of fact there are a number of ships building in this country now and it is very doubtful whether a supply of blocks will be obtainable or not. Therefore in repealing section 6 of the Act those who are interested in shipbuilding will not be debarred from obtaining the bounty provided they were forced to import blocks and pumps for the vessels building. Hence my reason for asking that section 6 of the old Act be repealed.

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.

The Remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

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

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker, I beg to table the information asked for re the death of Private Quinton. It is in the form of a report to the Standing Committee made by Major Montgomerie and contains the reports of the medical officer. It is dated the 12th. May, but I only received it on the 19th. July, as the typist in the department was ill.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, July 26th, 1917.

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

JUDICATURE BILL.

Hon. the Minister of Justice asked leave to introduce the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act 1904."

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act 1904." was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

DISTRICT COURTS BILL.

Hon. the Minister of Justice asked leave to introduce the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series) entitled "Of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts."

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 122 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series) entitled "Of the Central and Harbor Grace District Courts." was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

SUPPLY.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported Certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Additional Estimates	$234,165.00
Supplemental Supply	28,000.00

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 to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Pursuant to order 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.

MR. COAKER—Mr. Chairman. In relation to that section providing for the deduction of ten per cent. from the gross profits of the capital of a Company, I would say that this figure seems to me too high, as a business largely capitalized, would have to make enormous profits to declare a sufficient dividend to warrant its continuance. I would recommend instead of this 10% that 6 per cent. be inserted, which amendment I think would better effect the intention of this Act and the less onerous on those most affected by it.

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.

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 1917 and the 30th day of June 1918 and for other purposes relating to the Public Service," was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

REVENUE BILL.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Revenue Act 1905" was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

PROFITS TAX BILL.

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

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday next July 30th at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, July 30th, 1917.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon.

PETITIONS.

MR. MOORE—Mr. Speaker: I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of Renews on the subject of building a breakwater on the North East side of the River to prevent destruction of the main road. The petition is signed by Dean Doutney, and as a matter of fact by every resident of the place. I give this petition my hearty support, and I trust the Department of Marine and Fisheries will see its way clear to have this matter attended to.

MR. DEVEREAUX—Mr. Speaker: I beg to present a petition from the residents of St. Kyran's, St. Anne's, St. Leonard's, Paradise and Little Paradise and other places in that vicinity, in Placentia Bay, asking that $600 be voted for the purpose of making a channel way to assist them in their fishery operations. There was a public meeting held in connection with this matter, which was attended by one thousand people, and the result has been this petition. I trust that their petition will be acceded to. In connection with this I may say that as regards this locality very little has been expended in relation to

public works of any kind. I trust that they will receive careful consideration from the House, and I have much pleasure in referring the petition to the Department to which it relates.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker: I beg to present a petition from seven or eight hundred inhabitants of Harbour Grace on a very important subject, that is in relation to a Hospital. This petition is signed by the people of Island Cove, Bryant's Cove, South Side, North Side and Riverhead of Hr. Grace and other places from Spaniard's Bay line to Tilton. This is a very important matter and we have for a long time needed an Hospital at Harbour Grace. To my mind it would save quite a lot of expense as regards sending persons here from Hr. Grace, expense of train fare, boarding houses, etc, and I hope and trust that the Government will take this matter into consideration and endeavour to do something along the lines of giving us an Hospital, and I pray that in the near future we may have an hospital there with nurses and a resident doctor and heat and water facilities and everything of that kind. I ask that the petition be referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

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 Extend the Term of the present Legislature," "An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills, Limited," without amendment.

PROHIBITION BILL.

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 Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors," with some amendments, in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

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

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker: The first of these amendments deals with Section 35, which reads as follows: (quotes section.)

The Legislative Council has added "by Proclamation." There can be no objection to this. Public notice will have to be given and the insertion of the words "by Proclamation" is probably the way it should be done.

A new section has been added to the Bill, which contains three distinct amendments. The first is as regards bringing into the Colony of intoxicating liquor in bond for the purpose of re-exportation in a general way, for instance, if there was a factory in any part of Newfoundland, where liquor was brought in for being bottled and then re-exported. The second amendment deals with liquors brought in in ships' stores where they are sealed up as in the case of an Allan Liner at Shea's wharf, or a ship of the Furness Withy Line or the Florizel which might be here for 24 or 48 hours. I do not think that these can be looked on as importations within the meaning of the Act.

Now, the third amendment is with regard to the case of Newman and Co. who import wines very largely and keep them for a number of years while maturing. It is contended that the climate has something to do with improving the wine, and Newman's Port is, I am told, world famous on account of its peculiar flavor, which it is contended is derived from its sojourn in Newfoundland.

These are the only amendments to the Bill made by the Legislative Coun-

cil and this is the only explanation of them I can give to the House.

HON. MR. COAKER—With regard to the amendments brought down from the Upper House the one which gives the right to import liquors into the Colony to export them again is an amendment that I do not feel justified in supporting, unless we can get some other reasons why the gentlemen of the Upper House inserted that amendment. On the face of it, I do not see why such an amendment is inserted. We have never had any liquor imported here for the purpose of bottling and re-exporting it, nor have we heard anything about it.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—I merely offered that as an illustration as to what might be covered by it.

HON. MR. COAKER—Unless I get some more information about that amendment, I shall not be able to support it.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I understand that one reason given for the introduction of this section is the case where liquor is sent down here for the purpose of forming a part of the outfit for vessels going down to the Hudson Bay Company, outside the jurisdiction of Newfoundland, to be consumed down there, which liquor comes here in transit sealed up or in bond and is taken away when the expedition is fitted up as a necessary part of the outfit.

HON. MR. COAKER.—That is very reasonable. The only difficutly that presents itself lies in having the matter confined within these limits.

MR. CURRIE.—I think another reason is that some people have taken the view that liquor on board a ship which comes within the three mile limit of our coast should be confiscated.

The amendment was read a second time and concurred in.

It was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the House of Assembly had concurred in the said amendments.

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 respecting the Riverside Woollen Mills."

"An Act to provide pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their Widows and Children and other Dependents."

"An Act to Amend The Shipbuilding Act 1916," and "An Act respecting the Department of Militia," without amendment.

CONTROL OF TRADING BILL.

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 respectively "An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life," with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments was read a first and second time.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.—In reference to the action of the Council in striking out the words referred to in this amendment and subsituting the words "Any two of which shall be a quorum" it will be remembered that the board is a small one consisting of three persons and that before the Board can be properly constituted for business they must all be present. The present amendment is submitted for the consideration of this House and will meet I think with the approval of all. There is, I am aware provision in the Consolidated Statutes made in relation

to what shall constitute a quorum in cases where a quorum is not defined but I think that it is better that we should make provision for this contingency in this case.

It was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the House of Assembly had concurred in the said amendments.

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 Education Act 1916 with an amendment, in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first and second time and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the House of Assembly had concurred in the said amendments.

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 Public Service Electric Company Limited," with some amendments in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion or Right Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendment were read a first time.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.— The hon. member for Harbor Grace (Mr. Piccott) who has charge of this Bill, is not here today, but in his absence, in order to facilitate the amendments, I will explain them to the House, and then the Bill might be deferred until to-morrow, when he will no doubt be here and we shall have ample time to consider the effect of the amendments. The first amendment is in section 1. Under the Bill that went up from here the section read as follows:

"The said Public Service Electric Company Limited is hereby granted, subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, the right to the exclusive use of the waters of Hearts Content Stream, running into the waters of Hearts Content, and the waters of all streams tributary thereto, for the purpose of the development of electrical energy for all purposes for which electrical energy may now or may hereafter be used", etc. The words "for all purposes for which electrical energy may now or may hereafter be used" have been stricken out and the following substituted: "For the production of light, heat and power." In other words, the Company is limited to the use of the development for the production of light, heat and power instead of for all purposes for which electrical energy may now or may hereafter be used.

In section 2 the same amendment is made. And then there is a limitation of the jurisdiction of the Company. The words were: "on all that peninsula of land separating Trinity Bay from Conception Bay extending as far south as Dildo on the Trinity Bay side and Spaniards Bay on the Conception Bay side." The section now reads: "As far as, but not including, the town of Spaniards Bay." Mr. Piccott will understand that and will be able to explain the effect of it.

Then, in section 3 there is a proviso that "Nothing in this section contained shall authorize the Company to enter upon or appropriate any lands which belonged to or were occupied by the United Towns Electrical Company on the 1st July 1917. In other words, there was a general clause to the effect that the Company might, with the sanction of the Gov-

ernor in Council, enter upon any lands which they might require in connection with their works and the installation and construction of their plant. The effect of the proviso is that they will not be allowed to acquire any property which the United Towns Electrical Co. were in possession of on the 1st July 1917. Then, section 7 is recast. It originally read: "All plant, machinery, equipment, implements, apparatus, tools, utensils and materials necessary for the original construction, installation, development and distribution of the said company's electric systems and extensions thereof and the electric energy developed therefrom shall be admitted into the colony free of duty." As amended it reads as follows: "All plant, machinery, equipment, implements, tools, apparatus, utensils and materials necessary for the original construction of the said company's electric systems and extensions thereof shall be admitted into the colony free of duty." Then, there is a new section (8) added: "Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the exclusive rights now held by the United Towns Electrical Company for the lighting by electricity of the streets and highways in and from the towns of Carbonear, Hearts Content and Harbor Grace and the buildings in the said towns."

I move that the further consideration of this Bill be deferred until to-morrow.

COLD STORAGE RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions in relation to the application of cold Storage for the preservation of the fishes of this Country for food and bait.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER.— Mr. Speaker, In proposing these resolutions I should like to first point out to the House the object of the same. The House will remember the Act passed in 1910 in connection with the encouragement of the putting up a fish by the system known as Cold Storage. I regret to say that that Act, like all its predecessors, has been productive of very little good in the way of advancing this system of dealing with our fisheries. Personally, I have always been a very strong believer in the application of Cold Storage to the fisheries of Newfoundland. This Legislature has made many contracts in this connection, some of them going back to 1902. Indeed, the first legislation on this subject goes back to 1898, when legislation guaranteed the interest up to £120,000 on capital invested in this industry, but that did not prove a sufficient inducement for anyone to go into the business. It is not so much the cost of the establishment of the plant—I mean the building of the Cold Storage plant—that deters investors. It is in connection with the collection and the distribution of the fish that the great cost and the great risk comes in. If you had the finest Cold Storage plant in the world situated in St. John's or Burin or Bonne Bay or Catalina or Placentia, or any other port in Newfoundland, it would be of no value unless you had the means of getting the fish away after being cold stored, and unless you had the proper appliances for storing the fish in the event of its having to be brought any distance. You must not alone have the central plant, but you must have boats equipped with cold storage for collecting the fish, if it has to be brought any distance. And that is more particularly true of some fish than of

others. Some fish are so delicate that they are hardly out of the water before deterioration begins; and in this respect there is something about fish that does not apply to any other food, namely, that the slightest deterioration not only makes the article, especially the fresh article, bad for sale, but dangerous to eat if it were sold. For that reason, then, people have been frightened away from investing their capital in this enterprise. During the last eight or ten years, of course, we have not had very much to complan of in regard to the price that our people have realized for their codfish; but it must be borne in mind that if they could sell their fish fresh, they would not alone be able to catch double the quantity besides obtaining a far higher price than they do now, but the labor consequent upon making the fish would be saved, the cost of salt would be saved; and the necessity of building stages, flakes and other necessaries would be done away with. And further, it must be remembered that we are living right near a great market —the United States—which, if our fish could once be introduced successfully, would take ten times more than we are exporting today. The amount of fresh cod and other fish caught on the eastern coast of the United States and Canada is hardly sufficient to feed the great cities along this coast. New York, Boston, Bangor, Halifax, and the other great cities along that coast consume nearly all the fresh cod and other fish caught along these shores; and you have the teeming millions right out in the Western States—St. Louis, Chicago, and around that portion of the country—that really never see a pound of fresh clean fish; and these are the people that we have to cater to. Now, I would like to emphazise the importance to Newfoundland of a fresh fish industry, because, in the first place, it enables the man who is catching the fish to catch double the quantity, because he has not to delay in the curing of the fish; he needs no salt; he loses no time in the winter and the autumn and the spring in getting materials for his flakes and stages. At the present time his household and himself spend the greater portion of their time making the fish—very often, in bad weather, they have to make it over two or three times; and all that will be saved if the fish can be sold fresh. Up to the present however, nothing has been done, because, as I say, capital has been frightened away by the risks. I am prepared to admit that the risks are great, but they can be overcome with a proper system. Now, in England they don't go in very much for Cold Storage, because they consume the fish caught in the North Sea and around the coasts every day, It is transported fresh all over the kingdom as soon as it is landed, although sometimes, I have no doubt, it may be put into cold storage to keep it from deteriorating, but nearly all the fish comes in fresh. I have been down to Grimsby during the last two or three years, when I have been in England, and I have seen thousands and thousands of tons of fish—cod and every other fish with which the English waters teem—brought in there after fourteen or fifteen days, iced down.

They don't cold store fish—they simply put it in bins on ice and when they take it out repack in ice and send it all over the country. Some of that fish is brought from Iceland, and is fourteen days old when it arrives in England fresh. Well now if they can do that there, and if they can keep the fish fresh for fourteen or fifteen days there is no reason in the world why we cannot collect fish here and keep it fresh, and then put it into cold storage and export it.

I am confident that if we had on January 1st our whole catch of cod in cold storage and had proper equipment by train and boat we could sell every pound of it in the Western States and Western Canada and even in the Middle West, and get higher prices than we are getting in the Mediterranean and Brazil. And there is a still further advantage. that every pound of fish sent away fresh improves the value and will augment the value of the salt fish that remains and has to be sent to the salt fish markets. Now the present resolutions do not deal so much with cod—in fact they do not deal with cod at all—but they deal with fish that are less known and which up to the present have not been utilized at all or to a very small extent; and it is proposed to pay a bounty on the export of all fresh fish from Newfoundland such as turbot, caplin and plaice, but not on cod, halibut or herring. In other words, it is proposed to give a bounty of one cent per pound to any person in Newfoundland or any person doing business in Newfoundland that will export any of our less known fish fresh. Now we have in this country many valuable fish that up to the present time have not been exploited at all. It will be remembered that three or four years ago the Government obtained the services of Mr. Duff to come out and report on our fisheries. He is one of the officers of the Board of Fisheries of Scotland, which is the Fisheries Board of Great Britain and deals with everything in connection with British fisheries. Mr. Duff is one of their officers and has been with them for twenty-five or thirty years, and is still in their employ. He was sent out here at the request of the Government by the Colonial Office to look into our fisheries and to report to the Government and the Fisheries Board of Scotland as to their value, and with the permission of the House I will make one or two references to the less known fish that he reports upon; and I would recommend to the members of the House the perusal of this report, which was printed and circulated some years ago. It was a lecture delivered at St. John's by Mr. Duff and is a most interesting lecture, every word of which is well worth reading by anyone who has the welfare of Newfoundland at heart. It is not a document to be read and laid aside, but a document the working out of which may mean millions for Newfoundland and for the fishermen and people of the country:

HAKE.

"When at Belleoram I noticed some women engaged in piling up heaps of fish which were in process of being dried. These fish were very large compared with the shore cod, and I was informed that they came from the Grand Banks. I was struck with their size and on making inquiries was told that they were ling. I found them as a matter of fact to be really Hake. It does not seem to be generally known in Newfoundland that the hake is considerably greater in value than either the ling or the cod. Some 25 or 30 years ago it was little esteemed in Great Britain, but of late years it has risen so much in value that it is now one of the most valuable of our sea fishes—much too valuable to be cured. Though it fetches so high a price when fresh, when cured it realizes in Newfoundland I am told from a dollar and a half to two dollars a quintal less than cod. The Hake I may say is looked upon as of such importance that the English Fisheries Board are having investigations made into the periodic movements of the shoals by which the fishery is affected. The average price fetched by hake in Scotland I

find from the report of our Fisheries Board for 1913 to have been 16/9 per cwt. whilst in England its average price for the same year was £1 1s. 2d. and that of cod 12/10. There is not much hake caught in the inshore fisheries but if the large quantities obtained on the Grand Banks could be disposed of fresh, a very lucrative business might be established. It has only I believe, been brought in from the Grand Banks during the last two or three years—up to that time the fishermen deeming it not worth the trouble to bring it ashore. Now I am told out of the total catch of Bank fish almost one third consists of hake. At Channel I was shown some more of the same fish and, at the same place I was informed that the American buyers always called it by its real name of hake, and I was shown another fish which I was told was the ling, but this seems to be another variety of the cod family known in Great Britain as the Torsk or Tusk and in America as the Cusk. It is not a common fish in England but fairly plentiful in Scotland. Here I am told it occurs in large quantities though until the present year the fishermen generally have not troubled to cure it. It is not a particularly valuable fish, but there would be a ready market for it if supplied fresh. The average price in Scotland last year was 7/4 per cwt.

I could not obtain any definite information as to the existence of the real ling in Newfoundland waters, but I have litle doubt that it does exist as it is almost invariably found with the other species of the cod family.

FLAT FISH.

Everywhere we went we saw quantities of flat fish round the wharves and coves along the shore. These are the "flounder" or "fluke"" but larger and fatter than those caught on the British coasts. Very few of the fishermen eat them, the majority indeed will not touch them. I tried them in several places both boiled and fried and considered them excellent and I was informed that certain merchants on the West Coast who had recently exported them to America had done remarkably well with them. They would sell equally readily in Great Britain. The average price flounders fetched in Scotland last year was 13/6 per cwt. whilst in England they brought as much as 16/—, a considerably higher price in both countries than that fetched by cod. The supply I was assured is practically unlimited. This I can well believe for the flounder is an exceedingly prolific fish and in Newfoundland, as I have said up to the present time it has been scarcely fished for at all. There is a variety known by the fishermen as the deep sea flat fish which are much larger and better fish in every way. They are not often brought ashore as the fishermen beat them off their hooks, but they must be quite plentiful or they would not be caught at all with such large hooks as those on bultows or trawls, for all flat fish have very small mouths and cannot take a large hook. These deep sea flat fish would certainly fetch a high price, considerably higher than the inshore flat fish if a market were available for them.

PLAICE.

A great many persons assert that the plaice also occurs in Newfoundland waters, but I did not see any, any I am therefore not in a position to state whether this is so or not. The fishermen take no notice of the flat fish at all and do not therefore distinguish one from the other. It may be inferred that the plaice does exist, for where other flat fishes are found in such abundance, it would be

strange if the plaice was absent, although it is true the sole is absent also. Plaice is rising steadily in value in the British markets, the average price per cwt. obtained in Scotland last year being £1 11s. It being so valuable a fish and as the supply in Great Britain is steadily diminishing, it would seem to be worth while to ascertain definitely whether they are found here or not. I tried hard to do so, but I found it impossible with the time and limited means at my disposal. I was told on the West Coast that the best place to make enquiries would be St. Pierre, for the French make use of all the flat fish, and of many other fish too, which in Newfoundland are not used at all.

The value of the plaice landed last year in England was over one million pounds sterling, and it has risen in value from 18/8 per cwt. in 1905 to £1 8s. 11d. in 1913. A great portion of the supply is obtained from the Barents Sea, that part of the Arctic Ocean including within it the White Sea, and lying between Archangel and Spitzbergen.

TURBOT.

I had some difficulty in obtaining a sample of what in this country is known as turbot. I got a salted one at Bonaventure, but was not able to identify it in that condition, it being split. I succeeded, however, in obtaining samples of it fresh at Arnold's Cove in Placentia Bay and found it to be not the real turbot, but what I think is a giant megrim, a species of flat fish quite common in Britsh waters but not attaining to anything like so large a size. The Newfoundland variety is a remarkably fine fish. I tried it both boiled and fried and found it excellent in quality and flavour. It is salted down by the fishermen for their own use in the winter months, and it is also smoked and considered even better cured in that way. I am endeavouring to obtain a smoked sample to take home with me to Scotland, though I think there would be a better demand for it if it could be sent over fresh. The fishermen say they are very plentiful, and particularly so in the deeper portions of Trinity Bay, and on the south coast, in Hermitage Bay and near Pushthrough.

THE HADDOCK.

Is found everywhere, both on the coasts and on the Grand Banks. Until quite recently it has been brought ashore and cured along with the cod, though it does not fetch so high a price. From the size and appearance of those I saw they must be very plentiful. The average price in England last year, was 17s. 2d. per cwt., and in Scotland it was 15s.—nearly two thirds greater than the average price fetched by cod. It is a fish that could be easily sent in a fresh condition to the market, bearing handling well, if transportation facilities were available.

SMELTS.

The smelt, or what is known in Scotland as the sparling is a very valuable fish which is in much demand in the States and in Great Britain also, in Scotland it is caught only in the Firth of Forth, where the average price last year was £3 per cwt. It is found in large quantities on the West Coast, at Bay St. George and at Port au Port where a certain amount is shipped away to the States, though not very much, for the total value of the shipments last year was only $6,505. It is also met with in Mortier Bay, at Random in Trinity Bay, and at various places in Notre Dame Bay, and a large trade might be done with it if it could be marketed regularly, as it is a very delicious fish, and in Great Britain, as the price it fetched shows, a fish which is very highly thought of.

Then he refers to various other fishes, and on the whole indicates that if we had the means here to develop these fisheries they would be a great source of wealth for our people.

Now the amendment proposed to be made is as follows: (Prime Minister read sections of the Bill.)

Then there is a clause dealing with the Auditor General, making it clear that before any payment is made the accounts of the company will be properly audited. Now the important point to remember in connection with this business is, that before the company can earn its bonus it will have to spend, three, four, five, six, and in some cases ten times more money in order to purchase or catch the fish. Where they will get half a cent or a cent per pound, they will have to pay five or six times that amount in labour to get the fish. Some fish can be obtained easier and cheaper than others, but there are many fish in our waters which will cost a great deal to catch, to box or barrel or cold store; and besides there will be the carriage and freight expenses before it leaves the country; and all that will be money spent in the country; and if we are ever called upon to pay the full annual limit of $70,000 it may be safe to say that five times that amount will have been paid away in cold cash by the companies before they are entitled to claim that, and if they do, that will be $350,000 paid away in cash, all of which will go towards the purchase of dutiable goods, and so more than reimburse the country for the expenditure. I hope this new company, particularly in regard to its attention to the less well-known of our fishes, may prosper; but as I have said on former occasions in this House in relation to similar measures and undertakings, I am afraid that we will never realize the day when turbot, caplin and plaice and all the other fishes with which our waters teem but which have never been utilized in this way, will be the means of increasing the monetary returns of our fisheries. In other countries such fish as these are in demand and form a principal source of revenue; but they are allowed to remain in our waters and form no part of our fisheries revenue. We cannot blame the people because there was no market for them. A great many of these fish require to be eaten fresh in order to get their full flavor Now take the caplin for instance. We in this country have eaten the fresh caplin and the salt caplin. Now the salt caplin is a very nice relish, but as a rule we would not care to make a meal on it; but no one would ask a better meal than a meal of fresh caplin. That taste is not confined to Newfoundland, because I have heard hundreds of people who have come to this country say that they have been delighted with our fresh caplin, not alone as a delicate and delicious food but because of its flavor and general character; and I am quite satisfied that if we could send that fish fresh and cold stored to Canada and the United States a very large market would be developed. And see what an industry that would be. There are millions of tons of these fish around our coasts and they are used for no other purpose except for bait and as a fertilizer. There would be a large source of income in it for our people because the supply is unfailing. It is very rare in the history of Newfoundland that its caplin school has failed; on the contrary it often comes twice in the same year; and they visit all parts of our coast and Labrador pretty well. The same is true of other fish. I would point out to the House that we are running no risk in my judgment in offering this bounty for the reason that if it is ever called for, the man who will claim it will have to spend five or six times or ten times

more in order to get the fish; so that it would come back to the revenue. The whole of it represents labor from the time the hook, the trap, or the seine is put down, until it leaves our shores. The bounty will be more than made up by the amounts paid in labor—our people will benefit—their purchasing power will be increased—and our revenue benefit from the duty on the goods they import. But that will not be the only value that will come back. Not only will there be a return of the money and more employment for our people, but there is the further advantage; the easy procuring of bait by the people all over the country. If we were here to-day asking for a straight vote for bait assistance without any reference to cold storage in relation to other fish, $70,000 would be a mere flea bit compared with giving all our fishermen a necessary supply of bait. There are times in Newfoundland when if we had squid or other bait fishes our people could get thousands of quintals of fish in every Bay around the Island between May and December. We have all seen year after year hundreds of schooners and boats lying idle with plenty of fish around but no bait. The fishermen have never had the means of putting up bait stores for themselves. While they can get the natural supply it is the cheapest form of bait; but you want to provide for the day when there is no natural supply, and there is plenty of fish around, say, Conception Bay, the Southern Shore, or down the Labrador. That is the time when cold stored bait will be found of advantage. Mr. Speaker: I think this is a decidedly good measure. I hope it will be availed of. It gives an opportunity to our people, to our merchants and those who believe in the development of our fisheries, to put down their cold storage plants either for fish to export or for bait to sell to our fishermen. I can only hope that the day will come when we will be called upon for the bounty under this Act for we will be amply repaid for it.

MR. **DOWNEY**—Mr. Chairman, before the resolutions pass, I would like to say that there is no legislation that appeals to me for favorable judgment more so than legislation concerning the initiation of cold storage. I have been, for slightly over thirty years, doing my utmost by talking, writing and subsequently, by practical demonstration, to show the great value that a cold storage system, applied to our fisheries, would be to this country. In the year that the Reid Nfld. Co. initiated their Bay Steamer Services I submitted a memoradum of a scheme of fish collection and cold storage, identical in every respect with that now before this House, to the present Prime Minister, who was a member of the Government of that day, for submission to the Government and I was subsequently written that the scheme was very interesting and all that sort of thing, but at the same time nothing was done. At the time, the country was, unfortunately, not so ripe for an innovation of this character as the process of education in the advantages of cold storage that has been carried on now for many years has resulted in, and I believe that to-day the whole country is keenly interested in the realization of a really practicable system that will confer the measure of benefit that the public are warranted in anticipating therefrom. There are features of this Bill which I cannot criticise at the present moment, as it is only a short time since the printed copy was placed in my hands, but from a casual scrutiny I find nothing wrong with the proposition.

In addition to the fishes stated by the Prime Minister to have been enumerated by Mr. Duff as possess-

ing considerable value, and that are found in our waters, we have also others of very great value and that may be had in large quantities, such as smelts, bream, pollock, ling, turbot, etc.

It will, possibly, be news to many members of this House to learn that quite an extensive smelt fishery has been carried on in Saint George's District for some few years past. From Port au Port and Stephenville alone, some $16,000 worth were exported in the past year and as this fishery develops, this amount will be very greatly exceeded. There is a large demand for this fish and it can be most profitably marketed, the average price realized being about 20 cents a pound. Smelt can be caught on both the west and east coasts. In several places in Conception Bay I have seen very fine smelt. Such are also procured about Gambo, in Bonavista Bay, and no doubt they are equally plentiful in many other places. They are often fished for, especially on the east coast, but with the demand that cold storage will open up, I anticipate this being a considerable winter industry in the very near future.

The Prime Minister further referred to caplin, and as caplin can be had in unlimited quantity. this fishery will be greatly encouraged by this measure Up to now it has been impossible to ship caplin fresh.

I, once, when in the fresh fish business, succeeded in getting one small lot of fresh caplin. Caplin very rarely come to the shore in the neighbourhood of Port aux Basques and the one lot that I got was brought me by one of my salmon collecting smacks from codroy, a distance of forty miles. They were about four days caught before I could ship them from Port aux Basques and it took five days to reach New York, and they realized there 23 and a half cents a pound. They appealed to the market there so strongly that for weeks afterwards I was constantly in receipt of messages and letters from hotels, fish dealers and others, asking for further and continuous shipments of fresh caplin and that the price need be no obstacle. For the reasons given, it was impossible for me to make further shipments and I don't think that any have been made since. That one shipment,however, quite convinced me of the value of caplin as a market fish.

With lobsters the same conditions apply. I shipped live lobsters for three years from Port aux Basques to Boston and to Newport, Rhode Island. The only drawback to the shipment of live lobsters at that time was that the American laws required live lobsters to measure ten and a half inches in length, and it was only for the first four or five weeks of the season here that we could get from about 38 to 40 per cent. of our lobsters to reach that size, and later on in the season large fish become so few that only from 10 to 12 per cent could be found. When the percentage fell thus low it was not practicable to prosecute the business profitably. At the present time I think the size of lobsters is slightly larger than when I was in the business, and as the American law has been altered to admit lobsters of lesser length than ten and a half inches there would appear to be no difficulty in the way of this business now being prosecuted with a great measure of success.

We, undoubtedly have the turbot that Mr. Duff has referred to, and I agree with Mr. Duff that it is not a true turbot. It is what is known in the American market as the "Black Turbot" and somewhat different from the brown turbot of British waters, but it is very good, and will prove a very marketable fish. Turbot are procurable in large quantities, during

the winter season, in Fortune Bay and a large turbot fishery can also be developed in Trinity Bay. Our flounder, commonly called a flat fish, is a most desirable fish, and personally, I can detect no difference of flavor between the celebrated English lemon sole and the Newfoundland flounder, provided that both be prepared in the same way. Flounders are procurable along all our coasts and at the present time their sole value is to serve as lobster bait, but by the additional value that cold storage will impart to these fish, they must, in the near future, attain a considerable value. I see a very important aspect, Mr. Chairman, of this cold storage project which, perhaps, does not appeal to the majority of persons. It will enable us to obtain a continuous winter supply of fresh fish, which has always been a desideratum in St. John's, and the obtaining of which in the immediate future, through the instrumentality of cold storage, when the cost of meat foods are so high, will be a most material advantage. Cold storage would, however, do even more than this towards lessening the high cost of living, not alone in St. John's but in other parts of the country as well. Our butchers, as we know, are yearly compelled to buy considerable numbers of cattle to afford a winter supply of beef. These cattle have often to be kept for from two or three months and as the cost of keep would not be no less than $2 pe head per week, it can be readily seen that this materially increases the price of our meat supply, but with the initiation of this cold storage project, butchers, instead of feeding cattle through the winter, will be enabled to slaughter them when pasture is no longer procurable and by cold storing the carcasses—which may be done at a cost of about a tenth of that of feeding—the amount thus saved must inevitably have a tendency to reduce the price of beef to the public, and I have no doubt our experience of the next two years or so will establish the correctness of this opinion. In the year 1914, just previous to the outbreak of the war, in conjunction with a gentleman of St. John's I succeeded in interesting capitalists in London in the floating of a cold storage company. We had assurances that all the required capital would be readily subscribed and the project was nearing completion when the outbreak of the war unfortunately stopped all negotiations and the matter was suspended until May of the present year. Then the people who had been interested in London wrote us, stating that the matter could now be materialized and requested me to proceed to New York to consult with a certain Wall Street firm there who were desirous of becoming interested in the proposition. At that time, however, I had learnt that the present scheme was in course of promotion and I thought that it would be unwise to project two such enterprises at the same time. Competition would increase the costs to both and militate against the success of either and, accordingly, I thought it would best conserve the interests of the country, and of all concerned, to allow the company, now starting operations, to have precedence and to be free from the handicap of competition until their business had been established. I, therefore, did not go to New York and, for the present at least, I have dropped out of the business. A few years hence, however, when the country will have become educated to the great advantages that cold storage offers, and when other sections than those contemplated in the present charter will be clamoring for the extension thereto of the advantages of

this system, there will be abundance of room for other companies to exploit this business and I have no doubt that the field is sufficiently large to permit the whole of them to do a large and profitable volume or business. When this time arrives, no doubt the Government will be as ready to give the required measure of assistance to others entering the field of operations that they are doing in the present case, though, the necessity for this will be yearly becoming less.

We, in this country, should long since have realized the unequalled advantages that we posses for being a source of supply of fresh fish to the British and to the American markets

Fish for cold storage treatment must be caught and cold stored whilst in an absolutely fresh condition, and this is not possible in the British fisheries nor in those of Nova Scotia nor the United States for the reason that their fisheries are prosecuted in schooners or steamers of considerable tonnage which spend many days on a trip and when they return, though ice preserved, the fish has so softened that it's not in fit condition for cold storage treatment. We, on the other hand, have an immense shore, or boat, fishery and the fish so caught is brought to port every day and can be immediately cold stored before any softening process has set in. The fish, therefore, is in prime condition and even an epicure could detect no loss of flavor in such fish when cooked. We are also most advantageously situated geographically for the supply of countries on both sides the Atlantic and it will, I am convinced, be largely our own fault and owing to our lack of initiative and energy if we fail to grasp the many advantages that are thus open to us.

I have had an opportunity of seeing the cold storage plant now in course of erection and I can vouch for the fact that it is thoroughly well adapted to the business. The work therein is of a substantial and thorough character and the system of refrigerators employed thoroughly up to date. The only feature in connection therewith that might, possibly, be susceptible to improvement is its location, whilst designed to facilitate the handling of probably 16 per cent. of its output, will slightly increase the cost of handling the remaining 84 per cent.; but this is not a feature that appeals to us and I have no doubt that in the course of a very few years another storage will be required in St. John's, and in that time the volume of fishes, other than cod fish, being handled will have so increased that the present storage may be devoted almost exclusively to such and to local products, and, subsequently, storages may be erected where they will afford greater advantages for handling the larger proportion of the fish that we will export. It is true that we are promising this company a material advantage in the bonus proposed, but not anything beyond what the merits of the proposition entitle it to. As you all know, we have had several cold storage projects presented for consideration in the past 15 or 16 years, not one of which materialized. The responsibility for this, I contend, rests upon our own shoulders; we never made the proposed subsidy sufficient to induce capitalists to embark their money in a new and untried enterprise such as this; we always endeavored to drive too hard a bargain; we tried to convince ourselves that we were dealing with philanthropists instead of with capitalists, and the consequent repeated failures were no surprise, at least to me. The present is the only cold storage project coming before the

Legislature that I feel convinced will develop and confer the large measure of benefit upon the country that we are warranted in anticipating. To show the House what it is possible for cold storage to do, I may say that in the year '98, after 18 years talking and writing up the project and having failed to induce concerted action towards the establishment of a cold storage system, I determined to personally undertake to prove its adaptability to our requirements, and a local business firm undertook to finance the project. From the start we met with many difficulties. The local merchants along the west coast were all, of course, hostile to such an innovation as they foresaw therefrom the ultimate loss of their salt fish business and we had great difficulty in procuring fish. It will be remembered that in those days railway connection with Port aux Basques was interrupted every winter, and the Bruce, our sole means of transportation, was every season removed from Port aux Basques to ply between Placentia and Sydney, so that we met with repeated and serious losses by not being able to make shipments to meet the orders of our customers, and of fish for which we had paid considerable prices. On one occasion I remember having had about 16,000 pounds of halibut left on our hands for weeks and which, of course, deteriorated to a certain extent in value. Again, we have had to make shipments by sailing craft when the Bruce was off the route and of course we were all the time debarred from making anything like the volume of shipments that we could otherwise have made. Despite all these difficulties, we generally shipped from five to as high as ten or twelve thousand pounds of halibut, from one to three or four thousand live lobsters and as high as 20,000 pounds of cod, and these shipments were more than ordinarily profitable, especially those of codfish. After four or five years, however, I could see no prospect of any improvement in transportation facilities in the near future and I relinquished the business, but it was immediately taken up by others and the same volume of business, or, possibly, even larger, is being done to-day from the west coast, but there are a large number of people doing it and the business is, consequently, more cut up. I think in 1916 over 100 tons of fresh salmon were so shipped and in the past season undoubtedly very many hundreds of tons of cod fish, beside large quantities of halibut and smelts.

When this much could have been done with the extremely limited facilities available and under all the handicaps that I have mentioned, no sane person can have any doubt whatever of what is possible under the improved condition of things that we are to-day helping to inaugurate I have the greatest confidence, Mr. Chairman, in the successful materialization of this project and nobody, I am sure, can do otherwise than sincerely hope it may meet with the largest measure of success, which I heartily wish it.

HON. MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman, there is just one aspect of this matter to which I would like to draw your attention and that is as to the limitations provided in the act with regard to the bonus. Under the act it is provided that to secure the full bounty of $75,000 a company must have capacity for about 19,000,000 lbs. of fish, of which 10 per cent must be reserved for government use—free—now this is very favourable for the fishermen. The establishment of such a Cold Storage Company would mean an additional value of fifty cents a quintal or more to the price of fish if the activities of such company us-

ed up an equivalent of 100,000 qtls. of dry cod, and this ought in the course of a year or two to add $750,000 to the pockets of the fishermen, as the usual average catch is about 1,500,000 qtls. That is one aspect of these resolutions of interest to the fishermen.

The information given by my friend Mr. Downey is sufficient to show the desirability of this measure, and the probabilities of success. It is to be hoped that it will be entirely successful and that in a year or two we will have several such companies operating in this colony. If such companies are entitled to a bonus of $75,000 we will be quite sure that the fishermen of the country will have reaped a great deal more benefit from their operations than is paid out by the treasury as bonus for I hope that the company now organizing will in a year or two use up more than the equivalent of 100,000 qtls., and that others may be established to add two or three hundred thousand qtls. If this happens the price of dry fish will be increased from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per qtl. This is the point which will interest the fishermen most, and this bill is intended to aid them in a manner such as never before attempted by any government in this Colony.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the said Resolutions and recommended that a Bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 10 Edward VII (1910) Chapter 31 entitled "An Act respecting Cold Storage." be 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 10 Edward VII (1910) Chapter 31 was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House of tomorrow.

JUDICATURE AND COURTS BILLS.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Justice the Bills entitled "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act 1904," and "An Act to Amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes 1892 (Second Series) entitled "Of the Central and Hr. Grace District Courts." were 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 Bills entitled "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act 1904" and "An Act to Amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series) entitled "Of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts"

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Dr. Lloyd.)—Mr. Chairman: This bill "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, 1904," is introduced in order to empower the Court or Judge to give such remuneration to trustees of insolvent estates where the estate does not consist of more than $1,000 as may in its or his opinion be adequate. This bill is a very short one, and does not call for further comment.

The object of the District Court bill is to amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes. It will be remembered, I think, that the District Court judges sit in two capacities, one as representing the Central or Harbor Grace District Court, which is a Court of record, and the other as Magistrates. As a court of record under section three, they have jurisdiction

in civil matters up to $50.00, whereas as a court of summary jurisdiction and not as a court of record, which is, of course, of greater dignity and higher authority, they have jurisdiction up to $200.00, so that when they sit as judges in a court of record in a bigger authority they have less power than an outport magistrate. The object of this act is to bring up the jurisdiction of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts from $50.00 to $200.00.

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 Bills without amendment.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bills be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bills entitled respectively "An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, 1904," and "An Act to Amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series) entitled 'Of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts," were read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that they be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that they be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in their provisions.

PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett, 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 191 and the 30th day of June 1918 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 years ending respectively the 30th day of June 1917 and the 30th day of June 1918 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 to Defray Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th day of June 1917 and the 30th day of June 1918 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.

REVENUE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. J. R. Bennett, 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 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, 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.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, July 31st., 1917.

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

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would ask leave presently to introduce a Bill to amend the Act 6 George V. Cap 4.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Council's amendments in and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act respecting the Public Service Electric Company Limited" were read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker: I beg to move the acceptance of these amendments. I think that there is no objection to any of them. I should like, however, to point out to the House, that there is one amendment—section 7—which deals with the matter of taxation. The section, as it went up from here, read:

"All plant, machinery, equipment, implements, apparatus, tools, utensils and materials necessary for the original construction, installation, development and distribution of the said Company's electric systems and extensions thereof and the electric energy developed therefrom shall be admitted into the colony free of duty."

Now that section is one dealing with taxation, and it cannot be too often repeated that that subject is one entirely within the province of this Chamber; though I have no doubt that this particular instance was not looked upon in that light by the Upper Chamber. The amendment made is only of a trifling character. The section now reads: "All plant, machinery, implements, apparatus, tools,utensils and materials necessary for the original construction of the said company's electric systems and the extensions thereof shall be admitted into the colony duty free" This is really less than this House passed. However, it is a matter of taxation, and that, as I have said, is entirely the province of this Chamber. With that knowledge, and feeling that there was no intentional trespass upon the rights of this House, I would recommend the adoption of the section.

The amendments were concurred in and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that they had been agreed to; noting in the Minutes by direction of the Speaker that the House of Assembly accepts the amendment dealing with Customs Duties as being merely verbal.

COLD STORAGE BILL.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled: "An Act to Amend the Act 10 Edward VII (1910) Chapter 31 entitled "An Act respecting Cold Storage."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman: In connection with this Bill, I note that

in section 9 (a) the bonus is one cent per pound. and in sub-section (b) it is stated that the maximum amount shall be estimated at one-half cent per pound. What is the explanation?

HON. MIN. OF JUSTICE (Dr Lloyd) —You will notice that the first case relates to storage capacity—four hundred dollars for a storage capacity of one hundred thousand pounds and so on in proportion. Now, a company may have a very large export business and yet not have a plant with a storage capacity of 100,000 pounds; and in that case they would be entitled to be paid at the rate of one cent per pound on the amount exported.

MR. CURRIE.—There is another matter that I would like to draw attention to, and that is the provision in section 5 that the Governor in Council shall not supply bait to vessels engaged in the bank fishery. It seems to me that this is an unfair discrimination against the Bank fishermen, because it means that if the Company does not store any bait except that especially at the disposal of the Governor in Council for shore fishermen, or refuses to sell it to the Bank fishermen they may not get any bait at all, even if they are badly in need of it. That seems to me very unfair, and I think the section should be made less arbitrary, and power given to the Governor in Council to supply some bait to Bank fishermen.

HON MIN OF JUSTICE (Mr. Lloyd) —With reference to this section, in which the Governor in Council undertakes not to supply bait to Bankers, I can understand that there would be some hardship if the Company had not the bait or refused to sell it, but I can't conceive any practical difficulty there. The object of the measure is to give the Company the right to supply those who take large quantities of bait, which the Bankers usually do, and to limit the supply, so far as the Governor in Council is concerned to shore fishermen who take only small quantities and who in the main don't buy bait. This will enable the Governor in Council, if thought advisable to give away the bait, but not give it away to Bankers. Therefore I don't see exactly the practical difficulty that would arise. The companies have an opportunity of selling bait to the Bankers, and they will surely avail of it; and if not there could hardly be any objection to supplying it from the Government stores.

MR. CURRIE—There is not much encouragement to the Company to store bait, nor much advantage to them in doing it, and I am inclined to think that they won't do it to any great extent. Therefore I think the Act should be less arbitrary so that the Governor in Council could give Bankers some bait at least. At present they are being cut off from getting any bait at all in case of a bad season.

HON. MR. COAKER—In regard to the point raised by the honourable member for Burin, I would say that the way I read that clause is this: whoever comes in under this Bill will have to make an agreement with the Governor in Council, and the Governor in Council can easily say, "Now, you have the right to supply bait to bankers, and you must reserve a certain amount of space for bait for the Government. You are not to sell to bankers out of this, but if you don't keep bait and haven't got bait to sell, why we will make a business of selling bait to the bankers. If you haven't got the bait and we have, there is no objection whatever to our supplying the bankers."

MR. CURRIE—That is all I want. If the Company hasn't any bait to sell the Governor in Council should have the right to dispose of a certain amount if necessary. The Bank in-

dustry is a very huge one, and I don't think it should be discriminated against to the extent laid down in this section.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE— There is no intention to make a deadlock, and for the purpose of making this section clearer, I move that these words be added to sub-section 5, "when the Company has bait for sale on the market at the rates aforesaid."

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 10 Edward VII. (1910) Chapter 31, entitled "An Act Respecting Cold Storage," 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.

PRODUCTS CORPORATION BILL.

On motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. 1915, Cap. 4, entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a secon time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6, George V., 1915, Cap. 4, entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited," was read a second time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is for the purpose of extending the time for commencement and completion of the works and expenditure as provided in sections 2 and 18 of the old Act. Under section 2 a survey had to be made within two years of Hamilton River, and then certain things had to be done within ten years. Under section 18 the company had to begin actual construction within two years and complete operations within ten years. That Act was passed in 1915, just after the commencement of the war. As you know financial affairs because of the war were disorganized, and it was found impossible to interest sufficient capital in this enterprise within the time allowed. The same thing applied to other big enterprises in other places. Those interested in this work now ask the Legislature to extend the time and propose the following section to meet the case:

1—In computing the time for the commencement and completion of the works and expenditures as provided in sections 2 and 18 of the Act 6, George V. 1915, Capt. 4, entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation, Limited," the period between the 16th day of April, A.D., 1915, and the date on which His Majesty shall cause to be issued a proclamation or proclamations declaring that a state of war no longer exists between His Majesty and the countries with which hostilities are at present pending shall not be counted or taken into consideration.

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

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. 1915 Cap 4 entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited."

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 6 George V. 1915 Cap. 4, entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited." was read a third time and passed and it was ordered that it be engrossed being entitled as above and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a Message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Thursday next August 2nd at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, August 2nd., 1917

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

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 Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland Second series entitled "Of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts." 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 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 1917 and the 30th day of June 1918 and for other purposes relating to the Public Service." 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 Judicature Act 1904." without amendment.

SAWMILLS BILL.

Hon. the Minister of Justice gave notice that he would presently ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chap 15, entitled "The Saw Mills Act."

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chap 15 entitled "The Saw Mills Act." was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chap 15 entitled "The Saw Mills Act" was read a second time.

HON MIN OF JUSTICE (Dr. Lloyd) —Mr. Speaker. The object of this Bill is very simple. A number of pitprops have been cut in this country, and for some time past there has been no means of exporting them. Now, there is a section in the Saw Mills Act which takes away the right of property in wood cut and lying in the woods. or lying without care or custody, or not in a place of safety, for eighteen months; and some doubt has arisen as to whether or not this section applies to pitprops. The object of this measure is to arrange that this section shall not apply to pitprops which have been cut since October 1st 1915. A number of cases have come up in connection with pitprops

which were cut before that date and all right in connection with pitprops which were cut before that date and all rights in connection with these are being reserved, but it is proposed that the right of property in pitprops which have been cut since the 1st of October, 1915, shall not be taken away by the Saw Mills Act.

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

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chap 15 entitled "The Saw Mills Act."

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 6 George V. Chap 15 entitled "The Saw Mills Act" 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.

BUSINESS PROFIT TAX.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bills entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Revenue Act 1905" and "An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman. This is not the same Bill we had before us the other day?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Dr. Lloyd)—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word of explanation of this Bill, as it appears to be necessary. The hon. member for Burin has remarked that this is not the same Bill which was before the House the other day. It is not. There have been some changes. In the first place, the principle of the taxation has been changed. Under the old Bill, in estimating the net profit an interest charge of 6 per cent. was allowed to be deducted from the capital. That interest charge is stricken out, because all reference to capital has been stricken out in this Bill. The Bill is no longer a taxation that depends on capital; it depends solely on profits; but in estimating net profits no allowance is to be made for interest. Previously, when an allowance was permitted for interest and capital taken into account, all net profits over $2,000 were taxable. That is to say, $2,100 was a taxable amount at $2,100; $2,500 was a taxable amount at $2,500, and so on; and the rate of taxation proposed was 25 per cent. Now, all that is changed. There is no further reference to capital, and no interest on capital is allowed to be deducted from the gross profits. The net profit is obtained by deducting from the gross profit the ordinary charges, such as salaries, etc.; and then the taxation is on the excess of $3,000. So that, if the net profit is $5,000, the taxable net profit is $2,000; if the net profit is $10,000, the taxable net profit is $7,000; and so on, always deducting $3,000. Now the rate has also been changed. Previously the rate proposed was 25 per cent.; the present Bill proposes to make it 20

per cent. Further, there is a change in connection with the manner of dealing with the banks. The banks are very chary of disclosing matters which may effect customers, and customers would naturally object to such disclosures being made, and consequently it is proposed that they shall pay a tax on the deposits which are in the bank on the 31st December of the accounting period.

MR. CURRIE—On all deposits? On savings' deposits?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Dr. Lloyd)—On all deposits. Deposits bearing interest are taxable as well as those not bearing interest. The rate proposed is one-half of one per cent. That will bring the amount up to somewhere in the neighborhood of what it was expected the bank tax would be, and does not call for any more disclosures to the Government than are annually furnished at the present time.

MR. CURRIE—There was a provision in the previous Bill—I don't know whether it is in this one—regarding taxes paid in another country. Does that apply to the banks?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Dr. Lloyd)—The banks will, of course, pay only on local deposits.

MR. CURRIE—In Canada the tax is on note circulation.

HON. MIN. OF JUSTICE (Doctor Lloyd)—There they have a different principle entirely. There are two taxes—one a war revenue tax and the other an ordinary business tax. The war revenue tax is on circulation; and from the ordinary business tax they are allowed to deduct the war revenue tax. The principle of this Bill is different from the Canadian Bill. In fact, this is not the Canadian Bill. It is really an income tax on business which pay over all charges a profit of $3,000.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—Strike out forms D and E.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—Why strike them out?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—Since the amendment of the original draft there is no necessity for them. Where the tax-payer is dissatisfied, the matter is laid before a Board of Arbitrators and their decision is final. There is no Court of Revision and there is no appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

On motion, this report was received and adopted, and it was ordered that the said Bills be read a third time presently.

REVENUE BILL.

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.

PROFITS TAX BILL.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits," was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

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 Act 6, George V., 1915, Cap. 4, entitled 'An Act for the

Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited,'" with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

The said amendment was read a first time.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Speaker: Under the Act which we passed a short while ago and sent to the Upper House, the two years and five years mentioned in the various sections were to be computed from the end of the war. Under the amendment, time begins to run from the 16th April, 1917. In other words, it places the Corporation in the same position as if we were passing their charter to-day. It is not as broad a measure as the one which we sent up, but I should suppose that if the war goes on beyond that period the Corporation may come into the Legislature, and then we would be glad to give them another extension of the period. I should suppose that the section might be acceptable to the House. The word "pending," however, will have to be stricken out, for either that word must come out or the whole section be otherwise amended. With this slight amendment the section will read correctly. In other words this section means that the time lost by reason of the war shall not be taken into consideration, and the Company will be in the same position as if we had passed their charter here to-day.

On motion of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister this amendment to the Council's amendment was made and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the concurrence of that body therein.

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

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that His Excellency will be pleased to prorogue the Legislature if the Upper House is ready on Saturday at the usual time. There are still two or three other bills to come down to us, but it is hoped that the Legislative Council will be able to have these passed by Saturday in time to close. We will probably be in a position to say definitely to-morrow afternoon, as in the meantime I would suggest that we adjourn until then.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, August 3rd, 1917.

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

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 Amend the Revenue Act, 1905," 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 amendment made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. 1915, Cap. 4, entitled 'An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited," 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 6 George V., Chapter 15, entitled "The Saw Mills Act," with an amendment in which they

requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion the said amendment was read a first time.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE— Mr. Speaker, this section as originally drafted and passed by this House was introduced at the instance of firms and persons interested in pit-props in order that in future, pit-props on the banks should not come under the provisions of the saw mills act which takes away the rights of property in wood that has been 18 months cut and left uncared for. Now in this connection there has been considerable trouble and some sixty writs have been issued against some sixty persons North, who say that they are protected by the Saw Mills Act, as that Act stands. Now the amendments passed by this House did not affect the rights of either the plaintiffs or the defendants. The effect of the Legislative Council's amendment is to take away absolutely this plea in defence. In the interest of these defendants, therefore, I propose that these amendments be rejected and that the words be inserted after pit-props.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— I second that.

On motion of the Minister of Justice an amendment to the amendment was made and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would presently ask leave to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions on the subject of a Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands.

STEAM SERVICE CONTRACT BILL.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Certain Resolutions on the Subject of a Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— Mr. Chairman, the contract, as it will be seen by referring to the agreement which these resolutions confirm, on page 2, is this. The Contractors covenant and agree with the Government for the consideration hereinafter mentioned to provide and furnish a steamer to ply and run between St. George's, Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands subject to certain terms and conditions. The steamer shall not be less than 120 tons nett measurement, shall have suitable stateroom capacity for six passengers and saloon eating capacity for twenty passengers, and shall class 100 A1. at Lloyd's. She shall steam nine knots in good weather. She shall make 34 trips a year, and run continuously from May 1st to December 31st. Then you will notice that the various ports are mentioned for the various trips. Power is reserved in Section 4 for the substitution of intermediate ports. Provision is also made that the steamer shall carry all the mails. Section 10 provides for the maintenance of the steamer doing the service, and sections 12 to 17 deal with the regular conditions as provided in other contracts. The term of the contract as stated in the 18th section is ten years. Section 21 provides that, should the contract be carried out, the Government will pay to the contractors $500 for the round trip.

Annexed to the resolution is a schedule of rates, and these are practically "pre-war" rates, and are not regarded as high by those conversant with the service. I may say that in the past we have had services on this bay, but have come to believe that unless the steamer is 100 A1 at Lloyds the money spent is money thrown

away. Under this contract it is hoped that as this condition has been met, the service will be good, and that this section, which has in the past been so badly served, will have the service it requires. I beg to move these resolutions.

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 Confirm a Contract on the Subject of Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands," was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Confirm a Contract on the Subject of Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands," 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 Confirm a Contract on the Subject of Steam Service Between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands."

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 Confirm a Contract on the Subject of Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands," 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.

Hon. J. R. Bennett tabled the Report of Roman Catholic Schools for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1916.

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

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— I find that owing to certain unforseen contingencies, it has been found impossible to prorogue the House tomorrow. I would ask that the House adjourn till Monday next.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, August 6th, 1917.

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair until five of the clock.

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 Act 10 Edward VII. entitled 'An Act Respecting Cold Storage,'" with some amendments in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

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

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER— I might say, Mr. Speaker, that these amendments do not in any way affect the principle of the Bill as it went up from this Chamber. It is really merely a matter of putting the words in another form. The amendment to the section of the Cold Storage Act of 1910, which is a new amendment, merely limits the guarantee. There is no objection to the change.

On motion the amendments were read a second time and concurred in, and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the said amendments had been agreed to.

Hon. J. R. Bennett tabled the Report of the Superintendent of Schools under Church of England Boards for year ending Dec. 31st, 1916.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY. August 7th, 1917

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair until five of the clock.

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 amendment made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chapter XV entitled "The Saw Mills 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 entitled "An Act to Confirm a Contract on the subject of Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands." without amendment.

Hon. J. R. Bennett tabled the Report of Public Schools under Methodist Boards for 1916.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister informed the House that His Excellency would porogue the House on to-morrow at three of the clock in the afternoon.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, August 8, 1917.

The House met at half past two o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

At three of the clock the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod appeared at the Bar of the House with a message from His Excellency the Governor commanding the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker and the House attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber.

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

May it Please Your Excellency:

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 for ratifying a Contract for Steam Service on Bay of Islands.

An Act respecting the Currency.

An Act to Amend the Death Duties Acts 1914 to 1916.

An Act respecting Bonds issued under "The Loan Act 1916."

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

An Act Respecting Certain Retiring Allowances.

An Act to Provide Pensions for Members of the Military and Naval Forces of the Colony and for their Widows and Children and other Dependents.

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 1917 and the 30th day of June 1918 and for other purposes relating to the Public Service.

An Act to Amend the Act 10 Edward VII (1910) Chapter 31 entitled "An Act respecting Cold Storage."

An Act to Confirm a Contract on the Subject of Steam Service between Port aux Basques and Bay of Islands.

An Act Further to Amend the Revenue Act 1915.

An Act respecting Discipline on Ships controlled by the Admiralty.

An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships.

An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other Parts of His Majesty's Dominions.

An Act to Amend the Act relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's.

An Act to Amend the Trustee Act 1898.

An Act respecting Returns of Losses by Fire Insurance Companies.

An Act respecting Copyright

An Act respecting the District of St. George's.

An Act to Amend and Continue in Force for a Further Period the Act 5 George V. Session 1. Cap. 4. entitled "An Act Respecting a Volunteer Force in this Colony."

An Act to amend Chapter 122 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Wreck and Salvage."

An 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.

An Act respecting Pilots and Pilotage for the Port of St. John's.

An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. (1916) Cap. 2. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army."

An Act further to Amend the Law relating to the Importation of Timber.

An Act further to Amend 56 Vic. (1893) Cap 11. entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Placentia Water Company."

An Act respecting the Newfoundland Knitting Mills Limited.

An Act to Extend the term of the present Legislature.

An Act respecting the Riverside Woolen Mills Limited.

An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding Act 1916.

An Act Respecting the Department of Militia.

An Act further to Amend the St. John's Municipal Act 1902.

An Act to Amend the Education Act 1916.

An Act respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life.

An Act to Amend the Judicature Act 1904.

An Act to Amend the Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

An Act to Amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland Second Series entitled "Of the Central and Harbour Grace District Courts."

An Act respecting the Public Service Electric Company.

An Act to Amend 6 George V. Chap 15 entitled "The Saw Mills Act."

An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. 1915 Cap. 4, entitled "An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited."

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 affords me much satisfaction to be able to relieve you from the arduous duties which have devolved on you during a somewhat protracted session, at this period of the year, and I desire to express my appreciation of the zeal and assiduity with which you have devoted yourselves to the discharge of your legislative labours.

I rejoice that it has been found possible, during the session, to constitute a National Ministry, with the object of ensuring the co-operation of all parties in the working out of the very serious domestic and imperial problems to which the war is giving rise, and the equally serious problems with which we seem destined to be confronted in the reconstruction period which will follow after the war. I sincerely trust that the expectations entertained with regard to the results to flow from this union of parties will be fully realized.

Many of the measures which have engaged your attention may be regarded as of outstanding importance to the future of the Colony. The War Pensions Bill is a measure of justice for our representatives in the navy and army of the Empire, which will, I feel sure, commend itself to everybody. The Food Control Bill will provide the machinery for coping with what may prove a serious situation during the ensuing stages of the war. The liberal provision you have made for Education should be warmly received, not alone by the teachers, but by the general public, as the stimulus it will impart to the teaching organization cannot but be reflected in increased efficiency. The equally generous addition made for marine and public works ought to be materially helpful in the betterment of these agencies, which count for so much in the industrial life of the Colony.

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

I thank you for the appropriations which you have made for the several departments of the public service, and I assure you they will be expended with due regard to efficiency and economy.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

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

In now relieving you from your sessional duties I am glad to be able to note that the industrial operations of the Colony contain an assurance of continued prosperity for it, and I assure you of my sincere desire for your well-being and advancement.

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

Gentlemen:

It is His Excellency's Will and pleasure that this General Assembly be prorogued until Thursday the 16th day of August instant then and here to be holden, and this General Assembly stands prorogued accordingly.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DURING THE

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

Twenty-Third General Assembly

OF

NEWFOUNDLAND

1917

NEWFOUNDLAND

OF

TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

FIFTH SESSION

DURING THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Council of Newfoundland

SESSION 1817

WEDNESDAY, May 30th.

This being the day appointed by proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature—

At five minutes to three o'clock p.m. the Council met.

Present:

Hon. P. T. McGrath, President,
" Dr. Skelton,
" George Knowling,
" Robert K. Bishop ,
" J. D. Ryan,
" John Anderson,
" John Harvey,
" Samuel Milley,
" Michael P. Gibbs, K.C.
" Marmaduke G. Winter,
" A. F. Goodridge,
" James Ryan,
" Michael Power,
" S. D. Blandword,
" R. A. Squires, K.C.

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. E. Davidson, K.C.M.G., having arrived at the Council Chamber and being seated on the Throne, the Hon. the President commanded the gentleman usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the Commons House of Assembly and inform the Speaker and Members thereof that it is His Excellency's will and pleasure that they attend at the Bar of this House; and they being called thereto, His Excellency was pleased to open the present session of the Legislature with the following speech to both Houses:—

(Speech appears in first part of this volume.)

His Excellency then retired.

The Council reassembling and a copy of His Excellency's Speech having been left for the Honourable the President, it was read by the Clerk.

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I rise, Mr. President, to move that a Select Committee be appointed to draft an Address in reply to the gracious speech with which His Excellency has been pleased to open the present session of the Legislature.

The first paragraph refers to the invitation by His Majesty's Government to the Prime Minister of this Colony to attend a conference in London, for the consideration of questions arising out of the war, and the delay in calling the Legislature together.

I am sure that I voice the opinion of every Hon. gentleman in this House, that the delay in opening is fully justified.

The second paragraph refers to the

Assemblage in the Capital of the Empire. When the proper time comes I am sure the Prime Minister of our Ancient Colony will unfold to the people of this country, a message that will redound to the Honour and Glory of our Island Home, and the part our soldier lads have played in this great and bloody war, which they have fought and are fighting now, for the Peace of the World and the Glory and Honour of the British Emoire.

The third and fourth paragraphs refer to the Great War, and the struggle, through its gallant sailors and soldiers, and the undying glory which has been recognised by our Sovereign.

"One more unflinching valorous soul
hath sped
To that far land whose shadowy paths
unfold,
Beyond the posterns of the sunset
gold,
Beyond the bourne to which our
dreams have led.

One more true knight—Life's sweet-
est words unsaid,
The rainbow rungs of eager youth
half scrolled,
Salutes the silent company splendid
souled—
The Army of the dear triumphant
dead."

While our sympathy goes out to all those who have fallen in this battle for justice, our thoughts, naturally, come back to our own land. Every mother loves her boy. These beautiful lines which I have read, dedicated to the memory of our gallant lads who fell in battle, will find an echo in many hearts throughout Newfoundland. Sorrow has followed upon sorrow. The already great growing company of bereaved in St. John's has had additions from well nigh every district in the Country. Our list of casualties, admittedly incomplete, is a record for numbers, and bears glowing testimony to the bravery of our officers and men, and to the greatness of their sacrifices.

The enemy bullet and shell are impartial destroyers of life. They make no fine distinctions between gentle and simple. They are sped on their death dealing fight to maim, perchance to kill. But that is not the limitation of the cruel effects of war. There are always anxious, loving hearts at home; there are always those who know intimately and well the men who are risking their lives, and so when news comes of valorous soldiers being cut off in the flower of their day, there is sorrow and regret. This has been brought home to every one—the magnitude of the cost this country has paid, and is paying, that the world may be saved from an aggressive militarism, from a power utterly devoid of humaneness, and whose ethics of honour and fair play are of a very low type.

The cost is incalculable. At no period in the history of this country when party politics should be put to the one side—It is now when all shades of political life should be blended together and work in harmony to win the war. Our gallant lads of this country are now at the front, fighting for King and Country. If in the opinion of party politicians mistakes have been made, this is not the time to enter into a political war. Let us first settle the World's War before we enter into a political battle in the colony.

Fight we this fight as in His Sight,
Whose word is truth, whose word is
life,
Whose word is victory thro' strife,
Whose word is everlasting right.

His Word is everlasting right;
Who follows Him hath peerless guide,

Who fights this fight is by His Side,
Whose Word is everlasting might.

His Word is everlasting might;
In triumph we will bear His Cross,
Thro' toil and travail, pain and loss,
To smite the forces of the Night.

To smite the forces of the Night,
Fight we this fight as in His Sight,
And, in the virtue of His might,
We'll win the world for Truth and Right.

Take our Roll of Honour as it is set in picture and story. Therein will be found a perfect gallery of bright promising lives. Lads many—I knew them well—you knew them also, who had just stepped on to the manhood stage, when they heard the call of duty. Splendid young men—sons of your own—sons of your best friends, who had in their too brief business years given proof of gifts and qualities that would have stood them in good stead—and men of maturer years—some of them husbands and fathers, whose passing is a national as well as a parental loss. The credit side of the war, if there is a credit side, is lost sight of in the face of so many calamities. We can only see the gaps in our circles. We can only look forward to a future bereft of many of the ties and associations that made life pleasurable. It is true, experience has proved it, that time has in a marvellous degree the gift of healing, and it may be that we will yet see more clearly than we do now the meaning of the present mystery and pain. At the opening of the Legislature to-day our thoughts are of the men at the front, who on different battlefields have given their lives, or been cruelly wounded for others. Few of them were warriors by instinct. None the less they were valiant and true soldiers and with the memories there will always be linked cherished recollections of the splendid souled men of Newfoundland, who have to our great loss passed into the Army of the dear triumphant dead.

From my place on the floor of this House—the highest tribute we can pay to their noble sacrifice is to endeavor to accomplish that for which they lost their lives in striving to achieve.

Mr. President, never again will the world witness another war like the present, fighting on the land, under the ground, in the air, on the sea and under the sea. What is the history of warfare since the Revolution and the first Empire, in days duration, loss of life and cost in money?

	Days duration	Loss of life	Cost
Revolution and First Empire, 1793-1815	10,088	2,100,000	$6,250,000,000
Crimean, 1854-1856	678	485,000	1,700,000,000
Civil War, 1861-1865	1,505	1,000,000	5,000,000,000
Austria-Prussia War, 1866	70	———	330,000,000
Franco-German, 1870-71	222	290,000	2,033,400,000
Russia-Turkish, 1877-78	326	180,000	950,000,000
Spanish-American, 1898	234	2,910	165,000,000
Boer, 1889-1900	520	12,000	1,085,330,000
Russia-Japanese, 1904-1905	565	555,900	2,513,470,000

Great Britain and her Allies for the past 1029 days have been engaged in one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever known, fighting against a nation of human reptiles and pirates, whose ambition is the destruction of sacred edifices, innocent women and children, without the slightest respect for the principles of warfare or the moral law.

Mr. President:—Haye we present with us this afternoon any Hon. member of this House—a prophet, a mathematician, who can tell us what is to be the final cost in human lives directly and indirectly of this fearful and bloody war? Would any of you like to place the figures under the headlines—days duration—Loss of Life—Cost in Money—Loss, Destruction of Property—The total summing up is fearful to contemplate.

O see that you build securely,
When the time for building comes
With square-hewn blocks of Righteousness,
And corner-stones of Faithfulness
And girders strong of Righted Wrong,
And the blood of our Martyrdoms!

And build on The One Foundation,
That shall make the building sure
The Rock that was laid ere the world was made,—
Build on Him, and ye build secure!

Shortage of tonnage is also a very difficult problem. Salt that was sold in 1914 at $1.10 per hhd. is to-day $4.00.

I am glad to note in His Excellency's speech that the salaries of the Civil servants are to receive some consideration. For many years they have been underpaid—also the salaries of School Teachers.

Should I have occasion later on in the Session to refer to the financial affairs of the Colony, I shall have something more to say on the increased salaries to Civil servants and School Teachers, as no more worthy servants of the Colony deserve the consideration of the Government.

Paragraph 6 refers to the Revenue which shows what is called a resultant surplus, was applied towards the Colony's War Expenditure. Another large surplus is anticipated for the fiscal year shortly to terminate, and it is proposed to apply this to the same purpose.

Like my friend the Hon. Minister of Finance, we forestalled something that would surprise the Country. I congratulate the Government and the country upon the splendid result of the past year, particulars of which I shall look forward to go into.

Paragraph 5 of His Excellency's speech refers to the changes caused in every aspect of our Colonial existence, and in none more so than the necessaries of life, and that a Commission has been appointed to enquire into the questions surrounding this problem. I very much fear the task will be a difficult one, but I would earnestly urge upon the Government to make provision at once for a supply of Flour and Coal—Dry Goods, the advance is about 70 per cent. Groceries will average about 90 per cent. Boots and shoes 50 per cent. Lines and Twines 90 per cent. In fact all kinds of goods are away up in price, beef and other food stuffs are high, subject to change daily. Many articles are beyond the control of a Commission however competent they may be to deal with. What is wanted is a one man food Controller, who understands the markets and values, and what would be a reasonable profit to the importer.

Pooling the importation of flour might be worthy the consideration of this Commission, and perhaps coal also. The average quantity of flour required for each day of the year is about one thousand barrels. I believe a good price will be given this

fall for fish. If not it will be a serious matter to the supplier and the supplied. The increased cost to fishermen who take supplies will work out something in this way—

Supplies that cost in 1914 will cost in 1917—

$100	$190
200	380
300	570
500	950
1000	1900
1500	2850
2000	3800

Speaking on the Revenue Bill in this house on May 3rd. 1916—These figures were only approximate at the time. The final result must be very gratifying to the Government —I said:

"Estimated revenue, June 30th, 1915-16, $4,160,000.00; showing a surplus of over Two Thousand dollars. I have no further desire, Mr. President, to review the Budget Speech of my hon. friend, the Minister of Finance, except to say in his estimate of Expenditure for 1916 and ending 30th June, 1917, he puts the amount at —$4,165,000.00—Four million, one hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. About the revenue I have no fear. The season has opened with a good seal fishery. good prices have been paid in the national industry of the country, good prospects are ahead with good markets. Tonnage to handle our imports and exports. The high markets for goods, under an ad valorem duty, and various war taxes. I believe the revenue for 1916-17 will surprise the country."

The estimates for the several departments, I note from the speech, are receiving consideration, and that a large increase over those of the current year is being framed with due regard to economy, and the exigencies of the unparalleled situation which now confronts us. I am pleased to observe from the speech that the inequality of the pay of the men of the Royal Naval Reserve will be placed on the same footing as the men of our Army.

At the present time, Mr. President, I don't intend to make a lengthy speech—an opportunity will offer later. I am pleased to observe, Mr. President, that the various industries and the general trade of the Colony for the past year has been successful and that the Imports and Exports reached the highest figure in the history of the Country—$35,000,000. Let us Win the War—

There's a mighty force behind you,
boys,
That's stronger, stronger far
Than all the hosts the enemy can
muster in this war.
The God of Right, in all His Might.
Is fighting on your side:
And the souls of all your comrades
true,
Who fought, and died alongside you,
Who fought, and dared, and died
with you,
They are watching how you bear
you, boys,
And they're fighting on your side.

Vain is the might of strongest man,
When he fights against the Lord,
Vain all the treacheries and craft
of all the hostile horde,
Fight ye this fight as in His sight;
And He will be your Guide;
And the souls of all good men and
true
Will range themselves alongside you;
They will fight, and dare, and die
with you,
The whole world's hopes ally with
you,
For the Right is on your side.

Mr. President:—I have much pleasure in moving for the appointment of a Select Committee.

HON. MR. HARVEY—In rising to second the motion, Mr. President, I do not propose to speak to any great length, for I think that this is not a time for much speaking, but rather for work—whether it be of a public na-

ture, work on committees of various kinds, in which you, Mr. President, have given such yeoman service, or work of a more private and specialized kind in which the majority are engaged, and which is in any case calculated to maintain the fabric of the Colony sound and efficient in these tremendous times.

I will not deal with the Government and its record, either in praise or dispraise beyond bespeaking for them generous sympathy in the unusually heavy responsibilities and anxieties that have been cast upon their shoulders during the long months of the war. Nor shall I treat at any length of the trying problem of the ever-increasing prices of commodities of all kinds. The more obvious causes at work are generally recognized—that withdrawal of millions of men from industry, the terrific destruction of life and property, bad harvests, the increased consumption and retarded production. Nor shall I deal with the more obscure but also potent factors working towards the same result, which are explainable under the so-called quantitative theory of money, the enormous increase in the issues of fiat currency and the amount of Government borrowings and expenditures. The Colony has, as a whole, through the increased value of its products, benefitted as well as suffered thereby. The worst sufferers have no doubt been those dependent upon fixed salaries, classes such as the teachers and Civil ervants with whom it is now intended to deal, as we are informed by His Excellency's Speech. On the other hand, while the high cost of commodities has been and is a serious problem, we must not forget that the Colony has been saved an even more serious difficulty which has confronted so many other countries in the shape of actual scarcity. So far there has been no actual scarcity in this country, and of the two problems scarcity may in the near future prove to be much the more serious. The high cost of commodities is a universal phenomenon, and it is doubtful if any one country or government can by itself do very much towards permanent amelioration, but I have hopes that the concerted action which is apparently now to be undertaken by the great allied nations working together may have an effect which will prove substantially beneficial. There is only one public question to which I propose to address you, Mr. President. I could wish that there had been some rapprochement, some understanding arranged between the two political parties here before the Legislature met. I wish that we could see a United Legislature standing four-square to the world-storm. I hope that even now it is not too late for something to be done, and I appeal to any members of this House who may have any influence in these matters—and I think there are members who may have it—to use their influence to bring this about. I am aware—only by hearsay and through the newspapers—that negotiations have taken place. I do not know why they failed of fruition. But I do feel that dissension and dissipation of energy over internal differences at this time would be and is deplorable. I speak only for myself when I say that the first need of our Island home to-day is that these differences should be adjusted. I hope that the two political parties may be willing to sink personal animus and party considerations and that they may find the path of duty in mutual forbearance and mutual support. Can there be any doubt that this is the path of duty? Will it be easy in the near future to exonerate the members of any party which refuses to subordinate party interests to the great issues and policies of to-day? I say, Mr. President, that we ought to do away with party politics and the

bitterness inherent in them and seek peace at home. We need a saner and more generous spirit in the community, and if anything should be able to provide it, it is these greater issues and the unique position that this Colony holds. For consider, gentlemen, what that position is. With a population numbering less than that of a moderate sized modern town, weak in developed resources, poor in education, poor in wealth, rich only in the spirit of her fighting sons, the Colony has been privileged to fill a place in the world drama out of all proportion to her importance or to her merits hitherto. It is hardly too much to say that the name of Newfoundland has been on everyone's lips, that her identity has been discovered. Our Prime Minister has been honoured by his admission as an equal among the representatives of great and enlightened people. Our men have stood and fought as peers alongside the best the world can produce. In these things the Colony has established and maintained a standard which few even here would have thought possible a few years ago. Has the lesson been learnt at home? Is our atmosphere clearer and sweeter, or is it still tainted with pettiness? Are we still steeped in mean thoughts? Are our policies what they should be? Is much of our criticism still of the mukraking kind? Are we constantly looking for evil and besmirching all and sundry, from the highest in the land down, and rather enjoying it? Are we ready to admit that there are two sides to most questions and that an opponent need not necessarily be dishonest or devoid of good intentions? Mr. President, it should not be necessary to plead for unity and generosity at this time. In the pure light of chivalry which is shining even more brightly in the world, the dross is being eliminated in every nation. The tragedy of battle, the tragedy of suffering, is bringing everywhere the gleam of gold. This Colony, too, has had its share of affliction and of grief. Can it learn—I do not mean its individuals—but can it as a Colony learn that

"Grief should be
Like joy, majestic, equable sedate,
Confirming, cleansing, raising, making free,
Strong to consume small troubles, to command
Great thoughts, grave thoughts,
thoughts lasting to the end."

I suppose, Mr. President, that we are all, consciously or unconsciously, increasingly impressed with the spiritual character of the war. More and more are material interests and values being lost. The desire for national aggrandizement has practically ceased to exist for the Allied Nations. For the war has become a great crusade, a crusade for peace, honor and good-will. Beneath its banner fighting for those Christian principles are gathered both Christian and non-Christian peoples. All are being drawn in, white, black and yellow. There is a steady marshalling of power for the establishment of spiritual values. There have been many anxious hours and darkening clouds. There will doubtless be more before the end. One of these clouds has risen now over Russia, but against it there is brightness in the West. I have been struck with the remarkable application to the present time of some lines written in one of the dark hours of the early days. I ought, perhaps, to apologize for asking the House to listen to any more poetry:

"Say not the struggle naught availeth,
The labor and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not nor faileth,
And as things have been, they remain.

For while the tired waves, vainly
breaking.

Seem here no painful inch to gain.
Far back through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main

And not by Eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow. how slowly,
But Westward look—the land is bright."

I hope, Mr. President, that it may be given to the Colony in its domestic difficulties to raise its eyes and to catch something of the wider vision.

The motion was carried and the President nominated the following committee: Hons. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Goodridge, Mr. J. D. Ryan and Mr. Winter.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BILL.

On motion of Hon . Mr. Andersan a Bill respecting the Saving of Daylight was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

NOTICE SUSPENSION RULES.

Hon. Mr. Anderson gave notice that he would on to-morrow move the suspension of the 33rd rule of the House with regard to the Daylight Saving Bill.

REPORTS TABLED.

Hon. Mr. Bishop tabled the annual report of the Newfoundland Savings Bank for the year 1916; also, the annual report of the Reid Newfoundland Company for 1916; also, the report of the Examinations conducted by the Council of Higher Education for the year 1916.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House then adjourned till to-morrow at 4.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31st.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech from the Throne was read a first and second time, passed and ordered to be presented to His Excellency by a deputation of the Whole House.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

Second reading of "Daylight Saving Bill."

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. President, to-day, Thursday, May 31st.—one thousand and thirty days of the greatest and most fearful war the world has ever known, and still raging as these words are uttered in this House. This war has been an education. The eyes of the world have been opened, and opened very wide. The introduction of the Daylight Saving Bill has opened wider still nearly every nation of the earth.

War has been a rapid educator. A few years ago the project was regarded with good humoured derision, and its amiable originator, the late Mr. William Willett, was deemed a little mad. Nevertheless a year ago the British Isles made a start to save the daylight he loved so well. It was introduced in the Commons a year ago for the duration of war. To-day the Act is placed upon the statute book of England as a law for all time.

Mr. President, my reason for asking the House to suspend Rule 33—is only in relation to the Bill respecting certain changes in the hours of day and night. It is practically the same Bill which we passed in Legislative Council in 1910.

The introduction in this House of a Daylight Bill is no stranger.

What is the historical account of the Daylight Saving?

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 Great Britain of a system of Daylight Saving. His proposal was to advance normal time i.e. Greenwich Mean Time, by four steps each of 20 minutes on the first four Sundays in April, which would have extended the day 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.

It was in August, 1907, I first met the late Mr. Willett at his office in London. I called upon him to discuss his new idea of Saving Daylight. After some considerable time we agreed that one change of the clock would be best, one hour for Great Britain, and two hours in Newfoundfoundland. Since that time I met him annualy in London, and kept up a regular correspondence to the time of his death in 1915. The late Mr. Willett dearly loved the Daylight. He spent much of his time at his beautiful home near Chislehurst, London.

Mr. Willett's proposals were incorporated in a Bill which was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Robert Pearce on the 4th 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 found 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 generaly 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 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 amendments made in the Bill of the previous year. This Bill was read a second time on the 5th 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 that measure can be attained by legislation without giving rise, in cases involving important interests, to serious inconvenience, your Committee recommend that the Bill be no further proceeded with." They recorded, however, "their appreciation of the efforts of those connected with the movement, and particuarly 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."

On the 5th March, 1900, or at least this sitting, no strangers were admitted to the House of Commons, on account of the trouble and interruptions caused by the suffragettes, but through the kindness of Earl Crewe, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Colonel Seeley, the Under Secretary at that time, I was permitted to be present with Mr. Willet, when the second reading of the Daylight Saving Bill was carried by a majority of thirty-six.

Daylight Saving Bills were intro-

duced in the House of Commons in the Sessions of 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914, but in no instance were they advanced beyond a first reading.

In the spring of 1916, the subject was again revived, and on the 8th 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 effected by shortening the hours of artifical 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 May, read a second time on the 10th May, and became law on the 17th 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 20th of September.

The Summer Time Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons on the 9th May of last year, and became law on the 17th May—passing through all its stages in the House of Commons and House of Lords in nine days and put into operation on the 21st of the same month, during the remainder of May. June, July, August and September, saving 132 hours at an estimate saving in money to the British Isles two million two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, stg., twelve million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($12,250,000.)

A Committee of Inquiry was appointed to take evidence and report to the Home Office as to the success or otherwise of the operation of the Daylight Saving Bill for 1916.

The method of inquiry was perfect. All trades and professions were invited to put their objections before the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary, as to the renewal of the Summer Season Time, for 1917 or to repeal of the bill. I am not going to weary the House reviewing a general summary of the evidence.

Daylight saving schemes were adopted last year in France, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Germany and Austria. The Daylight Saving Bill has again been adopted in these countries for 1917. The advance in time was one hour in each case. The schemes came into operation on various dates in May and June and terminating on the 29th September, 1916.

The Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, issued warrants of appointment to the Right Hon. J. W. Wilson, M.P., Chairman; Mr. Malcolm Delevinge, C.B.; Mr. Chas. Duncan, M.P.; Sir John Lonsdale, Bart. M. P.; Miss T. U. Morton, Sir Walter Nugent, Bart., M.P.; Sir Andrew Pettigrew and Mrs. Herbert Samuel. By subsequent warrants, Mr. Joseph Davis was appointed to be an additional member of the Committee, and Captain Beville Stanier, M.P., was appointed in place of the Right Hon. Lawrence Hardy, M.P., to be a Committee to enquire into the social and economic results of the Summer Time Act, 1916, and to consider whether it is advisable that summer time should be reintroduced in 1917, and in subsequent years, and if so, whether any modifications in the arrangements are required and between what dates Summer Time should be made operative. It was expressly stated by the Home Secretary, and we believe generally understood throughout Great Britain 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.

Methods of inquiry by the Committee. They decided at the outset that

a much more general reference to the interests affected by the Act would be necessary than could be secured merely by hearing oral evidence from witnesses representing such interests. They, therefore, in the first instance addressed, or arranged for the distribution of, a series of questionnaires to a very large number of authorities, organizations and individuals, and by this means obtained the general view of every section of the community in regard to the effects of Summer Time. The following is a brief account of the distribution of these questionnaires:

Among the most important and most convenient sources of information as to the effects of the Act on the life and habits of the people generally as well as on particular classes of the community, were the public authorities, i.e., County, Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils, Local Education Authorities, and the Police.

The County Councils' Association kindly undertook to circulate our questionnaires to all County Councils in England and Wales; the Municipal Corporations' Associations to County Boroughs; and the Urban and Rural District Councils' Association to a selection of Urban and Rural Scottish Offices and the Irish Government arranged for a similar distribution to Scottish and Irish Local Authorities

The Board of Education circularized on their behalf those Education Authorities in England and Wales who are authorities for both Higher and Elementary Education, and the Scottish Education Department circularized a selection of Education Authorities in Scotland. In Ireland the question was referred by the Irish Government to the Office of National Education.

As regards Police Authorities, the Home Office circularized the Chief Constables of County Boroughs, and of a selection of Counties with a large Urban population, in England and Wales, while the Scottish Office and Irish Government arranged for the distribution of enquiries to the Scottish and Irish police.

In order to ascertain the effects of the Act on labor and the life of the working classes we sent out questionnaires to fourteen of the principal Trade Unions, to the Women's Union League, the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Mother's Union, and we included a question on the subject in the circulars addressed to commercial, industrial, and agricultural interests. The warden of Toynbee Hall also circularized the heads of a number of representative social settlements on our behalf. The Irish Government circulated enquiries to a number of Trade Unions in Ireland.

To obtain information as to the effects of the operation of the Act on Industry and Commerce, they sent out questionnaires to eighteen representative Manufacturers' Associations and (through the Home Office Inspectors of Factories) to about 140 individual manufacturing firms; to ten leading business and commercial associations and to the Bankers' Clearing House Stock Exchange, Corn Exchange, Lloyd's, and the Baltic; to fourteen associations of employers in the distributing trades, and to twenty-five of the largest distributing societies.

They felt that it was an important part of their task to ascertain whether the principal object for which the measure was introduced in the first instance, viz: economy in the consumption of coal and other fuel, had been achieved, and if so, to ascertain, if possible, the extent of this economy, and also of the saving by the public in their expenditure on artificial light. In our circulars to industrial and commercial associations, individual manufacturers, and co-operative societies, we included a question as to reduction in consump-

tion of artifical light; but it was obvious that, so far as gas and electric light were concerned, the only bodies who were likely to be in a position to furnish them with the material for a general estimate were the gas and electric light undertakings. After consulting the Board of Trade, they were able to arrange for the distribution of carefully worded enquiries on these points to a considerable number of such undertakings in all parts of the country. The Institution of Gas Engineers were good enough to undertake the distribution to gas undertakings; for the circularization of electric light undertakings the Committee were indebted to Mr. Faraday Proctor and Mr. C. McArthur Butler, of the in corporated Municipal Electrical Associal, Mr. F. E. Gripper, Manager of Edmundson's Electricity Corporation, Ltd., Mr. F. J. Walker, Secretary of St. James' and Pall Mall Electric Light Co., and Mr. A. de Truckheim, secretary of the Incorporated Association of Electric Power Companies.

The Secretary of the Committee for the Regulation of Petroleum Supplies was good enough to supply us with a statement as to the effect of Summer Time on the consumption of illuminating oils.

In view of the fact that, through out all the discussions on the Daylight Saving Scheme, considerable apprehension had been expressed as to its probable effects on agriculture, we aimed at obtaining the views of representative farmers and agriculturalists from all parts of the country with regard to their experience of the actual results of the Act during the first year of its operation. In conference with the Board of Agricultural War Committees in England and Wales, with a request that the questions should be submitted in the case of each Committee to five or six representative members, and that a summary of their views should be sent to us. The Scottish Officer arranged for a similar distribution of questionnaires in Scotland. In Ireland circulars were issued to the Country Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

This Committee also addressed special inquiries to certain other organizations and Government Departments which appeared to them to be specially interested, including the Admiralty, Post Office, Astronomer Royal Meteoroligical Office, Railway Executive Committee, British College of Physicians, and the Royal Geographical Society.

As a number of European countries and some of our colonies had last year adopted some form of Daylight Saving, the Home Office addressed on our behalf a request to the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office that we should be informed of the experience of those countries from which information could be obtained through the usual official channels.

The War Intelligence Department also furnished us with a very considerable quantity of valuable press matter as to the working of Daylight Saving Schemes on the continent (including Germany and Austria.)

In addition to the information obtained from the replies to the questionnaires, we invited a number of witnesses representing the most important interests concerned, to give oral evidence before the Committee, and we held five meetings for this special purpose. At these meetings we received evidence from directors and managers of large individual business concerns, from Employers Associations, from the Early Closing Association, from a number of Trade Union officials, from the Women's Industrial Council and the Mothers' Union, from representatives of Edu-

cation and of Agriculture, of Electricity and Gas Undertakings, of the Stock Exchange, and from a number of witnesses specially representing Irish interests.

According to information which was supplied to this Committee by the Colonial Office, Daylight Saving Schemes have been adopted in Australia, and to a certain extent in Canada.

In Australia Daylight Saving was adopted by the Tasmanian Government on the first of October last, and will continue until the last Sunday in March. After a period of negotiations between other states, Daylight Saving was eventually put into force by the Commonwealth Government for the whole of Australasia on January 1st.

In Canada Daylight Saving Schemes have been tried by numerous communities with varying success during the past few years. Last year the Legislature of New Brunswick passed an Act providing for Daylight Saving from the 30th April to 30th September, but the Act was not proclaimed, why I cannot inform this house, and was only carried into effect by the city of St. John, where it was much appreciated by the business community of that city. In no town or province of the Dominion of Canada, or elsewhere can the Daylight Saving Bill be a success without an Act of Parliament. In Canada where times change so much, they must have a Federal Act.

The report and method of inquiry which covered many pages of information, was presented to both British Houses of Parliament by command of His Majesty. In that report it covered Public Health, Public Morals and Order (Workers interest) Children's Sleep, Trade, Industry (other than agriculture) and Commerce Economics in Artificial Light and Fuel, Agriculture, later closing of Shops, Stock Exchange, Metereological Work.

Considerable apprehension had been expressed as to the confusion that would likely arrive when the actual changes in the time were made. As a matter of fact the transitions from normal to summer time and vice versa seem to have been accomplished without any public inconveniences of any kind. The reason why we choose Sunday night at 9 o'clock as the hour fixed for change of time: the Church Services are over; nine o'clock will be advanced to ten o'clock and on Monday morning no one will realize that any change of time has taken place.

Daylight Saving Schemes were adopted last year in France, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy Portugal and in Germany and Austria. The schemes were started on various dates from the 1st May onwards and terminated for the most part at the end of September, the only exception apparently being in Portugal where Summer time was continued until the 31st October. The variation from normal time seems to have been one hour in every case.

I understand that there is a movement in America towards the adoption of Daylight Saving, and that the Government have instructed their representatives in various European countries to enquire into the working of the scheme in 1916. Daylight Saving schemes have been adopted for this year in France, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Austria. The unanimous conclusions arrived at by the committee and recommended by the British Government. Taking the evidence we have received as a whole, we can unhesitatingly say that the vast preponderance of opinion throughout Great Britain is enthusiastically in favor of Summer

Time and its renewal, not only as a War Measure but as a permanent institution.

The following is a summary of the Committees recommendations for the British Isles:

1. That Summer Time should be renewed in 1917 and in subsequent years.

2. That the period of the operation of Summer Time should be from the 2nd Sunday in April to the 3rd Sunday in September in each year.

3. That the change from Normal to Summer Time should be made on the night of Saturday—Sunday, and the reversion to normal time on the night of Sunday—Monday.

4. That the variation from Normal Time should be one hour throughout the whole period ——— In this country, speaking for myself, I should like to see a change of ninety minutes from Normal Time, beginning on the 1st May of each year, but to be in conformity with other parts of the world, we have prepared the bill for one hour.

Mr. President, I have placed before the house comprehensive information on the Daylight Saving Scheme since it was first mooted in England. I have traced its history. To-day there is no more popular Act of Parliament in the countries which have adopted it than the saving of daylight. The committee that was appointed to enquire into its operation said of agriculture in Ireland:

AGRICULTURE.

As might have been expected, the opinions of farmers and those interested in agriculture have been more conflicting than those of any other interest; in many cases totally diverse opinions as to the effect of summer time having come from the same district.

The difficulty most widely recorded in connection with harvest operations, was owing to the fact that ordinary harvest work could not be done until the heavy morning dews had lifted. This difficulty was naturally accentuated in the north, where harvests are later, and was more marked in the corn than in the hay harvest. In the majority of cases in which the difficulty was experienced it is admitted that it was satisfactorily met by making arrangements with the farm workers who adhere to "sun time" at least during the harvest. The inconvenience seems to have been greater on farms which combined dairying with corn growing, etc., as workers in those cases had to come according to summer time in order to get the milking done for the delivery trains, and then had an interval before harvesting could be commenced. Many farmers report that under these circumstances they had to pay overtime for the extra hour in the evening. Others point out, however, that advantage had been taken of this intermediate period between milking and harvesting to do other work which often has to be neglected during harvest.

We find that the general opinion is that difficulties were easily overcome by organization, and that the very definite advantage of having an extra evening hour for carrying crops outweigh any inconvenience. Many reports also mentioned the advantage at harvest time of the help of workers employed in other occupations whose longer evenings made it possible for them to give assistance on the farms. This, of course, occurred chiefly in districts near villages or towns.

In some cases trouble was experienced with milkers, who were, it is said, unwilling to commence work in the very early mornings, and it is also stated in a few instances at the outset the quality and quantity of

milk was affected by the early milking. These difficulties are only mentioned in a few of the replies, and the majority even of these few said they were only temporary.

In the opinion of the large majority of employees, the Act has been a genuine advantage to the agricultural laborer, in that he has an extra evening hour to work in his own garden, or, in other cases, has frequently earned overtime wages for evening work, which, at a time when labor was scarce, was of very special value on farms. Some reports hold that the Act made the laborers' day in effect an hour longer, particularly during the longest days, and that he was overtired and consequently of less value to his employer. But the general mass of evidence received by us seems to controvert this view. Some difficulty was experienced at first in regard to carters, who have to get up in the morning considerably earlier than other workers, but in most cases this soon disappeared.

It seems clear that on many farms and in some entire districts (so far as the agricultural community is concerned) the Act was not observed at all—the farmers and others refusing to alter their clocks. The complete ignoring of the provisions of the Act by one section of the population resulted in two different times kept by the same neighborhood—old time on farms, and summer time in schools, post offices, railway stations and similar places. This naturally caused confusion and friction, particularly in the home of the agricultural laborer, who had to work according to the old time, while his children went to school by summer time, with the result that the meal hours of different members of the family did not coincide.

It may be that during certain periods of summer time, particularly during the harvest, some readjustment of the hours of work on the farms will prove desirable, but if this only amounts to altering the hour of commencing work from, say, 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., it need not involve any serious interference with domestic and other arrangements. Our evidence goes to show that no confusion need arise, except if the Act is adopted by a particular class or section of the people.

In spite of such difficulties as have been recorded, a very large majority of the farmers and War Agricultural Committees are in favor of the renewal of the Act, and the majority even of those who are of opinion that it is not advantageous to agriculture, consider that it should be renewed, as they recognize its great benefits to the community at large.

The opinions of farmers and agriculturists vary widely as to the dates for the beginning and the end of summer time, but the period generally favored by the agricultural community for the application of the scheme would seem to be from the middle of April to the middle of September.

IRELAND.

We have already stated that in view of the somewhat conflicting nature of the evidence which we have received from Irish interests, and also on other grounds we have thought it best to deal with the case of Ireland separately from the main body of our report.

As has been mentioned above, enquiries were issued to County, County Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils, to the Police, to the County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and to a number of Trade Unions; while the views of the Office of National Education were obtained as to the question of children's welfare. In addi-

tion, we had the advantage of discussing the position with some representatives of Irish interests from difent parts of the country.

We found that Irish opinion is divided on the question of Summer Time, on lines that were perhaps to be expected.

Opinions of Town Dwellers—It is clear from the evidence that the benefits of the Act were thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by a large majority of town dwellers in Ireland, as in the rest of the United Kingdom, and in particular by those engaged in trade business or industry, both employers and workers. Out of twelve trade unions who replied to the circular sent out by the Irish Government only three are unfavorable to Summer Time—principally on the ground that their members tended to lose an hour's sleep by not going to bed early enough. In view of all that has been said in the main body of our report as to the advantage derived from the extra hour's daylight we do not feel that we need elaborate the point further.

Agricultural Opinion.—On the other hand it is clear that, while farmers are by no means unanimous on the question, the bulk of agricultural opinion is unfavorable to Summer Time. We hear a good deal in the replies of the same difficulties, particularly in regard to haymaking and harvest, and also in regard to dairy work, which were generally urged by agriculturists before Summer Time was introduced, but which in Great Britain, as we have seen, were surmounted for the most part without serious difficulty. In many districts in Ireland the farming community appear to have kept to old time by the clock; in other cases the hours of labor were shifted, as was largely done during certain parts of the Summer Time period in Great Britain. Elsewhere, complaints are made of the loss of an hour (some said the most valuable hour) of the day.

It is not easy to see, at first sight, why so much more inconvenience should have been experienced by farmers in Ireland than in the rest of the United Kingdom, though it was pointed out to us that particularly heavy dews are experienced in that country in the early mornings; and some part of the explanation would also seem to lie in a circumstance which is mentioned in a number of the replies, viz., difficulty in getting laborers to consent to changes in the working hours; in particular they seem to have objected to working after 6 o'clock in the evening. So far as we are aware this latter difficulty has not appeared to any appreciable extent outside Ireland, and we certainly do not think it should be regarded as insuperable.

Children.—In one or two of these replies from rural districts it is stated that Summer Time is attended with hardship for children who have any distance to go to school, though this point is not alluded to by the Office of National Education. The latter, however, mention that the sleeping hours of the children appear to have been shortened before the people became fully accustomed to the change. The extent to which the tendency was apparent is not indicated, but it may perhaps be safely assumed that the facts are not very different from those which we have recorded in the case of Great Britain (see paragraphs 32 and 26 above.)

The Question of Renewal.—When the question is considered whether Summer Time is to be applied to Ireland for the future, it must of course be borne in mind that since October last the time in Ireland has been permanently advanced by 25 minutes owing to the substitution of

Greenwich for Dublin Time by the Time (Ireland) Act, 1916; so that in the event of Summer Time being applied to Ireland in the same way would be 25 minutes in excess of what was experienced last year.

This consideration is very much in the minds of those who are favorably disposed towards the renewal of Summer Time in Ireland; in fact, it would seem to be in many cases the principal ground of opposition.

We think, however, that its significance can easily be exaggerated. It may be noticed, in the first place, that so far as Summer Time is concerned Dublin and the East of Ireland are only a few minutes ahead of the West of England, Wales and Scotland.

Moreover, there would be more ground for apprehension if it were proposed to begin Summer Time very early in the Spring, or to continue it late in the Autumn. In point of fact, as has been seen, we have recommended, largely with Ireland in view, that Summer Time should end on the third Sunday in September, i.e., at the latest on the 21st September, instead of on the 30th as was the case last year; and that it should begin on the second Sunday in April, i.e. between the 8th and the 14th April inclusive, when the days are no shorter than at the beginning of September. It has been suggested by some that, as a compromise, the variation from normal time should in the case of Great Britain and Ireland be half an hour or there about; by others that this variation should apply in the case of Ireland only.

As to the first proposal, we are convinced that it would not be supported in Great Britain; while the second, in that it would involve difference from time in Great Britain during the Summer Time period, would be a step back from the reform effected by the Time (Ireland) Act. 1916, which we are informed is of great value to the commercial interests of Ireland.

If Summer Time is to be applied to Ireland at all, as we unanimously think that it should be, it must be applied in its entirety.

Mr. President,—What is the history to save Daylight in Newfoundland?

A press agitation was commenced in 1908, and continued until the session of 1909, when a Daylight Saving Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council for the first time. It was read a first and second time, and referred to a joint committee (of both houses) who did not report. This bill called for a change of time (two hours). The bill was again brought in, in the Council in 1910. It passed the Council and was sent to the Assembly, who referred it to a Select Committee, and who reported that it was inadvisable to proceed with the Bill that session, owing to diversity of opinion, and it would be necessary to take evidence upon the matter. In 1916, last session, the day before the Legislature was prorogued, the Bill was again introduced and read a first time; an amendment was made; the Bill and amendment was withdrawn. So much has been said in the Press, in this House, and outside the House that we should try and utilize some of the morning daylight for the evening.

Let me draw the attention of honorable members to the principal places with which we do business, and to the difference of time between these countries and Newfoundland when this Bill becomes law—Greenwich mean time 12 o'clock noon Newfoundland at present 7.30 a.m.—since Great Britain adopted the Daylight Saving between London (Greenwich) and various important places

on the Globe.

When it is twelve o'clock noon, in Greenwich meantime, the hour (local time) is as follows:—

	Hours.	Mins.	
Amsterdam	12	20	p.m.
Auckland, New Zealand	11	39	p.m.
Berlin	1	53	p.m.
Bombay	4	51	p.m.
Calcutta	5	53	p.m.
Capetown	1	14	p.m.
Constantinople	1	56	p.m.
Dublin	11	35	p.m.
Edinburgh	11	47	p.m.
Lisbon	11	24	a.m.
Madrid	11	45	a.m.
Melbourne	9	40	p.m.
Naples	12	57	p.m.
New York	7	4	a.m.
Paris	12	9	p.m.
Peking	7	46	p.m.
Quebec	7	15	a.m.
Rome	12	50	p.m.
St. Petersburg .. .	2	1	p.m.
San Francisco .. .	4	23	a.m.
Sydney	10	5	p.m.
Trieste	12	55	p.m.
Venice	12	50	p.m.
Vienna	1	6	p.m.

The difference is at the rate of 4 minutes for one degree of longitude, or one hour for 15 deg. Time is earlier or later than Greenwich according as the locality is east or west of Greenwich. Places lying close together, but on different sides of the longtitude line of 180 deg. differ nominally by a whole day in time.

Following the example of the United States, all countries are gradually adopting Standard Time. By this is meant time which differs from Greenwich mean time by whole hours The globe is divided into zones of 15 deg. or one hour breadth, the Greenwich meridian being in the centre of the zero one. Thus Belgium and Holland keep Greenwich time; Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Germany (Prussia temporarily excepted) keep the time of Mid-Europe, or of longtitude 15 deg. E. i.e. one hour earlier than Greenwich. In North American again five zones are distinguished. Halifax falls within the time zone 60 deg. W. long. or four hours later than Greenwich; Montreal and New York fall within the zone of 75 deg. or five hours west of Greenwich; and so on across the entire continent. New York, Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco may be mentioned as places whose time changes by one hour as we pass from to the next succeeding. The corresponding times are distinguished as Eastern (67 1-2—82 1-2), Central (82 1-2 97 1-2, Mountain (97 1-2—112 1-2), and Pacific (112—127 1-2) times. Standard time in Japan is nine hours earlier than Greenwich time.

Now that all European countries have adopted the principal of Daylight Saving, by the passing of this Bill we simply go back to Standard Time—3 1-2 hours behind Greenwich mean time. The same applies to Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. Time will be as before, that is to say, the difference of time between Newfoundland and Spain—the latter is 3 hours 15 minutes ahead—Portugal 2 hours, 4 minutes ahead of Newfoundland—Italy four hours, 27 minutes in advance of this country—Greece—four hours and 20 minutes ahead of our time.

There is a very large business done in this Colony with the United States, particularly with the cities of New York, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia, and with Canada, more especially with Montreal. At the present time there was a difference of one and a half hours between the States, Canada and ourselves, Newfoundland being that length of time ahead; so that the changing of the clock time one hour ahead, would mean that at 6 o'clock Colonial

time—the time for closing business in St. John's—it would be 3.30 in New York and Montreal; but that need not in any way interfere with receiving or sending cables. Cables as a rule are, if not delivered at business places, delivered at private houses or clubs. Late evening cables would be to our advantage in the early morning. The Civil Service of this Colony would not in any way be disturbed by the passing of this Bill, no disorganization of any kind whatever would result, not even at the Post Office, or the Custom House, but it would be a distinct advantage to all officials employed in the Civil Service throughout the Colony. The whole machinery required to set this great blessing in motion is simply the putting of your clocks and watches one hour forward. Clerks employed in the Custom House instead of beginning work as at present at 9 o'clock and leaving at 4 o'clock would begin work at 8 o'clock and leave at 3 o'clock, but still their watches would show 9 o'clock and 4 o'clock. This Bill is not a Bill to compel any one to go to bed, or get out of bed. People, as at present, could go when they liked and do just as they liked. It is not a Bill that would in any way interfere with the work of the fishermen or the farmer, as both of these were practising the real principle of the Bill every day of their lives, and they would continue to do just as they thought best suited their business.

This is not a bill to compel cows to give milk one hour earlier, or to compel hens to lay eggs one hour sooner, but simply a Bill that would make it practicable for every man to enjoy these products for breakfast one hour earlier than he usually does.

By the pasing of this Bill, opportunities for recreation and the gain of health by extended opportunities for being out of doors in sunlight, to all who spend day after day working in a factory would be assured.

I have not yet heard of any merchant who has advanced a good substantial reason against this Bill, as the benefits of the employer and the employees are mutual. I have also discussed the Bill with some of the dry goods and grocery merchants doing business in all parts of the town and there was only one opinion, that is—let all fall in line and make a success of the Daylight Saving Bill for Newfoundland. The position would be this—so far as it related to the business houses on Water Street, and those on the other streets would be sure to fall with the new order of things—Shops open at present at 8.30. All hands are down with breakfast. Dinner—first party at one o'clock, second party at 2 o'clock, or whatever hours suit the various establishments best; closing their business places at six o'clock. Coming into force Monday, 11th of June, under the Bill, and by putting forward clocks and watches on Sunday evening at 9 o'clock, shops would open at 7.30 standard time, but by the clock at 8.30 Colonial time. The first party would go to dinner at 12 o'clock standard time, but by the clock 1 o'clock Colonial time. The second party would go at 1 o'clock standard time, or 2 o'clock Colonial time. At 5 o'clock standard time the shops and business places would close, but still by one's watch the time would be 6 o'clock. This would give everybody a long evening in the lovely summer nights, and it would properly divide the day's work for our men who are employed on the wharves drying fish, and the laborers who are working 10 hours per day. During June, July, August and September they would begin at 6 o'clock standard time with breakfast, which by the clock would be 7 o'clock.

Dinner at 11 o'clock standard time, or 12 o'clock Colonial time. All work would stop at 5 o'clock Standard time, which would be 6 o'clock by watches and clocks. After one day the workingmen and mechanics of St. John's would fully understand the Bill and the great benefits they and their families would derive from it. This might safely be called the Bill for workingmen and their families, on whom the effect of one hour more sunlight daily for 110 days must lead to an improvement in health and consequent advantage to children. Young women of the wage earning classes, for whom exercise in the fresh air is especially desirable have at present but few facilities for other forms of exercise than walking. Older people desire to spend their evening leisure in summer in gardens, fishing or in the parks. The parks could be kept open every night until 10 o'clock and it would still be broad daylight. The encouragement given by a longer period of freedom in daylight to people to live in the country would be of special benefit to families which every season go to country houses either near the city or in Topsail or other places.

Bills of Exchange, notes due, could go on as if nothing had ever happened, with this exception—Banks would open for business at 9 o'clock Colonial time (still 10) and close at 2 o'clock Colonial time, still 3 o'clock by clocks and watches—while our friends the bankers would more than reap a special benefit by this Bill. The population of St. John's and the population of the whole Island, would greatly benefit by the proposed change. This alteration of time would utilize morning air and daylight and enable all to spend an additional hour of their leisure out of doors at the end of the day, during 20 days in June, 31 days in July, 31 days in August, and 30 in September. I believe that this must materially increase the health, happinness and well-being of every individual, and more especially of those workers in our factories, shops and offices who at present get so little time for open air recreation.

Mr. President, sitting on this side of the House, Monday, June 7th, 1909, eight years ago, sat my Hon. friend the late D. J. Greene, whose memory as one of our best, most brilliant, and witty speakers that ever stood on the floor of this Legislature.

"Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Yes, Mr. President, the voice of my late friend is now silent, but he left a message to the people of this country on the Daylight Bill. Although eight years have passed, it seems to me as only yesterday when he spoke in this House these words:

Hon Mr. Greene rose to second the motion, and thought the passing of the bill would be a much called for benefit. He thought the supporters of the bill need not exert themselves strenuously to advance its merits, but they could afford to simply ask what could be against it, and wait for the answer, feeling sure that no serious objections to it could be raised. He admitted that a few little difficulties attended the working of the measure, but these for the most part were only sectional and personal. It was right that we should deal with the measure carefully and due regard should be given to the circumstances and mode of life we are used to, before making a change, but these were details that could be worked out though perhaps it would take a little time. The business man would need to consider how such a measure would effect him and

his employees and whether he could afford to have it introduced, but he thought that when all the objections were analyzed, they would not provide any surmountable difficulty. It was not proposed to rush the Bill, there would be ample time in committee to adjust the details to suit the majority, which he believed would be done eventually. The saving of daylight could not apply better in any part of the Empire than in Newfoundland as many of the difficulties encountered in other countries were altogether unknown here, and he hoped the day was not far distant when the principle would be applied, not only during the months of July and August but all the year round. The longest day in the year was practically unknown to us except by that calender; and light the gift of nature, passed us by, without our being aware of it. We should take advantage of the hours of July, August and September as the month of June—a beautiful summer month in neighboring countries—very rarely showed summer weather here. The weather of the past eight or nine days was an illustration of this. There were many reasons why a bill should be passed. He would refer to the lowest—the extra time it provided for amusement. It was unnecessary to dwell on this: a great deal more time could then be taken for pleasure and enjoyment and many would be able to indulge in healthful pastimes that they were now neglecting. Nature made day and night and distinguished them by light and darkness: we had created for ourselves fictitious days and nights until we had gradually got into the habit of keeping later hours every year, every month and even every day. Tom Moore said:

"The best of all ways
To lengthen our days
Is to steal a few hours from the night."

For many years we have been stealing hours from the night, and he would point out that this custom was not a "borrowing," or "taking" a few hours, but "robbing" them. If this Bill were passed it would not necessarily mean that people would be compelled to get up earlier or go to bed earlier. They might gradually get into the habit of doing so, as a result of the measure, if so, all the better. Such a change in customs could not be brought about suddenly or coercively, but if attempted gradually the people would soon fall into line, and would soon feel the advantage of it. Everything in the animal and vegetable kingdom went to sleep at dark and began work anew with the dawn; there was no reason why man should not do the same, and he would like to see the measure get a fair test. He supported the Bill on broad principles and he felt confident the results would prove all the benefits he had claimed for it. There were many other reasons why we should adopt this measure, among them the great saving in light bills, but he would not delay the House to point them out. On the other hand there were the interests of others to be considered and conserved and these should receive careful attention. In conclusion he had much pleasure in seconding the motion that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. President, the passing of the Daylight Saving Bill will bring about no change in our character. It may be a fact or an admission of the supreme weakness of human character. It may be a demonstration that frail flesh cannot be dragged from bed. We are a very sleepy town, but perhaps the Daylight Bill is one way to

deal with human frailties, and drag us into virtue. What in the briefest word is our case for this Bill? It is that the principal of the Bill is so simple, so natural, so rational that like virtue, to be loved it needs only to be seen ,to be approved it needs only to be understood. It proposes for four summer months merely to bring the activities of our social life into closer harmony with the movements of the sun. It proposes to neutralize some of the natural and otherwise inevitable disadvantages of our northern latitude, and by doing this, it proposes to give 14 extra holidays of daylight to something like 100,000 working people over the country.

One reflection, surely, is sufficient to justify this Bill in anyone's eyes, We have only to imagine the spectacle presented by the City of St. John's any day you like at 7 o'clock on a May morning. If it were possible for any one spectator to see the whole city and country spread before him as it would be, for instance, if he flew over it in an aeroplane. He would see that while nature was in her most beautiful dress, while the light was the clearest, while the air was freshest, with the exception of fishermen, mechanics, laborers and farmers, here and there, the entire population of the country was sleeping behind bolted doors and covered windows, locking fair daylight out, and making ourselves an artificial night. Then if the same spectator could see our city at ten o'clock at night, he would see practically the whole population still awake working by artificial and costly light

Mr. President, no matter what the clock says, whether you put it back or whether you put it on, or whether you throw it into the sea, the fishermen and farmer will carry out their operations at precisely the same time as he did before. There will be no penalty for refusing to conform to the scheme, but those who refuse if the Bill becomes law, will find themselves subject to the self imposed penalty of being out of step with the rest of mankind, losing the train or missing the steamer.

I find it a rather difficult task to estimate even roughly what would be the saving to the people of this country by the adoption of the Daylight Saving Act. If we take the population of Newfoundland at 250,000, and we have 50,000 families at an average saving of 50 cents per week, including all business places in the Colony; that would represent a saving for the 110 hours to the people of this country in artificial light of $50,000 for sixteen weeks. I consider the above a very low average estimate for the country.

Mr. President, the bill before the House proposes a change of time between night and day. It does not interfere with astronomy and navigation. Standard time in summer shall be 60 minutes in advance of standard time in winter, and shall be arrived at by advancing the hands of all clocks and watches one hour on Sunday, 10th June, and setting them back one hour on the last Sunday of September. The question of time need not worry any of us. It's only what you make it. Your watch in your vest pocket is the controlling time of man. Hon. gentlemen of this House, did you ever ask your friend, "what is the right time? Did you hear the gun?" Time is almost like a variety store. You can have a good time; a jolly time, or a hot time, and by the adoption of the Daylight Saving Bill the ladies, I am sure, will have the time of their lives. Then you have solar time from the sun. sidereal time from the stars, local time from the meridian; apparent time from the solar; mean time from Greenwich or standard time of any country. Mr. President, there is no

such thing as the right time—we fake it. Mr. President, I am not aware of any objections that can be made from a political standpoint against this bill. I am not aware of any argument against it from any standpoint. Its success in all countries must be by an act of parliament. Mr. President, the fishermen and farmers of this country will in no way suffer by the passing of the Daylight Saving Bill. They will continue their work as usual by the sun. They will continue as before by the early light of the morning, but like the rest of us will have an extra hour of beautiful light in the evenings. Farmers and fishermen, this is not an act to compel you to do anything that you have not done previous to the passing of the Bill. The changing of time simply means the carrying of all legal enactments during colonial time. The various churches and other places of Sunday service will continue to meet at the same hour, substituting colonial time for standard time. I don't care in what part of the world,—an order coming from the Mayor or Corporation, Board of Trade, Importers' Association, or from what source it comes, you cannot successfully carry the scheme out, especially in Canada, where the time changes so often from Halifax to Vancouver. In several towns in Canada you have local time, standard time, and railway time. To make a success of the daylight saving scheme in Canada you must have a Federal Act. To longshoremen and general workmen it will be a distinct benefit to you all. Take the men who work ten hours, standard time. You begin work at 6 o'clock, breakfast at 8 o'clock, two hours; from 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock, dinner, four hours; from 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock, four hours; 10 hours standard time. Take the men who begin work at 7 o'clock with their breakfast. Dinner, 12 o'clock, 5 hours; 1 o'clock to 6 o'clock, five hours: ten hours.

Let us take these two sets of workmen, under colonial time, under the same hour regulations of work. Workmen who begin colonial time at 6 o'clock will continue at the same hour. Colonial time at 6 o'clock, standard or sun time, 5 o'clock. Breakfast, 8 o'clock, two hours; from 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock, four hours; from 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock, four hours: ten hours. 6 o'clock when you finish work for the day, sun time will be 5 o'clock. If you have any overtime you will have a long light evening to do it. If you have a garden to look after, or wish to repair your house, you will have an hour extra to work for yourself. Take the mechanic or workman, who starts work at 7 o'clock, Colonial time, will continue to do so. Colonial time, 7 o'clock; standard or sun time 6 o'clock. From 7 o'clock to 12 o'clock, dinner, five hours; from 1 o'clock to 6 o'clock, five hours: ten hours. Your day's work is now finished, and it is 6 o'clock, but 5 o'clock by the sun. The Daylight Saving Bill is entirely an Act for the workingmen.

For nearly ten years I have been closely associated with the late Mr. Willett in advocating the saving of day. In England, Scotland, Nova Scotia, New York and Newfoundland I have consistently and at every opportunity tried to convert the public to my way of thinking.

I thank the city press for publishing many letters. I specially thank the Harbor Grace Standard for the loyal and faithful advocacy of Saving Daylight. I am glad to learn that a large portion of our citizens realize the genuine advantages to be derived when the Act becomes the law of the land.

It is over eight years since the first Bill was introduced in this House. The same Bill comes before

you for the third time, clothed in the same sectional garments. During these long eight years we have lived and slept in darkness over 1,200 hours, that might have been full of sunshine. I am conscious of the fact that there are many who are conscientiously opposed to the altering of clocks, and that the object aimed at could be accomplished without the alteration. To these I have pointed out many times that to make the scheme a success we must have an Act of Parliament, and the best argument to-day is, that the world has said so.

On my way to the House this afternoon I heard of one objection—that to change the time would create confusion. There could not be a feebler argument against the Bill. Every observatory in the world has three times. You change your time three times in crosing the Continent of Europe; you change your time four times from Halifax to Vancouver; you change your time daily in crossing either the Atlantic or the Pacific. France, a few years ago, changed her whole time, and so little effect, Mr. President, did that produce, though the newspapers announced for several days beforehand that this marvellous change was going to take place, on the day it actually took place there was not a line in the papers chronicling it, because it was so simple and natural. In a scintillation you can synchronize the time of Europe at a given signal. Time is only what you make it.

Take again the fishermen and farmers, and the agricultural laborer. It is amazing now on so simple a matter as this, people whose intelligence is acute in every other matter of life, are sometimes unable to grasp this point at first. They tell us that the fishermen and farmers already get up as early as they can. Would you have him get up an hour earlier still?

One almost despairs, short of a surgical operation, of getting the principle of this Bill into some people's heads. The point is that the fishermen and agricultural laborer now rises by the sun, and that both begin their work as soon as the processe of nature permit it. Should this Bill become the law of the land, they will continue to do the same under the Act. In Great Britain when the change of time was made the Home Office issued instructions to all railway companies, ecclesiastical authorities, and asked the co-operation of the press through the British Isles, to inform the people of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales that a change of time would take place at a certain hour. In this Colony, if the Bill is passed, I have no doubt the Colonial Secretary will take steps to proclaim the change throughout the length and breadth of the country as well as St. John's.

Under the bill we propose to advance standard time to colonial time (one hour) on Sunday, June 10th, the sun rises at 4.07 a.m., and sets at 7.52 p.m. Colonial time, 5.07 a.m. and 8.52 p.m.

On the last Sunday of September, which this year falls on the 30th, clocks and watches shall be put back at nine o'clock in the evening, by a simple jerk of your watch one hour backward, we will then have mean time when the sun rises at 6.13 a.m., and sets at 5.47 p.m.

Mr. President, if we all change together, we shall none of us be conscious that anyone has changed at all, except that the daylight hours of the afternoon and of the evening will appear to be pleasantly and unexpectedly prolonged.

That is the whole of our proposal —an extra dawn on Monday morning, 11th June, and an extra snooze on

Sunday night, 30th September, is all we ask for the most dazzling benefits.

Section 2 merely provides a name for our changed time.

Section 3 and 4 provides the mechanism to legalize all acts of Parliament that operate during standard time.

Section 5 provides that the gun shall be fired at noon, colonial time, instead of at noon meridian time, which time by the clock, shall be one o'clock, the firing of the noon gun is an old custom that must be kept up. An effort was made some time ago to stop the "Sunday gun." Habit demanded that no power should stop the "Sunday gun." Even in church, Mr. President, where we ought to be most devout in prayer, it's a sort of warning that the end of the sermon is near; many of us don't even consider the annoyance we sometimes give the preacher. The habit has so overgrown with many of us that even in church, we like to know whether our watch is fast or slow, with gun time. Mr. President, the Bill before the House is simplicity itself, we borrow an hour in June, we promise to pay it back with golden compound interest on the 30th September.

By the adoption for this country of the Daylight Bill, we are confident that substantial and immediate advantage will be secured in almost every sphere and aspect of our colonial life. Now let us see what those advantages are: 110 hours more daylight will be secured in effect for the whole people of this country, and to the vast majority of those persons those 110 hours more daylight will be 110 hours more daylight leisure, that is the daylight equivalent in the course of a year of about 14 holidays for the people.

It is not only the aggregate amount of daylight leisure that will be gained; it is the larger blocks of daylight leisure that will be secured upon particular days. With two hours of daylight after the day's work is done, a workman or a clerk cannot do very much, there is hardly time to take his family to the parks, there is hardly time to cultivate the garden. But three hours after work is done of daylight, offers far wider possibilities to every class concerned, and shop assistants, mechanics, longshoremen, shipwrights, engineers. Our men and boys on the wharves, bank clerks, and all the rest of those engaged in the numberless occupations of our country, will find at their disposal opportunities for recreation and enjoyment which they have never known before.

As the obvious saving of coal and saving of artificial illuminants of gas and electricity, and the increased safety of railway men, coastal steamers, through bringing them into closer correspondence with the daylight hours, I need not enlarge upon them, as to the advantage which will be secured by the passing of this bill. We base our case on one salient and tremendous fact. More than 110 hours of daylight leisure in an active and peopled country is conferred freely upon every man, woman and child throughout Newfoundland by the passing of the Daylight Saving Bill.

Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Anderson moved the suspension of the 33rd rule with regard to the Bill before the House.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT—Before section one is put, I would like to suggest to the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill that we should be content to have his Bill as it stands for the

present year as an experiment to find out whether it is suitable to the needs of this country. There will be little difficulty in amending it next year, and it might create a difficult situation if it were found that in the case of the fish business, for example, work would be started an hour too early. It might also be found desirable to abandon it altogether.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendment, whereupon it was read a third time, passed and sent to the House of Assembly for its concurrence.

The House adjourned till Wednesday next at 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, June, 6, 1917

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

HON. PRESIDENT informed the House that His Excellency would receive the Address in Reply from a deputation of the whole House at 4.30 p.m.

The House then took recess till 4.45 p.m.

Upon the return of the members from Government House Hon. Mr. President informed the House that when in attendance upon His Excellency, he had been pleased to make the following reply to the Address from the members of the House:—

"I thank you, gentlemen, for the Address in Reply to the Speech with which the present session of the Assembly was opened by me."

DAYLIGHT BILL.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT intimated that he had received a message from the House of Assembly acquainting the Council that they had passed the "Daylight Saving Bill" with some amendments in which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the amendments were read a first time.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—In moving that the amendment be read a second time I would point out that the amendment is merely a change in the verbiage, to substitute the word "Newfoundland" for the word "Colonial" throughout the Bill.

HON. MR. RYAN.—Mr. President, I should like to ask if the Hon. member's motion to suspend the 33rd rule was for a particular purpose or specified time, and are the rules still suspended. This is an important matter and we should see to it that we are in order with our procedure, and that the rules are being observed.

SUSPENSION OF RULES.

HON. PRESIDENT.—The honorable member's objection is strictly correct. I do not think that the motion of the hon. introducer of the Bill to suspend the 33rd rule would strictly apply to amendments sent up by the House of Assembly. It is usual in amendments of no great consequence to refrain from a strict application of the rules. But if the hon. gentleman insists, the matter must stand over till to-morrow.

HON. MR. RYAN—My only reason is to see that the rules are properly carried out.

HON. MR. ANDERSON gave notice that he would on to-morrow move the suspension of the 33rd rule with regard to the amendment sent up by the House of Assembly to the Bill.

REPORTS TABLED.

HON. MR. BISHOP tabled the reports of His Excellency Sir W. E. Davidson, Chairman of the Patriotic Association, to May 1917, and of the Supt. of the Lunatic Asylum for 1916. On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until to-morrow at 4.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, June 7th, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

DAYLIGHT BILL.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I beg leave to move the second reading of the Assembly's Amendment to the Daylight Savings Bill. The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—If it is the desire of the House to go into Committee on the amendment to the Bill, I will put the motion otherwise the amendment can be passed as it is unimportant.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the rules of the House were suspended in relation to the amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the House resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

HON MR. ANDERSON—The amendment is just a changing of one word—substituting the word "Newfoundland" for "Colonial" throughout the Bill. I think the improvement is good and I think it would be just as well to accept it.

The amendment passed and on motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the Committee rose and reported having passed the amendment without amendment.

The House then took recess to await the arrival of His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency the Governor being seated on the Throne and the members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to the Bar of the House, formal consent to the Daylight Saving Bill was given by His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. Bishop tabled second annual report of the Government Analyst,

On motion of Hon.. Mr. Bishop the House then adjourned until Tuesday next at four of the clock.

TUESDAY, June 12th, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I beg to state that I have received a message from the House of Assembly intimating that they have passed the following Bills in which they ask the concurrence of the Council.

An Act to amend the Death Duties Acts 1914 to 1916; an Act to facilitate **the reciprocal enforcement of Judg**ments, Orders, and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions; and an Act to restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Justice the Act to amend the Death Duties Act 1914-16 was read a first time.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—(Mr. Squires)—I move that this **Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the** Death Duties Act, 1914 and 1916." be now read a second time. This act is an amendment to our present Death Duties enactments. Its object is to relieve from Death Duties taxation the property of all volunteers in the Army and Navy, whether the Volunteer was serving in the Newfoundland Regiment, Newfoundland branch of the Royal Naval Reserve or in any other of His Majesty's forces.

But a comparatively small number of estates of deceased soldiers exceed a net valuation of $1,000, and consequently in the great majority of cases they are free from the Death Duties taxation under existing legislation. There is an appre-

ciable number of estates, however, where, because of life insurance the value of the estate does exceed $1,000 and a few cases in which young men of substantial wealth have given their lives. Of the many marks of appreciation which Newfoundland would be happy to extend to the relatives, beneficiaries and dependents of deceased volunteers, I feel that the least is that of relieving them from the special War Taxation upon the estates of their deceased loved ones. In giving the lives of their husbands and sons the sacrifec has been such as to render utterly insignificant this small courtesy which I recommend should be extended by the release of the estates of the deceased from the Death Duties taxation specially imposed by the War legislation of the year 1914. I feel the Bill meets the unanimous approval of the Council.

HON. J. D. RYAN—At a previous sitting of the Council I raised the question as to whether without the formal suspension of the Rules of this House we had the right or authority to put a measure through its First and Second Reading on the same day.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—The House has the authority to so act by the unanimous consent of the Members, but the motion can be objected to by any hon. gentleman and in view of the question being raised by Hon Mr. Ryan, I would ask the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill if he will kindy alter his motion.

HON. MR. RYAN—I have no particular objection to this procedure, but is it not contrary to our laws to read a Bill the second time when the Rules of the House are not suspended for that specific purpose? However, if it is in order I am prepared to put the Bill through its various stages.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—The procedure is quite in order if no objection is raised. During the progress of the war important Bills in the British Parliament have been put through all their stages at a single sitting by the unanimous consent of the members of the House.

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

DISCIPLINE ON SHIPS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Minister of Justice, the Bill "Respecting Discipline on Ships, etc." was read a first time.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—Mr. President, with the consent of the House, I move that this Bill, entitled "An Act Respecting Discipline on Ships Controlled by the Admiralty" be now read a second time. This bill follows a draft submitted recently by the Imperial authorities with the suggestion that legislation be enacted in Newfoundland to make the law affecting discipline on board Admiralty transports in Newfoundland waters uniform with that of England. The Imperial authorities found that the provisions of the Merchants' Shipping Act and the ordinary laws were inadequate since the outbreak of the war to deal in the United Kingdom with drunkenness and failure to join on the part of merchant seamen engaged in vessels requisitioned or chartered by the Admiralty. As far back as June, 1915, special regulations were made in England along the lines laid down in this Bill. The Imperial authorities found that cases occurred in British ports overseas in which it would have been an advantage if the masters of Admiralty transports had been in a position to invoke similar legisla-

tion for the maintenance of discipline on their ships. Under these circumstances the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty requested that the Governments of the self-governing dominions should take into consideration the question of enacting such legislation as is now submitted to provide that where seamen neglect or refuse without reasonable cause to join their ship in a state of drunkenness so that the performance of their duties of the navigation of the ship is thereby impeded, they shall be guilty of an offence and liable to certain penalties set fort in Section 2 of the Act and Section 221 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1891. The master, mate and certain other persons are given power with or without the assistance of the police to convey any such seaman on board his ship and may arrest him without warrant.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time and on motion of the Hon. Minister of Justice was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

TRANSFER OF BRITISH SHIPS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships" was read a first time.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Like the two preceding Bills this one is very simple. It is intended to make an Act conform with the Imperial Act. With the consent of the House I beg to move that it 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 tomorrow.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Minister of Justice the Act "To facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in the United Kingdom, etc." was read a first time.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—Mr. President, with the consent of the House, I move that the Bill entitled, "An Act to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in the United Kingdom and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions" be now read a second time.

This Bill has been prepared with a view to giving effect to the Resolution passed at the Imperial Conference in 1911 that "the Imperial Government should consider in concert with the Dominion Governments whether, and to what extent, and under what conditions, it is practicable and desirable to make mutual arrangements with a view to the enforcement in one part of the Empire of judgments and orders of the courts of Justice in another part, including judgments or orders for the enforcement of arbitration awards."

The Bill is drawn on the lines of the Imperial Judgments Extension Act, 1868, which provides for the enforcements in one part of the United Kingdom of judgments and orders of courts of justice in another part.

It is confined, however, to the manner in which judgments of courts of justice outside of Newfoundland may be enforced within Newfoundland.

This Bill follows the draft bill submitted by the Imperial authorities in this connection with the request that the legislation of the various colonies be made uniform with that of the Imperial Parliament. Section 3 of the Bill provides that the Rule Committee appointed under Section 275 of the Judicature Act of 1904 regulating the practice to be observed in carrying out the Act.

The Bill was read a second time

and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

REPORTS TABLED.

Hon. Mr. Bishop tabled the Reports of the Salvation Army Board of Education for the year 1916, and also the Annual Report of the Registry of Deaths, Births and Marriages for 1916.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned till Thursday next at 4.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, June 14.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to amend the Death Duties Act, 1914-15.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Might I point out that Section 2, which exempts from death duties only the property of a native of Newfoundland serving with other forces of the Empire except the Newfoundland Regiment or the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve, ought to be enlarged so as to give the same exemption to the property of men domiciled in this country who are serving with these forces. I do not think it unreasonable to argue that the Colony should give the same consideration to men within its borders who enlist for active service, though not born here, as those who first saw the light in this Colony.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—The point taken by the Honourable the President is one which would be of considerable importance if it affected the first section of the Bill, but it is of minor importance under Section 2.

Section 1 relieves of taxation the estates in Newfoundland of all persons who become members of the Newfoundland Regiment or the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve entirely, irrespective of birth, domicile or residence.

Section 2 deals only with the case of the native Newfoundlanders who join His Majesty's Military or Naval forces other than the Newfoundland Regiment and the Newfoundland Naval Reserve.

The number of cases in which persons other than Newfoundlanders have left Newfoundland for enlistment abroad must necessarily be very small. If the Honorable member knows of any cases in which non-native residents of Newfoundland have left Newfoundland to join branches of His Majesty's forces in which they, because of special qualfications, can give better service to the Empire than in the Newfoundland forces, as for example, in an engineering, flying, artillery or other corps, then the wording of the section might reasonably be changed so as to include these. It was not contemplated, however, that a person who has considerable Newfoundland property, but merely a temporary or casual residence in Newfoundland should by joining His Majesty's Forces in any part of the Empire be exempt from estate taxation in Newfoundland.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—To sustain my point, I can cite some cases of men living in the Colony when they volunteered, whose cases ought I think, receive consideration. First there is Dr. Scott, of Grand Falls. He had been living there for some years, and his wife and child are there still. He was an experienced bacteriologist, and he volunteered to do his bit with the Army Medical Corps. He got a temporary commission to go across with our men

on the Calgarian two years ago, but on arrival in England was transferred to the R.A.M.C. and has since been doing splendid work in laboratories in England and France. If anything were to happen to him, his estate would be, I think, all in this Colony, and it would be unfair to render it liable for death duties because he was not a native of Newfoundland. Then, again, take Dr. Procunier, who went across with the last draft of our Regiment. He had a temporary commission for the voyage, but on reaching London would be transferred to the R.A.M.C. and if he died on active service, I submit, it would not be fair to tax his estate in this colony while the estate of another doctor who happened to be born here would be exempt. I give these two cases on the spur of the moment, but I have no doubt I could find several others after a little time for enquiry.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—The words of the section might reasonably be amended to include the case of a bona fide resident of Newfoundland who, because of special fitness for service in some branch of the Army not represented by the Newfoundland forces leaves Newfoundland to join that branch of the service where he can be most useful.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—As this is a matter of some importance and raises a question which has not been contemplated or considered by the Government, I move that this Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again on to-morrow. There will be an opportunity in the meantime for the Government to consider the matter.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on to-morrow.

DISCIPLINE ON SHIPS BILL.

The motion of Hon. Minister of Justice the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill respecting discipline in ships controlled by the Admiralty.

Hon. Mr. Anderson in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion of Hon. Minister of Justice it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

TRANSFER OF SHIPS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the house went into Committee on Bill to Restrict the Transfer and Mortgage of British Ships, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—This Bill is a consolidation of the Imperial Act of 1915-1916, the only difference being that by the Imperial Act the right of a crew or otherwise is vested in the Imperial Board of Trade acting on behalf of His Majesty whereas in this Act such right is vested in the Governor in Council.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion it was ordered the Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires House went into Committee on Bill to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the Chair.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion it was ordered the said Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires House went into Committee on Bill to Facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, Orders and Awards in Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the Chair.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion it was ordered the said Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

Hon. President read a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the accompanying Bills, entitled respectively:

An Act respecting the returns of losses by Fire Insurance Companies.

An Act ratifying a contract for steam service on Bay of Islands.

An Act respecting Copyright.

An Act to amend Trustee Act 1898.

An Act respecting Currency.

in which they requested the concurrence of the Council; and also a similar message concerning Bill entitled an Act relating to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's.

NEW BILLS.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the Fire Insurance Bill was then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow; Bay of Islands Contract Bill was read a first time and by consent of the House, a second time, and ordered to be sent to Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow; and Currency Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Minister of Justice Copyright Bill and Trustee Bill were read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs, the Roman Catholic Corporation Bill was read a first time,and by consent of the House, a second time, and ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House then adjourned until tomorrow at half past four o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY, June 15th, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m pursuant to adjournment.

BILLS READ THIRD TIME.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Admiralty Transports Discipline Act 1917 Bill, the British Ships (Transfer Restriction) Act 1917 Bill, and the Judgments Extension Act 1917 Bill were read a third time, passed, and sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

FIRE INSURANCE CO. BILL.

Second Reading of Fire Insurance Company Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—It has been the practice for a long time for the Insurance Companies to furnish the Government annually with a copy of the return of their business. Latterly, some companies have objected to furnishing such returns, and the object of the present Bill is to compel all companies doing business here to make returns on or before the first day of March to the Chief Officer in charge of the St. John's Fire Department in writing, verified by the oath of the Secretary or other principal officer of the Company, or of its principal agent or agents in Newfoundland, containing full and correct paticulars of all damage to the property within the Colony of persons insured by the Company in respect of which claim has been made upon the Company during the calendar year ending the thirty-first day of December then past.

The Bill was read a second time and on motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop ordered to be sent to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAMSHIP BILL

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop,

the House went into committee on the Bay of Islands Steam Service Contract Bill, Hon. Mr. Winter taking the chair of the committee.

The committee reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered that the bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

COPYRIGHT BILL.

Second Reading of the Copyright Act, 1912 Amendment Bill.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—In moving that this bill entitled "An Act respecting Copyright" be now read a second time I would briefly observe that in the year 1911 an Imperial act dealing with copyright became law in the United Kingdom. In the year 1912 that act was adopted by this legislature and declared to be in force throughout the Colony of Newfoundland, with the exception of such provisions in the Imperial Act as were expressly restricted in the said act to the United Kingdom. All will appreciate the desirability of having a uniform copyright law throughout the Empire. At the same time the rules and regulations for the application of the general law to the United Kingdom and the various colonies would naturally be somewhat different and framed in each case to suit local conditions. The object of this bill is to cause the enactment in Newfoundland of provisions suitable to the circumstances of Newfoundland to replace the provisions of the Imperial Act expressly restricted to the United Kingdom, and consequently not in force in Newfoundland, under our enactment of the year 1912.

I feel that it is not necessary for me to discuss in detail these regulations, other than to observe that persons aggrieved by a summary conviction under the Act may appeal to the Supreme Court in accordance with the provisions of existing local legislation. It will be observed that under Section 3 all the powers vested by the Imperial Act in the Board of Trade shall, in Newfoundland, be vested in and exercised by the Governor in Council.

I note a typographical error in one of the Sections of the Act, but that is a matter which can be rectified in committee.

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

TRUSTEE BILL.

Second Reading of the Trustee Act, 1898 Amendment Bill

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—I move that this bill entitled "An Act to amend the Trustee's Act 1898," be now read a second time.

Section 51 of the Trustee's Act 1898 is intended to be repealed and a new section as set forth in the Bill substituted therefor. Under Section 51 the Supreme Court was given power to allow trustees such compensation over and above all actual and necessary expenses as it appeared to the court to be just and reasonable. In exercising the discretion vested in them by that Section the Supreme Court rarely if ever, allowed more than 5% on the realized value of the assets of the estate. It was thought desirable that the practice of the court in this connection should be crystallized in the form of a legislative enactment, with the result that this bill was submitted for consideration. Its effect is to provide that where an estate is of a value of $1,000 and over the total remuneration to trustees over and above all actual and necessary expenses shall not exceed one-twentieth of the realized value of the assets. It provides further that where all the assets shall not have been realized the

court or a Judge may either order further realization or allow remuneration in respect of the unrealized part to any sum less than one-twentieth of the value of that unrealized part. Sub-Section 2 provides that where the estate is less than $1,000 the court or a judge may allow such remuneration as it shall think adequate.

Many years ago a scale of remuneration was promulgated by the judges of the Supreme Court to cover cases where officers of the court occupied the position of trustees. That scale is still in force and is not in any way affected by this act. Section 2 expressly provides that the compensation of the Registrar of the Supreme Court when acting as a trustee shall be governed by the rules of court, either the rules at present in existence, or such rules as may hereafter be made.

As regards the Bill now before the House I had intended to make some very lengthy observations but will defer them to a later date, when I certainly will deal with it more fully. If it takes a lawyer to understand properly the value of a legal man's services, I imagine it ought, in the interests of equity and common sense, be left in the hands of men of commerce, men with commercial instincts and training to properly assess the value of commercial services etc. I do not consider that the Supreme Court is the proper tribunal to asses the value of a trustee's service for I know of a case where an unparalleled injustice was done a trustee by the Supreme Court in assessing the value of his services. I had not intended to refer to the matter at present but at some later date I shall lay before the House the full facts in connection with this matter so that they may judge for themselves the gross injustice that was done in that case.

I am very glad indeed to see that it is to be definitely decided at just what figure a trustee's services are to be assessed.

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

CURRENCY BILL.

Second reading of the Currency Bill.

HON MR. BISHOP—The Government has found it necessary in recent years to import for purposes of trade very considerable quantities of silver coin. It is a mystery as to what has become of all the silver coin which has been imported into this country during the past few years, and the only explanation that I can advance is that very large sums are being stowed away by the people throughout the country. When application was made last vear for a further supply the Government thought it desirable that we should secure a 25 cent coin which has not heretofore been in use in the Colony. The decision having been arrived at it was found necessary that the previous Act should be amended. The 1895 Act is therefore being repealed, and such amendments as are necessary are therefore being embodied in the present Bill. It was also found by the Treasury to be more convenient that our new coinage should be minted at Ottawa, instead of at London, as formerly, and that it was necessary to provide new dies for 25 cent pieces. It was pointed out also that Newfoundland and Canadian 50 cent pieces were not indentical in value. The Canadian 50 cents contained 180 grams of silver and the Newfoundland, since 1895 contained 179 grams. There is no intrinsic difference in value, but sufficient to make it desirable

that, as our minting was to be done at Ottawa, the two coins should be indentical in value, vix: 180 grams each. To get over these difficulties some slight changes in the Act of 1895 were suggested, and it was found more convenient to prepare the present Bill, which will entirely annul the Act of 1895.

There is no change in Section 1 of the Bill. In Section 2 there is a slight change in the words "the British Gold Sovereign." The word "gold" is uncertain and further words are being inserted to make fully apparent the meaning of the Section. Section 4 is a new Section as suggested by the Treasury. It was thought desirable that power should be taken under the Bill if found in the public interest to change the coins for lower denominations from bronze to other metal . In section 5 the words "by His Majesty-in council" are substituted instead of by proclamation. The other sections deal also with certain changes which are not of special importance. These are the only differences in the bill worthy of note and I therefore beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill.

HON. JOHN ANDERSON—I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government and its representative in this House upon the Bill which we now have before us. But I would ask is it the intention of the Government to call in the 20 cent pieces? I am very glad to hear that it is the intention to make a 25c piece. I think it will meet the requirements of the trade, and I would suggest that the 20c. pieces be called in at cost. The cost will not be great, and it will save considerable confusion. Some of these coins are so defaced that it is impossible to tell whether it is a 20c. or a 25c. piece. I simply make the suggestion to the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE.—I quite agree with the remarks of my Hon. friend, Mr. Anderson. This is a very opportune time to call in the 20 cent pieces and I do not think it will entail any serious loss to the country. At present we require a considerable amount of 25 cent pieces in order to equalize the requirements in silver.

HON. MR. J. D. RYAN—I should like to say a word or two with reference to this Bill. I don't exactly agree with the two previous speakers. We can get along quite well with our twenty cent pieces for subscription and collections. If we change the 20 cent piece to 25c., these subscriptions will now become 25 cents instead of 20 cents as formerly. I fear there is some ulterior motive behind the Bill, and I remember the arguments against such a change when previous Governments wished to discontinue the 20 cent piece and substitute the 25 cent piece. In Canada to-day they have both these coins, and it causes quite a considerable amount of confusion. I fear that this is an attempt to introduce the thin edge of the wedge for other purposes.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole house on to-morrow.

R. C. CORPORATION BILL.

On motion the house resolved itself into committee of the whole on the Roman Catholic Corporation of St. John's Amendment Bill.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the chair.

HON. J. D. RYAN—The bill before the committee involves only the change of one word by inserting after the word "convey" the word "mortgage." The change is quite simple and is made to meet the wishes of those interested. I beg to move the second reading.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—In the year 1897 an Act was passed to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. John's. This is 68 Vic. Cap. 17. Under section 3 of that Act there was conferred upon the corporation certain rights, and, amongst others, the right "to lease, sell, convey and dispose of" lands and other property. By section 7 of that Act there was express power to raise money by the issue of Debenture Bonds to an amount not exceeding two-thirds of the value of the corporate property. This act of 1897 was repealed in the year 1913 by the act 3 George V. Cap. 10. This new act of 1913 re-enacted the Act of 1897 with some slight changes. There was no change made in section 3 or in section 7, so that under the law as it stands at present the Corporation has the express right under Section 3 to "lease, sell, convey and dispose of" lands and other property. These words have been continuously construed during the past 20 years both by the corporation and those with whom the corporation has done business to include the right to convey property by way of mortgage, but the point has recently been raised that the effect of Section 7, which gives certain statutory powers of borrowing money and securing the same by debenture bonds was intended to limit the right of the Corporation to borrow money by that means and to give security in that way and no other.

There is no doubt whatever about the fact that when the Corporation was given the power to "lease, sell, convey and dispose of" lands and other property, that power included the power to mortgage, a mortgage being a conveyance of property with certain rights of redemption, and that construction is not in any way seriously disputed by any person, but the mere fact that it has been raised is sufficient to make necessary an amendment of Section 3 so that it will be quite impossible for any person to think that the Corporation which has the power to buy and sell, has the power to lease, dispose of and convey property, should not have the power to mortgage property if it is desired to do so.

It is consequently desirable that this bill be passed so that the possibility of doubt on that point may be finally dispelled.

On motion the committee rose and reported having passed the bill without amendment.

On motion it was asked that the bill be read a third time to-morrow.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

On motion the house resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill to amend the Death Duties Act 1914-1916.

Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

On motion the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the house then adjourned till Tuesday next at 4.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, June 19, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 pursuant to adjournment.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM SERVICE

On motion the Bay of Islands Steam Contract Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message intimating that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

R. C. CORPORATION BILL.

On motion the R. C. Corporation of St. John's Amendment Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message intimating that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

FIRE INSURANCE CO. BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Fire Insurance Co. Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported having passed the Bill without amendment.

CURRENCY BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Currency Bill, Hon. Mr. Power in the Chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.— Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill if it is the intention of the Government to coin a $5.00 gold piece, or are we only going to have silver. I think if Canada can have gold coin, and the United States also. it would be a good idea to introduce $2.00, $5.00 and $10.00 gold pieces in this country. I should like to make the suggestion to the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—There has been no issue of gold coin for many years past and it is not the present intention of the Government to issue gold coin.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.— I was intending to ask the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill in considering the next section where is the author ity for the issue of the 25 cent pieces which are said to be now in the city, awaiting the passing of the Act before being put into circulation. There is no reference to any such coin in the text of the Bill itself.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—There is in Section 4.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Yes, but does His Majesty direct the issue of the coin.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Yes.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Under what authority?

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Under the authority of an Order-in-Council.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Then I am to take it that the 25-cent pieces now here have been minted in anticipation of the Bill and are merely awaiting passage of the Bill to be put in circulation?

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Yes.

HON. J. D. RYAN.—This is a matter to which I made reference the other day. So that we may not be in the dark on the matter then, if I interpret the position properly, we will dispose of the 20 cent piece and take up the 25 cent coin, so as to be like our neighbors to the west of us. I presume this is the reason for the change, but it will be very inconvenient for the people of the country who will need to look at both sides of the coin to see whether it is a quarter dollar or a twenty cent piece. In Canada they have in circulation the coin issued before Confederation in 1867 and a considerable quantity of the New Brunswick coins are in circulation here.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—The Hon. gentleman must be aware that there has been a desire in this country for years to issue a 25 cent piece to conform with the coin of our neighbors across the Strait. It is not a settled conviction, however, that the 20 cent piece should not be issued again, nor has it been decided by the Government, that it shall not be issued again. The Government has an open mind on the matter. There has been no new coinage of 20 cent pieces but the trade may demand that the 20 cent piece continue to be issued, nor will they be issued until it appears that the exigencies of the trade demand them.

The Committee rose and reported

having passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

DEATH DUTIES BILL.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Justice the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Death Duties Acts 1914—17. Hon. J. D. Ryan in the Chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I beg to move an amendment to section 2 as follows:—After the words "proberty of" in the first line insert the following words:—"Any person being". . . . In the same section and the same line, after the word "Newfoundland" insert the following words:—"Or who was at the outbreak of the war domiciled in Newfoundland."

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—Mr. Bishop carries out fully the views expressed by the Hon. Dr. McGrath, the President of the Council. We are all indebted to Dr. McGrath for his suggestion because the bill thus amended will cover the cases of several who are not members of Newfoundland forces because their daily work fitted them for military activities in branches of the service not represented in the Newfoundland forces. Section one was already broad enough to cover all who joined the Newfoundland forces. This Section 2 embraces all Newfoundlanders, as also all resident in Newfoundland, whether native or not, at the beginning of the War who joined His Majesty's Military or Naval forces elsewhere.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments and it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

COPYRIGHT BILL.

On motion of Hon. Minister of Justice the House went into Committee on the Copyright Bill. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

The Committe rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it vas ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

TRUSTEE BILL.

On motion of Hon. Minister of Justice the House resolved itself in to Committee of the whole on the Trustee Act 1898 Amendment Bill., Hon. Mr. Knowling in the chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I should like to ask the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill what part of the fifty-first section it is proposed to repeal now?

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—The entire section.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—Section 51 refers to five per cent on collections. The Minister of Justice designs Acts, and we in this house, assist in their manufacture. Now it is just as well we should understand matters. Supposing you have a collection of one million dollars, and the extreme limit of the Supreme Court is five per cent., that is $50,000. and you have a series of trustees A. B. C. and D. who have had awarded to them $30,000 leaving still a margin of $20,000 up to the maximum of five per cent. Is it within the province of the judges of the Supreme Court to award that balance or whatever they think best?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—This Section repeals Section 51 of the Trustees Act of 1898. That section did not limit the Court to one twentieth, or five per cent. There was a full and absolute discretion vested in the Court to give as much as the Court considered just and reasonable.

This Act has nothing whatever to do with the remuneration of trustees in insolvency proceedings. That

is covered by Section 227 of the Judicature Act of 1904. That section states that a trustee of an insolvent estate shall be entitled to such compensation not exceeding five per cent on the realized value of assets over and above the actual and reasonable expenses and disbursements as the Court or a Judge may allow.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I must thank my hon. friend for the information, and I am very glad indeed that after twenty years something is being done to remedy the grave injustice that has been apparent in the past. I know a gentleman in this town who for ten years looked after an estate for which he got almost nothing, but a lawyer who came into the work for two days got more. It is unfair. As I stated when the bill was before this house recently, I intend to give a speech on this matter, and that speech in all its details I shall give for the benefit of this House, and of this country, wherein will be shown particulars of the unparalleled injustice done the gentleman I refer to. It was the Insolvency Act I refer to and the maximum is five per cent. I thank you, Mr. Minister of Justice, for the information, but I tell you now I know a gentleman who with all the worry and care and trouble met with a loss of nearly $35,000 and that gentleman is thought to have made a fortune, and I hope to give the story to the country some time. I thank you that after twenty years there are at least some who are beginning to see daylight and I trust that justice will be done in future.

HON. MR. RYAN.—I think this is a very wise act because it is only fair that trustees should be awarded proper compensation for the work they undertake. I happen to know some, at least one person, who acted with other trustees and after four or five years he died, and others who worked several years longer only received the same compensation for several years longer services as the man who had died several years previous. Now, trustee work is not always very pleasant; you may make enemies unconsciously, and I think that a law like this that a trustee shall be entitled to compensation should be on the Statute Book, and not even a judge of the Supreme Court can have jurisdiction over the matter. The Act, I think, in Canada defines an amount like this. According to this amendment I presume that compensation will be given according to labor and not be left to the discretion of the Supreme Court who might not know as to what a man might be entitled to. I think it is a very wise act. I am personally aware of what I speak; I was one of the victims myself. I am very glad of this bill, and would have been better pleased if it had been in operation twenty years ago.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Do I understand aright that this does not apply to insolvent estates?

HON. MR. SQUIRES, (Minister of Justice.)—Yes; it does not apply to insolvent estates.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Is there any good reason why it should not apply to insolvent estates If it is good for ordinary estates why should it not apply as well there, because two of my hon. friends, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Ryan are evidently discussing insolvent estates, and they ought to understand clearly that this does not cover the cases they refer to? If it is good why not apply it there as well.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I would like to point out to the honorable gentlemen opposite if it does apply to the Insolvency Act, that this Bill does not relieve the situation of which they

complain. It still leaves the discretion to judges, but limits them to five per cent. But I wish to be clear on this matter. Suppose a man leaves an estate in the hands of a trustee, who is his son, and suppose the will says that as remuneration for services the trustee shall get 7½, or 10 per cent; once the will is probated, how does this provision affect such a case?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—If a testator appoints a trustee or his will at a stated remuneration, the document itself would be the trustee's authority, and this provision would have no application to such a case.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

LOAN BILL.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I have a message from the House of Assembly intimating that they have passed the Bill respecting Bonds, issued under the "Loan Act of 1916" in which they ask the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I beg leave to lay upon the table of the House the Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the year 1916.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until Thursday at 4.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, June 21, 1917.

The House met at 4.30, p. m., pursuant to adjournment.

BILLS PASSED.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the Fire Insurance Company Bill, the Copyright Act 1912 Amendment Bill, the Trustee Act 1898 Amendment Bill and the Currency Act 1917 Bill were 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.

LOAN BILL.

Second reading of Loan, (Confirmation) Act, 1917, Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Mr. President, the Bonds authorized in 1916 were not issued, but a loan was obtained in London against the bonds, pending issue and the object of the present Bill is to satisfy the bondholders, making provision for confirmation of the act of the Governor in Council, and providing that "the payment of the interest and principal thereof shall be made in time of war as well as of peace, and without consideration of the holders' nationality being that of a friendly or hostile state, and without requirement of any proof in that regard." I beg to move the second reading.

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. Bishop, the House then adjourned until Tuesday next at 4.30 o'clock p. m.

TUESDAY June, 26th.

The House met at 4.30 pursuant to adjournment. There being no quorum present, the House adjourned till to-morrow Wednesday at 4.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY June, 27th.

The House met at 4.30, pursuant to adjournment. There being no quorum present the House adjourned till to-morrow, Thursday, at 4.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, June 28th.

The House met at 4.30 p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

LOAN BILL.

Committee on the Loan (Confirmation) Act 1917, Bill.

On motion the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Bill. Hon. J. D. Ryan in the Chair.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Before the preamble is passed. I would like to ask the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill as to whether the interest shall be paid even if the holder belongs to a hostile state.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Yes.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Isn't that an extraordinary provision—that this Legislature, or that of any British possession— should undertake to pay subjects of a hostile state in time of war the interest on debentures. It seems to me to be the very contradiction of what is current at present.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—That is so, but I am of opinion that this matter has been before the authorities of Great Britain and they have sanctioned the measure. The question apparently was not raised by the Lower House, but as the point is an important one I would suggest that further consideration of the Bill be deferred so that enquiries may be made and Hon. members be satisfied on this matter.

On motion the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Hon. President acquainted the House that he had received from the House of Assembly a message intimating that they had passed the amendment sent down and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act to Amend the Death Duties Act 1914-1916," without amendment, also that they had passed the Bills entitled respectively, "An Act to continue in force for a further period the Act 5, Geo. V., Cap. 4, entitled 'An Act Respecting a Volunteer Force in this Colony," and a Bill "An Act respecting the Wills and Estates of members of the First Nfld. Regiment and of the Nfld. Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve," in which they requested the concurrence of this House.

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

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until Monday next at 4.30 p.m.

MONDAY, July 2nd.

The House met at 4.30 p.m pursuant to adjournment.

LOAN BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires the House resolved into committee of the whole on the Loan Confirmation Act 1917 Bill, Hon. Mr. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

HON MR. BISHOP.—As regards the question raised by the Hon. President at the last sitting of the committee, I have to say that this loan was raised in New York by the Prime Minister, and after the arrangements regarding the loan had been made and the Premier proceeded to England, the question was raised by the brokers who were negotiating the loan that as the United States was then a neutral country with the possibility that it might be either a friendly or a hostile nation before the termination of the war, it would be desirable that we should have the clause inserted in the agreement which was done by the Executive Council and which it is now proposed by this Bill to confirm, that the loan as regards principal and interests should be paid even to alien enemies. A large number of the population of the United States are Germans, although they are now citi-

zens of the United States, but whether such or whether Germans or any other nationality who are enemies at present, the holders of the bonds shall not be prejudiced in that regard, and that is the object of the present legislation.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I agree that this is a satisfactory statement in regard to the matter and while personally I think, on general principles, that it is undesirable that such very large concessions should be made, still under the circumstances under which the bonds were issued and the fact that their life is only for three years, we might waive the point, particularly as the credit of the colony is pledged and the Executive Government have given an undertaking to the effect stated in this clause. But as to whether, now that the United States has become an ally of the British Empire, it will be necessary to make such concessions in future loans is, I think, a matter the Government might take into consideration, and I hope it will be possible, if other loans are raised in that country, to effect the transaction without having to give such concessions as are represented in this section.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I may say that this loan is the same as the Anglo-French War Loan. That also was with the United States, and I don't know, but would like to know whether the Imperial Government has made a similar provision. It is a point which the Imperial Government may consider before giving consent to the Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I am unable to answer that question, but it would seem to me that it may be assumed that it does, because I cannot conceive how any government could do otherwise. You may be friendly with one nation today and may be fighting them next month, and who could take bonds if they did not feel they were secure, no matter what might arise? I think if I were offered today Russian bonds or immediately after the termination of the war German securities, Austrian or Italian, I would hesitate if I thought it likely that subsequent legislation would debar me from my rightful security.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I think the answer to that is that if such is the case there would be no need for this provision in the bill. This restriction must be either because what the hon. gentleman thinks is the case, is really not so, or else that it is not usual in international law. As I understand it, all money transactions are temporarily suspended between nations at war, not that such involves repudiation, but that the rights are suspended till the termination of hostilities, when adjustments are again made. This would not prevent the Germans, for instance, getting money at the end of the war which is now held in British countries, but merely prevent hostile countries getting money from each other during hostilities The Germans are doing such astounding things nowadays that no one knows what next to expect, but under international law as it now prevails German holders of bonds cannot get their interest until peace resumes and vice versa. But the particular phraseology of this clause provides that even during the progress of a war we are required to pay interest to subjects of an enemy power. It is more or less an academic point considering it will terminate in three years. Still I cannot help thinking it a pity the loan could not have been secured without this provision, but possibly now that the United States is an ally, we may be able to secure future loans without such a clause being inserted.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—I beg to point out that before any legislation is entered into on the part of the Colony with regard to this matter, a Minute of Council has to be passed, and that Minute must be assented to by the Governor, and he would not assent to any Minute if otherwise instructed from the Colonial Office. If there was any dissent on their part, that would have been signified, but no such dissent was made.

The Committe rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

VOLUNTEER BILL.

HON. MR. BISHOP moved the second reading of the Volunteer Acts 1914-1917 Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—This Bill is rendered necessary because of the prolongation of the war which I doubt anyone would have foreseen. The effect of it is that it calls upon us to make greater efforts and sacrifices in the future, and I feel sure they will be ungrudgingly given. I avail of the opportunity to say that a great deal of dissatisfaction exists in this community with regard to different matters connected with regimental affairs. One of the matters about which one hears criticisms of various kinds is the administration of the Patriotic Fund. People say, and I do not pretend to know if it is correct or not, that all are not getting a square deal; that the fund is not being administered for the purposes for which it was subscribed. Soldiers who go on active service and more particularly those with family obligations to discharge, allot a portion of their pay to the support and maintenance of their families, and be it said to their credit the greater number have faithfully discharged that obligation. But then it is said that there are others who fail to live up to that obligation, with the result that their families are compelled to appeal to the members of the Patriotic Association who have to deal with this fund, and moneys have to be paid out of this fund to discharge obligations which the soldier should attend to. Now, I submit that this is unfair to the volunteer who allots a portion of his pay, because side by side with him may be another soldier with similar obligations to discharge who instead of making allotment is spending the whole of his allowance on himself and disregarding the associations and obligations of family life. It is unfair to the man who is acting otherwise because he is getting less for the services he is giving to his country than the man who is not acting so. Nobody wishes to find fault with the man who offers his services for the cause of Empire, but there is a duty on the part of the volunteer who has a family to provide for and he should be compelled to look out for them; there should be ways and means devised whereby a portion of his allotment may be taken and given to his family in order that they may not suffer while he is away. Another cause of complaint—I merely voice these things in connection with regimental matters so that hon. members will be aware of what the public are saying—is that one of the rinks was taken last year and prepared at great expense in order to provide quarters for the soldiers, and a great number of them lived there for a considerable time. A splendid opportunity was thus offered to open what are known as Officers' Training Classes. No such classes whatever were opened in connection with that rink, a private was compelled to remain a private and no opportunity was given him to attain a higher rank; he joined as a private, and went to the front as a private. Why that was I do not know; there may

be cause for it, but I do not see why the men living at the rink were discriminated against, because you cannot call it anything else It speaks well for the manner in which men have come forward and volunteered when things of that kind car. go on. Somebody is to blame, somebody is responsible. It may have suited the convenience of some or it may not, but that is one of the complaints I have heard over and over again. Another cause of dissatisfaction is that discrimination exists in dealing with men who arrive here medically unfit for active service. We had an instance of that a few days ago. A private named Higgins of Catalina who worked at different classes of work before he enlisted, owing to wounds received was discharged as medically unfit and was given a pension of eight dollars a month. Higgins was unable to return to the work he had left for the purpose of enlisting and was not able to earn anythink like what he had earned when he offered his services to the Empire. For others similarly wounded positions have been found, bringing them ten times more than they formerly received. Now I do not know if that is correct or not, but that is the story told me, and why this discrimination was practised I do not know. There may be some satisfactory explanation if so it should be given and the public mind disabused of the idea that unfairness is going on, because if these reports are true a gross injustice is being done. Take the private soldier who comes back; it is asserted that if medically unfit he gets two weeks in barracks, and is then turned adrift. He may have some disease which may ultimately bring him to an early grave. while the man with a higher command, it is said, can be kept on for six, eight and ten months at full pay, and if not kept on, some place is found for him or made for him. Now that may not be true, but these are things that are in the public mind and if that is the mode of handling matters in conion with the regiment, then the sooner it stops the better; because we are told this is a war of democracy, but there is very little democracy about such things. If these facts are correct, and they continue without abatement then recruiting is not going to be as successful in the future as in the past. Another cause of complaint is that the draft known as the Windsor draft should have been in England six or nine months before it actually arrived there. I do not known whether that is the case or not, but that statement is made. If it is so, then the Colony has had to pay the bill, and it seems a bill of twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars or more. Why the draft was kept back or what the reason or object for so doing I do not know, but I merely submit the statement I hear made by many people. It is just as well that members connected with regimental matters should know what is in the mind of the public. Another complaint made is that the system of recruiting that is going on is not all that can be desired. People say that the ordinary means of travel are not made use of in order to carry on this work, but that private cars are used and private meals served and money is spent unnecessarily. There may be some explanation for that, but it will be hard to convince the public that the ordinary means of travel are not suitable and that it is necessary to hire private cars and have private meals served. I am not saying that there is a justifcation for criticism; these are matters that the public are making complaints about and saying that there is a spirit of unfairness and extravagance and that all are not getting what may be called a square deal.

The unfortunate aspect of this matter is that it is affecting recruiting and will affect it until cleared up. The private who returns and is medically unfit should receive the same treatment as the superior officer; all should be treated alike. If the officer is kept on for six or twelve months the private should be kept on also because both have suffered and both have done their part, and if they did not make the supreme sacrifice it was not their fault because they risked their lives in order that others might live. If the complaint is true, that jobs are found for some and not for others, then I say it is unfair. The private soldier has to risk his life and get maimed and perhaps bear through life disease and suffering because of the rigors of war, and when he returns he should be treated as well as anybody else. This country can never discharge its honest obligations until it remembers the duty it owes to the living as well as to the heirs of the dead, and that duty should be done in an impartial way and not by social pull. Positions should not be found for some because of the fortunate circumstances under which they happened to be born. Because Tom Brown of say Smith's Sound was born there, he should not be thrown on the street. I do not speak here today for the purpose of mere fault finding, mere criticism. I recognize the valuable work done by men who have given their time and energies and talent freely for good work has been done. What I fear. Sir, is that the work of those who have given time and talent is not appreciated to the extent it should be simply because others connected with the movement are not showing that spirit of fairness and fairplay in connection with the matters to which I have referred.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—The brief Bill before the House, Mr. President, to-day has my cordial support. Section 1 provides for a continuation of a Volunteer Force in this Colony, not only for another year, but until six months from the date on which His Majesty shall cause a proclamation, or proclamations to be issued, declaring that a state of war no longer exists between H's Majesty and the countries with which hostilities are at present pending, whichever period shall be the shorter.

In supporting a bill, Mr. President, of this kind, I think it is only fair to the parents of the boys who volunteered in the Newfoundland Regiment. Many of these brave lads have given their lives in defense of the Empire. You will, I have no doubt, Sir, remember the writer to the Daily News who wrote as Yorick, Under the Clock, made certain charges against the Pay and Record Office, London—charges that I believe did a good deal of harm to the cause of recruiting in this Colony. What personal references in that correspondence refers to myself I intend to take no notice. What I am more concerned about —Were the charges made by Yorick true or false which were published in the Daily News of date June 21st, Sept. 19th, 21st, last year, 1916?

The correspondent who writes to the press under a nom-de-plume, and makes untruthful personal attacks upon any person, along with the paper which publishes same, is no credit to the country. It is dastardly and despicable so to stab. It is the work of a contemptible coward. A sneak behind a curtain is dangerous to a nation and an abomination to the Colony. I believe in a pure, straightforward criticism of blunders and mistakes. I don't say that the Pay and Record Office, London, is infallible. If you have anything against the work of the office, say so manfully. Don't allow your personal spite and spleen against any indi-

vidual member of the staff. If they are useless and no good clear them out. To stab in the dark is only the work of a human viper. If Yorick wishes to find fault, let him begin at Mesopotamia in Newfoundland. Water Street and the clubs for many months have been discussing blunders and mistakes, and commissions in St. John's. The principal speeches by members of the Patriotic Association are usually made in bed, in the clubs or on Water Street. The most serious mistake to my mind, if a mistake I may be allowed to call it—we have too many Military Committees —all good amateurs in their way, but enough to form a regiment. Another mistake, I very much fear, has been made, (not a new thought)—the Government has given too much power to Committees—work they should have done themselves, and not allowed it to drift into the various departments of Military work. The Government of this country should be responsible for blunders and mistakes.

Many times I have asked who is at the head in St. John's of the Pay & Record Office, London. I am about as wise to-day as the first time I asked the question.

Yorick's Letter of June 21st, 1916.

"For various reasons I have refrained from any reference to those complaints which have been voiced in the Evening Herald newspaper, regarding the alleged ill-treatment of our lads in France in the matter of clothing, etc. One has no desire to increase the worries and anxieties of the friends at home, but now that publicity has been given to the facts—for unfortunately they are facts—which are being corroborated by letters received by every mail; an observation or two many not be amiss.

When Frank Lind wrote his famous—then by many termed "infamous"—letter to the Daily News last year exposing the conditions under which our troops had to fight at Suvla, people thought he was romancing. It has been demonstrated beyond a doubt since that he didn't tell half the truth. It is to the glory of the lads of the Regiment that they hid their sufferings from their friends at home and made little of hardships that were appalling. It is this reticence that makes one fear that things have not been with them in France what they should have been, and that there is very serious neglect somewhere that needs remedying. It is understood that Lady Davidson has been making careful enquiry into the distribution of W. P .A. contributions during her visit to England; and from some of the changes that have been instituted in London, which are apparent from recent correspondence it is evident that something has been doing and there is hope that all room for further complaint may have been obviated.

It would be unfortunate not to take cognizance of these complaints and inquire into the cause. One can well understand that soldiers on the firing line would be deprived of a great many of the comforts that come to them when they are in the barracks or in camp; but it is difficult to understand why they should be short of clothing or be compelled to go without pay. Many complaints have come in regarding the irregularity with which their pay is handed out, a matter for which there can be no possible excuse. Public opinion believes firmly there is something wrong in the Pay and Record Office, and that a big shaking up is required there. It is unfortunate that it should be so, but rightly or wrongly confidence in the officer in charge has entirely departed. One hears on all sides the expressed belief that something more

than an experienced chartered accountant, surrounded with the red tape of his profession, is necessary to fill such a position.

Unkind remarks are likewise made regarding some of his assistants, who, according to some reports "take more interest in music hall matters, than in the welfare of the boys who are in the trenches." A story is told that recently big influences were brought to bear to secure promotion for one of them, a civilian, which would have made him the senior of some of the officials who have been longer in the office, but it was nipped in the bud here and rightly so. The men who are wanted in the Pay and Record Office are not those who are seeking commissions, but those who, recognizing the huge amount of work that has to be done, are prepared to do it. Their interest should be principally in the brave lads on the firing line and not in their own advancement. Where the responsibility rests for the non-transhipment of the comforts for our boys in France one can only surmise. It is poor comfort and poorer encouragement to the noble women who have been devoting their time and energy to knitting and preparing comforts for their loved one who are fighting the Empire's battles to learn that they are not reaching their destination.

The Government or the Patriotic Committe should make a thorough investigation and find where the blame lies, and if necessary send somebody from here to undertake it. The cost would be trifling compared to the relief that would follow. Hon. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Clift, prominent members of the Patriotic Association, are now en route to the Old Country, why not give them all powers to act. It should not take them very long to get at the bottom of the trouble. Sometime recently I heard or read a suggestion that there should be an "eyewitness" with the Regiment, detailing its experience and keeping the country in touch with its movements and work. Were there such a person, he would take note of any such deficiencies as those lately reported, and would instantly make them known, saving the soldier the humiliating necessity of voicing his own complaints. The further advantage would be his continual reports of the doings of the boys. At present we have to be satisfied with the letters of the individual soldier to his friends. Sometimes I wonder if any official reports are ever received here from the officer in command, regarding the work of the boys, and if so, why they are not made public. Nothing can be of greater interest just now and nothing the authorities could do would meet with more hearty approval than the making of some arrangement whereby an occasional report of the daily life of the Regiment would be assured. Why not attempt it?"

I wish, Mr. President, to ask the Hon. Leader of the Government what action was taken by the Government in connection with the charges made by Yorick in this letter to the Daily News of June 21st, 1916. Yorick in this letter says:

"Regarding the alleged ill-treatment of our lads in France in the matter of clothing, etc., one has no desire to increase the worries and anxieties of the friends at home, but now that publicity has been given to the facts—for unfortunately they are facts." Yorick further states in this letter, "It is difficult to understand why they—the soldiers—should be short of clothing, or be compelled to go without pay." I am well aware the date when these charges were made, the Hon. Leader of the Government, like myself, was not in the Colony.

My direct question to the Hon. gentleman representing the Government in this House. When these charges were made, was any notice taken either by the Government, the commander in Chief of the Newfoundland Regiment, or the Committee of the Patriotic Association, to enquire into these public charges made by Yorick, Mr. President

I have seen a great deal of our gallant lads, both at Ayr, Edinburgh and London. I have seen them in good health, and I have visited the wounded. I have met our soldier lads without legs and arms, some of them maimed for life, and at no time did I ever hear a murmur or complaint of any kind. I have met and talked to them without eyes:

You that still have your sight
Remember me!
I risked my life, I lost my eyes,
That you might see.

Now in the dark I go,
That you have light.
Yours, all the joy of day,
I have but night.

Yours still, the faces dear,
The fields, the sky,
For me—ah me! there's nought
But this black misery.

In this unending night,
I can but see
What once I saw, and fain
Would see again.

O, midnight of black pain!
Come, Comrade Death,
Come quick and set me free,
And give me back my eyes again!

Nay, thee, Christ's Vicar,
You who bear our pain,
Ours be it now to see
Your dark days lighted,
And your way made plain.

I need hardly say that every hon. gentleman of this House has a heartfelt welfare for the comfort and happiness of our soldier and sailor lads who left Newfoundland and fought for their King and Country, both on land and sea, and in the air. Our lads of the Navy have done their duty, many have made the great sacrifice for the protection of the Colony's trade and Country's commerce and now sleep beneath the waves. Their warfare is o'er.

We owe our men of the Navy and our soldiers the best that is in the land, in everything that pertains tc their genuine comfort and happiness. These men have upheld in true British pluck the ideals of brave soldiers that are an honor and a credit to our country. These gallant men have brought lustre to Newfoundland that will spread throughout the country, and never fade away.

Yorick, in a letter to the Daily News of date, Sept. 19th, 1916, makes the accusation that the work in the Pay and Record Office, London, is not thoroughly and satisfactorily done, and that he, Yorick, is not prepared to take the word of Sir Edward Morris, Sir Edgar Bowring, Hon. R. K. Bishop, Hon. S. Milley Mr. Clift, Mr. W. B. Grieve, and not ever Mr. Anderson himself.

The evidence I have worked on is the only evidence that is worth anything—is the evidence of those who have had dealings with, and been subject to the vagaries of the Pay and Record Office—our soldiers.

I am not going to weary this House reviewing the many accusations made by Yorick. Take this one: "A case came to my notice only the other day, where a badly injured soldier was kept waiting three hours at that office for his wages, and when tired and weary, he offered a protest, and was told if he didn't

keep quiet he would be arrested."

I asked the leader of the Government in this House, with all solemnity: Should these charges have been allowed to pass without a challenge?

Are these charges true or false? The following is a copy of a letter which I sent from London, that was published in the Evening Telegram:

The Inner Workings of the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, London, Published in the Evening Telegram, September 16, 1916, by John Anderson.

My attention was drawn to an article which appeared in the Daily News of June 21: "Under the Clock," by Yorick. In this article he made reference to various matters in connection with the Newfoundland Regiment, but particularly it was an attack on the Pay and Record Office in London. The people who were curious enough to read the article and who were misguided enough to believe it would get a very wrong impression on the workings of the department under Captain Timewell, and in justice to him and his staff Yorick's ill-chosen comments must be refuted.

I visited the office almost daily when in London, as do most Newfoundlanders, and I was impressively struck with the splendid way in which everything was running, by the thorough manner in which Capt. Timewell had organized the work that had to be created.

There was the Pay Branch, which looks after the detail work of the Contingent's expenditure. It must be remembered that every soldier in the Contingent has a separate ledger account, in which his pay is credited and charged. When a man goes on active service he does not as a rule draw much pay, for obvious reasons. This accumulates and is paid to him if and when he visits the Pay and Record Office in London, or is sent to him if he is not in a position to come and get it himself. It may be interesting to the parents of the boys on active service to know how a soldier is paid at the front. The Company Officers draw from the Field Cashier a lump sum which is paid out to the men in a proportion laid down by the Officer Commanding. Each soldier carries a small pay book in which the transaction is recorded and which is signed by the paying officer. At the same time the payments are recorded on which is termed an "Acquittance Roll" which the soldier receipts. All the acquittance rolls are sent to London to be cleared by the London Cashier at the Newfoundland Pay Office. The acquittance rolls are then entered by the latter on to a pay sheet, converted from French into English currency, and then into each soldier's account. When and if the man is invalided to England, either sick or wounded, his pay book is taken from him and sent to the Pay Office. It is then compared with his ledger account and should agree. It is a very thorough and simple system. Of course the men at the Depot are not paid on the acquittance roll, but direct on the pay sheets by money drawn from the Paymaster in London. The sheets are audited at the Pay Office and all the entries made into the soldier's individual accounts.

Some soldiers who have seen service in Gallipoli and France have drawn as much as three hundred dollars from the Paymaster in London. From the many hundreds of soldiers I spoke to there was not a single complaint from them regarding their pay. If the men have not been paid large sums of money at the front this had nothing whatever to do with Captain Timewell, but was the outcome of a

wise decision by the Commanding Officer, who would ordain, maybe, that it was injudicious to pay out a lot of money when there was nothing to spend it on.

It is very easy for Yorick and his like to find fault and to gust eloquent criticisms from an armchair two thousands miles away, especially if he is hidden behind the security of an assumed name. Fair criticism is one thing but untruths are another and the Pay and Record Office staff (most of whom are boys invalided to England) felt pretty sore about Yorick's recent reference to them.

To continue the work of the office: The Pay Branch has many other functions to perform—officers' accounts, banking, deceased soldiers' estates, etc., etc., over which a lot of time had to be taken. The personnel of this branch consists of an officer and about half a dozen men, nearly all of whom are unfit for active service. These few look after the details of the accounts of nearly 2,500 men, which is a smaller proportion than in the Canadian office and as economical as can possibly be without impairing the quality of the work. It should be remembered Army Accounting is quite different from any other, and in order that it may be done satisfactorily it must be done thoroughly.

The next Branch we will look for a moment into is that of handling the Records. Each soldier in addition to having a ledger account, has a record of his service kept in what may also be termed a Ledger. In these are recorded the services and casualties relating to each officer and man in the contingent; where he is at any given moment; what distinctions or honors he has been awarded; what actions he has been in; why he was discharged; in fact it is a record of what a man has done, and will be a permanent history of the glorious 1st Newfoundland Regiment. These invaluable books are naturally kept in the safe and to our succeeding generations they will be as historic as the Domesday Book, relating in detail as they do the gallant sons of the Old Colony who fought in the Great War.

The compilation of these Ledgers is by no means as easy as it would seem, for the reason that the information has to come from so many sources. It has to be collated and verified before being entered into the Ledger. On several occasions men have been officially reported killed, whereas in reality they were alive in some hospital in England or elsewhere It is natural that a few mistakes should be made at Headquarters when there are so many thousands of casualties every week. It is the duty of the Record Office to keep things straight and they are the final authorities on all subjects relating to the personal services of a soldier.

Information for the keeping of the records comes in every day from the different battalions, the War Office, the hospitals, the gazette, etc., etc., is duly collated, checked and where casualties are concerned, a copy is sent on to Newfoundland A cable is compiled daily and sent to the Governor. In the month of July, when the big push was on, upwards of ten thousands words were cabled by the Record Office to Newfoundland, a great deal of it being done in code. In addition to sending the Government messages the Record Branch is also the transmitting office for cables sent by officers and men at the E. F. M., (expeditionary force message) rate, several hundred such telegrams being sent each month to anxious relatives at home.

From the time that a man is wounded in France his movements are kept track of by the Record Office —through the Casualty Clearing Sta-

tion, the Field Hospital, the Base Hospital, the Home Hospital in England, and finally to the Record Office where he comes to get his furlough before rejoining the depot. It is a carefully though out, complex, but very satisfactory system. Up to date nearly 1,000 officers and men of the Newfoundland Contingent have been invalided to England and passed through the Pay and Record Office, all of them receiving courtesy and attention from the energetic staff. When there is an extra "rush" on, and especially during the busy days in July, the men in the Record Branch (four) were often in the office until midnight. It was a sad duty they had to perform there—the reporting by cable of those long lists of casualties to St. John's.

In the Record Branch are kept the Hospital Books, the Death Report Books, Books of non-Effectives, Casualty Statistic Books, Medical History Sheets, Regimental Conduct Sheets, and hundreds of files wherein are contained the documents of all men who are killed or discharged and of men who have been in the casualties. When a soldier is discharged or dies his records are sent to the Headquarters in St. John's. In addition, the Postal Department, which handles the Regimental mails, has to be kept daily informed of the whereabouts of all men as well as do the various associations which so admirably look after our soldiers in hospital.

The mails are handled in an expert manner by two men who have seen active service and for the time being are medically unfit. The bags which are growing in number as time proceeds, are received from Newfoundland and elsewhere and redistributed into various baskets for the different battalions, hospitals and men on furlough. It is a laborious task, for each letter and parcel must be referred to a nominal roll, wherein is recorded the present address of every man in the Regiment. No time is lost in the despatch of these mails, which are redirected with the greatest possible expediency. There is no atom of truth in Yorick's allegation that the parcels are delayed in the Record Office. They are not and never have been delayed more than a few hours —which is necessary for the proper sorting of mails.

These parcels through the post must in no way be confused with the "Comforts" for the regiment which come from Newfoundland. The latter are entirely handled by the War Contingent Association, and the Pay and Record Office has nothing whatever to do with them. This has been a very persistent error and the Pay and Record Office has a great deal of abuse heaped upon its innocent head about a matter which does not come within its scope.

There are many other things which our London Headquarters has to do, such as handling of deceased soldiers effects and regimental baggages, and a hundred and one other things which daily present themselves. But above all it is the heart-centre of the Continent (and of Newfoundland) in the Metropolis of the world—in London through which all things flow and all people pass. It is as essential to Newfoundland as the War Office is to Great Britain. It might be termed a temporary Agent General's Office, for to it all people come for information about the Colony as well as of the Regiment. There is a constant flow of visitors through the Office, either seeking information or (if a Newfoundland soldier) money.

For critics, such as Yorick, to venture an opinion on a matter they know so little about, serves no good purpose but rather tends to disturb everybody. Sir Edward Morris, Sir Edgar Bowring, the Hon. R. K. Bish-

op, the Hon. S. Milley, Mr. Clift and Mr. W. B. Grieve had all been able to form a judgment on the Pay & Record Office. It is their opinion which should be considered and not the vapourings of a man whose only source of information is surmise and whose only outlet is invective.

As a member of the Patriotic Association of St. John's, I have placed before the people of this country a brief outline of the inner workings of the Pay & Record Office, London. I can hardly believe such wild statements as made by Yorick were inspired. If they were, I can assure Yorick, and I make this statement without fear of contradiction, that I have it from the best authority in London that the Newfoundland Pay & Record Office is one of the best managed in London. This has been fully emphasized to me several times at the great hospitals where our boys are well looked after, and by leading business men of London.

If there is any person in the Pay and Record Office you wish to shoot your poisoned arrows at, Yorick, do it manfully; don't hide yourself behind a clock, and the security of an assumed name.

Insinuations about the Staff, whether they be costumed in the garb of a civilan or in khaki, are a gross insult to every member of it. They have nobly performed work that is a credit to the whole of them It is equally an insult to the Chief of Staff, Colonel Sir W. E. Davidson, K. C. M. G., Officer Commanding, and to the Government of the Colony. If gadfly politics, denominational qualification, influence, or pull are the best of a boy's qualifications for promotion or for a commission, then I say, 'God forbid it.' Acts of Parliament manufacture officers for the Army and the Navy—many honorary appointments are made for honest faithful work. I regret the long delay in taking notice of what I consider insinuations as mean, vile and contemptible, as they are damnably false. Gross treachery is evident somewhere.

The Government and the Chief Officer Commanding should insist upon a full inquiry into the serious charges made by Yorick, published in the Daily News of 21st June, regarding the management of the Pay & Record Office, London.

With reference to the insulting remarks about Captain Timewell, they are in keeping with the rest of the article. I hold no brief for Capt. Timewell to defend him in any way The position he occupies in London snould be the highest military appointment in the gift of the Government, and of the Colonel of the Regiment. I am just as ignorant of the military machinery in St. John's for making promotions as Yorick is In the whole of his uncalled-for article. As the Premier and Capt. Timewell have been in France together, looking after the wounded, and Regimental Works, I will leave it to Sir Edward Morris to give his opinion as to the worth and value of Capt. Timewell, and his management of the office of which he is the head. As to his rank:

"For a' that, and a' that,
Our toils obscure and a' that,
The rank is but the guinea stamp;
The man's the gowd for a' that."

On my return to St. John's, I hope to publish quite a lot of information that I hope will interest the parents of our boys who are scattered all over the country, and other matter pertaining to the Newfoundland Regiment.

* * * * *

The following reply appeared in the Daily News. At this date I was not in the Colony.

Yorkick's Letter Published Daily News, September 19th, 1916.

Alas, poor Yorick! What a storm has broken upon my innocent and inoffensive head! What vials of wrath have been outpoured! I am most over whelmed, my inmost soul is quaking from the fright. Most certainly I am impressed; my crime in daring to call attention to the doings and misdoings of the mighty ones who are in authority at the Pay and Record Office was most heinous and "treacherous;" I crawl in abject humility before the lashings of my honourable and indignant critic—a Daniel come to judgment!

Now, having admitted so much, having proved myself to be contrite and in a proper and repentant mood, might I be permitted to reply to the heated letter of my arraigner, the Hon. John Anderson, which appeared in Saturday's issue of the Evening Telegram, and which the editor of that paper says "should serve to refute the many and baseless criticisms that have been made of these officials" of the Pay and Record Office—a statement to which I cannot subscribe. The Hon. Mr. Anderson says of my assertions of June 21 that they were "vile and contemptible and damnably false; gross treachery is evident somewhere." To the former part of this charge I have but one word to say—ditto! The latter part is illuminating in that it demonstrates resentment against some person unknown for "blowing the roost" —in other words, it is practically an admission that there was something to give away. but "damn the man that did so." Perhaps I shall have something more to say about this a little later; in the meantime I should like Mr. Anderson to confess who wrote the epistle. His name is signed to it, but it doesn't bear the hallmark of his diction; it is from him, but not of him; he is simply the "easy one" who has allowed himself to be used as "a means of defence."

Mr. Anderson's detailed statement of the work which the Pay and Record Office has to do is interesting, but no one ever disputed the fact that a great deal of work has to be done; the accusation is that it is not thoroughly and satisfactorily done. And I am not going to accept statements to the contrary from Sir Edward Morris, Sir Edgar Bowring, or any of the other distinguished gentlemen—not even Mr. Anderson himself—who have been impressed with the importance and magnitude of the work, superficially, and know no more about it than our Grand Juries know of the state of our Public Institutions when they pay their periodic visits. In expectation of their coming everything is nice and satisfactory and they are generally shown what those in charge desire them to see. The evidence I have worked on, is the only evidence that is worth anything, is the evidence of those who have had dealings with and been subject to the vagaries of the Pay and Record Office—our soldiers. And be it known, I have had but one purpose in referring to these matters, and that is that they might be set right, and that the best care and attention should be accorded our heroic lads.

Mr. Anderson says reference to them "serves no good purpose, but rather tends to disturb everybody." I take issue with him there. Everybody is already disturbed, parents have complained, the soldiers have written home again and again, and in ventilating their complaints it has been with a desire to have the cause for the disturbance removed.

The statements I have made have not been on hearsay, they have been founded on facts. The documents have been in my possession. Mr. Anderson suggests they have been in-

spired. He is correct, and the inspiration has come from sources that cannot be disputed. Denials such as Mr. Anderson's have been made before. There was an uproar, it will be remembered, when Frank Lind, now unfortunately reported among the "missing," voiced a complaint; but it quickly subsided when the mother of a non-commissioned officer produced evidence that justified Lind's complaint. It is notorious that the conditions of our troops were so bad that when they first went to France, that some of them wrote home and advised some of their friends not to enlist with the Newfoundland Regiment but to join the Canadians. They were treated abominably with regard to "comforts." "These parcels through the post must in no way be confused with the comforts for the regiment which came from Newfoundland. The latter are entirely handled by the War Contingent Association, and the Pay and Record Office has nothing whatever to do with them," writes Mr. Anderson. The statement is only half a truth. When the complaints were made the "comforts" were being handled by the Pay and Record Office and were subsequently taken over by the War Contingent Association to ensure better distribution.

Mr. Anderson referring to the mail distribution, says it is handled in an expert manner, and that it is redirected with the greatest expediency. I deny that; the facts are all against it; and I should like to add that it is a coward's trick to try and hide behind the "two men who have seen active service and for the time being are medically unfit." If the mails have always been despatched with the greatest expediency, will Mr. Anderson, or the Pay and Record Office, kindly explain how it is that our soldiers have received as many as ten and twelve letters at one time from home, covering periods of months; how it is that the boys have written in the newspapers, some of them—complaining that they have not heard from home for months, when they have been written regularly; how it is that they have instructed their parents to address their letters direct to them and not through the Pay and Record Office? Look at the statement in the letter from Corporal Will Carew, which appeared in this morning's Daily News, which I have just read, a parcel sent him by his mother not received, and worse again, a telegram, probably an anxious one, forwarded from home, not delivered. The brave lad tries to excuse those responsible on the ground that he has been moving from place to place; but that is no excuse, it manifests downright neglect and carelessness somewhere. Another instance was quoted by me some time ago where a prominent outport gentleman who complained direct to the P. and R. Office received the astounding reply that his son was not with the unit. But why continue, cases innumerable can be cited, which have come under my notice.

In his elaboration of the work done in the Pay and Record Office. Mr. Anderson explains in great detail the system used in keeping the accounts of the soldiers. I have no doubt it is elaborate and involved—I always admitted the gentleman in charge of the Office was a good accountant. But the public are not so much concerned in the system of book-keeping as they are in the personal attention given the boys, and some of the soldiers have claimed there is not much courtesy thrown away there. A case came to my notice only the other day where a badly injured soldier was kept waiting three hours at that Office for his wages, and when tired and weary he offered a protest he was told if he didn't keep quiet he would be arrest-

ed. Of course it is only a soldier who makes the complaint, and what's his word against—well Mr. Anderson's. There are many other matters that I might refer to, but this will have to do now. Before I conclude, however, I want to let the public in on a little secret which will explain Mr. Anderson's letter in a somewhat different light from what it appears on the surface. I had not intended to give further publicity to this matter beyond the vague reference to it sometime ago. In view of Mr. Anderson's letter I feel now I have every justification for taking the public into my confidence.

In this letter appears the following: "Insinuations about the staff, whether they be costumed in the garb of a civilian or in khaki, are a gross insult to every member of it. They have nobly performed work that is a credit to the whole of them. If gadfly politics, denominational influence or pull are the test of a boy's qualification for promotion or for a commission, then I say, 'God forbid it.' Acts of Parliament manufacture Officers for the Army and Navy—many honorary appointments are made for honest, faithful work."

That section is written or inspired by Mr. Anderson's son Hugh, and is thus explained: some months ago, by pulling certain influences, Mr. Hugh Anderson, who is working in the P. and R. Office, made strong efforts to obtain a commission, so that he might be able to throw off his civilian clothes and strut around in fine feathers. At the same time, I am given to understand, Capt. Timewell sought for his majority. Botn were recommended from the other side, but a prominent member of the Committee here very properly put his foot down, and the little plan failed to mature. Accordingly, Mr. Hugh Anderson is very sore, and now gets his opportunity to vent his spite. The above-quoted paragraph, gentle reader, is not intended for Yorick at all; it is a slap at somebody of far greater importance. Mr. Anderson's words are a sneer at the men who have been fortunate enough to receive commissions, some of whom have proved their manhood on the field of glory and made the supreme sacrifice, and they come with bad grace from the father of one who wanted an honorary commission, and who is filling a place—I have no hesitation in saying so—that should be filled by some of the disabled soldiers who have lately been discharged. If Mr. Hugh Anderson does not want to volunteer—or, give him the benefit of the doubt, if he is unfit for service—let him come home, his father is able to support him, and let someone who has borne the heat and burden of the day at the front take his place."

Mr. President, on the 19th of September, 1916, when the article which I have just read was published, I was not in the Colony, nor yet do I think the Hon. R. K. Bishop, Leader of the Government, had returned from his visit to the Old Country as a guest of the British Government on Empire Parliamentary Association work. This is the first opportunity that I have had to reply in this House. I consider the charges too serious to be allowed to pass against the Pay and Record Office, London.

On these charges I offer no personal opinion, but will leave the enquiry entirely in the hands of a sworn commission to find out are these charges true or false.

Yorick, in this article of Sept. 19th, 1916, further states that he is not prepared to accept the word of Sir Edward Morris, who is the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Sir Edgar Bowring, head of the firm of Bowring Bros. of this city, Hon. R. K. Bishop, a leading merchant of St. John's, and

leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Hon. S. Milley, merchant, and as a member of this House, Mr. Clift, a leading lawyer of this city, member of the House of Assembly, appointed by the members of the Empire Parliamentary Association to represent Newfoundland in London. He is also a prominent member of the Patriotic Association, a gentleman who has visited the sick and wounded in the various hospitals in London, and knows a good deal about the Pay and Record Office. I may say the same of Mr. W. B. Grieve and many others who have visited the headquarters of the Nfld. Regiment in London. These gentlemen have all been able to form a judgment on the Pay and Record Office. It is their opinion which should be considered and not the vaporings of a man whose only source of information is surmise, and whose only outlet is invective. If these vile attacks had only been of a personal nature I would have allowed them to pass for what they were worth, but when the honour and credit of the Newfoundland Regiment and their headquarters in London are in question, then something must be done.

With reference to the mails, if the Hon. John Alexander Robinson, Postmaster General, will turn up back files of certain correspondence with the late Hon. H. J. B. Woods, about blunders and mistakes that occurred during the year 1915, he will then find who was to blame for stupid blunders and mistakes and how they happened.

Mr. President, on my return from England in October last, my attention was drawn to a further attack on the Pay and Record Office, London, with a little personal abuse thrown in.

The following is my reply to Yorick's Letter, published in the Daily News, September 19th, 1916:

It was only two days ago that I read for the first time a letter written by Yorick, and published in the Daily News of Sept. 19th in reply to a letter of mine which appeared in the Evening Herald of the 15th of the same month, under the headlines: "The Inner Workings of the Pay and Record Office in London."

What I have written, I have written. What I have said, I have said; and I take the full responsibility of any statement made in that letter. If Yorick wishes to fire his venomous spitfire inuendoes at any persons, fire them at me—leave my son alone.

I have openly and above board criticised and expressed my opinion on matters pertaining to the honor, glory and credit of the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, 58 Victoria Street, London, and I intend to stick by it and uphold the dignity of that office and its staff. But as Yorick has brought the dignity of my son, Hugh, before the public in his criticism of my letter, I think it only natural and fair that the case of my son should be properly understood, and I am sure my friend Yorick, the Military Fugleman, will not find fault.

I hate in any way to refer to matters that do not concern the public.

I must take you back to the autumn of 1914 when every young man throughout the Colony had war fever. He was anxious then to join the Regiment, but on account of the health of his mother it was impossible, as he had to accompany her to Scotland. After seeing her settled he wrote a joint letter to Mr. Cowan and myself, saying that he wished to enlist, but before doing so desired our opinion. I cabled at once these words:—"Do your duty to the Empire." He offered himself in Edinburgh, but failed on account of his eyesight. He tried Glasgow, the same occurred there. He then cabled me

that he was going to London to offer his services to the British Government as interpreter, speaking French and having a fairly good knowledge of German. Failing that he was going to offer himself as a war correspondent, and that he would ask Lord Northcliffe to help him, as he was anxious to get to the front and do something for his King and Country. These facts became known to Capt. Timewell and Sir Edgar Bowring, both being in London at that time, and they thought he would be useful as a civilian between the British War Office, and the Colonial Office, Canadian and other Dominion Record Offices, (sort of a messenger boy position—with no promotion—save the mark!) They recommended him to the Newfoundland Government, and I understood he was accepted. Before I left London I asked him the following questions:

Q.—Who appointed you?

A.—Capt. Timewell and Sir Edgar Bowring.

Q.—Were you approved of by the Newfoundland Government?

A.—Yes.

After being in the Record Office for some time he presented himself at a Recruiting Office in Regent Street, London, again offering his services to his country, under the Derby scheme When full inquiries were made, who he was and what he was doing, he was sent back to his work again, as it was considered he was doing work more important for his country than if he were at the front.

I think it only fair and just to have his true position placed before the country, after the insulting statements made by Yorick. As regards a commission, I have nothing to say—perhaps he is not worthy of it. I have no desire to dwell longer on a topic of this kind. The greatest battle he had to fight against was jealousy, which, I regret to say, has been raging for many months. His worth and value grew although it does not appear to be appreciated in his native land.

The highest and the greatest compliment to his native country and his worth has been paid him by the War Office and the Colonial Office as a civilian—without a scrap of paper called a commission, or costumed in khaki—is that he received a pass to go to France. I hope on his return he will give his experience and what he saw for the benefit of his native home.

Yorick says: "So that he might be able to throw off his civilian's clothes and strut in fine feathers."

Ye see yon birkie' ca'd a lord,
Wha struts and stares, and a' that.
Tho' hundred worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a'that.
For a' that, and a' that,
His riband, star, and a' that,
The man of independent mind
He looks and laughs at a' that.

There is one other matter I would like to mention, although it may be a breach of confidence. Hugh has been asked by a gentleman in London to write the record history of our heroic boys, and what part they have played in this Great and fearful war. Many officers and gallant men who sleep sleep on, and sleep on, were his best and truest companions. Many were his playmates at school. He knew them all.

Hail and Farewell!
They died that we might live—
Hail and Farewell!
All Honor give
To those who, nobly striving, nobly fell,
That we might live.

That we might live they died,
Hail and Farewell!
Their courage tried,
By every mean device of treacherour hate,
Like Kings they died.

Eternal Honour give,
Hail and Farewell!
To those who died,
in that full splendor of heroic pride,
That we might live.

Many officers and men at the front now appreciate his value, as he is ever ready to their call.

I would ask Yorick to leave the name of my son out when he shoots his frigid, calculated, mis-statements at me. My son has nothing whatever to do with my opinion upon public questions, I am not ashamed to sign my name to any article I write.

We should devote more of our time and try to expand the mind and ideas of our people. We are too narrow, we seem to live in this country, upon the lines of a Colony with two ideas. There is Yorick in London who writes for the Evening News—Under the Clock. His letters are an inspiration and education to his readers—an example that many of us might follow.

There is scarcely a settlement in any part of the country but mourns the loss of a loved one. At the present time each day with many is like a year. We are, as it were, living a day to day life, never knowing what news we may get to-morrow. The country for the first time in its history has learnt to know of a great price, the awfulness of war, and its great meaning. Let the boys at the front be our first prayer and consideration. Many a mother says in a prayer for boy:

Where are you sleeping to-night, my lad,
Above ground or below?
The last we heard you were at the front,
Holding a trench and bearing the brunt,
But, that was a week ago.

Ah! that was a week ago, dear lad,
And a week is a long, long time,
When a second's enough in the thick of the strife,
To sever the thread of the bravest life,
And end it in its prime.

Oh! a week is long when so little's enough
To send a man below.
It may be that while we named your name
The bullet sped and the quick end came,
And the rest we shall never know.

But this we know, dear lad, all's well
With the man who has done his best,
And wherever he live, or wherever he die,
He is sacred high in our memory,
And to God we can leave the rest.

So, wherever you are sleeping to-night, dear lad,
This one thing we do know,
When the Last Post sounds and he makes his rounds,
Not one of you all will be out of bounds,
Above ground or below.

Yorick's Notes Published in Daily News, Sept. 21st, 1916.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. The Hon. John Anderson's letter was not intended to do me any **good, but I am grateful for it in many** ways, and particularly in that it succeeded in awakening me from a state of lassitude into which I had allowed myself to drift, and which was keeping me from fulfilling my engagements with the newspaper man.

Thanks muchly friends "Endorser" and "One of the Sufferers." I am indeed flattered, though approbation was the last thing in the world I was looking for. A duty done always brings its own reward. However, I am only human, and as

"Praise is the salt that seasons right to man,
And whets his appetite for moral good,"

I trust it will but stir me to greater

endeavors in the public weal. Again, many thanks for offers of "material" but my supply is anything but exhausted, as Mr. Anderson will find if it is necessary for me to handle this subject.

Mr. President, what is the meaning of the above two paragraphs? On the 21st September, 1916, the Hon. John Alexander Robinson was a member of the Patriotic Association, Editor and shareholder of the Daily News. He is now Postmaster General. Did he believe these insinuating statements made by Yorick were true or false? If they were true, what steps did he take to have them made right? If they were false, what did he do to find them out? Why should this cowardly assassin be allowed to continue his serious charges, doing great damage to the cause of recruiting throughout the country? Had such charges as these been made in Great Britain, without foundation, there would have been no publication the next morning of the 'Daily News.' Had they been made in Germany the staff of the 'Daily News' can guess the consequences. Have we no public opinion to protect and see that justice is done to our boys? If a wrong is being done, will no one come to their rescue? Is public opinion in this country dead?—dead as Jehosophat! Have we no backbone? Are we a country of political jelly-fishes?

The insinuations in the two paragraphs which I have just quoted, where Yorick says that his supply of material is anything but exhausted—What kind of material does he here refer to? Is it mismanagement of the Pay and Record Office, London, or neglect of our gallant lads at the front.

Mr. President: The Hon. R. K. Bishop, leader of the Government in this House, like myself, was not in the country when these vile charges were made. We met in London; we visited the sick and wounded together at the different hospitals. We know of no complaints, nor did we hear of any. What we want to know; what the country wants to know; what the parents of the boys who have shed their blood on the battlefield want to know—Are these serious charges made by Yorick true or false? If they are true what was done by the military authorities of this Colony to make them right? If they are false, what effort has been made up to the present time to make an ample apology to the country, and to the parents of the boys to rectify the charges? If these charges are false, a very serious responsibility rests somewhere. In humble humility, and in all seriousness, I ask the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the charges made by Yorick in his articles of June 21st, Sept, 19th, and 21st, 1916.

I returned from England last October and knew nothing whatever about the contemptible article written by Yorick of late Sept. 19th. I was several days in the city before my attention was drawn to it.

What was the object to be gained by these assassin articles? I ask the Government of this country, the Officer Commanding, and the Military Staff responsible for the management of the Newfoundland Regiment, in the name of the boys who have shed part of their blood fighting for their country, many of whom are disabled for life; in the name of fathers and mothers who have sons still fighting at the front—Are these charges true or false? I ask Sir Edward Morris, the Prime Minister of this country, whose word Yorick will not take, nor yet the word of Sir Edgar Bowring, a member of this House. These two gentlemen have seen and have done more for the Newfoundland Regiment than any other two men in the country. Do they believe these

vile charges to be true or false?

The following is a copy of a letter that I wrote Major Hutchings about a month after my return from England:

St. John's, N.F.,
Nov. 23rd, '16.

Major Hutchings,

Dear Sir,—I understand you are the Chairman of a Committee appointed some time ago to enquire into and report on the workings of the Pay and Record Office, London. I don't know whether your Committe have made that report or not. If not, **for your information, I send you full details of Regulations, etc., the duties** of the office staff, and their names, also dates of enlistments, and such other information as I believe will interest your Committee.

I have seen something of the Record Offices of Canada, and other Dominions. Your Committee must remember with all seriousness that the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, London, I presume is a Government Agency to look after the Newfoundland Regiment, and as such should be treated and appreciated with the same dignity and honour as the other Dominion Record Offices of London.

If in your opinion, or in the opin**ion of your military associates, and** the Government of this Colony, the staff of the Pay & Record Office are not competent to uphold the dignity and do the work satisfactorily, make a clean sweep of the staff and appoint men in their places on the same lines that all positions are filled in this country. I need not mention the qualifications, but give them a military standing to meet other military officers, military etiquette, and red tape counts for a great deal in Great Britain, especially London. One officer should never be out of the Office from Sunday to Sunday during office hours. To do that you should have at least, in my opinion, one Major, one Captain, one Lieutenant, two 2nd Lieutenants, these positions only to apply to office appointments, except in the case of an officer who is thoroughly competent, has seen active service, and anxious to rejoin the Regiment. In all cases positions in the Pay and Record Office, London, should be filled by young men invalided or unfit for active service, and who are qualified to do office work.

I have visited the office many times, observed the various departments in full operation. The above observations are conclusions of my opinion, which I submit to your Committee with pleasure, but above all, if the military officials of this Colony have no confidence in any of the staff then by all means make a change.

I may further add—"special information from London"—that in connection with the Canadian Pay and Record Office, the military staff there consists of about twenty-five hundred cerks. Fifteen hundred are officers, from Colonels, Majors, Captains, Lieutenants, 2nd Lieutenants, &c., down to privates.

Yours truly,
JOHN ANDERSON.

Over three thousand of a staff are now in that office.

At the present time I have no knowledge of how many clerks are in the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, London, but I know in September last the average percentage of the staff was lower than any other of the Dominions.

The criticism of the London office has been unfair—unjust and unworthy of the cowards who made it, especially by a journalistic reptile, a contemptible assassin who preferred to stab in the dark and hide his identity under a clock.

I have no desire to know Yorick. It is better for the country that he

should lie buried under the clock. A cowardly assassin of this kind would be no credit to his country, or fighting at the front; under the trenches of a clock. Sitting safely at home is the proper place for contemptible cowards of this kind. As a people, we are too prone to be carried away with the story of one side. Remember there is always two sides to a story. Always hear both.

Mr. President: I have occupied more time of the House this afternoon than I intended. The Bill that has just been read a second time has my earnest support. I earnestly plead for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the working of the Pay and Record Ofice, London, and other charges made by a correspondent who wrote Under the Clock, by Yorick, and published in the Daily News of June 21st, Sept. 19th and 21st, 1916.

The Volunteers of Newfoundland have become true, loyal soldiers of the King—faithful to a man. I have met hundreds of them. If they are spared to come home, when they take off their clothes they will speak. Let us give a square deal to all ranks. We owe them a great debt. Many for love of Empire have paid a great price. Our Duty.

Just see that we get full value
Of that for which we have paid.
The price has been a heavy one,
But the goods are there—and we've paid.

We've paid in our toil and our woundings;
We've paid in the blood we've shed.
We've paid in our bitter hardships;
We've paid with our many dead.

Its not payment in kind we ask for,
Two wrongs don't make much of a right;
All we ask is—that, what we have paid for,
You secure for us, all right and tight.

The Peace of the World's what we're after;
We've all had enough of King Cain,
And the Kaiser and all his bully-men,
With their world-power big on the brain.

No! we fought with a definite object,
And it's this—and we want it made plain,—
That's it's God, and not any devil,
That's to rule in the world again.

Mr. President: We are all human—our nature is to err, but not if we can help it, especially in selfishness. Our very nature rejoices when we hear of somebody being scurrilised in the press. With some people its a great victory, who have a jealous mind. The press of this country can well afford to rise a little higher in its standard of morality, and teach the people of the country love and Christian charity. We need not look to Mesopotamia (between the rivers) the district between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates for blunders and mistakes. We need not vent our spleen on the Pay and Record Office, London. You can find plenty of blunders and mistakes in St. John's if we had only the moral courage to speak them out.

Mr. President: If the accusations made by Yorick are true, if any of our boys have died through carelessness and neglect, in the name of these boys who have shed their blood upon the battle field, I ask the Government to appoint a Commission to enquire into these charges, and find out are they true or false. In doing this I hope at least I will get credit for doing my duty. Let justice be done to our boys though the heavens fall.

And we ourselves? Are our hands clean?
Are our souls free from blame
For this world-tragedy?
Nay then! Like all the rest,
We had relaxed our hold on higher things,

And satisfied ourselves with smaller.
Ease, pleasure, greed of gold—
Laxed morals even in these,—
We suffered them, as unaware
Of their soul-cankerings.
We had slipped back along the sloping way,
No longer holding first things first,
But thronging gods emasculate,
Idols of our fashioning,
Head of sham gold and feet of crumbling clay,
If we would build anew, and build to stay,
We must find God again
And go His way.

I beg to support the second reading of the Bill.

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

SOLDIERS' ESTATES BILL.

Second Reading of Soldiers and Sailors Will 1917 Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Regarding this Bill I may say that it has been thought desirable to have special legislation regarding the wills of soldiers and sailors of our Naval Reserve and military forces who may lose their lives on active service, the desire being that their wills may be probated, letters of administration granted in the absence of a will, with the greatest possible expediency, and in the simplest way and without expense. Such is the reason for the Bill. It is not intended that any fees or death duties shall be chargeable on the estates of such persons, or that the obtainrng of probate or administration shall cost anything. I beg to move the second reading.

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. Bishop the House then adjourned until to-morrow at 4.10 p.m.

TUESDAY, July 3rd, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

LOAN BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the Loan Confirmation Act Bill was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

VOLUNTEER BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bisnop, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Volunteer Act 1914-17 Bill, Hon. Mr. Anderson in the Chair.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—I would like, before this measure passes, to deal with the criticisms regarding some phases of the Colony's war work which were made by the hon. gentleman opposite (Hon. Mr. Gibbs) yesterday afternoon. In doing so, I may have to go into matters at some length and would therefore bespeak the indulgence of hon. gentlemen for an address which may tax their patience.

My hon. friend first discussed the Patriotic Fund, stating that there was dissatisfaction as to the way in which it was being distributed. That there is dissatisfaction in some quarters I admit, but that it is justified I strongly dispute. As I have been connected with that Fund since its inception, I can speak with knowledge in regard to it, and I think I can satisfy this House and the country that no criticism of it can be maintained.

Our Patriotic Fund was started at the opening of the war and designed to help the families of those on active service. Roundly, about $100,000 was raised, and I think I can safely say that every dollar of it is doing as much good as $10 in Canada. Canada, for her Patriotic Fund, has raised thirty-three millions; and, on a population basis, assuming we

have 250,000 and Canada eight millions or thirty-two times as many,our Fund, on the same basis, should be a million dollars. Of course, taking into account our relative wealth as compared with Canada's, it would be absurd to expect such an amount to be raised here; and so we adopted a different principle of distribution, and endeavoured to make our small Fund do as good work as the millions our Canadian neighbors have available. In Canada, where married men enlisted largely, the Government allows the family of every married soldier, who contributes half his pay to the upkeep of his dependents, $20.00 a month as separation allowance, and the Patriotic Funds adds to this $20 to $30 according to the number in the family. Thus the family have, first, half the husband's pay, $15.00; second, separation allowance from the Government $20.00 third, Patriotic Fund allowance, say $25. Thus, a wife and family in Canada may have about $60 a month for their maintenance. The same allowances are made to the widowed mother of a Canadian soldier if he is her sole or main support.

While it would be most desirable if we could pursue a similar policy here, it was realized from the start that this would be out of the question. It is proposed just now to level up the pay of the Naval Reservist to the same as that of the soldier, and it is estimated that the cost to the Colony to do this for the three years of the war now ending, will be about a million dollars. Personally, I believe that to apply the Canadian principle of separation allowances here to the wives and families, and to the widowed mothers of solders and sailors, would mean an expenditure of at least another million for the three years; a demand on the Treasury which I do not think could have been met, while to have attempted paying from our Patriotic Fund allowances like those paid in Canada, would have bankrupted our Fund long ago.

Instead, we adopted the system here of putting the family of a soldier in as good a position financially as before he enlisted, and with that accomplished I think we can fairly claim that we have done all that is possible. Here every married soldier is expected to make an allowance of at least seventy cents a day. This leaves him forty cents a day or $2.80 a week for himself, and gives his family $4.90, or, say, $5.00 a week The Patriotic Fund then adds to that an amount equalling his earnings before he enlisted, less a sum estimated as equalling his own board, clothing, and pocket money before he enlisted. Thus, if a man earned $10.00 and he allows to his family $5.00, the Patriotic Fund gives about $2.50 more, making $7.50 a week, in cash; that the family has steadily This really means that the family is better off than when the man was at home, because you cannot support and clothe a working man on two or three dollars a week now. Indeed, we are paying $6 00 a week for the board alone of our soldiers in St. John's to-day. In the second place, the family is now better off because there is no broken time and no lay-offs for illness or otherwise, and the woman gets her money, so to speak, every Saturday night without any deductions whatever. This policy has now continued for three years, and the only complaint has been from people whose applications we have turned down on the ground that the families are no worse off than before. I do not mean by this that we have rejected applications from wives or widowed mothers. Not at all. We have gone farther in the administration of our local Fund than the Canadians have.

because while the Canadians restrict help, in the main, to these two classes, wives and children, and widowed mothers, we have broadened our work so as to take in other dependents where there is evidence that the earnings of the soldier or sailor, before enlistment, formed a substantial part in the upkeep of the family from week to week; and we refuse help when it cannot be shown that the family is at a monetary loss through the enlistment of the man.

In every case the most careful inquiry is made before allowances are given. Everything that seems suspicious is investigated, and no loophole for fraud that it is humanly possible for us to close, is allowed to remain open. We obtain information from clergymen, magistrates, J. P's., constables, business men, and others, both in the city and in the outports, our sole idea being that deserving cases shall get the fullest assistance we can give them, and that the undeserving shall not circumvent us. That there are frauds being practised upon the Fund I dare say is correct, because nobody ever attempted to carry out any project of this kind in any other country without being victimized to some extent; but I claim for those associated with the management, that no greater efforts could be made to ensure that the money goes into the right channels than we have made since we took over this work.

Last fall,for instance,when the cost of living increased so much, the trustees decided, without any solicitation from the beneficiaries of the Fund—for, taking them all in all, we have found these people most reasonable and prepared to accept the inconveniences inevitable in a situation like the present, without complaint,—to increase their weekly allowances and the half-dozen of us directly concerned with carrying on this work—Hon. Mr. Cashin, Mr. Munn, Mr. Grieve, Mr. Browning, Hon. E. Bowring, and myself,—put in three nights a week from 8 to 11, during the four months of December, January, February, and March, going through all the applications we had, more than a thousand altogether,from dependents of soldiers and sailors; increasing the grants as we considered such justified; and adding some to the list whose applications we had previously not considered. warranting such. Probably if the increase in prices continues, the same work will have to be done again the coming fall or winter, or else some other method will have to be devised of making further financial provision for these families to enable them to face the higher costs of everything.

With regard to the point raised by my hon. friend, as to Patriotic Fund monies being applied to parties who are not caring for their own dependents, I would say that this is true to a small extent, but it arises in this way: About 95 out of every 100 men of the Regiment who went overseas made allotments to their dependents before leaving, but since crossing some five hundred of them have cancelled these allotments. It must be noted that a man's pay is his own and that he can do as he likes with it; also that we have placed no limitation on a man's use of his money. The original plan under which the regiment was organized contemplated, as advertised in the newspapers three years ago, that we were to pay the Canadian rate of $1.10 a day; that such portions of the pay of men who wished to provide for their families should be available in this Colony, and that forty cents a day be paid to men at the front, and seventy cents a day be held for the use of their dependents or to accumulate for their own use. This policy was not put in force because the first 500 left here without making any allotments, through some

defects at the time, the responsibility for which I am not going to endeavor to fix now. Afterwards steps were taken to have allotments made, and, including those of the first 500 secured at Salisbury Plain, nearly everybody at the start left something to friends at home. But young men overseas, without responsibilities and having many distractions, began to find the sum they reserved to themselves insufficient and then began the cancelling of allotments, until now, some 500 have been stopped, repudiating their obligations to their friends at home. The Canadians had the same trouble, but coped with it by providing that nobody should be allowed to spend in England more than half his pay, the rest being reserved for them, while when they crossed to France they are allowed only six dollars a month spending money in the trenches. When our lads began to cancel their allotments, their people here complained. Most of them went to the Governor, and and as he had not the papers at hand, he usually sent them on to me. In cases where there were fathers alive or the support of the family was assured otherwise, I always took the position that we could not interfere, saying to them: "Well, your boy might die, he might go away to the States or Canada, or he might marry, and then you would lose his earnings just as now, so it is impossible for us to interfere." But when it came to a case of married men and men who were the only support of widowed mothers, cancelling their allotments, the matter took on a different aspect. We had one particularly flagrant case about three months ago, that of a man leaving a wife and three children here who cancelled his entire allotment of seventy cents a day and left his family destitute. When it came before us, we at once wired Col. Whitaker asking him to disallow this, but he replied that he could not interefere, and advised us to secure legislation on the matter. Thereupon we asked the Minister of Justice to draft a clause for this Bill which would give the Governor on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, power to withhold a sum from the pay of such a soldier and hand it to his dependents. But the Standing Committee protested on the ground that to interfere with a man's wages would be a violation of the contract entered into with him, and would affect recruiting. Thereupon we had a conference with the authorities and after discussing the mater very fully, the view was taken that it would be unwise to proceed with this section, and we allowed it to drop. I have no criticism of the gentlemen who took that view. It is naturally a matter of individual opinion, but personally, I think the view is a wrong one. The result is that to-day, while there are a lot of men overseas and stinting themselves in order to do it, there are other men who have coolly repudiated their obligations altogether, and because their families cannot be allowed to starve, and the authorities will not afford us legislation, the monies of the Patriotic Fund, obtained from the public for other purposes, have to be misused to keep these unfortunate people from dying of hunger.

Since we had this conference, two other cases have come before us, one the case of a man who has left his widowed mother in the same plight, and another the case of a man said to have made a more or less irregular matrimonial alliance now under investigation by the authorities, who left a bed-ridden father and mother in a state of absolute destitution in this city, compelling us to find money from week

to week to keep them from starving. Such a state of affairs could have been remedied by the procedure we proposed, namely, an arbitrary deduction from the wages of these people, but as we could not secure authority for this we have only to grin and bear it. I am afraid, however, that it is going to prove the thin edge of the wedge for gross abuse of the Patriotic Fund because when it comes to be known on the other side that certain people can unload their obligations onto the Patriotic Fund, there will likely be a lot of that sort of thing done.

May I say further with regard to separation allowances, that my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Gibbs) had an opportunity this morning in my office of seeing an illustration of some aspects of this. A gentleman connected with the Forestry Battalion came into me to ask for provision for the families of some of these men, representing that they were starving. I pointed out that they could hardly be starving because the men were now getting $1.10 a day or $33 a month —Sundays being included in military pay—with their board and their clothing, whereas when in the lumber woods they got only $26 a month —lumbermen not being paid for Sundays—with only their food, so that as foresters they are $7.00 a month better off in cash, not to speak of their clothing. This gentleman spoke of the increased cost of living, but I pointed out that this would bear no more harshly upon them while serving as foresters than while lumbering up country. I said, however, that while we would not pay any attention to generalities, we would be ready to do just as we have been doing with the Army, that is, deal with every individual case on its merits, and where the earnings of any man before enlisting were such that his military pay was inadequate to maintain his family in the same way as before he joined up, we would be prepared to make an allowance that would put them on the same footing, but I made it clear that we would not hearken to any vague claims based on mere talk and I think my hon. friend was satisfied, after hearing the conversation, that the position which I then took on behalf of the Trustees of the Patriotic Fund, was fair, square and above board. This House and the country will do well to remember that one of the greatest difficulties we have to face in administering this Fund is the idea that it is in a sense Government money and is to be had for the asking. It is not Government money. It is money subscribed by people throughout the Colony who cannot go to war themselves, to help the families of those who have gone, and it is properly applied, and we do not propose to be diverted from that determination by any unreasonable demands or by any outcries based on unsubstantial grounds.

As a matter of fact, the unmarried soldier from this Colony is the best off soldier in the world to-day. Some people imagine that the American army pays the highest wages. This is a great mistake. The American soldier, until the new Army Bill went through, was paid only fifty cents a day, and it was specified that he was to be without dependents. I have before me an advertisement clipped from a Boston paper last week, asking for recruits for the American Army, to be between 18 and 40 years of age and to be without dependents. In Canada the pay is the same as ours, but, as I say, the Canadians hold back half the amount to accumulate for the men. In England the soldiers' pay with allowance for efficiency is only a little over a shilling a day; and, even if he has the whole of it available, it has not as much as our un-

married men have, even after they make an allotment of seventy cents; and, of course, is vastly worse off than were they to make no allotment whatever. With family men it is, of course, different, but in no case that has come under our notice have we left the dependents any worse off than before enlistment, but, on the contrary, we have always bettered their position.

Under these circumstances, I think my hon. friend will agree with me that criticisms directed against the administration of the Patriotic Fund, can show no very real foundation. No really deserving case has ever gone from the Patriotic Fund unsatisfied to an extent that would appeal to reasonable men, but the idea that that fund is to be utilized in order to give large amounts to people with only very doubtful claims is an idea that will, so far as the Trustees are concerned,be rejected every time they come in contact with it. My Honorable friend (Hon. Mr. Gibbs) next went on to say that, there was great popular dissatisfaction in regard to the appointing of Officers' Training Classes here. In this I entirely agree with him. I have had scores of complaints made to me and letters written which I have refrained from publishing, ventilating the grievances of what I may call the "crowd" in this respect. From the very outset there has been bitter, widespread, and constantly growing discontent in regard to this, and I do not know of any department of our war activities over which a stronger feeling has been aroused. When the Regiment was organized, a retired officer named Alexander who happened to be passing through St. John's by an Allan steamer, to his home in Nova Scotia, heard that we were organizing a force here, and offered his services. He was accepted and given a captain's commission. One of the reasons he was taken was, I understand, that as he had been an old army officer, he could be utilized to organize an officer's training class. He did nothing in that regard and, from what I can learn, very little otherwise, and after a brief inglorious career in the Regiment, he vanished into obscurity under circumstances which I need not detail here. But with or without an officers' training class, commissions were given to a lot of young fellows whose capacity I will not question, but who it was commonly considered in St. John's, gained their places through social pull and manipulation by parties in the Colony. I am not dealing now with another aspect of officer appointments, because it is not germane to the issue raised by my hon. friend. I am confining myself strictly to what may be called the social feature of this matter.

During 1915 the practice pursued in securing officers for local work was to have men chosen on the other side and sent back, though a few exceptions to this rule occurred, which I will not, however, challenge here because it is needless. At the opening of 1916, however, recruiting had become slack, there was admittedly great need for more men, and an attempt to launch a new recruiting campaign was made. Many. hon. gentlemen may remember the night of the Patriotic Association meeting in the Board of Trade Rooms, when the ambitious idea of a second battalion in the field was mooted, and it fell to me to suggest the terms in which the resolution of the meeting should be expressed. To the appeal based upon that decision there was a quick response. Grand Falls started a brisk campaign, the city did the same, and various centres showed up creditably. By June there were, in addition to a draft sent earlier in the

year, about 750 men, housed in the rink, and among these were some of the very best types of young men in education and in spirit. I can recall here three who impressed me very much, who enlisted early in 1916. The first was Hollett, of Burin, a Rhodes Scholar; the second was MacHenry, of Grand Falls, an expert paper maker; the third was Dee, an accountant with a city concern. The first two I knew only by sight. The third I am personally acquainted with. I have no brief for any of them, nor am I using their names at the instance of anybody belong to them. I merely recall them now, and if I had the lists before me I could give, I feel sure, forty or fifty more of the same type, young men who, so far as this Colony is concerned, were the equals of any that we put in the field from the beginning of the struggle to the present time. One of these, McHenry, is said to have got 97 per cent. in marks for non-com places, and the other two over 90 per cent. each. There were no examinations for commissions then. There was no officers' training class at that time. The question has often been asked why such was the case, but never, to my knowledge,satisfactorily answered. All of these 750 men left St. John's without any opportunity to qualify for officers.

About the same time as these men were enlisting, a number of other young fellows also enlisted, but nearly every one of the latter stipulated that they would not join up for a period in some cases two or three months, while they gave their employers a chance to replace them. Accordingly, they donned khaki somewhere about July, when preparations were being made to send away the big drafts last summer, one of five hundred leaving on July 20 on the Sicilian and another of 250 following on the same steamer on August 28. These were mainly young men of families with assured social position in St. John's, and it is rather a curious circumstance that about the time these joined, preparations were made to start an officers' training class. In its last annual report the Standing Committee sets out that a training class was set on foot in August, 1916, just when, it will be noted, the second of the big drafts of last summer went away. Later, reference is made to the receipt of a letter from the Imperial authorities suggesting the establishment of officers' training classes, but it should be borne in mind that the parties to whom I refer were not grouped in a training class at the suggestion of the Imperial authorities, but that the idea of this training class originated right here in St. John's.

The next question to be considered is, what was the nature of this training class. Again I quote from the report of the responsible Committee, which says it consisted of lectures by Capt. O'Grady and Captain Abraham. Now, I do not wish for a moment to belittle the services of either of these gentlemen, but I have here an English official publication which has come to me in my capacity as a journalist and which describes the course of instruction in officers' training classes in England. I might add that these are known as Officers' Training Battalions,and that they are established in various parts of the United Kingdom; that they comprise aggregations of cadets, this being the official term of those taking a course, sometimes several hundred strong, and that there are attached to all these institutions, whole groups of officers, really professors who deal with the various subjects. I will read an extract describing the course for

infantry officers, and before doing so I would say that this pamphlet is issued to the press and I suppose came to every other newspaper in the city as well as to the Herald. It is described as from "an authoritative source," and it is stipulated that articles based on it are not to be published before April 2nd, 1917. The extract is as follows:

"The syllabus of instruction for "infantry cadets, during the four "months, comprises practical train-"ing in infantry work, musketry, "bombing, field engineering, camps "and bivouacs, trench warfare, anti-"gas measures, and revolver shoot-"ing, and lectures in discipline, "moral, interior economy, routine "the causes and history of the war, "sanitation, and topography, first aid, "messages and reports, official corres-"pondence and other miscellaneous "duties of an officer. For all "cadets the points on which especial "stress is laid are; leadership, the "cultivation of initiative and self-"confidence, a high standard of drill "and discipline, care of arms and "smartness of turn out, close co-"operation with other arms and a "knowledge of the use of maps, of "the King's Regulations, and of "Military Law. In short, the object "of the course it to turn out a young "officer fit to be of immediate prac-"tical use to his regiment in quarters "and in the field."

In due course, the members of this training class took an examination and a certain number passed and received certificates accordingly. But it is most important to remember that the Standing Committee in its report indicates that it was not the idea to grant commissions to men who passed this examination here in Newfoundland, but to suggest from them to the commanding officers in France and in Ayr, those who might be kept under observation as likely

1. Why was no Officers Training Class started for the one thousand lads who went overseas between January and August 1916, when admittedly amongst these one thousand young men were many quite as capable of taking training as those lads who followed?

2. Why was this training class only started when certain influential persons—the Sons of Somebody—put on khaki and went into the Regiment?

3. Why were no facilities provided for the commissioning of some out of to make suitable officers. All of these young fellows had the good fortune to be included in the Windsor draft, about which my hon. friends also asked some questions, which I will answer later, and in due course they arrived in Scotland. Forty-eight hours after their arrival certain "hand-picked" selections, to use a phrase current here regarding the matter, were made from amongst those who passed, and they were included in a list sent out here to be gazetted as officers. This list exhibited such an apparent disregard for the feelings of a large section of the community that it was never published, but measures were taken to have it upset and a new list fixed containing the names of all the youths who passed the Officers' Training Class exam. in this city in order of merit and they were Gazetted accordingly.

Now, right here, I would like to have it clearly understood that I have nothing to say against any of these young men. I have no doubt they were all capable and were of the class that would have won commissions later, but out of this review of the case certain questions emerge which I put before this House and this country to answer as best they can be answered. These questions are as follows:

the 1,000 young men who preceded them?

4. How does it happen that these certain "hand-picked" people were given commissions forty-eight hours after they landed at Ayr?

This is most important. Theoretically the commissioning of officers rests with the commanders of the two battalions. Obviously Col. Whitaker at Ayr, before recommending men for commissions, ought to know their merits, and will any sane man seriously argue that Colonel Whitaker could have sized up these people within forty eight hours after they came under his command. I think it will be admitted he could not, and therefore the inevitable conclusion is that these promotions were manipulated from Ayr, by what individual or what agency I cannot say, because I do not know, but that this whole matter is regarded by the great mass of the public, as a scandal of the first dimension, can hardly be surprising. Many of the lads who went in the drafts that preceded the Wndsor draft have been on the firing line and have been sent back from the front wounded and probably some of them are again back at Ayr doing light duty or convalescing to return to the front. Yet these men, with all the wealth of their experience in the trenches, are outranked by boys scarcely out of school and under circumstances which justify the suspicion that flagrant shameful favoritism is responsible for this. Let it be remembered that the only special qualification these newly appointed officers have, is that they attended certain lectures by two officers in St. John's; and will anyone seriously argue that a course of this kind should outweigh the experience gained in actual warfare. Still, this is the position as it confronts us to-day.

Speaking in the Canadian Commons a few weeks ago in introducing a Conscription Bill, Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier, remarked that he did not see how the people of Canada were going to face the returned soldiers if the country did not do its duty and send more men to fill the gaps in the ranks on the firing line. In the same spirit I ask: How are we ever going to satisfy the scores of capable boys who have gone from here and who are victims of this sort of treatment, who see themselves displaced by boys elevated to officers' rank forty-eight hours after landing in Scotland, that they have got a square deal?

I will now turn to the question of why the Windsor draft was delayed. After the drafts which left in March, July and August, there was not another ready until November 1st, and that consisted of 160 men. It was to leave here by the Florizel and join the Southland at Halifax, but the day before it left the Governor attended to make the usual farewell address to the lads and so did a number of members of the Standing Committee. One of these had protested against the despatch of the draft on the ground that the Southland was a slow ship and that she might be torpedoed, and an emergency meeting was held and this point discussed. This gentleman who had a son in the draft, was strong in his view, and although the Governor and Capt. Abraham, who was also present and whose views were invited, expressed the opinion that there was no danger, the Committee decided to hold the draft back. This was accordingly done and no move was made to start another until about the end of January. Looked at from a financial viewpoint, the first result of this was to cost the Colony the board of 160 men at $5 each per week for 13 weeks. This would be $800.00 a

week, or $10,400 altogether. Meanwhile, other men were joining, and it was decided then to send a larger draft, and plans were made to get away about three hundred at the end of January. This was a more difficult matter, because ships to carry such a number are not easily available, but the Saxonia, a Cunard boat, was secured at that time. The men were on the Florizel when a message was received from the Admiralty advising against the despatch of the draft by the Saxonia, as she would not be convoyed, and plans had then to be made to find room for them in Canada so that they could be got away by the first ship. The Canadian Government arranged to quarter them at Windsor, and there the 230 men were taken and remained for another three months. Estimating the board at the same figure, we add $20,800 more to the bill. But in the meantime the Saxonia's owners having provided accomodation for 320 men, aimed for the same, and the Finance Committee thought themselves lucky in having a compromise arranged by which they satisfied this claim for $5,000. This increased the bill to, roundly, $36,000; and if we add extras, such as the outlays involved in coping with outbreaks of diseases at Windsor, it is safe to say that this incident cost the Colony in cash at least $40,000.

But it had worse aspects than this. In the first place it deprived the Regiment of the services of what I may call the Southland contingent for six months and the services of the Saxonia contingent for three months. It left the depot at Ayr scarce of men fit for the front, and it imposed an intolerable strain on the battalion in the field of the war worn members of which were obliged to carry a greatly increased burden owing to there being no recruits to help them out. I doubt if it is too much to say that many of the casualties which the country is mourning of late might have been avoided if the proper procedure had been followed and the men had been sent forward in the regular course.

The ghastly farce of this whole incident will be best realized when I tell the House that on this very steamer, Southland, from which a contingent of our soldiers were withdrawn because of a gentleman whose son was amongst them, and who argued that the ship might be torpedoed, another contingent of a hundred Naval Reservists was actually embarked and sent to England, simply because they had nobody to make a similar plea on their behalf and nobody was apparently sufficiently interested to care what became of them.

This, Mr. Chairman, is the history of why the Windsor draft was delayed and why the Newfoundland Regiment was without re-enforcements.

The next matter dealt with by my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Gibbs) was the Pension Board, and alleged discrimination as between officers and men coming back from active service. I have the honor to be the Chairman of the Pension Board at the present time, and can therefore lay before the House and the country the exact state of affairs, which in somewhat different from what my hon. friend imagines. The Pensions Board only deals with men sent to it by its medical bureau with a recommendation for discharge. The procedure as to returned soldiers is very simple. When sent back from the other side, it is for one of several causes; first, because they may be undesirables, inwhich case they are got rid of with as little ceremony as possible; second, they may be sent back to train other men, as were some "non coms" who arrived yesterday

for that purpose; third, they may be sent back to recuperate; fourth, they may be sent back for discharge. After arriving here the practice is for all of them who are invalids, to be sent by the regimental authorities before the Standing Medical Board which consists of three doctors and which passes on them. If these doctors find that the man can, with treatment and care, sometimes with another operation, be made a fit soldier again, he is retained. If they are uncertain as to whether he can or not, they may put him on light duty for a time until they see more of his case, but if his disability is, in their judgment, permanent, then they recommend him to the Pension Board for discharge, putting on his case such a rating as it seems to warrant, based on the degree of disability from which he suffers. They are armed with an official publication in which are embodied the results of the findings of the leading European countries as to degrees of disability. Thus, if a man is blind of both eyes, it is a total disability and carries the maximum pension of $40 a month plus a $20 a month for a helper, because a sightles man cannot get about himself. If both legs are shot away, it is a total disability without this allowance for a helper. Then, if a man has a leg disarticulated, as the doctors say, at the hip, that is, removed from the hip joint, it is an 80 per cent disability, and the pension is $32. If it is an operation of the leg farther down, it is only 60 per cent. and he gets $24, and so on for every disability from which a man may suffer. Disabilities are graded down to 20 per cent. and such carry $8 a month, while a disability less than twenty per cent. such as an operation for hernia, or rupture, carries a gratuity not exceeding a hundred dollars, and this gratuity is paid to a man no matter what his rank, from camp orderly up to Major-General.

When the cases come before the Pension Board, it awards a pension on the finding of the doctors, because the doctors, as professional men, are supposed to know better than anybody else the impairment which a given injury or illness will cause of a man's physical functions. In another place last week, Mr. Coaker raised the question of a man named Higgins, who had been paid off with $8 a month. This man came back with several bullet wounds in the left leg. They caused a stiff joint and the doctors found that he was not disabled more than twenty per cent. There has been much criticism of this, but I would point out that there are scores of men with stiff legs working about this city to-day, and I would empnasize that while there is every desire on the part of the authorities to deal as sympathetically as possible with every case, yet it must be remembered that the pensions we are applying in this country, are the same as those in vogue in Canada, that we are working on Canadian regulations wholly and solely, and that Canada admittedly pays the highest pensions of any country on earth to-day.

Another thing which must be remembered is that if men with comparatively slight injuries are given big pensions, what relation is there to be preserved to the cases of others totally or very seriously disabled? No problem that confronts us here, or in any of the countries engaged in the war, is more difficult or complicated than that of pensions, because of this very matter the reconciling of the hundreds and thousands of cases of claimants, representing every possible phase of human disability from diseases, injuries or ailments. For instance, a man without a scratch on him, suffering from bad

heart or shell shock, may be so affected as to qualify for a $24 pension; while a man shot through the lungs may not need any pension at all after he recovers.

Sometimes a man's wound or disease supposedly quiescant at the time, "lights up" again, as the doctors say, and becomes active. Such was the case with Higgins. One of the wounds in his leg broke out as the result apparently of an accident, and we had to have him reboarded and sent to hospital. Similarly, a short while ago a man suffering from nephritis or kidney disease, who had been discharged from Waterford Hall as cured, was stricken with a recurrence of it and had to be sent back again. . That sort of thing is bound to occur. Men get relapse in civil life, and we can,as a Pension Board, no more ensure immunity from it. The position, then, I would like hon. members to understand, is pefectly clear. The Pension Board only handles cases when sent to it by the medical examiners as subjects for discharge and awards pension on the disability basis fixed by the doctors, with treatment in the Jensen Camp or in Waterford Hall, or at the General Hospital, as the doctors may recommend in such cases as would seem to call for the same.

The facts I have thus given will, I think, make the position of the Pension Board clear to everybody, and, I hope, prove an alibi for it against the charge of discrimination, but it may be asked, however, is there discrimination elsewhere if not in the Pension Board. As to there being discrimination, I am not prepared to say. That is a matter which honourable gentlemen can judge for themselves, but that there exists a situation advantageous to officers and detrimental to men is, I think, a fact which is beyond any possibility of dispute. If I might so describe it, there is an environment, an atmosphere, inimical to the poor man but in which the rich man flourishes. In saying this I want it to be particularly clear that I make no charge against Major Montgomerie or any other officer for the time being in charge at headquarters, because I do not consider that they are responsible. To fix responsibility is difficult. Things are done and nobody knows who does them, but the general effect of them is, as I say, that the well-off man profits by the affair, and the poor man gets the rough side of things always.

Since soldiers began to come home, now somewhat more than a year ago, about 300 have been discharged whereas only half a dozen officers have been discharged. In nearly every instance an endeavour has been made to find employment for officers and to keep them on full pay and allowances whilst the rankers have been discharged and left to fend for themselves with whatever pension applies to their case. Let me cite an outstanding example of this, the case of Paver, who was Regimental Sergeant Major and who is now in the Penitentiary for bigamy. This man ranked next to the commissioned officers and his pay was nearly that of a Lieutenant. He enlisted at the outset, got this place on the score of having been an old soldier, went overseas, took all the advantages of his post with its high pay, but when the Regiment started for Gallipoli, got sick and was landed in Egypt. After enjoying a sojourn of some months in the land of the Pharoahs, he rejoined the Regiment when it was being re-formed after the Dardanelles adventure, and came back with it to France where he again got sick though his disease is

said by our boys to have been "cold feet."

Sergt. Major Paver, during his whole regimental career of over two years, never was within miles of a firing line and never smelt powder fired in action. When he got well after his second attack, he was kept at Ayr for some time, and was then shipped back here and took up duty. His presence at headquarters was a most pernicious influence. The youngest rawest recruits openly spoke of him as having cold feet and jeered at him to his face. Why he was retained I do not know, but eventually, after a great deal of complaint throughout the city, and after the facts had been mentioned to people in authority by myself and others more than once, the machinery was set in motion and Mr. Paver was got rid of. He signalized his release from khaki, as everybody knows, by going down to Trinity Bay and marrying an innocent young girl, though he had a wife in Scotland, and he is now serving a term in the Penitentiary, and recently, to add insult to injury has sent a letter to the Regimental authorities, claiming that his discharge was irregular and that he is entitled to his pay and board from the time he left off the khaki in October to the time of his conviction in March, a period of twenty weeks, which would mean about $400 more.

Now, here is the case of a man who was not a Newfoundlander, who had no special claims upon this country, being kept in this position for many months, while our own boys had to go out, war worn and weary, wounded in many instances, fighting the battle of the Empire, letting Mr. Paver remain on the strength enjoying a soft time.

Paver's "under-study" in this position was another man not a native of this country,who had been,I understand, connected with the Canadian Militia in some capacity, who joined here but who never got farther than Ayr. He was shipped back, I believe as a private, but in some way contrived to be made Regimental Sergt-Major, which position brought him in, according to a statement made on behalf of his family to the Patriotic Fund for help, just exactly twice the salary he was earning before he enlisted, and it took months of similar effort to get rid of him, while our own boys, battle scarred and war-weary, had no such opportunities. I do not want to raise any alien cry, but in some curious fashion people not natives of this country, seem to have all the luck in these matters. I recall the case of a lieutenant, not a Newfoundlander,who had been taken sick in the early days at Gallipoli and invalided with dysentery, who got a commission and came out here, why nobody has ever been able to explain. All his people were in the Old Country, but he remained on here month after month until ultimately it looked as if a charge of dynamite would be needed to uproot him, but there was never any difficulty in separating our own soldier boys from the Regiment when they were no longer fit for service. Other officers who have come back here have been held here for indefinite periods until their presence became a scandal in every place where our soldier lads congregate and prejudiced recruiting to an extent few can realize, besides causing intense indignation among the families of those not possessed of the influence to secure even a week's leave for boys who have been at the front since the early days of the war. In voicing these criticisms I do not wish it it to be understood that I want to see these officers sent back to the firing line, but the point I do make is that

any man who is fit for duty here is equally fit for duty at Ayr, and that his place is at Ayr and not in St. John's. I think that the headquarters here ought to be staffed with officers who are unfit for work at Ayr, and they should only be retained to the extent that is required for the needs here and that any excess ought to be passed back into civil life. But has that been the practise? No, I say unhesitatingly it has not, I say that officers have been brought back here and have been kept on pay and allowances for months, who ought to have been discharged within a week or a fortnight after their return, as was done with so many of the soldiers. Of course, the temptations for officers to remain and for people to pull strings with that object will be realized when I tell the House that the pay and allowances of even the youngest Lieutenant while doing duty here in Newfoundland, are $4.60 a day, or $1678 a year, roundly, $140 a month. This is a larger salary than they pay Mr. Mews, the Deputy Colonial Secretary; Mr. Keating, the Deputy Minister of Finance; or Mr. Turner, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

I do not object to this being done for the men who have gone through the fire and ice of Gallipoli, or the hell of Western France, but I do object to preferential treatment as a rule, unless similar treatment is meted out to the men who did their part with them equally in the ranks. I have a list of names here which I might go into very fully, but I do not wish to trespass unduly on the patience of the Committee. I can, however, assure the House, that I can cite instance after instance conclusively proving the truth of my statement, that in numerous cases where matters were made the subject of general talk.

An explanation offered for keeping these officers here is that there is a shortage of such at Headquarters, but I do not think this is a valid excuse because I have seen times here when only one or two officers were available, and goodly numbers of men were attached to the Depot, while at other places there have been many officers with comparatively few men. Moreover a fertile source of complaint is that whatever may be the theory about officers working at Headquarters the fact is that in many cases the work they do is so little that they may easily be dispensed with.

Why, Mr. Chairman, it had reached such a stage last winter that His Excellency the Governor, as Colonel of the Regiment, was obliged to issue an order prohibiting returned officers and non-com. officers, supposedly sick and unfit for duty, from playing in hockey matches in the rink, work calling for the greatest exertion, because the fact became painfully apparent that several who claimed that they were unequal to the task of doing light duty at the barracks, were able to play hockey night after night and attend every dance and tea fight that took place from one end of the town to the other. Moreover,, sir, it will hardly surprise the House, in view of what I have said as to the pay and allowances received here,that some people are trying to get back on the strength of the Regiment again, naturally enough arguing that to wear an officer's uniform, draw $140 a month, and remain in St. John's if possible, is a consummat/ n very much to be desired.

When we come to th question of recruiting, the nring of private cars, etc.,e we reach a stage where it becomes necessary to deal with another aspect of this matter, what I may call the

operations of what has been designated the "star chamber"; and as to that I may be allowed to ask a little latitude for explanation. Of all the committees connected with various forms of patriotic work in this Colony, I do not know one which has undertaken a more thankless task than the small sub-committee of the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association which handles the details of that organization's monetary work, and of which I have the honor to be the Secretary. We have to face not only trouble with the general public, but with other committees, and I cannot illustrate what that means better than by describing an incident which occurred a few nights ago. We had a session with representatives of another Committee in regard to a phase of war work, and in the course of the debate one of the gentlemen present remarked, pleasantly enough, "of course ye know that y` are termed the Star Chamber." It was rather startling to have this information vouchsafed, and still more so when one views all the surrounding facts. The Star Chamber, as hon. members are aware, was a tribunal which earned evil notoriety in the days of King Charles I. It administered so-called justice according to the will of the monarch and without regard to constitutional rights, and no portion of the English dominions suffered more from its operations than our own Island of Newfoundland. I presume we are known as the "Star Chamber" because we are trying, unlike that body, to administer the public funds entrusted to us economically and judiciously, and that this is resented as improper. I have no doubt we would be the most popular if we were prepared to put our "O.K." on everybody's bills and raise no question whatever, but we have not so construed our obligations, and hence we raise trouble on every hand.

Taking the progress of the work in the natural order, we first find ourselves in difficulties with the Recruiting Committee, whose operations are designed for the gathering in of the raw material throughout the country for the making of soldiers and sailors. In speaking about this and other Committees I would like hon. gentlemen to understand that I have no criticism of the responsible officers of these committees, nor of the majority of the members, because my experience—and I think it is that of those associated with me as well—is that the officers and the responsible members are most reasonable, but on every Committee there are people who think that it is an invasion of their authority for the Finance Committee to interpose and who resent such accordingly. Some agencies connected with the Recruiting Committee have done much good work. The school inspectors—Rev. Dr. Curtis, Dr. Blackall and Dr. Burke—I would single out, and also Mr. Grieve, the energetic and efficient secretary, who has given yeoman service. There is much, I might say, in praise of the operations of this Committee, but there is a good deal, on the other, that I might say, of a character that would astound the people of this country. I have here some notes of matters which might be criticized and of circumstances the public exposure of which would startle and dismay everybody, and I have seriously deliberated as to whether I should put these facts on record or not, and I have concluded that the balance of the argument is against such and therefore I will not review these circumstances.

But with regard to the matter of private cars for recruiting expeditions, I would say that at the outset, when private cars came to be introduced by this Committee, the idea was to utilize them for personages

who could scarcely be expected to travel otherwise, but the private car habit has grown and so far we have paid $700 for cars and meals on the cars for four recruiting expeditions, and we have now asked the Recruiting Committee to kindly endeavor to refrain from use of private cars in future. Another difficulty in connection with recruiting, is that the Recruiting Committee adopted the practice of allowing all the soldiers who took part therein, their full travelling allowance, in addition to which the men were getting the five or six dollars a week board allowance, as if in St. John's. We represented that the men ought not to be paid two sets of allowances, but the Recruiting Committee took a different view and there was nothing left for us. having registered our protest, but to stop there, because if we attempted to go farther, the Recruiting Committee might resign and greater unpleasantness be created.

Having got your recruits, difficulties sometimes arises with the Equipment Committee. Requisitions are made for quantities of supplies. and sometimes the Finance Committee feels that it is desirable to cut these requisitions down so as not to have a lot of material which may not be used. This has its awkward aspects also, and sometimes this action is resented, but, as I said before, not by responsible representatives of the Committee. In the training and equipping of the men we also have our troubles. The Musketry Committee, we found a little time ago, was employing an undesirable in a responsbile capacity, and we called their attention to it, and I will say this for Capt. Rennie and his associates, that they met us in the proper spirit. Again, with the Standing Committee in regard to the working of the Regiment some time ago, provision was made for increasing the allowances to the men, and the Finance Committee only learned of it a month after it had been done. Then our expressing a request to be promptly notified of any future changes in the same direction, caused a little breeze on the otherwise unruffled sea.

We had trouble last year also with what I may call the Education Committee. Certain worthy citizens, deploring the high level of illiteracy in a particular detachment, decided on starting a night school, and the Finance Committee was asked to authorize the necessary expenditure. We authorized the expenditure for books and other equipment. for light, etc., but never imagined for a moment that we were to be asked to find any funds for the direction of the school, because young ladies of the city gave their services as teachers gratuitously. Mind, I do not claim that the promoters of this school deliberately deceived us, because I freely admit it was a misunderstanding. They evidently thought our proposal carried with it authority for direction. We certainly never contemplated any such thing, for the simple reason that we never believed that it would be necessary to have paid directors, but when the school was abandoned after a very few weeks, we were faced with three bills, one for $150 for a gentleman in St. John's as director of the school; another for $90 for another gentleman as assistant director; and a third for $60 for another party as deputy assistant director; and I suppose we ought to feel that we were lucky to get out of it so cheaply.

A further instance where the "Star Chamber" came into conflict with the authorities, arose last Fall, when two cases of measles broke out in the Regiment, and it was seriously proposed to buy a suburban mansion at a cost of $10,000 to house these two patients in it. Some hon. members

will be surprised; others will not, because they are members of the Finance Committee, and will recall the meeting when this proposal was put before us, and will recall my comment on the occasion, which was, "that it was lucky there were not a dozen cases or we might have been asked to commandeer the two cathedrals." When the idea of buying a mansion was scouted, the Museum was suggested; but, fortunately, Hon. Mr. Winter, a member of this House, came to the rescue by offering us a building of his free of charge, in which measles patients have been housed from time to time for the past eight or nine months.

Another cause of trouble arose through a stand which we took in relation to certain phases of the Forestry movement. Our idea was to save money, but this did not commend itself to some parties, and I know a case where one of the active workers in the forestry movement was held up by a gentleman on Water Street and asked why such a stand had been taken. He replied that it was for economy and to save the Colony money, and the retort made to him was, "who gave you the contract of saving money for the country?"

As I have already said, war work has two aspects. All war is waste, and there are some people who seem to think that because we are at war, any expenditure is justified, and that no consideration need be given to whether a more economical way than that which occurs to them can be adopted. We have construed our commission as a Finance Committee to involve the obligation on our part to expend the money as economically and as prudently as we would be spending it in our own business, but I can assure the House that such an idea is not a popular one, and does not make either for the popularity of ourselves or of the particular Committee which we are representing.

Finally, with regard to recruiting, I would say that at a recent meeting of the Patriotic Association, I was struck with the plea made by a spokes man for the recruiting committee for volunteers to go out in charge of parties to the outports. It was declared that men of light and leading in the community were hanging back from this work, and it was explained that because of this laxity it was impossible to send out parties, as it was felt to be undesirable to despatch more squads around the country without having such men in charge of them. I was much impressed with this. I think it is regrettable that more of the men who have not heretofore been very conspicuous by their exertions in behalf of our war work, could not see their way clear to do something in this direction, but I think it is preferable that parties should be kept back altogether than that they should be allowed to go out uncontrolled and undisciplined, as has been the case in many instances in the past.

My hon. friend, then, went on to complain of the cases where men had died, notably the case of the lad Quinton, mentioned in the newspapers recently. I agree with him that this sort of thing is deplorable and that it is our bounden duty to endeavour to prevent the like. I would say for myself that I have striven as hard as I know how to prevent such incidents, but there are influences operating in regard to this, as in regard to other phases of our war work, which, whatever may be the motive underlying them, are not calculated to promote the public interest or the welfare of the individual soldiers as they ought to be. The facts of the Quinton case, let me recite again. This young man was sick; he was kept in a boarding house for seven weeks for some rea-

make a passing reference. Few, if any persons in Newfoundland, have more intimate knowledge of the facts than the President of this Council, because as a prominent member of the Patriotic Association, Secretary of the Finance Committee, and Chairman of the Pension Committee, he has been continually in touch with all phases of the work. I have not at this moment sufficient knowledge of the facts to venture any opinion upon the matter other than one of those to which he referred. That one is the promotion of volunteers to rank as officers. During the past six months I have come in close contact with the relatives of deceased and missing soldiers, and in many cases with the relatives of wounded soldiers have also had the opportunity, as has every other member of this House, of having some knowledge of the general feeling with respect to promotions, and must confess that in some instances the procedure by which promotions are made cannot be viewed with satisfaction. There is in England,—there certainly was before the War—a very pronounced social and class distinction between the officer and the private. When the call to arms rang forth and Newfoundlanders rallied to the fight there was no class distinction. The son of the wealthy received his drill side by side with the truckman or the laborer. And so it should be. Just as Death itself is no respecter of persons, so War is no respecter of persons, and he who respects himself most is the one who first feels the call to serve the Empire in any capacity in his power. The young man who enjoyed the luxury of a high-class motor car might be taking his military orders and instructions from the man whose job it was to keep the car clean in the garage. It was naturally to be expected that the man of higher type, not because of social birth, but because of the advantages of education, training, knowledge of the world and experience in commanding would secure promotion much more rapidly than those who did not have the advantages of such education and training, but there have been circumstances which have suggested, whether rightly or wrongly I know not, to the minds of the public of this Colony that ability and qualification for rank as officer have, in some cases at least not been the prime consideration for appointment. Amongst our early volunteers who faced the frost and fire of Gallipoli, men who have also been the heroes of the western front, there are those who physically, intellectually and by temperament, were just as capable of promotion as many of those who have received it, and probably more capable of holding an officer's rank than some of those who have received it; to that has been added years of experience in actual warfare. But in spite of it all there have been cases in which inexperienced men who have joined the forces now that the war is three years old with no special qualifications whatever, with no knowledge whatever of officer's work, and without ever having heard a gun fire, except at an occasional rifle practice in St. John's, have been appointed to the rank of officers and rated as qualified to hold in their hands the lives and destinies of our soldier lads.

I agree entirely with the recommendations of our own local committee, which I understand to be to the effect that in all matters of promotion a man who has seen actual service shall be considered for promotion in preference to those who have seen no service. It is, in my opinion, going to be a difficult matter to justify in the eyes of the volunteer of the first five hundred the fact that he

is now, and apparently will continue to be, a private, no matter what his ability, what his experience, or how worthy he may be for promotion, when others with absolutely no experience, who, while he has been facing the terrors of war, have been enjoying the luxury of home, secure the rank of officer for some reason other than that of qualification and service Certainly it may be that under some circumstances military necessity requires that inexperienced and untrained men be suddenly created officers, but as a Newfoundlander with many intimate relatives and friends now in the conflict and many others who have joined that great army of spirits who have passed through the conflict, I feel that capacity, experience and ability to lead should be the deciding factors for promotion, and in spite of the incongruities which have appeared in connection with promotions, I feel convinced that that is as a rule the determining factor, and that we all deplore the numerous exceptions which have been made to that rule.

HON. PRESIDENT—I thank the hon. gentleman for his very kind remarks concerning my poor efforts on behalf of our war undertakings. In being privileged to do this work I consider I am but doing my duty in this grave crisis.

Might I ask if it is the intention to bring in any other military legislation this session, because I would suggest, particularly to the legal authorities, consideration of what provision is being made with regard to legislation for the creating of the Nfld. Forestry Battalion. As I understand the situation is that while the Government has sanctioned the movement through the Patriotic Association, there is no legal confirmation of their status, because these men are being enlisted here to go overseas to be under the control of the British Government and be paid by them. Therefore I think we ought to have legislation to authorize the raising of this force, and to legalize the steps the Government has taken in appointing officers for this force, and in establishing rates of pay for this force, and generally giving it vitality, and then to provide how this force is to be transferred to the British Governement,and how eventually it is to come back again under our jurisdiction. I suggest this point so that if there is anything in it the necessary provision can be included in the new Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—The intention is that a new Bill will be brought in. The Bill is not yet prepared.

The committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WILLS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop House went into Committee on the Soldiers and Sailors Wills 1917 Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the Chair.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—The object of this Bill is three-fold; it makes valid certain dispositions of property by soldiers which under the Newfoundland Wills Act would not otherwise be valid. It provides for a simple method of proving the wills of deceased soldiers by the production of a certified copy under certain circumstances. It provides a simple and speedy method for the issue of Letters of Administration to the estate of a deceased soldier when it is necessary for administration to be issued before a balance due the estate of the deceased soldier by the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office can be satisfactorily paid out to those entitled to receive the same.

The first important provision is contained in the second section of the Bill. The Newfoundland Wills

son or another, although there are five institutions maintained at the public charge into which he could have been placed. Finally, when he is at the point of death, he is sent to the Jensen Camp, where he survives only a fortnight, and then our duty is to record his obituary. His is not the only case. Another soldier named Gosney also died under similar circumstances in the past month or two. These things should not be; enough money is paid for the services to ensure proper treatment for these boys, and I think the time has now come when remedial measures ought to be taken. I know, as the hon. gentleman has said, that there is a good deal of feeling in the community in regard to this, and I am not surprised. I think we ought to see that not alone is no cause given for further complaint, but that explanations should, if possible, be given which would show what is underlying these matters, and that if it is not possible to satisfy the public in the matter, a frank and full admission ought be made that there was a breakdown of the system, and steps ought to be taken to render such impossible in future.

This disposes, I think, of the several matters raised by my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Gibbs). I apologize for having kept the Committee so long with my reply, but I felt that the seriousness of the issues involved, and the importance of the whole question to the public, justified me in so fully explaining the various points. I trust the House will agree that the information I have furnished will excuse my lengthy address.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—Mr. Chairman: I desire to avail of this opportunity of expressing a word of appreciation of the valued services rendered by the Hon. Dr. McGrath, the President of this Council, in matters patriotic. Dr. McGrath's abundant vitality, his marvellous memory, and, above all, the enthusiastic industry with which he undertakes any work which may be allotted to him in connection with the Patriotic Association. has won for him the highest esteem and good will.

The branch of work in which his efforts have been particularly successful is that associated with the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association, of which he is the Secretary, and the Pension Board, of which he is Chairman. The work devolving upon him in the former capacity has been considerable and of vital importance. The work devolving upon him as chairman of the Pension Board has been enormous, and only those of us who have some personal knowledge of the difficulties which had to be faced in that connection begin to appreciate, and even then probably not fully, the enormous volume of work which he has undertaken and brought to a conclusion so generally satisfactory.

Certainly it is not to be argued that everything that has been done has been the prefectly right thing to do under the circumstances of each particular case. No individual or Board can claim for itself that insight which can disclose facts and conditions which do not appear from the documents from which the conclusion has to be drawn; nor can any person or board claim the prophetic vision which would enable the decision arrived at to meet circumstances as they might develop as well as those which had developed, but from the somewhat intimate knowledge of the facts which I know, I am convinced that the labors of the Finance Committee have, considering all the difficulties, been marvellously successful.

With reference to the patriotic matters to which the Hon. Dr. McGrath has just referred, I desire to

Act is Chapter 79 of the Consolidated Statutes, second series. That Act provides that no will shall be valid unless it be made in writing nor unless it be either in the handwriting of the testator and signed by him, or, if not so written and signed, be signed by him in the presence of at least two witnesses, who shall in the presence of the testator sign the same as witnesses. There is a proviso to the effect that any seaman or fisherman, being at sea, may dispose of his property in the same manner as he might have done before the passing of that Newfoundland Statute. There is no exception in favor of soldiers, nor, in fact, any exception other than that in favor of seamen and fishermen while at sea. Under Imperial legislation a soldier may make disposition of his property without such formality as is prescribed in section 1 of the Newfoundland Wills Act.

The effect of section 2 of the Bill is to provide that any volunteer while on actual military or naval service may dispose by will of his property in any manner in which he might lawfully do so according to the law of England, if at the time of making such disposition he were a member of His Majesty's regular army or recruited in England for the Royal Naval Reserve.

The second important feature of the Bill is dealt with in section 4 which provides that a will of a deceased soldier made while on actual military or naval service shall be sufficiently proven for the purpose of probate or administration by the production to the Court of a copy of such will certified by the Attorney General to have been received by him from the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office in London or from the Admiralty, as the case may be and it shall not be necessary to produce the original document. This is an unusual provision, is contrary to the generally recognized principles of the law of evidence with respect to the proof of documents, and is desirable only for the purposes of securing a cheap and speedy method of dealing with very small estates.

The third feature of the Bill is covered by sections 5, 6 and 7. It shall not be necessary for notice of application for probate to be posted in the Registry Office of the Supreme Court as is the general practice. There shall be no Court fees payable on Letters of Administration or Probate. There shall be no commissioner's fees payable thereon. That means that the minimum charge of $2.50 in Inland Revenue Stamps which must be affixed to the Letters of Administration or Probate where the estate does not exceed in value $500.00 need not be affixed in the case of deceased volunteers, nor is it necessary for the 25c. stamp to be affixed to the various affidavits required.

Section 6 indicates that application be made by the Attorney General on his own petition and affidavit for the issue of Letters of Administration to persons to be named by him under certain circumstances, and section 7 provides that when such application has been made by the Attorney General it shall not be necessary for any security to be given by the persons in whose favor the administration is granted. There is also a simple method provided by which the intended administrator shall not find it necessary to go before a Commissioner of the Supreme Court if there be no Commissioner resident in his own immediate neighborhood for the purpose of taking the Administrator's Oath. The Administrator's Oath may be subscribed be-

fore a clergyman, school teacher, or other person approved for the purpose by the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

There are some amendments to this measure which may be considered while the various sections are being discussed in committee. In particular I think that the provisions of Section 4 and subsequent sections should be made to apply only to estates not exceeding in value the sum of $500.00. There are also some verbial alterations which the committee may desire to consider. The general principle of the bill is one which I am quite sure will receive the unanimous support of Council, its object being to make valid certain dispositions of property by soldiers on active service not now valid under Newfoundland statute law, and to provide a simple and cheap method of proof of will and administration under certain circumstances.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I would like to ask the hon. gentleman in charge of this bill whether it is intended to enlarge the scope of this Bill to take in a class to which I referred the other day, men domiciled here but who enlisted in other forces. I think where the estate is of small value they ought to get the benefit of th's Act also. When I spoke last week I did not have any individual cases in mind, but I can cite one or two now. At the outbreak of the war we sent away hospital orderlies, six at least Three or four also went with the St. Francis Xavier Hospital Unit from Antigonish; John Higgins, a well-known young lawyer; a son of Mr. R. Callahan, another of whose boys is now a prisoner in Germany, another son being killed last July; another boy named Jackman. Then Rev. B. Warr, a Methodist Minister, went from Montreal, another Rev. W. Cotton we also furnished transport to. I think the least the Colony ought to provide for men of that class is that if the worst befalls, their heirs should get the benefit of this consideration. I should also like to suggest that if it be thought wise, it might further be well to enlarge the scope of the Bill to cover Nurses. The regulation is that no woman is accepted **until** she is 23 years of age. That is an age when she is a free agent from the point of the law. My hon. friend Mr. Harvey knows we have listed for transport fully fifty nurses, (all not gone yet but more may go,) who may leave small estates. These should be regarded as volunteers within the scope of this Bill, and I would suggest that there might be added to section one something so that the word "volunteer" might mean also hospital orderlies or hospital nurses.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—You would have to include the Forestry Battalion too.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Yes.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—I think the suggestion a very excellent one and the bill might be amended to include all those mentioned. The entire object of the Bill is to cheapen matters for the estates and where it is possible to save five dollars this may be done for them.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly that they had passed the Bills entitled respectively "A Bill to amend the Wreck and Salvage Act," and "An Act respecting the District of St. Georges" in which they requested the concurrence of the Council.

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

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House then adjourned until Thursday next at four thirty o'clock p.m.

THURSDAY, July 5th.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

VOLUNTEER BILL.

Hon. Mr. Bishop moved the House into Committee of the Whole on the Volunteer Acts 1914-1917 Hon. Mr. Anderson being the chairman of the Committee.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Just a word in reference to this matter. I cannot regard it as other than serious in view of the statements just made here by three of our hon. members, including the Honourable President and I think that some steps should be taken to allay any doubts, if possible, for these doubts unquestionably are liable to do a very great deal of harm. I am sure the honourable gentleman on my left will be satisfied by the explanation given by the Hon. President as regards any questons of discrimination in connection with the distribution of the Patriotic Fund and also as regards the board with which the President had so much to do, connected with disabilities and pensions, as anybody who has been in touch with the work that the Hon. President of this chamber has done and the enormous amount of time he has put into this work, will be satisfied without further enquiry that the work has been done with most thorough and painstaking care, as we would like to see all such work done. The question of an 'Officers Training Class' has been raised, and I am not in the least competent to express an opinion about it. beyond saying that we must all of us of course realise the difficulties here in dealing with military matters. We had no professional military men on the spot at all, and for a time recruiting was very active. Major Montgomerie no doubt has done splendid work. I think that perhaps it was beyond the capacity of our military authorities to do more than they were already committed to or to undertake an 'Officers' Training Corps', and this is emphasized by the complicated nature of the training which would be required as defined by the statement read by the Hon. President the other day. It would be impossible for any of our local men to undertake such a work.

As regards the Windsor draft—I have informally asked one or two members of the Committee about the occurrence, as the Southland was a slow ship the matter of forwarding the contingent by her was the subject of joint conference here among the authorities interested. I understand that at that conference, I speak without definite authority, there was a good deal of uncertainty as to the best course. Capt. Abraham, as I am informed, also stated that undoubtedly a slow ship like the Southland ran more risk of getting torpedoed than would a faster one. I also understand that Surgeon Major Paterson was very doubtful upon medical grounds and expressed himself in doubtful terms about sending the contingent forward by the Southland, because of the prevalence of measles, and he intimated from his knowledge of conditions in England, considerable uncertainty as to whether the authorities in England would welcome the arrival of a considerable contingent coming directly from a place where contagious disease was more or less rife and where many from the intended draft had been sick up to a short time previous to departure. It is of course conceivable that a mistake in judgment was made in not sending the men for

ward, but it would be surprising if no mistakes in judgment were made. Major Paterson's opinion influenced some members materially and combined with the slow speed of the Southland, a decision was reached against sending the men in a more dangerous ship than it was hoped to get later. However I express no opinion on the subject, but merely state what I hear with reference to that contingent which was subsequently transferred to the Saxonia and afterwards upon instructions from England, again held over. As to the forwarding of the Naval Reservists on the Southland, of course that is not a matter on which there can be any local decision at all; they were subject purely to the Imperial authorities.

In regard to the question of promotions and the discharges of men, I personally am unable to bring myself to believe that any discrimination exists. I merely know this that the medical board that has to do with men for discharge consists of Drs. Fraser, Tait and Paterson, and Dr. Macpherson acts as Secretary, but is not a member of the board. It does not seem likely that any discrimination can occur through the action of these doctors. As regards promotions, it seems the Standing Committee no longer takes any action as regards promotions—responsibility appears to lie entirely with the military authorities, and it is difficult to believe that any discriminaton exists there.

I am going to suggest to the representative of the Government in this House that he should obtain a formal report upon this matter from the proper authorities.

I suggest that information be sought on the following points: (a) as to the principles governing promotions both here and abroad to non-commissioned and commissioned ranks; (b) as to the retirement from the active list of invalided officers and men respectively; (c) as to the facts connected with the 'Windsor Draft.'

HON. MR. GIBBS.—When speaking the other day in regard to matters connected with the regiment I was merely voicing complaints that were being made by the public with regard to these matters, and the explanation given by the hon. President as to the administration of the Patriotic Fund, and also with regard to the Pensions Board clears up all doubt that may have existed in the mind of any reasonable person that all was being done that could be done, and that matters are handled in a satisfactory and proper manner, and I thank the hon. President for his explanation in that respect. But there are other matters dealt with by him which are, to say the least, very serious, and as he has dealt with matters with men who have returned here and who have either been discharged or kept on at work of different kinds; and as a great number of men have returned and some have been given work that it was necessary to have done, while others have been given work to do which is not so necessary, I think it is only fair to those justly employed to name those not so employed, because the public have to pay the bills and should fairly understand the facts and circumstances connected with the matter, and that innocent men should not be under a cloud. The hon. gentleman on my right has said that in view of the statement of the hon. President with regard to the training of candidates for officers and the regulations which he read from a printed calendar in this House with regard to the training

the cadets took, in his opinion the work could not be successfully carried on here. Now I disagree with the hon. gentleman in his interpretation of that. I think the Hon. President read to show the disparity that existed between the knowledge acquired by our soldiers who have seen active service on the field and the men who were here in barracks. Promotions should have gone to the former. I say Mr. Chairman, that, like the Hon. President, I am actuated only by fair motives in bringing this matter forward, but it is absolutely necessary that the atmosphere be cleared because the public have an idea that a square deal is not being given to all.

HON. THE PRESIDENT:—I should like to begin, Mr. Chairman, by thanking the hon. gentlemen who have been good enough to speak so kindly of the work done by myself and others in connection with the Colony's patriotic movement. I am sure those associated with me on the Finance Committee, the Patriotic Fund, and the Pensions Board, will appreciate the kindly references by hon. gentlemen, and the vindication they have tendered to us in regard to these particular departments. For myself, I may perhaps be permitted to say that I appreciate these remarks, especially because personally I have had a somewhat difficult role to play in regard to war activities. It will be remembered by some hon. members, at any rate, that, from the very outset, I took the position that this was going to be a long war and that the people who suggested that the Allied armies were going to have a triumphal march to Berlin, were indulging in a delusion from which they would in time receive a rude awakening. To advance such a theory in the early days of the struggle, almost meant being regarded as a pro-German, but if one may compare small things with great, and insignificant journalists with the mighty factors in the newspaper world abroad, it will not be amiss if I remind the committee that time has proved my vindication here as it has proved the vindication of other men elsewhere, who had to take a stand in regard to the outlook of the war, which called for no small degree of courage and a disregard of popular sentiment which not everybody is willing to attempt.

Believing, however, as I did, that the war was likely to be a long one, and that it would strain the resources of every other section of the Emire and of all the Allied nations have been straind, I felt that it was incumbent upon me to do my utmost in support of every war enterprise that was set on foot, and hence I did not shirk when proposals were put to me from time to time to assist to the best of my poor abilities in connection with various features of the great efforts launched by the Patriotic Association, and I am now disposed to believe, not without aiding, in however small a degree, towards the promotion of the public advantage.

Turning now once more to the matters at issue before the House, I would say to my hon. friend, Mr. Harvey, in reply to his observations on the non-despatch of the draft of volunteers by the Southland last November, that the sequel to that lamentable incident will be found ventilated in the editorial columns of the Evening Telegram this very afternoon in the following terms:

"The last draft that went over to Ayr have had to put in a most severe and concentrated period of training, entailing a strain under which less robust physiques would have collapsed, simply because reinforcements

are not up to requirements.

This article, in effect, says that because of the failure to send drafts to Ayr at reasonable intervals, the large contingents that assembled there recently had to be worked double time in order to fit the men to take their place in the firing line, and I know no worse indictment of the Southland incident than is implied in this newspaper declaration to-day. I was aware of the fact that these men were overworkd, and I know it has been said that some men broke down under the strain, but as to that I cannot speak positively. It is significant, however, that this paper, not concerned in this controversy at all, has thus given substantial support to the view I have taken.

The hon. gentleman cites certain arguments to justify the action of the Standing Committee in failing to send the draft by the Southland. They are, in effect, that this was a slow ship; that Capt. Abraham, while arguing that there was no danger, admitted that she was a slow ship; that Dr. Paterson held that because there was measles in the draft it was undesirable to send them and that there was no hurry anyway; and that it is immaterial in effect that Naval Reservists were sent by her. In reply I have merely to say very briefly that when this ship was chosen some weeks before hand, it was known that she was a slow ship, and that if she was unsuited for the work, she should have been cancelled. It is not denied that both the Governor and Capt. Abraham, at the meeting in question, argued that the men should be sent and assured the Committee that there was no danger. As to the matter of measles, measles had been existent in the Regiment for many months previously, and had also been existent in the Naval Reserve, and as for it being immaterial that the seamen were sent, I would point out that the Admiralty surely must be regarded as taking as much care of the sailors under its control as we would of the soldiers in our charge. None of these pleas meets in any way the point made by me, namely, that a member of the Standing Committee who had a son going in the draft, as allowed to stampede the Committee into holding the men back with all the results which, I have claimed followed in its train, namely, that the Regiment was left without recruits, that the Colony was involved in a large outlay that the men on the firing line were obliged to undertake tasks beyond their numbers and strength, and that a condition of demoralization was caused in the Regiment which will not be easily removed.

My other hon. friend, (Hon. Mr. Gibbs) asks me to give the names of those holding jobs to which I consider they are not entitled. In reply I can only say that I am not prepared to maintain that any particular man is holding a job which he ought not to have received. That is a matter for the particular Committee controlling the particular work. I am, however, prepared to express my own views regarding some of these cases and to indicate how I would deal with the matters if I had the oversight of them. In this connection I might add that, in my judgment, half a dozen concrete examples are worth an hour of discursive debate, and therefore while my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Harvey) was speaking, I sent to the Record Office upstairs and got the files of some of these which I am now going to quote so as to give the House a better idea of how things stand.

I have here six files, each containing the papers relating to an individ-

ual officer or soldier. Three of them rlate to private or non-coms, and three to officers, and I have taken in each pair a soldier and an officer, suffering, as nearly as possible, from the same disability or disease. The first case I shall deal with is that of Corp. Thomas Higgins, mentioned in the Assembly last week by Mr. Coaker. The record in this case shows that the man had several shrapnel wounds in the leg, and that after hospital treatment he was sent home here, was in due course put before the Medical Board, and was found by them to be suffering from a disability of 20 per cent. which carries with it a pension of $8.00 a month. He belongs to Catalina, where he has a paralyzed father, and after going there he got in touch with Mr. Stone, M. H. A., who brought him on here again and brought him to me to see if something more could not be done for him, as a doctor or somebody in Sydney, he said, told him they could treat him at the Hospital here. I secured his admission into the Hospital, but Dr. Keegan, after having an X-ray made of his leg, discharged him with the report that nothing could be done for him. Under the pension regulations, the amount given him was a reasonable one for his case, but he claimed later that he was unable to work and that his leg broke out again, and we had him up last week and he has gone to the Hospital once more. The report of the English doctors on Higgins was that Higgins "walked well with a stiff leg," and our doctors confirmed it, and there are scores of men in this country doing useful work who walk with stiff legs. I next come to the case of an officer similarly wounded. In dealing with this I want to be clearly understood that I make no reflections upon him. I hold that anyone who has gone through the hell of the Western Front deserves nothing but the best that can be spoken of or done for him, but the record in this case is almost identical with Higgin's. The doctors recited that his general condition is good and that he has a stiff leg. He was given the same classification as Higgins, namely 20 per cent. for three months, which would carry in his case, he being a lieutenant, $12.00 a month instead of $8.00. The doctors constituting the Medical Board attached to the report on his case a memorandum stating that, as he would not be able to do any marching or other active work, he ought, if no clerical job could be found for him about headquarters, be discharged. But, Mr. Chairman, here is the curious fact. This officer is still drawing his full pay and allowances of $140 a month, and Higgins is pensioned at $8.00 a month. Why this is I cannot explain. Some agency or individual interfered to prevent this offcer being pensioned, though he is in comfortable circumstances, while Thomas Higgins, with a paralyzed father, is thrown on the street with $8 a month.

I now take two more cases. The first is that of Corp. Greene, of Bell Island, a younger brother of Sergt. Walter Greene who won the D.C.M. in Gallipoli, and was afterwards made a lieutenant in France. The record in his case shows that he had a shrapnel wound in the left thigh, involving so difficult an operation to remove the bullet, that they would not do it at Wandsworth Hospital, and the man came out here hoping to avoid an operation but found it imperative, and at the General Hospital it was done. This man was given a similar penson to Higgins, namely, $8.00 a month, but as against that I have the case of an officer who was wounded more than a year ago and who has been given extensions of "sick leave"

on full pay, although it is well known that he will never be able to resume active service again. Why, I would like to ask, has this officer been continued on full pay, while Corporal Greene has been got rid of? I do not say that any wrong has been done either of these officrs, but what I want to know is why the two soldiers have not got the same treatment as the officers?

I now turn to the case of two men, a soldier and an officer, suffering from the same disability, nephritis, or kidney disease. The soldier is Prvate Vernon Pearce, and his papers show that he was invalided back with this complaint, and after spending some time here, was sent before the Medical Board, who recommended his discharge and gave him a rating of 20 per cent. disability, which carried with it again an $8 a month pension. At the end of three months this man was reported "improving and fit for work," and discharged with no further obligation by the country in regard to him. Now, here is the record of an officer also suffering from kidney disease. This man was before a British Medical Board, which dealt with him, and, following upon that, Major Timewell wrote out to His Excellency the Governor a letter stating, in effect, "that this officer had stated to him orally that he had been medically advised that besides being being unfit for service at Ayr he would be likewise so in Newfoundland." The Governor, on receiving this communication, forwarded it to the Pensions and Disabilities Board with a memorandum suggesting that in view of this disability, the officer be recalled, invalided out, and returned to civil life. The Pensions Board concurred in this suggestion, the officer came out, and he was boarded, but apparently was found fit for duty and put on full pay and allowance. It has been stated that this officer is quite cured of his complaint. I am glad to hear it and hope it is true, but I confess to being unable to understand how it is that this officer, whose own view before he left England, according to Major Timewell, was that he would be unfit for duty here, improved so much in the brief period until his return that he could be put into service. I would likewise ask this House how the fact is to be explained, that in nearly every case some opportunity seems to be found to keep officers on the strength with full pay and allowances, while the men are discharged with small pensions.

I might, if it were thought necessary, go on for hours citing form the records other cases of the same kind, but I think these three sets of examples will serve to bear out the argument advanced by me, that there is something that looks like discrimination in the treatment awarded men. I would add to this that I know that pressure has been put on some departments of our military machine from time to time, by those who have realized the seriousness of these incidents, and when scandals were threatened, in every case the result was that the man in question was got rid of. The tendency, however, has been, as I see it, to retain officers in their positions and give them pay and allowances, while private soldiers are discharged as soon as they reasonably can be. And there is a very bitter feeling about it, as is known to those of us who have to come in contact from day to day with the relatives of the boys who have gone overseas and who have suffered from this sort of thing. A woman came tc my office last Monday and asked: "Why can't my son, who was wounded on July the 1st, get back here on

leave, seeing that Mr. So-and-So's son has been able to get a furlough?" I replied: "I do not know; I have nothing to do with that department; I suppose there is some good reason." Mr. So-and-So's son is an officer and you cannot satisfy these people that they are getting a square deal under these circumstances. They are absolutely convicted that there is favoritism, and that social pull plays a large part. Only last week a pitiful letter appeared in one of the evening papers asking why the few survivors of the first five hundred who went from here nearly three years ago, have never got leave. I can readily realize that trained experienced men cannot be easily dispensed with, but put yourself in the position of their relatives. Do you thing you can satisfy them as to this when officers can get leave who have not been away nearly so long as any of these men. Is it not inevitable that people should conclude there is "something rotten in the State of Denmark."

Turning now to the question of officers' training classes. My point the other day was that last spring, when there was a big recruiting revival on in this country and a lot of first class young fellows with more than an average education enlisted, an officers' training corps should have been started here. About twelve months ago there were 750 men at the rinks, and amongst them were at least 50 to 75 capable of meeting the limited requirements of the officers' training class later established here. All that was required of a candidate who went into the O.T.C. here, when it started, was that he should be able to pass an examination on certain subjects, whereon lectures were given by Capt. Abraham and Capt. O'Grady. It was never contemplated that any man who took an O.T.C. course here should face the program prescribed for cadets in England. No officer who has ever gone from here has done that, and it would be impossible to put that program into effect here, because the requisite instructors could not be obtained. In the Old Country, as I read from an official publication here on Tuesday, an O.T.C, is a large undertaking, has hundreds of cadets, and entails scores of instructors, all of them experts in their particular branches; but here all that occurred was that these two gentlemen gave lectures, and in due course the men were examined and got their certificates. I ask again now, why was no class on such a limited scale started between January and August 1916, when fully a thousand men were enlisted, trained, and sent overseas, and amongst these thousand men at least ten per cent. probably quite as capable of meeting the limited requirements of that class as those for whom the O.T.C. was started later? Why was no such class begun until all these men had gone away and a certain select coterie of young people with social pull in St. John's donned khaki and formed the basis of a class? As a matter of fact, it was openly stated in St. John's before this O.T.C. was started, that such was going to be done when certain people, the ones in question, went into training. In other words, everything indicates that the O.T.C. was started fo r a select few people here in this city. I know of a young man desirous of obtaining a commission,, who got no opportunity to do so here. After he crossed the Atlantic, he applied for and was accepted in an O.T.C. in the Old Country, passed the much more difficult course prescribed for training there, and ultimately received a commission. Yet he was not an outstanding figure like Hollett, the Rhodes Scholar of Eurin, or Mac Henry, the expert paper-maker at

Grand Falls, or Dee, of this city, three whom I previously mentioned. These men were quite the equals of any who received commissions amongst the last batch, and yet they have been given no opportunity to better themselves.

Let me cite another case. In the paper this morning I read in the casualty lists the name of Sergeant Lench, who I take it is the son of Parson Lench (I use the term in the good old English sense that Bunyan used it.) Tne hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Bishop) indicates assent. I can now recall the picture of Parson Lench rushing down over the beach some two years ago to say good-bye to that lad. Yet he is Sergeant Lench still, after two years of foreign service, and, I was sorry to note, is back in England suffering from tuberculosis. Among the last batch of officers commissioned was another son of the parsonage, a young man named Holmes, who went away the other day and got a commission forty-eight hours after he landed in England. Now are we ever going to convince the people of this country that a square deal is being given when this sort of thing is going on?

I am afraid I have spoken rather longer than I ought to have done but I have endeavored to make the case clear beyond possibility of dispute. I have no doubt, though, that what I have said will make unpleasant reading for some people. I regret that, but I think we have reached the stage where fair comment and full ventilation are necessary. As Baron Rhondda said, according to the newspapers a day or two ago, when he was appointed Food Controller, that he supposed Lloyd-George had appointed him because he had a hide like a rhinocerous. I might say, after nearly twenty-seven years of journalistic life, that I am not going to be seriously disturbed by the fear of treading on anybody's corns. I am speaking because in my opinion, there are a lot of things that need to be explained, and that the time has now come when, in the public interest, light should be thrown into some dark places, and that the people should be able to judge for themselves, as to whether all classes are getting a square deal in matters connected with the Newfoundland Regiment.

HON MR. HARVEY.—I should just like to ask whether it is the intention of the Hon. Leader of the Government to get the answers to my questions.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Most certainly I intend to do so.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

Second Reading of Wreck and Salvage Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—This is a very simple amendment to the Wreck and Salvage Act and arises principally because of some trouble which arose recently in Notre Dame Bay, where timber known as pit props had drifted away from the places where it had been piled or in booms, and the owners of the props refused to give not only a reasonable, but any compensation to the parties who had recovered them. The amendment is to provide that such property shall be considered wrecked property where it has drifted away and reached the tidal waters, and parties recovering the same shall be entitled to salvage for their services in recovering the props in the same manner that they are now with regard to wrecked property.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—

In supporting the second reading of the Bill, I should like to point out that while it is quite true, as has been alleged, that some owners of pit props which have been lost have refused to pay compensation to the parties who recovered them, yet on the other hand, some pit prop owners did recompense those who salved the wood.

The object of the Bill is to make it quite clear that reasonable services rendered should be recompensed in a reasonable manner.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Second Reading of Bill Respecting the District of St. George's.

HON. MR BISHOP.—This Bill is to provide means for the residents of the District of St. George's to decide whether dogs shall be kept in that district, more particularly shepherd or collie dogs. By presenting a petition to the Governor in Council a plebiscite shall be had as to whether or not the keeping of dogs shall be prohibited in the District. I beg to move the second reading.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until Monday next at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, July 9th, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

Third reading of the Volunteer Acts 1914-1917 Bill.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—Mr. President, having occupied the Chair during the debate on this important measure I would ask your permission to say a few words on the third reading. I think the Committee owes a debt of gratitude to Hon. Mr. Gibbs on the one side and to you, Mr. President, on the other. I congratulate both of you for the manly, straightforward stand you took on this occasion, and the information you conveyed to this House on what are possibly the most important questions that have ever been brought before it, presented with a wealth of detail which must have driven home to the most sceptical mind the truth of the allegation made We here do not need to go to Mesopotamia to ferret out blunders and mistakes; the speeches which we heard a few days ago made them quite evident. Mistakes have been made in the past which I am not in a position to point out. I am not in the confidence of any Committee except one, and that one is the Committee of which Hon. Mr. Justice Kent is Chairman. I mean the Employment Committee. Unfortunately, as I said before, in speaking of the Volunteer Bill, there will be more complications and mischiefs than in regimental matters, and I will go further and state that the Government is meeting them continually. But Governments may come and Governments may go but Government will go on forever. I can't understand the desire and intention of the Government to obtain all the co-operation, assistance and the best advice psosible from the citizens of the town; but at the same time the Government now in power should never have allowed their own responsibility to divert into the hands of other people. It is too important and too serious a matter, but as Hon. Mr. Harvey at the last sitting of the House had asked the leader of the Government to inquire into certain matters and as these will be forthcoming shortly it is not my intention at present to make any more lengthy remarks upon the Bill. There was never a

time when harmony and co-operation was more necessary amongst all classes of citizens than at the present time, and I hope the outcome of the inquiry about to be made will be full in all its details. I had occasion to refer to the insinuations made some time ago that were as mean, as vile and contemptible as they were false, and I hope this will also be gone into in all its details, because as long as I am in this House I will leave no stone unturned until I get to the bottom of the whole despicable business. You possibly may never get to the bottom of it, but what I want and what I insist on, is justice, equity and fair play. My object, Mr. President, is to endorse the matters brought before the House by Hon. Mr. Gibbs and yourself and in what I have said I think I re-echo the opinions of most hon. gentlemen here.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Having inadvertently moved the Third Reading of the Bill I would now respectfully ask that it be deferred.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop Committee on the Soldiers and Sailors Wills Act 1917 was deferred.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee on the Wreck and Salvage Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the Chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—If I might be permitted to ask a question with regard to the section now under consideration—Suppose a man deliberately breaks a boom and the pit props drift out to sea, what would happen then?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—(Mr. Squires)—He can be criminally prosecuted.

HON. MR. MURPHY.—Mr. Chairman, I think this Bill is likely to create more trouble than one would anticipate In many cases where the logs have gone adrift the chains have been deliberately taken out of the wood. Men have been known to take the moorings away and even the anchors and let the whole thing drift away without the slightest regard for the rights of the owner in his property, and this has been the practice for years. For the past two years people say they can't keep any thing, and many for the protection of their property must go to the expense of keeping a watchman employed. This season fishermen have come and helped themselves to this wood. Virtually all the wood cut at much labor and expense has been stolen by these people and taken to their homes. If the owners of the wood want to find their wood they must look for it on the property of these people, who take it to their premises, place it in their wood pile,s and now, forsooth, they want to be recompensed for doing so. Hundreds, if not thousands of dollars worth have been lost in this dishonest manner. I say to the Committee if things go on as they are at present business men trying to carry on business in the country might as well give it up altogether, because no matter what will happen the fishermen will come out on top, if laws like this are made so as to encourage them in doing as they have been doing. Why this Bill is positively legalizing such barefaced and flagrantly dishonest acts. It is preposterous to say that a man cannot handle a boom of logs or pit props without having the lines and chains cast off. Now, I would like to know why a Bill of this kind was never necessary in Canada where millions of logs have gone adrift. It was never found necessary to introduce this kind of law there. Only the other day the whole cut of a mill came down the St. Lawrence but no such Bill was ever passed there. This legislation is vicious in principle, for it

tends to encourage, nay even to reward dishonesty, and I for one, Mr. Chairman must strenuously oppose it. Certainly I never can be a party to it.

On motion the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the House went into Committee on the Bill respecting the District of St. George's, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the Chair.

HON. J. D. RYAN—Mr. Chairman, before the Bill is read I would like to say a few words on it. I no tice by its provisions that parties who are the fortunate owners of 100 sheep may be entitled to keep a collie or sheep dog. This is one of the objectionable features of all the legislation enacted here in Newfoundland. It protects the larger man but the man with 25 sheep, which are of more value to him than to the man with 100 he cannot have the collie, neither can the man with 50. But the man with 100 will be protected by this Act before us. It is protecting the rich man to the loss of the poor man and this is the kind of legislation we have had from time to time. It is most unjust to the poor man, because the man with five sheep should get protection also and if he thought it necessary to keep a sheep dog he should be allowed to as well as the man with 100 sheep. In fact he should get a bounty. This is a class legislation and unjust and we here should endeavour to protect the poor not the rich man. I do not know what object is served by introducing this.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—The point raised by my hon. friend on my left is the point I wish to bring before the house. Now it is well known that a collie dog is sometimes more intelligent than the man who is looking after the sheep I do not know of course what kind of dogs they have in St. George's district, but I have seen collie dogs in the Old Country that have displayed more intelligence than the man in charge. They seem to know just where the sheep are going, what turn they would take and are better able to prevent them from straying than the shepherd himself. It is all right to allow a dog to the man with a hundred sheep, but I do not see why the man with six or ten sheep or even one sheep should not be entitled to have a collie dog as well.

HON. PRESIDENT.—The point I would like to be clear on with regard to this bill is what is intended with reference to the proposed proclamaton. I take it there is to be a sort of local option election in the District of St. George's, the outcome of a petition that is to originate after the passing of this Act, but the petition, as I see it. is to have two alternatives, to call for a proclamation prohibiting dogs with an exception, or without an exception. In other words, it is quite possible when this bill comes into effect that no matter on what scale an enterprise in sheep raising might be contemplated for that district, it would be impossible to set it on foot there because the people had decided to issue a proclamation forbidding any dogs whatever. Then I think that is a bill we ought to be slow in passing unless there is very strong reason given for it. The people may to-day decide that never again shall there be a collie dog allowed in the district, and it may be that that would stop an industry of substantial magnitude from being started. I do not know much about the district, but I do know this. that several people have from time to time suggested the establishment of sheep raising on the West Coast. The owners of the Log Cabin have

some land about twenty miles in from the railway track where they did have a sheep raising industry, but I would be sorry to suppose in view of all we have heard of the West Coast that the people are prepare dto vote that never more shall a collie dog be allowed in that district, which extends from Channel nearly to Bonne Bay. I would like to hear the reason that has induced the lower House to favor a Bill of so drastic a character as this.

HON. MR. BISHOP—The matter of course originates in the district of St. George's where the people have been raising very considerable numbers of sheep, but they found their efforts frustrated very largely through destruction of sheep and lambs by dogs of one kind or another. They say the collie dog is just as destructive as other kinds and they ask that they may be allowed by petition to exterminate the dogs. The Government, however, decided there should be an exception so that any person intending to raise sheep on a large scale, and. anything less than a hundred would not be on a large scale, and who would keep a shepherd, should be permitted to keep such a dog. Such dog would be under the control of this shepherd and be kept in bounds and not be roaming over the district and destroying sheep. That is the only object. There appears to be no hardship on the poor man as suggested by the hon. Mr. Ryan, because people who raise twenty sheep never had a dog, and did not want one, and it was only intended to give permission for such dog in the event of a large industry, where a shepherd might be employed and a dog required. The bill seems to be properly drawn and properly safe-guarded with respect to anything that might arise. It is to be in force for ten years only according to the bill with the object not of proving any hardship, to the small farmer or fisherman or others who want to raise sheep, but rather to protect them.

HON. MR. J. D. RYAN—That just comes to the point I make. The rich man is protected under this bill. Now I happen to know something about farming, because I was brought up in the farming industry. I know parties who had a limited number of sheep, five, ten or twenty and I know others who had a hundred or more, and they were protected by having a good dog. The man with only five sheep wants protection and this dog to look after those sheep and by this Act you are depriving him of that. That is class legislation; it supports the rich man and not the poor man. That is unfair. I speak now from personal experience. If I had a hundred sheep to-morrow on the West Coast and had a dog, as I would be allowed to have under this bill, that dog would be of more benefit and would save more labour than five men, that is. if he was a well trained dog, but the man with five sheep and five lambs would not be allowed a dog, and he should be protected. A company from the Old Country can start up sheep raising; we have had some of them already and I do not think it has been very profitable, but the man on a smaller scale should be protected also because that man will be of more benefit eventually to the country than the man, with a hundred sheep. But for the fisherman farmer who has only five or one sheep, that man needs protection and give it him instead of the rich man.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—The hon. gentlman seems to have overlooked the fact that we are not putting this law into force. We are only enacting a measure by which the people can apply this law if they are

so disposed, and only by a majority of the residents of that district signing a petition can it become effective, and even by their petition they can prevent the man or company with any number of sheep from having a collie dog. It seems to me it is entirely a matter for the people themselves.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly that they had passed the Bill entitled an act further to amend the law relating to the exportation of timber in which they requested the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop this Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

The House then adjourned until Thursday next at four thirty of the clock p.m.

THURSDAY, July 12, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop Third Reading of the Volunteer Acts 1914-1917 Bill; Committee on the Soldiers and Sailors Will Act, and Committee on Wreck and Salvage Amendment Bill were deferred.

DISTRICT OF ST. GEORGE'S BILL.

In motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House resolved into Committee of the Whole on Bill respecting the District of St. George, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—Has there been a generally signed requisition from the people of St. George's for this Bill? I think we should go slowly in passing legislation of this kind, to say that a man shall not keep a collie dog unless he has a hundred sheep. I drew the attention of the House at last session to the fact that "ninety and nine were safe in the fold, but one was out on the hills astray," and if that man had had a collie dog he might have got that sheep. Why should not a man with eighty sheep have a collie dog, or twenty-five sheep or twenty sheep? The minimum is clearly one hundred, but why should a farmer with only twenty-five sheep be debarred the use of a dog. I mean a thoroughly trained dog, not a mongrel, because if the dog is destroying the sheep then he should be destroyed, by all means. I do not think this House ought to grant this legislation unless there is a petition signed by every resident of the St. George's district.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I regret my hon. friend has not understood the explanation I gave the other day regarding this Bill. We are not legislating to prevent the people of St. George's from keeping collie dogs. We are only providing the machinery which they may choose to avail of, and if by a petition the people of that district ask that the keeping of dogs be prohibited, then this Act will come into force. We are simply providing the means whereby the people may say if they want dogs or not. if a man with twenty sheep wants to keep a dog he will not sign the petition; but if the people say they want the dogs destroyed so that they can increase their flocks of sheep and lambs, and believe this is the right course then they can apply the provisions of this bill. If they do not, then it becomes a dead letter.

HON. J. D. RYAN.—Is there a real demand from the people for this; or is it a recommendation of the government, or a member of the government or of the opposition, that a man with a hundred sheep can have a dog, while the man with five sheep has to petition before he will be allowed to keep a certain number of dogs? If not, I think it is class legislation. it is helping the rich man, the man

who can afford a hundred sheep. I believe we should destroy all the vicious dogs. Unless this operates in favor of the poor man or the man of small means I am not prepared to give my support to it. Have the inhabitants petitioned here for this bill to be passed into law. If they have, I presume they should know their business, but on the face of this I do not see why we should legislate for the people of the district to the loss of the poor man. I know some people of that place have introduced sheep farming; I do not think it was a huge success. We have had many things introduced here. Take the whale business. We had some parties who introduced this, and they got along very well. Then we had two or three factories which made a big success, and then all wanted to go into it. I remember at the time being a member of the Government when at one time we had twenty-three applications for these factories in one batch. Fortunately for the most of those people the applications were not granted. The few who got them lost all. If this bill comes into operation I would like to see that it works fairly,, and that the poor man would be protected by having a dog to protect his sheep. If I thought this was for the benefit of the district I would give my support to it.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I regret that both my hon. friends have an entirely erroneous idea regarding the provisions of this bill. There has been no petition from the residents of St. George's, and it will not be necessary for every man wanting to keep sheep to send in a petition. The bill will not be operative at all unless the majority of the people ask by petition to prevent the keeping of dogs in that district. The object of the bill is to protect the poor man who wants to raise sheep and cannot do so because of the dogs killing them. The people generally say the collie dogs there kept by some people for sporting purposes are harming the sheep, and are just as bad as the mongrel. There are certain residents there who keep collie dogs and maintain they are not harmful; the peole say they are, and want them destroyed as well as the mongrels. But if any people or a corporation want to start sheep ranching and to keep 500 or 1000 sheep, they cannot operate at all successfully if not allowed to keep a regularly trained shepherd dog and the people may if they chose permit the keeping of dogs for very large sheep flocks, but can, under this bill, prohibit even that, and not allow a dog for any purpose or for the control of any number of sheep to be kept in the district at all. If they are satisfied, and every man wants to keep a dog he will do so, but they say they cannot raise sheep because the dogs destroy them. If a majority of the people send in a petition to the government asking, that a proclamation issue, that proclamation will issue, and the dogs will be destroyed. If they wish to make an exception for a regularly trained collie under the control of a shepherd, it will be permitted, but that is for them to say as to whether that will be permitted or not. This bill has no effect until the people of that district ask for it.

HON. THE PRESIDENT.—As I understand the position, Mr. Chairman, it is that the people of the district of St. George's want to get rid of all dogs of every degree, because there are a number of mongrel collie dogs in the district which they hold to be destructive to sheep as any other dogs. But there are some people there who own collie dogs, whether mongrels or others, who object to collie dogs being done away with. Therefore, this Bill has been

brought in so that the people may have a plebescite or referendum so to speak on the question of whether they will do away with all dogs or not. The original Bill provided that they should vote "yes" or "no" on the question of doing away with dogs absolutely, but in the Lower House a clause was added to give protection, if the people so desired it, to anybody who might go into the district to start a big sheep farm and want a dog for shepherding purposes. Therefore, if the people call for an election and a poll has to be taken, two alternatives will be submitted to them to vote upon—do they favor abolishing collie dogs altogether and allowing nobody to have any such dog in the district, or do they favor the abolition of collie dogs except when a man may start a big sheep farm and want a dog for shepherding.

The Committe reported the bill without amendment, and it was ordered that the bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the second reading of the exportation of Timber Amendment Bill was deferred.

Hon. Mr. Bishop tabled the Report of the Postmaster General for 1916; also the Report of the Permanent Marine Disaster Fund to the 31st December, 1916.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President informed the House that he had received a message from the Assembly intimating that they had passed the Bills entitled, respectively, "An Act respecting certain Retiring Allowances," and "An Act to raise a sum of Money by Loan for Naval and Military Purposes," in which they requested the concurrence of this House.

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

HON. J.D. RYAN.—Before the House adjourns I would like to know if the Bill now being introduced with reference to a loan provides for interest at 5½ per cent. Will it be issued in the Colony to give the people a chance to subscribe to it. I have noticed in the press that the interest will be 5½ per cent. We have had loans here for several years at 4 per cent. If this is at 5½ per cent. it might be of interest to some people here with trust funds or estates' funds to invest. I have such in my possession, realizing only 3 per cent. at present, and I would like definitely to know if what has been said about the loan is correct.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until to-morrow at 4.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, July 13.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Order of the Day.

Third Reading of the Volunteer Acts, 1914-1917 Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I beg leave to move that the third reading of this Bill be deferred. I have in my hand now the replies to the questions recently put by Hon. Mr. Harvey, and I think it might be better to table these replies, so that Hon. Mr. Harvey or other hon. members may see them before the next sitting, when possibly some may desire to make some observations regarding them. I beg to table these answers.

The third reading of the Bill was accordingly deferred.

DISTRICT OF ST. GEORGE'S BILL.

On motion of Hon.. Mr. Bishop the Bill, "An Act respecting the District of St. George's," was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message acquainting them that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

Committee on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Wills Act, 1917, Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee on this Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the chair.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.— Under Section 1 of the Bill the words "Volunteer," "Deceased Volunteer," "Court," and "Admnistration" are defined The Honourable Dr. McGrath, President of the Council, called the attention of the Committee at an earlier sitting to the definition of the word "Volunteer." The Honourable the President suggested that this definition be enlarged so as to make it quite clear that the word "Volunteer" as defined by the Act embraced not merely a member of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland branch of the Royal Naval Reserve, but also the Newfoundland Forestry Companies, in the event of these companies being separate and distinct from the Newfoundland Regiment, and also those resident in Newfoundland at the outbreak of the war who have volunteered in sections of His Maejsty's services other than those of Newfoundland. The learned gentleman also suggested that doctors and nurses should be included in the scope of the term "Volunteer." I feel that it is undoubtedly the wish of this Chamber that the operations of the Act be as broad as possible, and feel that we are indebted to the Honourable the President for his suggestions in this connection. I consequently move that the section be amended as follows:

After the words "Naval Reserve" insert the following:—"or of the Newfoundland Forestry Companies or a person, who being at the outbreak of the present war a resident of Newfoundland became a member of any of His Majesty's Naval, Military, Medical or Nursing services or organizations or served as a chaplain in His Majesty's services."

I feel that it is not necessary to make special reference to the chaplains, as they are undoubtedly members of the Newfoundland Regiment, but as that point has been specially raised they might be specially referred to.

If the Chamber accepts this amendment to the definition of the word "Volunteer" it will necessarily follow that the definition of the term "Deceased Volunteer" be likewise changed, and I move also that this definition be amended as follows:

After the word "Military" strike out the word "or." In the same line strike out the word "service," and after the word "Naval" on the same line insert the following: "In forestry service or while actually serving as a member of such medical or nursing organizations as aforesaid or as chaplain in His Majesty's Service."

Section 1 of the Act as amended was then passed. Likewise Section 2 of the Act.

Section 3 provides that the provisions of the Act following Section 3 shall apply only in cases of the estates of deceased volunteers where the estate does not exceed in value the sum of $1,000. The provisions of the Act to which reference is made are those contained in Section 4 and Section 7. Section 4 provides that the will of a deceased volunteer made while on actual military or naval service shall be sufficiently proven for the purposes of probate or administration by the production to the court of a copy of such will, certified by the Attorney General to have been received by him from the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office in London, or from the Admiralty as the case may be, and it shall not be necessary to produce the original thereof. The effect of this section is to absolutely

reverse a recognized principle in connection with the proof of documents, particularly the proof of wills. The idea of proving a will for the purposes of probate by the production of a document which is merely certified to be a copy, is entirely novel legislation, and while under the particular circumstances of these soldiers' estates it may be acceptable under local conditions, yet I doubt the advisability of making it applicable to estates which exceed in value the sum of $500. I am informed that no soldiers have left balances to their credit on the books of the Pay and Record Office exceeding the sum of $500, and as this Act has for its primary object the facilitating of payments by the Pay and Record Office to those representing a deceased soldier entitled to receive such payments, it would appear to be unnecessary for the limit to which Section 4 would apply to exceed $500. Likewise in Section 7 the Administrator appointed under Section 6 of the Act is not called upon to give security as in ordinary cases, and certain provisions are included in that section to facilitate his taking the Administrator's oath. I doubt very much the wisdom of administration being granted under such circumstances as indicated in Section 6 in cases where an estate is over $500 in value without the usual administration bonds being given. It is not difficult to conceive of circumstances under which such looseness in handling an estate may lead to unfortunate complication. It is certainly alright where the amount to be distributed is only that under the control of the Pay and Record Office, which in every case is under $500 as already stated; but for a person to be able to secure control of a $1,000 life insurance policy, of land, which under our law is classed as chattels real, and of interest in fishery properties, without the protection to other interested parties which bonds give is not altogether desirable. I consequently move that the words "One Thousand" in the third line of section 3 be deleted, and that there be substituted therefore the words "five hundred."

Section 3 was then passed as amended.

Section 4 and Section 5 were passed.

Section 6. This section provides that application to the Court for Probate or Administration may be made on behalf of the party interested by the Attorney General on his own petition. The object of this section is to deal with cases where there are balances on hand at the Pay and Record Office, and it is impossible for the amounts to be paid over to one or two individuals; for the purposes of distribution it would be necessary for an administrator to be appointed. As the appointment of the administrator under Section 6 would be for the purposes of dealing with the Pay and Record Office balances the application should in my opinion be made on behalf of the Newfoundland Regiment Pay and Record Office, St. John's. I consequently move that the words "parties interested" be deleted and that there be inserted therefor in this section "Newfoundland Regiment Pay and Record Office, St. John's." From the section as it stands it would appear that the application might be made by the Attorney General on behalf of the next-of-kin or beneficiaries and that such aplication should be made by the Attorney General on his own petition and affidavit. It is not desirable that an officer of the Crown should interfere with the next-of-kin and their right to petition on their own behalf either personally or through their solicitors, but it would appear desirable that if circumstances arise which make it necessary to avail of the

provisions of section 6 it should be stated that the application was made on behalf of the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office. Certainly the circumstances which would make this necessary would arise only in very rare cases.

Section 6 as amended was then passed.

Section 7. This section provides for the security which would be required from an administrator appointed under Section 6. The wording of this section is faulty, however. I would consequently move that the words "this Act" be deleted and the words "the last preceding Section" be inserted in substitution therefor.

This Section amended was then passed.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I suggest an alteration in section eight. In the second line instead of words "Minister of Justice," insert the words "Attorney General" so as to confirm with the other sections of the act, and on the fourth line after the words "deemed to be" strike out all the words following and insert "covered by the salary as voted for the Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Justice." It appears to me very improper to state the amount of the salary, and it is unnecessary.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Can the Attorney General under this section appoint anybody else to do this work who might charge for it in the event of his being too busy perhaps to attend to it himself?

HON. MR. BISHOP—No.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I was going to raise that point, and propose also adding the words "or his deputy," because some of this work may be done by the deputy. I think it would be well to safeguard the matter. Or perhaps it would be better to add the words "or the officials of his department."

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE.—I know of no reason why the term "Minister of Justice" should be stricken out of Section 8 and "Attorney General" inserted other than that the term Attorney General is used in Section 8 and in Section 6 and it would be desirable to have the terms uniform throughout the act, There is a clear distinction, however between the term "Attorney General" and 'Minister of Justice.' The Act under which the Department of Justice was created draws the distinction. It provides that the Minister of Justice shall **ex officio** be His Majesty's Attorney General of Newfoundland, and a special section provided for the duties of the Attorney General of Newfoundland as distinct from the duties of the Minister of Justice. The criminal law of Newfoundland is the criminal law of Great Britain. The Attorney General has certain status under these acts and upon him devolves certain rights duties and privileges, and consequently the act under which the Department was created draws the distinction between the two offices, merely providing that the person who is Minister of Justice shall also be Attorney General, and have vested in him as such the rights, duties and privileges which belong to the office of Attorney General in England in so far as the same is applicable to Newfoundland law and conditions. The amendment as suggested in Section 8 is important only in that it makes the bill look better. As Attorney General and Minister of Justice I have no objection to the particular salary which is voted for that office being actually inserted in the bill as it is in Section 8. As legislation of this class is public legislation, however, and as it may be referred to in other colonies of the Empire, it does look unfortunate that we should in

Section 8 of the bill state that the sum of $2,000 is the sum voted as the salary for the Minister of Justice, because that sum is so utterly inadequate and insignificant as compared with the salaries voted for similar offices in other colonies and in other countries that to put it in this section is merely calling the attention of other colonies and countries to t fact that Newfoundland is too poor to pay its public officials adequate salaries. I see no objection to Section 8 being amended so as to provide that salaries voted for the Minister of Justice and his deputy are for services rendered by the Minister of Justice and his deputy in reference to the estate of deceased soldiers in so far as the same are affected by this bill. Certainly the Department of Justice is not a highly equipped and organized Department. It has but two clerks, the first clerk being a lady stenographer with a voted salary of $400.00 a year, and the second clerk a lady stenographer with a voted salary of $300.00 a year. These two clerks handle the entire business of the Department with the exception of the fact that from the staff of my own law firm of Squires and Winter, there is a very considerable amount of assistance provided. If any considerable amount of work devolves as a result of this bill it might be quite impossible to handle it in addition to the regular office work with a staff of two junior clerks to attend to the entire business of the office, in which event it would be necessary to hire some additional assistance. The object of this provision in the bill, as I understand it, is not to expect stenographers and typists to work for nothing in connection with the estates of deceased soldiers but to make it clear that the work which devolves upon the heads of the Department should be included within the regular services rendered for their regular stipend and not be the subject of special remuneration. It is entirely improbable that anyhing will be done under this Act which would cause any considerable labor or necessitate the employment of additional help because it will be observed that all the Attorney General is called upon to perform under this Act is in the first place to give a certificate under section 4 and to make application to the Court under certain circumstances as set forth in Section 6. The large volume of work incidental to the investigation into the facts appertaining to the estates of deceased soldiers, securing information with respect of the next-of-kin, the large volume of correspondence entailed in connection therewith and numerous interviews which must necesarily take place are not matters which are in any way affected by this Bill. That work in connection with a large number of estates which have already been considered and dealt with has been distributed. A portion of it as been done at the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, a portion of it by myself personally and a further considerable portion by my law partner and the clerks at the office of my law firm. The whole object in connection with the estates of deceased soldiers since I took charge of the matter a few months ago has been to get all the information available as accurately and as speedily as possible and secure the prompt payment of balances at the Pay and Record Office to those entitled to receive the same. Up to this date every estate in connection with which it has been possible to get complete information so that the legal position might be decided upon with resonable accuracy has been dealt with, and the moneys paid over to those entitled to receive the same.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—The main object of the Bill is that it will cost nothing to either the estate or the dependants. It is still within the power of the Minister of Justice or his deputy to engage somebody outside who is to be paid.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I may say for the information of the House that the Bill as originally drawn did not have this paragraph at all; it was insedted during its passage through the Lower House. The object is to prevent any charge being made. I submit, with all due deference to the Minister of Justice, the work must be performed by the Minister of Justice or some one in his office free of charge. That was the intention of the mover of the amendment, and it seems to me the necessities of the case are fully covered by the amend ment I have suggested.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I do not wish to press the suggestion unduly to insert the words "or his deputy," but I can quite conceive of a condition where the Minister of Justice may take the position that it is impossble for him to do this work properly, and will get his deputy to do it, who can be voted a special allowance by the Government. I think we ought to provide that whoever may have to do the work, is not to be paid for it out of the public funds. There may come a time when a Minister of Justice might take the position that he could not do this work himself and his deputy might demur, and it might be necessary to make provision for payment of his deputy. It is not unknown that allowances are given to officials in the public service for extra work and some may claim that this is extra work for which special allowance ought to be paid. If anything like that is to be done the preferable policy would be that neither the Minister nor his deputy be connected with it, but that some law student be hired. We should leave no loophole by which a deputy should get any extra payment for this work. To do so may prove to be a great mistake.

HON. MR. BISHOP—We cannot under the wording of the Act which specifically states that the performance of the duties mentioned in the Act shall not entail any charge or payment out of the public funds or out of the estate of the deceased.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—What was in contemplation in the Lower House was that some Minister of Justice might claim that this was extra work and the idea was to make it impossible for him to be so paid, but I do not think the parties who brought in the amendment had in contemplation that he might unload the work on his deputy and have him paid for it. I suggest, therefore, that the wording be "or by his deputy."

The amendment was adopted, after which the Committee reported the Bill with some amendment.

On motion the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the remaining items in the order paper were deferred owing to the lateness of the hour.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until Monday next at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Monday, July 16th.

The House met at 4.30 p. m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the third reading of the Volunteer Bill was deferred till a later hour.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WILLS ACT BILL.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Wills Act Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same with some

amendment in which the concurrence of that body was requested.

WRECK AND SALVAGE BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House resolved into Committee on Wreck and Salvage Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

The Committee reported the said bill without amendment and on motion it was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL.

Second reading of Exportation of Timber Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—The chief object in amening this bill is as hon. members will remember, that a very large quantity of wood cut last year for pit props for export to France is still lying on the shores of our bays, as it has been found impossible to obtain tonnage for its removal. There was an indication some time ago of the possibility of selling this wood in the United States or Canada and a feeling that it might be possible to get tonnage to send it there, and the object of the bill is to permit owners of this wood, which was first intended for Great Britain or France, and which is fast deteriorating and will soon be valueless, to find a market anywhere in fact. That is practically the whole of the amendment before the House. I beg to move the second reading.

The bill was read a second time accordingly, and ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

LOAN BILL.

Second reading of the Loan Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—It will be within the knowledge of the members of this Chamber that this bill provides for a loan of three millions which is required for the purposes of our naval and military operations I beg to move the second reading.

HON. J. D. RYAN—I notice in section B it refers to any part of this loan which might be raised in this Colony, while I understand from other sources that the money has already been raised I would like to know if it has already been raised; if so, this section would be of no effect

HON. MR. BISHOP—I may say in reply to the hon. gentleman that the money has not been raised, but I assume that the Finance Minister will be only too ready to avail of any moneys that may be offered in this country.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to Committee to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

Second reading of Retiring Allowances Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—This Bill provides retiring allowances for about a dozen old civil servants. All have given very long and faithful public service and are now meriting retiring allowances. I beg to move the second reading.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—Before this passes I should like to suggest that the time has arrived when some better system of giving pensions should be adopted. The manner in which pensions are now given is not a credit to the country. There are cases when men are appointed whose ages are such that they cannot give sufficiently long service to entitle them to a pension, and there are others pensioned to make room for appointing some other man, and people who pay taxes should not have their money taken for such purposes. I think it is a system that is certainly detrimental to the tax payers of this country to allow this condition of

things to continue, and I trust this Chamber will assert itself to such an extent that another year a regular Pensions scheme will be introduced. Of course I do not object to any of these. I daresay they are all justly due, but I object to the system, and I trust this Chamber will exert itself so that the National Government will adopt a more satisfactory system of Pensions.

HON. GEORGE KNOWLING—I should like to ask the hon. leader of the Government if in addition to this, anything has been done for the "Old Age Pensions"—whether it has been increased in value?

HON. MR. BISHOP—I may say in answer to the hon. gentleman that there is no present intention of increasing the amount that I have heard. I have heard no suggestion even that we should do so until all the old fishermen of 75 years and upwards are provided for by the present allowance. There may be an increase next year in the number of recipients, but I think I may say no increase in the amount.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I rise with pleasure to support the suggestion made by hon. Mr. Goodridge. Take the case of Jas. Taylor in this list. I presume these calculations are made on the old basis of two-thirds of their salary. If that is so, it is unfair in this way. An old man with many years' service who has given the best of his life, perhaps fifty years, gets two-thirds of his salary which may be a very small one, while a man with only fifteen years' service is paid the same amount. If Jas. Taylor is pensioned at $180, his original salary must have been $240, and if James Murray gets $266.66, his salary must have been $400. I hope another year the Government will adopt a scheme on the basis not of salary, but of number of years' service to the colony.

The Bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be Committeed to-morrow.

VOLUNTEER BILL.

Third reading of Volunteers Acts Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Mr. President, in furnishing and laying upon the table of the House the information requested by Hon. Mr. Harvey, I desire to make one or two observations, because I am impressed with the importance of directing attention to the charges which gave rise to the desire of Hon. Mr. Harvey to secure authoritative pronouncement regarding matters of great public import; and not that alone, but also because of the prominence of the gentlemen who brought before the House, and thereby before the country, what must necessarily have far-reaching effect, and cause great anxiety and alarm.

Much of the comment made from day to day, Mr. President, whether by individuals in the streets or by Editors and correspondents of newspapers, though it may be extremely severe, takes no grip of the public mind, and for reasons which I need not enlarge upon, is seldom harmful, but when hon. members of this branch of the Legislature in a deliberate manner, take occasion to draw attention to our war work, and to the treatment accorded our men of the army or the navy, they hold up to the vision of our people a picture of intense interest in every home which has given a man to the service of King and Empire, and indeed even to those who have not contributed men.

The Hon. Mr. Gibbs thought it his duty during a recent sitting to refer to certain rumours which had reached him, and to ideas prevailing in the minds of many persons which did not reflect creditably upon certain parties unnamed. The Hon. the President addressing the Chairman of Committee assumed a more definite attitude,

directed attention to specific incidents, made charges, and in some instances produced from documentary records what he regarded as convincing proof of the correctness of his conclusions. I regret having to say that in my opinion, though I do not claim that my opinion is worth more consideration, particularly in matters relating to military affairs, but it does appear to me that such severe criticism by a gentleman occupying such a high and important position, and who moreover has been so closely connected with our volunteers, and who has done and is still doing such valuable service in some departments of our military organizations, must necessarily cause harm to a cause which I am sure he is as anxious to help and to strengthen as any of us are. I feel his usually good judgment has led him in this instance to a course which I cannot think was the best course.

If the charges made by the Hon. the President were entirely or even approximately correct, it would indicate unfortunate happenings, demanding prompt remedy, and the application of preventive measures against recurrences of serious mistakes, but if it be that any persons deserve the pillory let the punishment fitting to the crime be deferred until the termination of the war.

It was not to be expected that no errors of judgment would occur, or that decisions arrived at in any Committee would in all cases have been proved to be the best decision, and where such splendid, unselfish, and unremunerated service has been so loyally given, it would seem to be wiser to seek explanation of wrongs whether apparent or real, with the least possible publicity. I feel sure the information which I am tabling, and even fuller information, was procurable by members of this House without causing unfavorable comment and undue alarm.

I entirely exonerate the gentlemen who have brought this matter before this House from any desire to do other than what they regard a duty, and to remedy what they conceive to be discriminating practices, but which in my opinion are unfounded.

The following are the answers to the hon. gentleman's questions:

Replies to Questions asked by Hon. John Harvey in the Legislative Council, July 5th, 1917.

Question 1.—Report upon the circumstances attending the sending forward of Volunteers known as the Windsor draft, and particularly as to why they were not sent to connect with the S.S. Southland?

The history of the circumstances in connection with the draft of 120 men intended to have been sent by the Southland, and the subsequent addition thereto, which afterwards made up the draft known as the "Windsor Draft," is summarised in the following extracts from the Minutes of the Standing Committee on Military Organization, of the Patriotic Association of Newfoundland, and Notes:

October 4th, 1916—"It was agreed that the Transport Committee be authorized to make arrangements for the despatch of a detachment of troops after consultation with the military authorities."

NOTE—In accordance with this decision the Transport Committee arranged for a draft of 120 men to go by S.S. Florizel to Halifax, and thence by S.S. Southland to England early in December.

October 31st, 1916—The Officer Commanding at Headquarters "drew the attention of the Committee to some sickness which prevailed among the men of the Regiment, and it was ordered that the Officer Commanding be empowered to board the men at

Donovans, or elsewhere, as might be required in this connection."

November 22nd, 1916—The Officer Commanding at Headquarters "reported that measles had broken out among the men under his command. Both Majors Macpherson and Paterson (of the Medical Staff) were of the opinion that it would be risky for the men to go forward at present on account of this outbreak of measles, and they thought it advisable that the precedent which had already been established, of a delay of three weeks be adhered to."

November 25th, 1916.—"The Chairman (Sir Joseph Outerbridge) reported that a draft of about 120 men was now ready to go overseas. After some discussion it was decided that the Chairman send a cable to the Agents at Halifax that there was some doubt about the men going next week, and that final arrangements with regard to same would not be made until the 27th inst."

"Major Montgomerie (Officer Commanding at Headquarters) suggested that Major Carty be requested to take command of the draft as far as Halifax, and see that the men were comfortably and safely placed on the S. S. Southland for passage across the Atlantic.

Note—The reason for the doubt above expressed as to the men going was, that owing to the outbreak of measles referred to in the last Minutes, the Committee would not make a definite decision as to the date of sailing until the Medical Officers decided the number of men which would be available for the draft.

In the meantime His Excellency the Governor had received information to the effect that enemy craft were operating in the Atlantic, and he decided to confer with the Standing Committee. He, therefore, requested the Chairman to call an emergency meeting of the Committee at the C.L.B. Armoury for the purpose of discussing with him, and the Prime Minister, with Capt. Abraham, Intelligence Officer, present the advisability of sending, or not sending the draft forward by the Florizel to connect with the Southland as arranged, in view of the altered conditions.

(The meeting above referred to was held in the C.L.B. Armoury on November 28th, 1916, and the Minutes of same are given in full on the next page).

The following are the Minutes of the meeting which was held on November 28th, 1916—

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION MEETING, NOV. 28th, 1916.

The members of the Committee were summoned for the purpose of meeting His Excellency the Governor Sir W. E. Davidson, K.C.M.G. and the Rt. Hon. the Premier, Sir E. P. Morris, P.C.K.C.M.G.

A meeting was held in the C.L.B. Armoury, Harvey Road at 4 p.m.

PRESENT—His Excellency the Governor, the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Outerbridge, Hon. M. P. Cashin, Messrs. J. A. Clift, T. J. Edens, J. W. N. Johnstone, J. J. MacKay, J. Peters, V. P. Burke, Majors Montgomerie, Paterson, Macpherson and Capt. Abraham, Intelligence Officer.

The Governor presided and informed those present that the object of the meeting was to consider the advisability of sending or not sending a draft of men by the Florizel to Halifax to connect with the Southland sailing for the Old Country on Dec. 7th, in view of the fact that the Admir-

alty had given out information that two submarines were on this side of the water.

At the request of His Excellency, Capt. Abraham explained to the meeting the present position with regard to transporting troops on the Atlantic.

The Prime Minister was of the opinion that the risk would be somewhat lessened by sending the men by rail to Halifax, and in as much as measles had broken out in the Company, it would perhaps be advisable, he thought, that the men be held longer.

A general discussion then ensued in which all those present took part. In reply to a question, Capt. Abraham further stated that in his opinion the transport of troops from Halifax at this season of the year was safer from attack by enemy submarines than in the summer.

Mr. MacKay then moved and Hon. M. P. Cashin seconded that we cancel any arrangements made with regard to forwarding the troops by R. M.S. Florizel and that we send them by rail to Halifax to connect with the S.S. Southland sailing on December 7th. After some further discussion the motion was put to the meeting and lost. It was then agreed that the transportation of the draft under consideration be postponed indefinitely.

In the suggestion of Sir E. P. Morris and Sir Joseph Outerbridge it was decided that His Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate with the Canadian authorities with a view of ascertaining whether it could be arranged that our troops be despatched with the Canadian troops or convoyed across the Atlantic in company with them.

The meeting then adjourned sine die.

December 8th, and Decembe 15th, 1916.—Telegrams which passed between His Excellency the Governor, and the Governor General of Canada bearing upon the transport of troops, were read at these meetings, but as these telegrams are marked "Secret", the Committee has no authority to disclose their contents.

December 29th, 1916.—"In reply to the Hon. M. P. Cashin, Major Montgomerie (Officer Commanding Headquarters) informed the Committee, 'there are at present 300 men available for transport, i.e. provided that 100 men were not retained for Home Defence."

January 5th, 1917.—Cipher telegrams No. 328 to the Governor General of Canada were read at this meeting, but as these telegrams were marked "Secret," the Committee has no authority to disclose their contents.

January 12th, 1917.—Cipher telegram 337 to Governor General of Canada was read at the meeting of this date, but as the telegram was marked "Secret", the committee has no authority to disclose its contents.

January 19th, 1917.—A cipher telegram 800 from the Governor General of Canada was read at this meeting.

After the reading of this telegram it was resolved:—

That the transport Committee be instructed to proceed with the enquiries as to the available men for the transport of a draft at as early a date as possible, and that in view of a decision made at the meeting in the C. L. B. Armoury when the Governor, and Prime Minister were present, they be informed of the intentions of the Committee, with a view to ascertaining if they have any objections."

January 26th, 1917.—The Chairman reported that he had consulted with the Governor, and the Prime

Minister with regard to the draft of the Regiment going via Halifax, and that both of them thought that the draft should be dispatched as soon as possible, via Halifax.

Note—Arrangements were made by Transport Committee for draft to sail by S. S. Florizel, leaving 31st January, to connect with the S S. Saxonia, leaving Halifax early in February.

January 30th, 1917—The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, which was to decide whether the draft of troops arranged to go by the Florizel might leave by that steamer, in view of the information received by the Admiralty After general discussion it was decided that the draft leave by the Florizel as arranged, and that the troops await in Halifax arrangements for their transporation from there."

Note—This meeting was called on account of a dispatch to his Excellency the Governor from the Admiralty, advising that on account of inability to provide convoy for the Saxonia, the troops were not to be dispatched from Halifax by that steamer.

February 9th, 1917—Cipher telegram Number 357 to Governo· General of Canada. Cipherer telegram No 356 to Secretary of State. Cipher telegram No. 851 from Governor General of Canada. Cipher telegram No. 373 to Secretary of State. Cipher telegram No. 874 to Governor General of Canada; and Cipher telegram No. 859 from Secretary of State, were read at this date. These telegrams are all marked "Secret," and the Committee has no authority to disclose their contents. At this meeting copy of a telegram from Major Montgomerie, to the Governor, was read, saying "the troops had arrived at Halifax, all well, at midday February 3rd."

Note—This draft (afterwards known as the Windsor draft), consisted of 319 men all ranks. The draft intended to be sent by the Southland was 120 all ranks.

This terminates the connection of the Committee with this draft as far as transportation was concerned. Arrangements thereafter were in the hands of the Canadian Government. The troops arrived at Halifax on Feb. 3rd and reached Windsor (a town of about forty-five miles from Halifax) on the same date. Shortly after arrival a number of infectious diseases developed in the Regiment, and though several attempts were made by the Canadian authorities to get the draft away, a clean Bill of Health was not received until the middle of April, The draft sailed from Halifax on April 18th, 1917.

Question No. 2.—"Upon the method followed in connection with the recent promotions in the Regiment both as regards non-commissioned and commissioned officers, and under what circumstances promotions of men located in St. John's were registered by order issued from Ayr."

Reply—With reference to the General question of granting commissions in the Regiment, the rule is that nominations for commissions are made by officers commanding the Battalion Overseas, to His Excellency the Governor.

Any applications for commissions from members of the Regiment serving overseas are required to be made to the Officer Commanding the Unit to which applicants are attached.

With regard to applications for commissions from men at Headquarters, St. John's, these are generally made to His Excellency the Governor and reported by him to the Standing Committee for consideration and advice. The general method regarding such applications has been, not to recommend any appointments to com-

missioned rank at Headquarters, but to return the applications to the Governor with the suggestion that they be forwarded to the Officer Commanding at Ayr, for his information and consideration. The Standing Committee does not make any recommendations in connection with such applications.

Respecting the recent promotions (it is assumed that the question has special reference to those Gazetted on the 22nd May,and who had arrived at the depot in Ayr but a short time before their nomination for commission), the action taken by the Standing Committee on receipt of this list of nominations for commissions, through His Excellency the Governor from the Officer Commanding at Ayr, will be seen in the following extracts from minutes of the Standing Committee bearing date May 4, 1917.

May 4th, 1917.—"The list having been read it was pointed out that several of the names on this list were those of men who had only just gone across, and that the appointments did not seem to be in accordance with the recommendation of the Army Council in connection with the appointment of officers, and which this Committee had already agreed, aud further that this Committee had some time ago passed a resolution to the effect that it was not the intention that those who passed the examination of the Officers' Training Class here should have precedence for commissions over those who were then in the battalion at the front, or those in the battalion at Ayr."

It was resolved:—"That a Committee consisting of the Chairman, and Mr. Rendell be appointed to interview the Governor in relation to this matter, and call his attention to the Army Council recommendations."

May 17th, 1917.—An amended list of officers for commissioned rank was submitted through His Excellency the Governor from the Officer Commanding at Ayr, on this date and the following resolution was passed: "That the above list be approved of, with the exception of Sergeant Mitchell, who has been discharged as medically unfit, and that Sergeant Smith and Corporal Small be given commissions as Second Lieutenants in order of their present rank, and to be senior to those on the above list who have not seen active service."

This Committee would be grateful if His Excellency would write to Col. Wittaker, asking him if possible to make selections for commissioned rank from men who have seen active service, and also to ascertain whether all those to whom commission rank has been given be required to attend an Officers Training Class in compliance with the Army Council Order in this respect.

Note.—The following extract is taken from the Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Military Organization submitted on February 28th, 1917:

"An Officers Training Class was established in August for the purpose of affording instructions, and examinations to candidates desirous to apply for commissions."

"It was not intended, however, to grant Commissions to men who passed the required Examinations, but rather in order to enable officers in charge of the Class to be in a position to suggest to the Commanding Officers both in France and in Ayr, those who may be kept under observation as likely to make suitable officers, the Committee is much indebted to Capt. Abraham, Capt. O'Grady and others, for very valuable services rendered in this connection."

"A communication was received in December last advising us of an order recently issued by the Army

Council in reference to the Training of Officers, to the following effect:—

"That is has been found desirable that all Candidates for Commissions in the Imperial Army should undergo a special course of training in an Officers' Cadet Unit."

The Newfoundland Government was invited to co-operate in the scheme and to send to Imperial Cadet Units for the prescribed course such candidates as are selected for Commissions in the Regiment. It was further proposed that the Officer Commanding the Reserve Battalion, should, on consultation with the Officer Commanding the Battalion in France, submit the names of the selected candidates to the War Office, and that on completion of the course it was suggested that Cadets should at once be provisionaly gazetted to the Nfld. Regiment, subject to the approval of the Governor, which to avoid delay—can be obtained later.

Your Committee was gratified to learn that the benefits of Cadet Instruction were to be given to the new Officers of the Nfld. Regiment, and it readily concurred in the recommendations of the Army Council.

In this connection we should say that by a decision of your committee the matter of granting Commissions must in all cases in the future emanate from the Officer Commanding the Unit to which such Commission is to be granted."

The Standing Committee at a meeting held on November 22nd, 1916, passed the following resolution in connection with the Officers Training Class referred to in the above report:—

That a communication be sent to His Excellency, the Governor, intimating to him that it is not the intention of this Committee that those who have passed the examination required by the Officers Training Class, are to receive special consideration by reason of passing this examination, before men who are now serving with the Regiment at the Front, or at the Depot at Ayr.

Re System Dealing With Invalided Officers and Men at Headquarters, St. John's.

Up to the present all Officers arriving at St. John's have been sent out for duty or having been before a Medical Board in United Kingdom were given sick leave and obtained permission to come out to St. John's (with possibly one exception.)

These Officers who came out on sick leave were under obligation to report back to a Medical Board in the United Kingdom on the dates noted in their original Board. In some cases being at the Headquarters of the Regiment, St. John's, these Officers asked to have their next Board held here, which was arranged and their cases dealt with in accordance with the findings of the Board.

Some of these have returned overseas for duty, some have been retired, and others have been kept on the strength of the Depot, Headquarters to assist in the work of training.

Men.—After hospital treatment and when fit for discharge from hospital, men are where necessary, sent to Convalescent Homes, and after being given a short furlough, are ordered to report at the Depot of the Regiment at Ayr. They are then classified in accordance with British Army Regulations. After being there some time such cases as Medical Authorities at the Depot consider likely to be unfit for Active Service again are sent to the Depot at Headquarters, St. John's, for final disposal.

On arrival at St. John's they are sent before Standing Medical Board as soon as convenient and their cases are disposed of in accordance with

the findings of the Board. Some of these men are ordered for retention in the Army, and after further furlough and light duty have been finally passed as fit and have returned overseas. Some have been discharged and some have been retained on the strength at headquarters to assist in the work there. Some also have been ordered for retention in the Army and given furlough and light duty on the recommendation of the periods they appear again before the Standing Medical Board for further consideration of their cases.

In some cases in the United Kingdom where men are obviously unfit they are sent to Headquarters, St. John's, direct from hospital without going to the Depot at Ayr.

N.C.O.—Non Commissioned Officers are appointed on the recommend ation of the Officers commanding Units.

The system in vogue at Headquarters, St. John's, is that classes are formed from time to time in which special instruction is given to those soldiers wishing to attain to the rank of an N.C.O. This class is under the supervision of the Adjutant.

Examinations are held and finally recommendations for promotions are approved by the Officer Commanding. Promotions made at Headquarters are to acting rank only and may be altered at the discretion of the O.C. 2nd. Battalion when the men reach the United Kingdom.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—In view of the statements read to the House by the hon. gentleman, and as there are some matters revived in that statement which must necessarily call for explanation from the other side, I beg leave to move that the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I have not the slightest objection of the Bill being recommitted.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs the Bill was recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House, with Hon. Dr. Skelton in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT.—In my humble judgment, the statement just read by my hon. friend, the leader for the Government, does not disprove my contenions, as he suggests, but on the contrary, confirms them I am opliged to him for the statement that while he disagrees with me, he credits me with proper motives in raising this question, and as to this I would only repeat now what I have already said, namely, that when one takes the position of ventilating a grievance in connection with war work done has to weigh very carefully the pros and cons, and that however creditable his motives, there is a danger that an exposure of wrong-doing will be held in some quarters to be an injury to the cause all have at heart. I have fully considered all aspects of this matter and have come to the conclusion that the best way to promote real reform is to publicly ventilate the issues which I think call for such a course. In support of that decision I have the great outstanding example of what has been done in England by means of publicity. We have seen that Lord Northcliffe two years ago, when there was a shortage of shells on the British front, did not hesitate to attack Lord Kitchener himself in order to bring about a remedy and that though he was execrated at the time and his paper was burnt day by day in the British towns, time has proved his justification, and who would dispute now that the course he took was one which the needs of the moment abundantly warranted? We have seen the British press since then expose and end many laxities in various other directions, and we have seen the British Government it-

self under the pressure of unsparing newspaper criticism obliged to make enquiries into the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia campaigns, with the result of showing to the world the rottenness and incompetence everywhere present in high places.

Those are my justification, the only justification I think I need, for the course I have taken in this matter. I believe very serious injustices have occurred here, and have satisfied myself that the time has come when they should be shown up, and their true inwardness made clear to the public

Take the case of the Southland draft. The charge is that a body of recruits for the Newfoundland Regiment designed last November to go across, were withheld through a member of the Standing Committee, who had a son in the draft, stampeding the Committee to keep the men back saying she was a slow ship and might be torpedoed, while at the same time one hundred naval reservists, who had nobody to look out for them, were allowed to go on the same steamer. The lengthy extract from the minutes of the Standing Committee which the hon. gentleman has read, goes to confirm my conclusion, for it shows that in spite of the outcry made in the Committee to keep the soldiers back, so sane and sagacious a member of it as the Minister of Finance moved a resolution to send the men around by rail to Halifax to join the steamer, when it was argued that the Florizel would be unconvoyed in going from here, but this motion was voted down and the men were kept at home, though their brothers of the navy were sent in the Southland. The inside history of the incident was notorious at the time; it was discussed everywhere; no sooner had the meeting broken up than members of the Committee were talking about it amongst themselves and with others actively interested in the Colony's war work. There was no doubt entertained at the time, that but for the position taken by the gentleman in question, the draft would have been sent, but the trouble was that in this, as in numerous other cases, members of Committees chose the line of least resistance and rather than offend one of their number, who happens to feel strongly on the matter, will consent to see things done against their better judgment.

The report of the Standing Committee even more strongly confirms the second point in question. This is in relation to the non-creation of an Officers Training Class here in the first eight months of last year, when a thousand young men, volunteers for the Regiment, were quartered in the rink and among them many of the best educated and most intelligent ones that we have yet sent Overseas. The Standing Committee in its report says that:

"An Officers Training Class was established in August for the purpose of affording instruction and examinations to those desirous of applying for Commissions."

Now that is precisely what I alleged, and what I want to know is why such a class was not started here till August, just when that one thousand men had gone away, and when a number of young fellows belonging to this city and who had social influence had joined the Regiment? And I say that under these circumstances nobody can blame the public for believing that this class was started especially for their benefit. Still less can we blame the public for believing this when it was a matter of common notoriety, even before these young fellows put on khaki, that such a class was going to be started for their benefit; and even still less can we blame them, when

we remember that all of these young men who joined that class got their commissions a few weeks ago, forty eight hours after they landed in Ayr, and in defiance of the regulations which the Standing Committee laid down in regard thereto.

The Standing Committee goes on to say:

"It was not intended, however, to grant Commissions to men who passed the required examinations, but rather in order to enable the officers in charge of the class to be in a position to suggest to the Commanding Officer both in France and at Ayr, who may be kept under observation as lkely to make suitable officers."

Now note carefully the language of this extract. It sets out that it was not intended to grant commissions to these men, but that the names might be submitted to the Commanding Officers Overseas for observation with a view to their being commissioned subsequently. But what happened with regard to these young men? They were all given commissions, as I have said, forty-eight hours aftfer they arrived at Ayr, and what other conclusion is logically possible except that they get them through some "pull" here?

But there is even worse condemnation of the appointing of these young men embodied in another section of the Standing Committee's report which I will now read, and which recites that:

"On November 22nd, 1916, the Committee resolved that a communication be sent to His Excellency the Governor, intimating to him that it is not the intention of this Committee that those who have passed the examination required by the Officers' Training Class, are to receive special consideration by reason of passing his examination, before men who, are now serving with the Regiment at the front or at the Depot at Ayr."

This is an unqualified declaration by the Standing Committee that men sent over from here with certificates of having passed the examinations conducted by Capt. Abraham and O'Grady are not to get Commissions before men who had seen active service at the front. That is quite as it should be. Yet we find that all of this favored little coterie were given commissions in disregard of this resolution, and in disregard of all the elements for fair play and common justice. But even here we only touch the merest outside fringe of the queer work in connection with the granting of this batch of commissions. There is another and even more questionable phase of the matter. The list of the appointees which came out here originally has never been published. I have seen it; my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Ryan) has also seen it, and other people in the city, including the Standing Committee, have knowledge of its composition. It was so peculiarly composed that a protest was made against it, with the result that it was cancelled, and the list which was officially gazetted was sent out here instead. Now, it may be asked, what was objectionable about the first lst? Well, there was this, to begin with—11 or 12 men passed the examinations conducted by Capt. Abraham and O'Grady and they were put upon a poster in order of merit. But the first list sent out here from Ayr contained the the names of five of these men in order of merit, and then the sixth eliminated and a man was taken from almost the bottom, and was put in place of the sixth, and the man who was really sixth was not proposed for a commission at all. Moreover, two non-coms, active service men, were in the city, and had been here for many months, were named for

commissions, but be it noted that they were put after the select few who had attended the O.T.C. in St. John's. Mark this fact, that men who had gone through actual suffering from wounds or disabilities were named for commissions, but put lower down on the list than boys out of school who had been sent across from here only a few weeks ago. When the list was re-arranged these, I am glad to say, were put in their proper places, and given seniority. But in conjunction with this aspect of the case, too, there was that remarkable fact that another returned non-com, also in the city and admittedly a very capable officer, was not included in the list at all, and only got a commission as a result of the protest made here over the astonishing character of the list that first came across in the last batch of nominations.

It has been suggested in this debate that the men of the O.T.C. from here are to undergo another training course in England. I think, however, that that is a mistake, because otherwise what is going to happen these men who have been commissioned and are now Lieutenants, if they go to another training class in England and fail to pass the more difficult course required there? Are their commissions to be taken away from them, or are they to retain their commissions though they are unable to pass the requisite exams? In my judgment these young men will not have to undertake any other preparatory course. They are now on the strength of the Regiment as officers in full standing,and for weal or woe we must make the best of it. But I nave no hesitation in repeating here what I have said so many times before, that we shall never be able to satisfy the people of this country that this thing has been done fair, square and above board. On every hand the conviction is being strengthen daily that social pull and considerations altogether discreditable are the ones that to a very large extent, count in the selection of some men for commissions in the Newfoundland Regiment.

As to who is responsible for this I am unable to say. I submit the facts and I leave the public to form their own conclusions, as I form mine. I believe that the only salvation of the British Empire in this grave crisis is the desire of the mass of the people to see right done in every case and that the things which are going to hamper the realization of the ideals we are striving for are attempts, like these, to fasten on the people the shackles of class ascendency which here in this country we have been making some efforts at least, for some years past, to rid ourselves from.

Now, with regard to invalided officers and men, there is nothing whatever in this report to combat the facts I have stated. I have brought down here the official records of cases of men invalided at $8 a month and of officers retained on duty at $140 a month and there is no explanation of what this thing means, and who is responsible for it. There is no light thrown upon it in this report. One paragraph asys "some of these officers have returned overseas for duty, some have been retired and others have been kept on the strength of the Depot, Headquarters, to assist in the work of training."

That is all beautifully indefinite, though technically correct, but in no way meeting the charges. As I view the matter, officers with pull have been able to enjoy prolonged holidays, drawing this huge sum of money every month and giving little or no return for it, while the un-

fortunate men have been thrown on the world at the first possible moment and left to make their way as best they can, with only the meagre pension that can at best be provided. As I have said already, there is going to be a rude and bitter awakening for us in regard to all those things in the days to come. When the war is over and the survivors come back of those who went to fight our battles, when they sit down and seriously consider the difference in the treatment which they have got, and which officers have got who had social influence there will be harvested a crop of bitterness that will reflect itself harmfully for many a long day in the relations of the different elements making up this country.

Finally, with reference to the appointing of non-coms. in St. John's, I do not think I raised any serious question regarding them. The men chosen for these ranks here are all recruits, except in the cases of returned men who are promoted, and doubtless, as in every other rank of life, there is dis-satisfaction by men who think that they have not got what they ought to receive. But I have made no complaint regarding them, and I do not do so. The more serious points on which I have taken issue, seem to me to be undisputed and I submit that the report of the Standing Committee which the Hon. member has just read, does not in any way lessen the seriousness of these charges or affect their validity.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—As I submitted these questions I perhaps ought to make a reference to the report from the Standing Committee. I may say that the onus of these charges made in the speech by the hon. gentleman on my left and the Hon. President is a very different one from that which has been made, so far as I know, in criticising military matters and military administration in England. The onus of this accusation does not lie in the question of mis-management or misjudgment, which very likely has occurred, but the stigma lies in the suggestion and statement that there is deliberate discrimination with the definite object in view of benefitting certain classes of men against others. Now I do not suppose that anybody would set up the position that everything has been done in the best way, but I do not believe that many in this House can think that there has been any definite deliberate and persistent discrimination. That is the charge; that is the onus east upon the authorities, whether the Standing Committee, whether His Excellency the Governor in command of the Regiment, whether Major Montgomerie as executive officer here, or whether on the Commanding officers in France or at Ayr. I cannot believe for a moment the majority of the peole believe that there has been any deliberate steady discrimination on the part of any of these. The reply we have is that of the Standing Committee but it is fair to point our here that none of the speeches that have been made have charged the Standing Committee with any regular discrimination. They may be guilty of having made mistakes, or they may not be, but they are in no way charged or stand charged by either of these gentlemen with having deliberately utilized discrimination in connection with what they have done.

HON PRESIDENT.—The worst offense I charged the Standing Committee with in regard to the Southland draft was that of lack of firmness, in allowing itself to be influenced by the personal equation. As to the matter of the O.T.C., I am at a loss to understand why no training

class was started for the thousand men who went away before August, while one was started in August for young men in the city whose relatives were in prominent positions. With regard to the different treatment of officers and men who come back, that is not altogether a matter for the Standing Committee, but underlying the whole thing as I see it is the fact that there are influences operating to the advantage of certain elements in the community. I have already said that I do not impute any blame to Major Montgomerie, and as for His Excellency the Governor, it is almost needless for me to say that I never for a moment contemplated, not to say suggested that he was in any way responsible.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I should like to ask the hon. President with reference to the list of men's names, one of which was eliminated and another taken from the bottom and put further up; does that refer to Committees? Then it is quite evident somebody had the operation of that list.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I saw the list; and Hon. Mr. Ryan saw it. It was never published. When it came here it was so peculiarly constructed that a protest was made against it and it was quashed and another list submitted and that list included in the order of merit in which they had passed the officers' training class, the names of those young men.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Well the matter is not as clear as I hoped it was. The Standing Committee apparently is not entirely out of the wood. But I entirely disabuse my mind of discrimination anywhere. Even take this case which my hon. friend refers to the promotions made from Ayr recently. I know nothing of that; we have not the facts here. We know from the President—he has told the House, that one name was dropped and another name substituted but we have no facts before us. It may have been done by the military authorities on the other side who knew what they were doing; or on the recommendation of the executive military officer here who knew what he was doing. That may have been done for military reasons by military men who may have been influenced by proper motives. The only point I am making is that this does not necessarily mean discrimination. The point I am particularly anxious to press on this House is that discrimination against any class of people has not been proved. That is the theory going through it all and that is what is going to do the harm. I do not believe there is any such thing as discrimination on the part of anyone of the authorities concerned. Take this case of the Scuthland affair. We have the statement by the President, a statement which is based on private information of his own which may or may not be correct, as to the influence of some individual in connection with the forwarding of the men who were going to join the Southland to sail from Halifax, December 7th. Before the question of submarines was ever raised at all we may note from that reply that in October more than one meeting was called in which the medical officers referred at length to the question of infectious diseases, and a doubt whether on that ground alone these men should have been allowed to go. But the committee did not decide that. The next thing we find on November 28th, the Colonel of the Regiment acting on information officially received, called a meeting of the committee to consider whether the men should then be sent on the ground that he had then at that time the information in regard to the existence of submarines on this

side of the water, and all through these minutes no reference is made to the person who is referred to as having influenced the committee for personal motives. It is stated that the Prime Minister urged that the draft should not be sent, and the doctors had already urged against it on the ground of measles. A motion was put that the draft be sent forward, and was lost. There is nothing whatever on the face of it to show the existence of anything but an honest desire on the part of the committee to do what was right. I do not see anything which would indicate but that the desire of the Committee was to do what was quite right in view of the information by the Governor as to submarines, and that of the doctors as regards measles, and there is nothing to show that the committee definitely influenced and prejudiced so to speak by one gentleman who had a son going and who, I think, has several sons in the ranks of the Regiment. Then we have in the Standing Committee's reply a general statement of the method as regards promotion, and it amounts to this, that the Standing Committee have nothing to do with it, and this matter appears to be, if I interpret their report rightly, simply in the hands of the military authorities except in so far as they may from time to time give a certain amount of advice.

I am sorry I did not include a question as regards the Officers' training Corps. It did not appeal to me as of such importance to the discussion as perhaps it is, but from the reply as I understand it the class here was a very informal kind of training corps, and I presume as there is nothing to show to the contrary that the applications were voluntarily made by members of the regiment, I don't suppose that the class was picked out or that the men in charge of the class, Capts. Abraham and O'Grady, picked out the men for the course of training that was to be given; there is certainly nothing to indicate that this was done. I take it these men who so desired entered the class at their own volition. The names of those who went through it were given to the Officer Commanding at Ayr and at the front with a hint, I presume to keep an eye on them, and if the men turned out all right they could be considered to have had a certain amount of training, but the Standing Committee was of opinion that men who had seen active service should be given the preference for promotion if fit. Now, with regard to these men, it seems to me there can be no question of discrimination.

I question the point raised that this class was not started until a certain number of young men of social standing were taken into the Regiment There were young men of this type in it since its inception, and that this class was started simply because of that fact is a surmise which we have no justification in coming to. I don't find fault with the hon. gentleman for having that opinion, but I don't think there is anything in what has been quqoted to the House which proves that the opinion is anything but a private opinion. As to the discharge of wounded men, as I understand from the report that the matter is in the hands of the Medical Board, and when they report a man as fit only for discharge, he has to be discharged. I don't quite understand the case as I understood the President's statement where when a certain officer had been reported for discharge and was not discharged. I don't know if there is any explanation for that, but it is really difficult for me to believe that the Medical Board, constituted of three such men as Doctors Fraser, Tait and Paterson, have at any time exhibited anything in the way of discrimination,

or that they did anything but what they considered just and right in these matters. I do not feel that I need add any more to the discussion, but I do feel strongly that the matter of deliberate discrimination on anybody's part should be dissipated in the minds of all here, for in this the real danger of serious harm exists.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—When I addressed this House in relation to these matters, my remarks were applied generally. I made no speciific charge, but stated what was in the minds of the public with regard to matters connected with the Regiment. I then stated I did not know, nor was I in a position to say, whether any of the statements were correct, but apparently, judging by the report and answers tabled here to-day, and also by the statements of the President of the Council there was and is a good deal of just ification for indignation on the part of the public with regard to matters connected with the Regment, I don't understand the manner in which my hon. friend who has just spoken came to his decision as regards the non-existence of discrimination, but if discrimination has not existed and has not taken place, in view of what has been stated in this House, then I do not understand the meaning of the word. The President has cited the case of three returned soldiers and three returned officers similarly wounded, and the manner in which the returned private soldier was treated and the manner in which the officers were treated and if that is not discrimination, I hardly know what meaning can be attached to the word. Is it not true that some can be kept on for ten or twelve months,a position can be found for another while the private is kept on a short time and then discharged. With regard to the men at the Rink, it is not, I take it a mere matter of private opinion. Some 1000 men were at the Rink, among them must have been many who were well educated, capable of filling positions or of taking high commands if the opportunity had been given them. But it was not given them, no attempt was made to do so and as stated by the President, it was not until after they had gone away, and others whose social position was better and could command better influence that classes were opened. There is the evidence before us and we can only judge of the matter by the evidence produced. I do not say that the Medical Board or any other Board connected with it is directly rersponsible for some of the things that have been going on but, as the President said, there is some agency at work, and it is desirable to discover where that agency is so that the matter may be ventilated. I do not agree with the leader of the Government that if wrong has been done that the punishment should be deferred until the termination of the war. We well know that this is not the policy pursued in Britain. We have statements made broadcast to the world that the lives of thousands of brave soldiers were sacrificed in France because of lack of ability on the part of the authorities to supply them with shells. The men guilty were forced to resign. And then we had the Mesopotamia campaign and the men who sacrififced the lives of thousands there will get the same punishment as those who caused these blunders and sacrfice of life in France. We should not suffer wrong or injustice to be done no matter what is going on. The proper time to apply the remedy is when injustice is being done and not allow people to suffer in their innocence, and as I pointed out the public have

an idea that everything is not going right. However, the explanation given to the House will disabuse their minds that there was anything wrong connected with the Patriotic Fund. But other matters referred to here do not meet the specific charge made by the President and other hon. members of the House.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I would like to say briefly that serious charges have been made here time and again. I need not take you back further tat last June when charges were made as to neglect of duty on the part of the authorities. These charges were either true or alse. Why do not the military authorities take it up? Charges that were vile and contemptible in the extreme were made against certain people and no effort was made to find out if they were true or false. These charges were made by a paper of the country subsidized by the Government, and these charges if true or false were continued while the paper which made them was subsidized at the expense of the blood of the brave boys of the country. The charges made here by the Hon. President and supported by Hon. Mr. Gibbs, if true, the sooner they are cleared up the better. A dereliction of duty in important matters has been going on for a considerable period and I repeat what has been done has occurred at the expense of the blood of our boys on the battle front. I hope this matter will be thoroughly and satisfactorily cleared up and that every parent who had a boy who has gone over to the Great Beyond, or parents of the boys at the front at this moment will have the satisfaction at least of seeing justice done and the efforts of their dear ones properly appreciated and their sacrifices and gallantry property appraised.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I just wish to refer in a brief way to the remarks which have been made by the hon. gentlemen who have just spoken. Regarding the reason for the delay in sending forward the Windsor draft, there was for the consideration of that committee an intimation by the Medical Board that there was disease apparent. There was another stronger reason and that was the further intimation that there was to be no convoy and that the "Southland" was anything but a fast ship and further there was the very material reason that at the meeting held the members were informed by Capt. Abraham that he had just received an intimation from the Admiralty that submarines were operating in the North Atlantic and also an armed cruiser. The charge of the Hon. President, that that Committee was influenced by one member who had a son, going is, I am compelled to repeat, without foundation, as apart from the report of the Committee, I am informed that the charges were entirely without warrant. There is but one member of the Committee who had a son going forward in that draft and the Committee aver that he did not use any argument to influence that Committee. The Committee was swayed in its decision, primarily by the words of the Premier, who said: "We have information here that there are submarines at present in the North Atlantic. This draft may be sent forward in the 'Southland' and reach Britain in safety, but if an accident should happen, if by any chance she should be met and sent to bottom and a number of the men go down with the ship, the Government of this country will never be washed clear of that offence, if they allowed the men to go forward with the knowledge it now has." The reason was good and sound in my

opinion and if such an accident had happened the Premier was perfectly correct when he said that nothing would ever relieve the Committee of the blame which would be attached to them. As regards the 100 Naval Reservists going in that ship, my hon. friend knows that the Committee had no control of these men, nor any person here other than Commander McDermott of the Briton. They went forward, it is true, and were landed safely. Our men would also have been landed equally as safe ly unless the disease had spread on the voyage. But the general impression as far as I can find from those who know is that the Committee was influenced by the report of the submarine danger, and that they acted wisely and well in not sending the draft over. As to the question of the officers who were not recommended for commissions but whose names were sent forward as having had some training here and who might be kept under observation—whether it was in consequence of that they were given commissions, and as to what would happen if subsequently they failed to pass the examinations on the other side, I am unable to say. That is a matter over which we have no control, but I suppose if such a thing should happen, those who failed to pass would be disrated. In the first list cabled here to have these men appointed, it is conceivable that there may have been a mistake, and that when it was discovered, very promptly a cable followed which gave the correct list. It may be thought that this explanation is far fetched, but I submit that it is not. Nobody here is responsible for the first list and none for the second, and I am inclined to believe that it emanated from the officer commanding at Ayr. As to the social position of this class I am not prepared to admit that the social standing of that class is superior to that of the officers who had received commissions previous.I do not think it is so. There were some 12 or 14 men in that class and they could not be regarded as holding high social positions. I only wish to say further that as regards reserving blame, if such there be, from persons deserving it, until the end of the war, that was not my suggestion. I said preventive measures should be adopted to prevent a recurrence of serious mistakes, and if someone erred previously, that the penalty might be deferred. But I think that if any member of the Medical Board showed partiality in the passing of men, it should be probed, and if it is found to be so, the guilty one should be superceded. I am not prepared to admit for a moment that any thing of the kind occurred. One case mentioned by the Hon. President was that of Lieut. ————He has been before the Board since his arrival here and the opinion is that in two or three months he will be fit for active service again, and they recommended that he be kept on for two or three months and then he might be expected to be fit to return overseas. If that will be borne out by the facts I cannot say, but it is within the knowledge of all that there is a shortage of officers and that there is great difficulty in training a reserve of officers. There is no reserve now and they would, I assume, do everything they could to obtain more young men here willing to apply for commissions and take the necessary training. With Hon. Mr. Harvey I am strongly of the opinion that there has been no discrimination in any of the matters referred to.

HON. PRESIDENT.—It is not my intention to delay the House with any lengthy observations on the matter alluded to by Hon. Mr. Bishop. The Hon. gentleman says that he is satis-

fied there is no foundation for my charges: The Hon. Gentleman is not a member of the Standing Committee any more than I am. What he asserts here he has been informed by some members of the Standing Committee. My information comes to me from other members of that body. Prominent members of the Stannding Committee told me of these matters after they had occurred. One of them said to me, "I am disgusted because I realize what this means. We are sending out a draft of 100 Naval men who are going on the ship and we are keeping back the soldiers." My hon. friend says, and rightly, we have no control over the Naval men. That is correct, up to a certain point. But it was within the province of the Governor or the Prime Minister to wire across to the Admiralty that in their judgment it was undesirable that the draft of Naval men should go across on a slow boat when submarines were about. But would not that be cosic opera if attempted? Then, that being so why were influences allowed to operate to keep the soldiers home? With reference to the matter of cadets and officers my hon. friend does not understand the modus operand in the Old Country, Men do not get commissions until they pass an examination and if those young fellows who have done a course here had been similarly treated and were given Commissions on the strength of their examination there would not be any grievance. But the point is that these men on the strength of their home examinations were given Commissions 48 hours after their arrival at Ayr on the recommendation of the Commanding Officer, who certainly could not study their capabilities after only 48 hours. A list of some of them was sent out here. The hon. gentleman suggests the dubious composition of the list originated on the other side, but I have my doubts of this. I know the whole history of the matter in its detail, and other people here know it as well as I do. The suggestion is made now that those commissioned as officers at Ayr recentnly are to be sent to an Officers' Training Class in England, but I do not think they will. I think that whatever training they got here is all they will get. As I see things, the fact is that they were given commissions as soon as they got on the other side without any experience or training and on the nomination of men who know nothing about them, but really at the instance of some agencies here working underground. As to Lieut. ————'s case I am not making war on him or the Medical Board. It may be that the examination held here is satisfactory. My argument is this, that Lieut.———— on his own admission, if Major Timewell's letter is right, regarded his case as hopeless and wanted to come home. He takes exception to that but when a man goes to the Paymaster of the Regiment and says: "I am condemned by the Medical Board for duty here and I know I am not fit for duty back in Newfoundland," what is the logical conclusion? The logical conclusion is that he wants to get out. The Governor suggests then to the Pension Board that he be recalled. The Pension Board concurs and he is recalled. But when he gets here he is put on full pay. It may be that something happened to him on the way across which made him fit for work again, but on the face of it it seems queer that a volunteer gets $8 and his discharge while this officer is put on full pay. I cannot understand it.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I just wish to refer very briefly to one matter and that is to the sending forward of the one hundred Royal Naval Reservists on the Southland. A great

deal has been made of the fact but there is really nothing in it. The Naval Reservists who went forward by that ship were totally unknown to the Committee and it is extremely likely that they .didn't know that these Reservists were going by the Southland. Consequently to make any point of the fact is unfair to the Committee and I think that ought to be made perfectly clear at once.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, when with the consent of the House it was read a third time and sent to the Assembly with a message intimating that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

The President announced that he had a message from the Assembly informing him that they had passed the Act respecting Pilots and Pilotage in which they requested the concurrence of the Council. On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

In motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until to-morrow at 4.30 of the clock.

TUESDAY, July 17, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

Third reading of Wreck and Salvage Amendment Bill. On motion the Bill was read a third time, passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Exportation of Timber Amendment Bill Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I beg leave to move that section one of the Bill be eliminated and that we substitute the following:

"Anything in any previous Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding it shall be lawful for any person to export, on the usual export-entry, to any place in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States of America, or in any other country the subjects of such country being in amnity with His Majesty, any timber or lumber cut for pit props before the 1st day of January, 1917, provided that such person shall satisfy the Customs officer to whom he makes application for export entry that such timber or lumber was cut before the 1st day of January 1917, and was not cut on any part of that territory or area known as the three-mile limit. Nor any territory or area upon which the cutting of timber for such purpose shall under the provision of any Act have been prohibited by the Gov. ernor in Council, or if such timber or lumber was cut in the said area known as the three mile limit that such timber was burnt timber when cut, and that if such timber or lumber was green timber when cut than that the same was cut prior to the 15th day of April, 1916.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I would like to get from my hon. friend an explanation for this alteration. Can he tell us what machinery has been provided in the nature of making an appeal from the decision of any Collector? I assume it is not proposed to leave it in the discretion of Collectors in some Newfoundland outports to determine finally on the matter. Perhaps there is some provision already?

HON. MR. BISHOP.—The primary reason for the change is that this pit prop wood was cut and intended for pit wood. Should we find opportunity for exporting it to the United States, the use to which it would be

put there would be for pulp wood and not for pit props. Recognizing the serious losses which must accure to the owners and men if the wood is left to rot the Government consented that it be exported for practically any purpose. Then it is necessary to amend the section because at present burnt timber cut even upon the three mile limit, is permitted to be exported. As regards the settlement by the Customs Officers the original Act governs the appeal. The Acts of 1915 and 1916 leaves that to the judgment of the Customs officer.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Is there not this point in the Bill that it covers only the wood cut within the three mile limit; the original Bill covers wood cut anywhere. The alteration, as I understand it, confines to free export the wood cut within the three mile limit, or on the fishermen's limit. The Bill as it stands permits the wood cut within three miles of the sea to be exported, as I read it. All the pit props have been cut on the fishermen's limit. The Bill as it came up before the new amendment came in permitted wood cut anywhere to be exported. This amendment deals only with wood cut on the fishermen's limit prior to January 1st This only is allowed to be exported; wood cut inside of the three mile limit cannot be exported.

The A.N.D. Co., could have cut props near Red Indian Lake and floated them down the river to export them to Canada and the States as pulp wood but this would not be permitted. The burnt wood may be cut afterwards, after January 1st, 1917. No green wood can be cut after January 1st, 1917, and exported. It must be manufactured but burnt wood may be cut at any time and exported. I was going to remark as regards the point raised by the Hon. President as to the matter of appeal from the Collector, there is no outport Collector. All these are sub-collectors and the only Collector is Mr. LeMessurier.

HON. MR. RYAN—I would like to say a word or two with reference to cutting over the limit known as the fishermen's preserve. During the past few years wood has been cut in what is known as the three mile limit. This is against the law because some of the parties who had a right and title to cut further inland than the three mile limit forgot their own places and cut on the fishermen's limit. They were brought up for that and will they show us the wood which they cut belonging to themselves, which they forgot to cut previously, but cut on the limit belonging to the fisherman. The small quantity of burnt wood is not worth a row of pins while the green wood is a most important matter and we should do our duty here for the benefit of the country and preventing monopolists from forgetting their own land and cutting on the fishermen's preserve. Were our duty to the fishermen properly performed, they should get compensation for the timber cut on their limit. It should be our paramount duty to protect the fishermen.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I would suggest to the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill that he have the amendment printed. It seems to me that we are introducing a new and very pernicious principle. As I see it—perhaps I speak somewhat hastily —but if what my hon. friend opposite says is right, namely, that it is proposed to allow burnt wood to be cut for export and to be continued to be cut—I understand that Hon. Mr. Harvey said that burnt wood cut up to the present time could be txported—then I would like to register my strongest protest against any such amendment being introduced. Four years ago when the idea of cutting pit props

started here I warned the House that the people who were foremost in the movement—if I may use the term, "the exploiters"—people who came into this country and exploited its resources for their own advantage, boasted when they got certain concessions that they had got in the thin edge of the wedge. Every year since that another blow is struck at the wedge and it is driven farther in. With regard to the principle of allowing all the wood cut legitimately up to last year, the wood cut for the use of the British Empire and its Allies in connection with the war, to legislate to enable those who cut such to export it anywhere—with that principle I am in perfect accord. All the wood cut is paid for by the business people and is lying upon the banks of the rivers in the country. They should be facilitated to export it and get their money back. But we should not permit the indiscriminate cutting of wood under the guise that it is burnt wood, and so strike a blow at one of the few industries that give promise of continuing, viz., the pulp and paper industry. I do not believe from the evidence lately adduced in the other Chamber that any attention is paid by people cutting pit props as to whether it is burnt wood or green. They have nobody to watch them. In practice there is no machinery for supervising the cut. No agency exists whereby the public domain can be protected, and if we are not prohibiting the cutting of burnt wood then I say good bye to an industry like Grand Falls which employs thousands of our people permanently and successfully.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I fail to understand the objection raised by the Hon President and have no intention whatever in seeking this amendment to the present Bill to continue cutting green timber for pit props or other purposes on the limit for export. But the permission to cut burnt timber, provided the market be found for it, there would appear to be no reason for refusing to grant it. It is useless for the country and if it could be made profitable and give employment it would be advantageous. There is no more cutting pit props either green or burnt now, and no one inclined to engage in it until the termination of the war. Burnt timber being valueless, it is not proposed to prevent anyone from cutting within the three mile limit. I propose, however, to raise the Committee and have the amendment intended to come before the Council in printed form before the next sitting.

On motion, the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO., BILL.

Second reading of Public Service Electric Co. Bill.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time. It is based upon a petition received from a large number of residents of Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Heart's Content, and Freshwater, Bay de Verde, asking that a company already registered under the name of the "Public Service Electric Co., Limited," be given certain rights. The preamble of the Bill enumerates these rights as follows:

(a) The exclusive right to the use of the waters of Heart's Content Stream and all streams tributary there to for the purposes of the development of electrical energy for all purposes for which electrical energy may now or may hereafter be used.

(b) The privilege of the use of Crown Lands and public highways for the erection of poles, for trenching purposes and such other purposes as may be necessary for the construction

of the Company's transmission lines.

(c) The importation free of duty of all goods, materials, machinery, equipment and supplies required by the Company for use in connection with the original installation and subsequent extension of the plant.

(d) The right to appropriate private lands and property for the purpose of the development of the water power and construction of power houses, plants and transmission lines, subject to the same provisions as to compensation to owners by arbitration as is provided in railway legislation.

The petitions presented by various members of the House of Assembly were influentially signed as is evidenced by the long list of names included in the preamble of the bill. The first section of the bill is intended to give to the Company the exclusive right to the use of the waters of Heart's Content stream running into the harbor of Heart's Content, and all streams tributary thereto. These waters are now being utilized to a small extent by the Anglo-American Telegraph Company as a water supply to the town of Heart's Content. This water supply is not in any way being interfered with, nor is the application in any way antagonistic to the interests of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, as will appear from the fact that the leading officials of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company resident at Heart's Content are signatory to the petition. The petitioners and others are prepared to invest money for the purpose of harnessing this stream and turning its power into a public utility.

The second section of the Bill seeks for concessions usually given electric companies. Section 3 provides that under certain circumstances the Company may secure the right to appropriate private property, this appropriation being subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. This section is similar to corresponding sections in other electrical acts. Section 4 provides that if the Company found it necessary with the concurrence of the Governor in Council to enter upon private lands remuneration shall be paid the person whose land is interfered with and that this remuneration shall be determined by arbitration, the company appointing one arbitrator, the persons interested in the land another, and these two a third. Section 6 deals with the free importation of certain articles for the original construction and development of the electrical systems and extensions thereof. No exclusive franchises are sought other than the right to the use of the waters for the purposes of generating power.

This Bill is not a Government measure. It is a private and not a Public Bill. In the form in which it comes before this Chamber it is not identical with the Bill submitted to the Legislature. As is the practice in the House of Assembly private bills are referred to a select committee That was done in this case. The committee examined into the matter very minutely. The United Towns Electrical Company, who have certain exclusive franchises for lighting purposes at the town of Carbonear, Heart's Content and Harbor Grace, have vigorously opposed this bill. That was to be expected because any company which has certain exclusive franchises naturally desires to prevent any other company from entering into competition with them in connection with any matters within the scope of their operations and for which they have not an exclusive franchise. The United Towns Electrical Company were represented and heard before the select committee. The President of the Company, the Hon. J. J. Murphy, who is a member of this Chamber, his son who is a director of the

company and manager; Mr. C. O'N. Conroy, who is a director of the company and one of the solicitors for the United Towns Electrical Company laid before that committee the views of the company The petitioners and the Public Service Electric Company were represented by Mr. J. P. Blackwood, the company's solicitor. A considerable number of sessions were held and evidence taken on various points. In some particulars the original bill as submitted was lessened in the scope of its operations. In some other particulars it was enlarged The Bill in the form in which it comes before this Chamber is the bill as finally agreed upon, the opposing parties representing all the interests affected, and as passed unanimously by the House of Assem-

HON. MR. HARVEY.—What about exclusive rights already existing?

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—This bill is not in any way intended to affect any exclusive lighting franchises which the United Towns Electrical Company have under their charter. This new company does propose to compete with the United Towns Electrical Company in lighting in all places where the United Towns Electrical Company have no exclusive lighting franchises, but they have no intention whatever as they could not as a matter of law, compete with them in the towns which their charter covers. The new company does propose to compete with them through their whole territory in the matter of the supply of electrical power.

I appreciate the honor which has been conferred upon me by the petitioners having selected me to have the conduct of this bill in this Chamber, and am quite sure the measure will receive the earnest and favorable consideration of every member of the House. It would be quite impossible for any petition coming from this section or any petition coming from Harbor Grace, Heart's Content, Carbonear and Freshwater to be more influentially signed than this petition asking for these rights and privileges. A glance at the names of the signatory parties of these various towns show that they are the men who are the leaders of the financial, social, political and religious thought of that entire section. The first name to the petition is that of the Rev. W. R. J. Higgitt, the Rector of St. Paul's, Harbor Grace, and the second is the Rev. A. A. Holmes, the Methodist clergyman at Harbor Grace. The next two names are those of Messrs. J. N. Pumphrey and J. E. Walker, two prominent Roman Catholic residents of Harbor Grace. The next two names are Messrs. John McRae and H. H. Archibald, two leading Presbyterians. These names are followed by the Manager of the Harbor Grace Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company, the Newfoundland Shipbuilding Company, the Harbor Grace representative of the Horwood Lumber Company, the Manager of the Thompson Leather Company, and other equally representative and influential business men. The first name I note on the Heart's Content petition is the Rev. Canon Smart. The second name is that of the Rev. Henry Godfrey, Methodist clergyman. These names are followed by several of the leading officials of the Anglo-American Telegraph Co., of Heart's Content. The names on the Carbonear petition represent such prominent business firms as John Rorke & Sons, J. & J. Maddock, Wm. Duff & Sons, Saunders, Howell & Company. The names from Freshwater are of such representative men as Messrs. W. & J. Moores, Mark Parsons, James N. Burt, Reuben Pike; and not only are the petitions signed by representative business people. It is influentially signed by the working class and fishermen. I note it is sign-

ed by the Fishermen's Protective Union organization through their chairman, Mr. Theo. Penney. The privileges which these gentlemen seek are, first, the exclusive right to the waters, and, second, the right to enter into all lawful compeition with any company now in existence or any company which may hereafter be organized for the purposes of distributing electrical energy through the towns and settlements which will come within the radius of the Company's operations. As I have already said, the Company have no intention to infringe in any way the rights of the United Towns Electrical Company, and even if they had any such intention they could not legally do so, as these rights are statutory and give them certain exclusive lighting franchises in the area specified in their charter.

HON. J. D. RYAN—I would like to say a word or two on this matter, but perhaps it would come in better when the bill goes into Committee. There is one matter in the last section, that the Government of the day is allowing free entry for all this material. Personally I am very glad to find that Conception Bay is coming into so much prominence that it has an electric plant and has extended it within the past three years. I remember when we had gas in Harbor Grace, but unfortunately it went out of existence because there was not enough to keep the establishment going. Now another Company came in and put up electric ligts and the people who took charge of that ought to be protected. I would not like to say we should give them a monopoly, but if some of our enterprising friends in Harbor Grace decided on putting in their money they should certainly have protection. But if the Government of the day would give facilities to bring in material and compete with others, I fear it might be like the days of the old Harbor Grace Gas Company, that was there one day and is there no longer. It is for us to consider whether we would be doing justice to these shareholders by giving them power for competing with their neighbors which they have a perfect right to do. It might be like a few years ago when we had 25 or 30 applications for whaling sites. This is on the same line. There were two or three companies operating here who did fairly well, and some people wanted to get rich quick. and we had at one time as many as 23 applications for sites. Some of them were granted, and it would have been better for them if they had never been granted. Some were not, and they have their money to the good. Whether we are right in providing facilities for extra power in the district of Trinity Bay and Conception Bay, I shall have something further to say when this Bill comes into committee.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be sent to committee on to-morrow.

LOAN BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House resolved into committee on the Loan Bill, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

The bill was reported without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

RETIRING ALLOWANCES BILL.

The House went into committee on the Retiring Allowances Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment, which report was received, and it was ordered that the said bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

PILOTS' BILL.

Second reading of Pilots Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I may say our Pilots, like everyone else, consider the time has come when their rate of pay should be increased, and they ask that the pilotage rates for the port of St. John's on vessels of various sizes

be increased. The amounts while their aggregate might be something considerable are not large or onerous. I beg to move the second reading.

The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House adjourned until Thursday at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

THURSDAY, July 19th.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Loan Bill and Retiring Allowances Bill were 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.

EXPORTATION OF TIMBER BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee on the Exportation of Timber Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON. MR. BISHOHP—I regret that I did not understand my hon. friend's desire to have a printed copy of the amendments or I should have deferred the committee stage and had that done. I think possibly, too, that the amendment that is proposed to take the place of section 1 when read will be satisfactory. The amendment purposed now alters the bill of last year in no respect beyond permitting the exportation of timber cut for pit props to the United States and Canada and extending the time for export. It does not ask the question of green timber or dried timber excepting as explained and set out in the bill last year. The exportation of green timber cut on the so-called three mile limit is not to be permitted, but burnt timber alone. I think that the apprehension that was evidenced last sitting will be entirely removed by the mendment now proposed.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Then I understand that it is not intended to permit a continuance of cutting after the first of January, or rather that any wood cut after that date, whether green or dry, is not to be exported, and that this clause will merely give effect to last year's act to the extent of permitting the export of material cut under last year's act to be exported to Canda and the United States? I was going to suggest to avoid the possibility of further amendment whether it might not be well to add the words "or any allied country." There is a possibility that Portugal, which is accessible by sea from Newfoundland, might want some of this timber.

HON. MR. POWER.—I do not think we should have any legislation that will prevent the exportation of fallen timber because that decays after a few years and becomes a total loss.

HON. MR. MURPHY.—My experience is that after a number of years burnt timber is good for nothing, and the kind cut for pit props is only scrub anyway and might be cut green or any other way. The fight has been to get the greatest number of sticks in a cord; our people would rather cut sixty pieces to make a cord than 160 but they have been fighting on the other side to get small wood. You cannot utilize this wood in a saw mill anywhere and it has been let rot previously because it is of no earthly use and I think every facility should be given these people to get it out and no difficulties placed in their way. If the Government had taken the matter up as it should when the war broke out first, it would have given more satisfaction to people who had timber there. I think myself that the three mile limit will eventually be needed and badly and that it is a great mistake to allow so many small mills there. As far as burnt wood is concerned we

should get rid of it the best way possible for it is no good. No possible use can be made of it here as it is too small.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO. BILL.

On motion of Hon. the Colonial Secretary the House went into Committee on the Public Service Electric Company Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Before Section 1 of the bill is passed I would like to point out to the gentleman in charge of the Bill and the House the wide powers conferred under the words "development of electric energy for all purposes for which electric energy may now or may hereafter be used." Personally I would have no objection to giving the Company power to deal with electrical energy for the purposes for which it is now used, but to give such powers in relation to purposes which hereafter may be used is dangerous, and in support of this view I would like to recall the Anglo-American Telegraph Co's. monopoly of about 60 years ago. The Company was given a monopoly on identical lines as this, for 50 years. It was only contemplated at the time that the powers given by this monopoly should apply in relation to electrical energy for telegraphic purposes. Later the phraseology was construed to give the Company a monopoly of electric energy for telephonic purposes. Under the terms of that monopoly Marconi was barred from coming here with his original wireless project and the Colony lost heavily as a result. To permit this Company to-morrow, if such procedure were not inconsistent with the existing law in relation to the Postal Telegraph Department, to organize a telegraph service and telephone service, or for purposes we cannot imagine to-day and we are now living in an age when electric energy is being used and extended every hour and the world is on the threshold of great discoveries and developments in this respect would be most unwise. For us to deed away the rights of posterity would be a great mistake. I do not think we should give powers to the Company over and above what we are allowing to other similar concerns at the present time. No man can foretell what strides electrical energy may make in the next 10 years and maybe we are introducing the thin end of the wedge to the detriment of the country for years to come.

HON. COL. SECRETARY—The observations of the Hon. President would be well taken if there was any suggestion of a monopoly. But there is no such suggestion in the Bill except to the extent of giving them the use of the waters of a certain stream for driving machinery for the development of electrical energy. The Bill does not suggest that a Company doing business next door should not develop electrical energy for any purpose whatever. They ask for no exclusive ligting, heating or power franchises. Certain other companies have been granted such powers but this Company merely places itself in competition with any company now existing or hereafter to be formed and asks only for the right to use the waters of the stream for the purpose for or the development of electric energy to be used by the Company for any purpose for high electric energy is now or may hereafter be used.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—Personally I have always been opposed to the granting of exclusive rights to water powers for the purpose of the devel-

opment of electricity for light and heat. I think that this country should have some sort of a national policy in relation to its water powers, some policy laid down whereby the many water powers we have throughout the country should be utilized for the benefit of the country. We are too prone to give concessions and privileges to everyone applying for them. Personally I have always been opposed to this because I do not regard it as a right policy. I am of opinion that the exploitation of the natural wealth of the country should not be for the benefit of the individual, but that the people as a whole should in some manner participate in it. Now a water power is a national asset; it does not belong to Carbonear, Harbor Grace, St. John's, but to the whole country. It is a part of the national heritage of the people not alone of this generation but also of the generations yet unborn, and for that reason I have always contended that we should in the case of powers situated near settlements and towns that are growing in population and industry be very careful about giving away water powers in their vicinity. The state represents the whole people and in giving away water powers we are giving away something that does not belong to any particular class or individual but to the whole people. Water powers are not like mines; they do not become subject to exhaustion or to the risks connected with the operation of mines. They can be as carefully measured as a bit of board, and their exhaustion can be guarded against. It is a form of investment that is perhaps the safest in the world. Therefore we should be very careful in signing away such valuable assets as this. There was a time for instance, when in this very section of the country, we had a water power near our door and nobody regarded it as of value. I remember when the '98 Contract was being discussed I wrote a series of letters over my own signature in the press pointing out to the people how they could procure the advantages of cheaper power and light because of the concessions sought by certain parties, but my remonstrances fell on deaf ears. If the people had listened then, instead of paying the highest price for electricity to-day we would be getting it fifty per cent. cheaper. Nobody thought these water powers of any value, but they were of untold wealth, and this city, because of the monopoly held here pays the highest rate for lighting in the world to-day. My position is that lightt and heat and power for transportation in towns and settlements are part of the actual necessities of life because we cannot live without heat and light and the power is applied to all forms of industry. If we have cheap power for manufacturing concerns half the problem is solved for them. Whatever is a monopoly of a public character should be controlled by the public. Some persons may say I am bordering on thin ice, so to speak; that there are institutions in existence to-day which believe in all things being controlled by the state. Anything which is subject to competition does not become a monopoly because any person may enter into that trade or business, but when we sign away the exclusive rights to water powers in the vicinity of settlements, then, of course, you are bartering away a power of public character in which the public are interested. The hon. introducer of this measure says that this dream has been there since the creation of the world, but that is no reason why we should give it away. I would give it away under certain restrictions, but not to any person who may ask for it. The waters of Bay Bulls Big Pond were there also

since the days of the creation until the Reid Newfoundland Company utilized them, and they are to-day making tens of thousands of dollars profit for that company. For instance, if you were to go up on the Southern Shore and understood the uses to which the water powers there could be put to you would find that the water here going to waste could light and heat every home from Bay Bulls to Trepassey for two cents a day. Some person may come along five or ten years from now and ask for exclusive rights to those waters and the argument be made that they should get them because some person else got them somewhere else, or because they had a petition signed for them. The hon. member says that under the Crown Lands Act this right may be obtained. That I take issue with. The Crown Lands Act never contemplated the utilizaton of water powers for the purposes of the development and sale of electricity. The object of that section was that some person might utilize a power in connection with some industry, but not sell the power. The argument of the hon. gentleman that this chamber has no power to limit the rights of the gentlemen who have signed this petition I do not think either sound or reasonable. Another gentleman said the word "power" in the other acts upon the Statute Book may mean "power" for any purpose in the future. I do not think that this is the proper construction to be placed upon the wording of the Act referred to. If a Court were called upon to determine the question it would have to find out what was the intention of the Legislature at the time the franchise was given. I take it that the Legislature when giving the grant limited it to the purposes for which electrical energy was then applied, except a contrary intention was expressed.

Personally while I have no desire to impede the passage of the Bill, I think it would be well under the circumstances that the purposes for which the electric energy may be used, should be set forth in the Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I should like to ask is there any precedent for an arrangement of this kind, giving such a wide range of activity? There has been a limitation in other cases and I agree with the Hon. President on the subject. He ought to be very careful as to what we do now in the matter. There are good reasons why no private company should be given unknown powers. We do not know what is to come. I entirely agree with the suggestion that we deal warily with matters of this kind and not deed away the unknown forces of the future. In the United Towns Act the powers given them are clearly defined and should be similarly dealt with in this Act.

HON. COL. SECRETARY.—I would observe that if these people were asking for a monopoly or any right to do anything which any other Company could not get at any time objections might be raised but they merely ask the right of the use of this stream to obtain electrical energy for any purpose that may be required, no ill effect can arise, as the State may always intervene.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I would like to say I am not speaking as the mouthpiece ot any company or any individual. I have a habit of studying Bills on my own account and forming such opinion of them as seem to be waranted by the phraseology and with regard to the argument made by my hon. friend I would point out that these words—"or may hereafter be used" have some meaning and are apparently put there for some particular purpose. I think when the history of the legislation being dis-

cussed today, is written it will be shown that they have been put there with the idea of coping with conditions that may arise in the future. If they are valueless strike them out. If the Company can get the powers conferred by the words in the clause of the Crown Lands Act, then put the phraseology from that Act into this Act and cut out these words. Otherwise they are for some specified object which is still only in the minds of the men fathering the Bill. The granting of such powers may be against public policy. My Hon. friend says that under certain conditions the State will step in and prevent the use of this electrical energy for operating wireless, but only in war time can the State exercise these practically autocratic powers.

HON. COL. SECRETARY.—The State can, by Legislative enactment prevent anyone from doing these things.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—But they have to compensate them unless in war time. I maintain that if to-morrow these people were operating some undertaking, which was thought to be against public policy, the state could not stop them without compensating them. Only in war time and for war purposes could we escape the obligations to compensate them. If we enact this clause into law. and ultimately it is found that it gives powers which are against public policy, we must compensate these people if we interfere with their monopoly, so to speak. I am assuming that these gentlemen have gone carefully over the territory and the reason they ask for this brook or stream is because there is nothing else there to offer a prospect of utilization within that area, and it would be possible to enjoy a monopoly of telegraphy, telephony, and for other purposes to which electrical energy may be applied in fuoure.

The hon. gentleman goes on to say that after the expiration of twenty years it is possible for the state to buy them out. I do not know if the hon. gentleman is familiar with the act whch gave vitality to what is known as the Anglo American Telegraph Company, but there was a similar provision in that bill, and when the time came to exercise it, influences were brought to bear to prevent that being done. The same might occur here. The monopoly enjoyed by that company was in existense when Marconi wanted to come in here and he was prevented from doing so; and I can conceive of a contingency where the phraseology introduced here may operate detrimentally to the state, and I think we ought not to give indefinite powers to monopolies or individuals in view that these may some time be used to the detriment of the community. As to the argument that because these worthy gentlemen signed this petition in such numbers they should get these concessions, it is not an argument at all, because if that is so any group of men can come here and ask for anything in their own neighborhood and get it, and that we are only a mechanical instrument for registering their views.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—I agree with that, that the Legislature is only a mechanical instrument to record the will of the people, and if they do not record the will of the people to-day then they ought to get out of existence The comparison as to Marconi and the Anglo monopoly I suggest is not in line, because no monopoly is given in this case. Marconi wanted to do certan things in Newfoundland; he could not, because the Anglo Company had certain rights. No company can step in in Harbor Grace and do certain things there because the Legislature has given a monopoly and exclusive right or rights. The

same applies to Brigus. But this company is asking for no exclusive rights; it is merely going into ordinary competiton with everybody else who may come along. They are in the same position as a business man on Water Street who finds himself in competition with another man who has a similar store there.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I should like some amendment introduced here. I think the argument of the Hon. the President is unanswerable. Now it is true that this company is subject to competition but after all monopoly is a comparative term. If there is no additional water power within twenty or thirty miles of this place then this is a practical natural monopoly because of the exclusive uses to which that water power may be applied. There is no doubt that this is a kind of monopoly—not in an objectionable sense—as against the public or any other concern unless there are a number of other water powers there, and such a monopoly used in its best sense is quite right and justifiable. The only thing I object to in the agreement is the giving away of unknown rights. We have had the United Towns Electric Company in operation for fourteen years and in their application they defined what they wanted. I say define what you want. I am sure the house will grant whatever is wanted, but let us know. In the course of the Catalina Co's. application for a franchise there was nothing introduced that was not clearly defined. I say when new and unimaginable discoveries are made new applcations for the right to use them should be made and it is the duty of the Legislature to see they must be made and that a new discovery does not automatically become the property of any company. That is bad legislation and I suggest that we pass on from this section and have an amendment drawn. I do not want to see the bill lost. I am strongly in favor of it, and I think it is the duty of the Legislature to do what it can for them. I want to see it go through but as one who has some responsibility in this Legislature I want to know what I am doing.

HON. PRESIDENT.—This contingency may arise. We give these people these powers and suppose ten years from now a new Marconi may arise and invent some new device for electricity, for instance, transmission of electricity through the air, as many think will be possible, for driving ships at sea. Will not the rights under this bill allow them to use that invention?

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—Certainly not! We are not giving them righ'ts to use everything in the world.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I maintain that the future Marconi may find his rigfhts practically valueless by the power you now propose to give this company, and in order to test the feeling of the house I would suggest, if the hon. gentleman opposite will second the motion, to strike out the words "or may hereafter be used." There are three purposes now for which electricity is used, lighting, heating and power. All I am opposed to is the putting in of a clause here which gives these people powers of indefinite development. Remember, every man in the future who seeks concessions is going to ask the Legislature to give him similar blanket powers; and we will not know where this thng is going to end. As to the suggestion of the hon. gentleman that the Legislature is to interpret the will of the people, I do not subscribe to that doctrine in the sense he advances it here. I do not think that because a man says he wants a certain thing we should give it to him. I take it that when a man goes into the Lower House, elected by the will

of the people, he is there to interpret the wishes of the people according to his own judgment. That I think applies even more in this House,which is designed as a check, as a safety valve on the other Chamber. I repudiate altogether the doctrine that because the people of any locality or district want some concession, we are bound to give it to them, even against our better judgment. I am not prepared to subordinate my conscience or intelligence to any demand from any body of people under circumstances like these.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I cannot regard the section under consideration as containing the suggestion of danger as the hon. gentlemen who have spoken read it, and personally I cannot conceive that any development of electricity will not be included under the three terms mentioned, light, power and heat, and after all are they not combined under the one word power, and I submit also that while the United Towns Electric Co. are selling light, heat and power they are by no means confined to those three as understood to-day should future development of electricity show that the power now used can be developed and applied to something we at present know nothing of, and if this company or any other shows the possibility of extending the powers and advantages of electricity then the U. T. E. Co. would have a perfect right to use that whatever it may be. It seems to me, an absurd thing, with all due deference, to confine this company or any company to the uses at present known for electricity. That is what is intended by the amendment now proposed. We know that there have been immense strides in electrical development the past ten years, and we are yet barely touching the fringe of the subject, and it seems to me if this company or any company attempted to apply the powers they possessed to anything that was prejudicial to the public interest or may be dangerous to life, that the Legislature would immediately find some means of preventing the application of it. The verbiage is admittedly different to what you had in other bills for different companies but I cannot see the danger in the section as it stands that other hon. gentlemen appear to see and I think they should have unlimited powers such as the other companies have provided they they do nothing dangerous to life.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I would put the amendment in writing but would ask the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill to raise the Committee until to-morrow so that by then we may be able to devise some form of amendment that would make our position clearer. I am agreeable to any amendment that may meet the needs of the case. In making this suggestion I am not advocating the views of anybody at all. This thing strikes me in reading the Bill and in developing this line of thought I do so because in my opinion it is a dangerous principle.

HON. COL. SECRETARY.—To meet the wishes of the Hon. Dr. McGrath, President of the Council, I move that the Committee rise and report that it has made some progress and ask leave to sit again. This will give the gentlemen desiring to formulate amendments an opportunity of drafting same.

Committee rose and reported progress.

PILOTS' BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House then went into Committee on the Pilots Bill, Hon. Mr. Power in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and it was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

HON. PRESIDENT announced that he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army.

This Bill was then read a first time and was ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House adjourned until to-morrow (Friday) at 4.30 p.m.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Exportation of Timber Bill was read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the Bill with some amendment, in which the concurrence of that body was requested.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Pilots Bill was read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the Committee on the Public Service Electric Company Bill was deferred.

SECOND READING OF SALVATION ARMY INCORPORATION BILL.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. President, I move that this Bill, entitled "An Act to Amend the Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army," be now read a second time. A year ago the Act to Incorporate the Salvation Army in Newfoundland passed this Legislature. Section 3 of that Act provides as follows:

"All real and personal property in the Colony of Newfoundland which at the time of the passing of this Act is vested in any person on behalf of or for the purpose of the Salvation Army for any estate or interest, shall, upon the signing by any such person or by his legal personal representative of a statement in writing that the same is so held and that he consents to the application thereto of the provisions of this Act, become vested in the General of the Salvation Army for the estate and interest and to the extent for or to which the same were respecively vested in such person."

The object of this amendment is to add to this section the following words as sub-section "A";

"(a) The lands and property mentioned in the schedule to this Act are hereby declared to be vested in the General of the Salvation Army for the estate and interest and to the extent for or to which the same were respectively vested in the persons named in the fourth column of the said schedule."

The only other amendment is the intended addition to the Incorporation Act of a schedule setting forth the location of property, the deeds of conveyance, the person to whom the land was conveyed and the nature of the conveyance. This is, in my opinion a reasonable and proper amendment to the Incorporation Act."

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President announced that he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the amendment sent down in and upon the Bill respecting the Wills and Estates of deceased Soldiers and Sailors, without amendment; also that they had passed the Bill, "An Act to amend the Acts relating to the Prohibition of the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors." A Bill, "An Act to Amend

the St. John's Municipal Act, 1902," and a Bill, an Act to amend the Placentia Water Co's Act, in all of which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

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

HON. MR. HARVEY—Before the motion for adjournment is put I would like to make a few observations on the Public Service Electric Coy., Bill. I am anxious to see the Bill go through, and I bring the matter on now in order to save time later, and to post the gentleman in charge of the Bill so that he may be posted regarding some points, other than the points dealt with yesterday which require discussion. I have spent a little time going into the history of the Conception Bay Electric legislation, and I find that the United Towns Electrical Co., was the first company to be chartered for the purposes of electrical production around Conception Bay, and exclusive rights were given it to produce ilght, run tramways in the towns of Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content. The next Electric Company chartered was the Conception Bay Electric Company of 1913. This Company had a very broad charter, and I may say that I made the curious discovery, a most unsatisfactory, and disappointing one, that of the 1913 Acts, there is not a copy to be had in the public library, and the vain endeavored to get one from the librarian informs me that she has not been able to get one in Colonial Secretary's Office. They had not got one nor does she know where a copy can be had. It certainly is a very loose state of affairs, that of the whole official Acts of 1913 no copy of this Act is to be had from an official source. One can get Journals of the House "ad nauseam," but a number of the Official Acts appear to be missing from the Library, and I find this to be the case with this particular Act. So far as I can get the information as to the Conception Bay Electric Company, the powers given it were very extensive, so much so that I am surprised that it was allowed to pass with so little debate in this Council especially, as the Council was fairly full at the time, and most of the members were present during the Committee stage of the Bill. It gave a series of towns in Conception Bay sole and monopolistic rights to supply everything in the way of electricity to Brigus, Cupids, Clarke's Beach, Port de Grave Bay Roberts and Spaniard's Bay, and the country embraced in that area. It gave it the right to erect tramways, sole and exclusive powers to produce electric ight and heat, and for nearly every imaginable thing for which electricity can be used. That was in 1913. In 1914 we passed an Act here authorizing the United Towns Electric Co., to take over the property and assets of the Conception Bay Co. At the same time I find in the Act which authorized them to assume control of the Company the word "franchise" is not included in the things they may acquire. They are authorized to take over their property, but I am not prepared to say whether they were allowed to take over their franchises. Perhaps Franchises may be included in the word property. The Act now before the House mentions in Section 2 that this new Company has the right to supply electric energy for all purposes to Spaniard's Bay, among other places, although the Conception Bay Company has been given the sole right of supplying electrical energy to Spaniard's Bay. This is a matter which we ought to be careful about to see

whether the Conception Bay Electrical Company still has those rights over Spaniard's Bay, so that we may not be manufacturing a law suit and a hold up as regards developments in connection with that place. The next Company chartered was the Union Electric Co., of Catalina and their charter is a specific and good charter. None of these charters however have got one clause which I think ought to be in all of them, namely, that in the event of the obstruction of the highway for the erection of poles and trams, lines or for other purposes, the public traffic should not be entirely obsbtructed. The Company doing work for private purposes shall be obliged to make some way by which traffic can pass. Furthermore there should be a clause, wherein, where any damage is caused in dealing with public highways and other property, it should be immediately set right. The Act before us calls for a system of adjustments for damage against private property, but not against the Government of Newfoundland or any public bodies that may control the district in which the company is operating. I now also call to the attention of the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill that in the petitition on which the Bill is based sub-section C. the provison is made for the free importation of equipment and supplies for the original installation and subsequent extension of the Company's business, whereas we have in the Bill a clause in Section 6 which says that in addition storage batteries for motor boats and material nnecessary for the distribution of the said Company systems and products should be admitted free of duty into the colony. No Act which ever came before this House before for legislative sanction, as far as I know, has ever called for the free admission of anything more than original installation and extension of plant. None however asked for more or got it and it would give this Company enormous advantage over its competitors if they can bring in everything, including storage batteries. free for distribution. These points I have thought well to call the attention of the House to now, as I understand that an effort is going to be made to modify some of the wording in any case and perhaps tnese points might be considered also before it comes up again.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—This is a private bill brought forward by the representatives of the districts where the petitioners reside, Trinity, Carbonear and Harbor Grace. It was referred to a select Committee of the members of the House of Assembly of both sides. Solicitor representing the petitioners, Mr. Jas. P. Blackwood, appeared before that committee on behalf of the Petitioners, and the United Towns Electric Co., appeared in the person of their President, Hon. J.J. Murphy, who is a member of this Chamber, and Mr. C. O'N. Conroy, who is one of their directors, and their solicitor, Mr. W.J. Higgins. Under the original bill, the entire territory covered by the Conception Bay Electric Company was included; but it was agreed that the wording of that section be amended so instead of the Southern boundary being Holyrood it was made Spaniard's Bay. That was the arrangement made with the United Towns Electric Co., who claim to be the assignees of the Conception Bay Electric Co. This latter company had certain rights and franchises in the neighborhood of Brigus. I was not present at the committee meetings and do not know what happened,but this is the actual section as agreed upon and the reason why the wording is to Spaniard's Bay instead of to Holyrood is because

of the conflict between the petitioners and the United Towns Electric Co. and the settlement's around and between them. With respect to the last section, the duty section, that is in some respects larger and broader than in the original bill submitted to the House of Assembly. During the debate before the select committee it appeared that certain things might reasonably be imported free of duty not included in the section. A discussion arose concerning storage batteries for motor boats and these words were put in by the Committee. I see no reason why this company should not be encouraged to develop an idea favorable to the fishermen and make it easy for them to operate their motorboats. The wording of the clause and the special inclusion of storage batteries was arranged by the special Committee of the House of Assembly, That Committee had the matter under consideration for some time and completely considered the whole matter. The House of Assembly passed the section unanimously and I see no reason why this Chamber should interfere with a duty section which has met the approval of the representative section of the Legislature.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House then adjourned until Monday next at four o'clock.

MONDAY, July 23rd.

Hon. President announced the appointment of the Hon. W.J. Ellis to be a member of the Legislative Council and ordered the Clerk to read the Commission.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Honourable Mr. Ellis who takes his seat in this house for the first time, and to assure him of the wish of honourable members that he may be long spared to favor the Council with his knowledge of many matters connected with the public interests of this country, particularly perhaps in matters pertaining to the city of St. John's of which he had the honor of being Mayor, and with which he has had so long acquaintance. I am glad to see Hon. Mr. Ellis in this chamber.

SALVATION ARMY INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the house went into Committee on the Salvation Army Incorporation Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the Chair.

The Committee rose, reported the Bill without amendment, and by consent of the house 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 without amendment.

PLACENTIA WATER CO., BILL.

Second reading of Placentia Water Co., Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—This bill is a request from the Placentia Water Co. that they be allowed to increase their capital to the extent of $2000 to defray the cost of a new line of pipes across the Gut at Placentia and for some other matters. I may say this Company is meeting the interest on their debt regularly, and there would seem to be no reason why we should not grant their request. I beg to move the second reading.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committee to-morrow.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading of Prohibition Amendment Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—It has been found that certain amendments are essential to the proper working of the Prohibition Act passed last session, but it is not intended to do more

than pass one or two amendments which are essential to make the further working of the act more beneficial. Upon the whole I think the working of this Act has been generally speaking as satisfactory as could have been expected for a measure of that kind, and while there have been some breaches, yet on the whole as I have said, for a measure so drastic it could not have been expected to see better results than we have seen and it must be gratifying to every person to notice the wonderful improvement on the streets of St. John's since the act has been in operation. The amendment now proposed arises largely because of the act providing that no spirituous liquors containing over two per cent. of alcohol can be sold, and, the act was framed last year so that grocers and druggists or others who sold any liquors which contained over two per cent of alcohol would be subject to serious fines. It is intended to remedy that and to prohibit certain articles which are thought to be injurious which some men who are inclined to have some intoxicant or stimulant have been using and which were regarded as medicines, such as Beef, Wine and Iron, Wincarnis and things of that kind. Certain of these things will now be prohibited, and a board is to be appointed which will take control of the Prohibition Measure and see that it is carried out in accordance with the desire of the legislature. It is quite unnecessary to make any lengthy remarks regarding it, and I will satisfy myself with moving the second reading, and if any further explanations are desired we shall endeavour to give them when the bill comes into committee.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.— I rise to second the motion that this bill dealing with the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors be now read a second time. This bill contains three provisions: The first defines the term "Intoxicating Liquors"; the second applies to the Prohibition Law in so far as they may be applied the provisions of various sections of the licensing Act of 1906; the third provision is for the appointment of a Board of Liquor Controllers. Section 35 of the Prohibition Plebiscite Act of 1915 reads as follows:

"The term "Intoxicating Liquors" shall be construed to signify all ale, wines, malt, brewed or spirituous liquors containing two per cent or upwards of alcohol in volume, except wines for sacramental purposes"

Section 7 of the Intoxicating Liquors Prohibition Act of 1916 reads as follows:

"The term "intoxicating liquors" shall be construed to signify all ale, wines, malt, brewed or spirituous liquors containing two per cent or upward of alcohol in volume, except such drugs and medicines as may be excepted by the Governor in Council, and wines for Sacramental purposes."

The effect of the insertion of the words "except such drugs and medicines as may be excepted by the Governor in Council" in Section 7 above quoted is to suggest that everything containing more than 2 per cent. of alcohol except sacramental wines are included within the term "intoxicating liquors" and prohibited importation, save and except only such drugs and medicines as may be expressly excepted by the Governor in Council. It has been argued that the effect of that section has consequently been to put upon the Governor in Council the responsibility of causing an examination to be made of the British pharmacopoela and the American pharmacopoela and the publication of an elaborate list of all drugs and medicines which contain over 2 per

cent and except them from prohibition as to importation and sale. It has also been pointed out that toilet articles containing over 2 per cent of alcohol may be construed to be prohibited from importation, and that the Governor in Council would have no power to make exception in favor of their importation as they would not be construed to be drugs and medicines, and the Governor in Council may except only drugs and medicines.

I had the pleasure of meeting informally a committee consisting of the Medical Health Officer, Dr. R. A. Brehm, the Government Analyst, Mr. Davies, and the two chief wholesale and retail druggists in Newfoundland Mr. Michael Connors and Mr. T. M. McNeil. These four gentlemen strongly recommended that instead of the prohibition of everything containing over 2 per cent. all patent medicines, tinctures and medicinal preparations containing over 2 per cent of alcohol be permitted to be imported under the law except such as the Governor in Council determined were being abused or likely to be abused, and that as soon as there was any evidence that there was any attempt to abuse any alcoholic medicinal substances which under the former Local Option law could have been freely sold in local option districts the Governor in Council should put its ban upon that particular substance. The recommendation which these gentlemen made in this connection was as follows:

"It is recommended that the law be so amended as to vest in the Governor in Council the power to specifically state the substances to be excluded. Otherwise it would be necessary to go over the entire British and United States pharmacopoeias and exempt from the operations of the Act a very large number of substances."

"It is also recommended that the Act be amended so that the sale of such alcoholic substances as are bona fide used for industrial, household and toilet purposes be permitted to be imported and sold."

This amendment is based upon the recommendation of these gentlemen, whom I am quite sure we consider to be capable of expressing an authoritative opinion.

The second provision dealing with the application of certain sections of the License Law is to provide the police and others with the same machinery for the enforcement of the Prohibition Law as was provided for the enforcement of the License Law. This Section includes the matter of the distribution of fines. Under the general law when part goes to the informer or prosecutor and part to the Crown it is divided one-half to the informer or prosecutor and one-half to the Crown. Under the License Law one-third went to the informer or prosecutor, one-third to a certain widows and orphans fund in connection with the police and one-third to the Crown. It is suggested that this latter system of the division of fines be applied to Prohibition cases.

Section 3 directs the Governor in Council to appoint a board of three persons as a Board of Liquor Controllers, their duties being to superintend the carrying out of the provisions of the Prohibition Law, and to advise the Governor thereon from time to time, the Board having power to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Prohibition Law with respect to the conduct of the Department of the Controller, and generally for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the law. Having regard to the radical reform in-

augurated by the Prohibition Law which came into force on the 2nd day of January of the present year, the amount of friction and unpleasantness which has developed has been exceedingly small. The Law has been in effective operation and has had most marvellous beneficial results. I do not believe there is an employer of labor, clergyman, school teacher, and certainly no official of the Department of Justice, a magistrate or policeman in St. John's who would not be most emphatic in his statements as to the beneficial effect of the operation of the law, even though it has been in existence but a few months and there naturally are still and will be for some time, very substant'al quantities of liquor on hand for private consumption. The Act was an experiment. It was defective, This amending act will improve it somewhat, but it is still capable of very substantial amendment, and as the years pass it will undoubtedly be made more perfect in its operations. Having regard, however, to all the circumstances and the radical nature of the change, I feel that those who strenuously advocated the cause of prohibition are to be heartily commended upon their great achievement in the cause of the financial, social and moral uplift of the community.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—First of all I would like to add my congratulations not only to Hon. Mr. Ellis, but to the House on his presence amongst us to-day, and one reason why I feel it is a subject of congratulation is that it is an outward and visible sign of an amalgamation of both parties as to the formation of a national government, the desirability of which I addressed myself on the opening day, the desire of most if not all of the members of this House. I think it is a pleasure to see that personal differences have been sunk and we have now a united legislature and government, and Mr. Ellis's presence here is all the more welcome on that account.

With regard to the Bill now before the house I think th. va. it now proposes to put und" control patent medicines, etc., is sound and reasonable, and ought to do away with the difficulties that have already arisen in connection with this matter.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I do not think it is necessary for an amendment to be made for the purpose of dealing with the suggested possible technical violation of the statue law of the Colony by a ship carrying in its cargo as stores intoxicating liquors coming within the three mile limit or into the port of St. John's. Under the present Customs law there are certain goods the importation of which is prohibited, and it has never been suggested that a ship should not be permitted to come into the Harbor because it had such goods on board. Certainly any atttempt to deal with such prohibited goods would be an infraction of the law. Stores of intoxicating liquors will be treated by the Customs authorities with the same care and caution, probably with more care and caution, than other stores of a vessel visiting us from a foreign port.

HON. J D. RYAN—I follow in congratulating Hon. Mr. Ellis on his taking a seat in this Chamber, and as I said in the other room, he is very fortunate in coming in here now. If he had come in fourteen years ago, he would have been received with frowns instead of congratulations, but he has come in in better times. Mr. Ellis is appointed here because he has a right to be here; he is one of the people, but some others who came in here in 1904 were greeted with black looks. I have two of them on my right, and one opposite who were

made members when the membership of the House was increased from fifteen to eighteen. Fortunately Mr. Ellis arrives in better times and I hope he will continue for many years to do justice and honor to himself and his country.

Regarding the other matter of which we are speaking, perhaps I may have an opportunity of speaking on this subject to-morrow. It is reported that when this act went through the legislature last year some merchant who provided his customers with coals, provision and other goods, rang up a man and asked when he was going to take in his coals; he replied he would take a ton, "But," he said, "you took five tons last year." "Yes, but I have no room now; the room is taken up with other goods; wet goods." Well, now we are going to have a board according to this bill and I have no objection to it, but I hope the Government of the day will see that a board will be appointed that will carry out this Prohibition Act in every way.

I like to see a country temperate if there is such a thing as temperance. I have never seen a more temperate people than I've seen here in my long experience of over half a century, and I consider it is a reflection on our country and people when temperance legislation must be brought in branding them as inebriates, as if they could not restrain themselves I hope the three gentlemen of the Board will be able to make us better than we were in the past.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE.—I think the point suggested by Hon. Mr. Harvey is a very good one, and one that we ought to take up. I cannot agree with the Colonial Secretary that there is any similarity between liquor on board ships which comes in here and the ordinary ship's stores. There is a law prohibiting the entry of any spirituous liquors. That being the case, I think that any steamer coming in here is liable to be held up and fined. If such is the case it is time the matter was put straight.

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

On motion the House went into Committee on the Public Service Electric Company Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC CO., BILL.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—With reference to this section, an amendment has been suggested to the Hon. Colonial Secretary which I hope he will be able to accept. It has occurred to me that he ought to limit the powers to be granted to this company not with the idea of hampering the company in its operations, but merely to prevent the possibility that results may follow from the powers that may be obtained under the phraseology of the Bill as it now stands, and which at some future time may be detrimental to public policy, as I indicated when last discussing the measure. My view is that we should give the company every concession, every privilege and right that have been given every other elective Company in this Colony and no more. If we do as well for them as everybody else we are treating them fairly and liberally. To ask any more is unreasonable, and I don't think this House should lightly concede to any Company rights, which under some contingencies and conditions, would against the general interests of the State.

I would move as an amendment that in the fourth line of page 3, after the words, "may now or hereafter be used," the addition of these words, "by any other company hitherto incorporated by any Act of the Legislature of the Colony." In other words,

instead of giving the Company the powers which the Act proposes, I would see to it that they should have the same rights as any Company at present operating for the purpose of working electric enterprises in the Colony, and to have the right to apply the energy they develop for any purpose for which any other Company now applies it, or for any purpose for which they may hereafter apply it. It is scarcely necessary to labour the position, and I submit it to hon. gentlemen and the House in the hope that it may meet their acceptance.

HON. DR. SKELTON.—In the event of more powers and improvements or discoveries being made by this Company I think the other company already operating should be quite at liberty to take up the same powers. It seems strange for a new company to be allowed to make use of discoveries valuable to any company, and they to have the power to prevent existing companies from using that power. Does it mean that Mr. President?

HON. MR. HARVEY.—The amendment I wish to put into Section 2 is the clause which has already been embodied in some of these Acts and which should be embodied in this. I would insert here in this Section the clause which is in the Union Electric Company's Act of 1916: "Whenever any losses, damages or injuries,' etc. (Section 16) and I would add to that clause a proviso which should have been there before: "Provided further that in the event of temporary obstruction of any street or highway being at any time unavoidably caused by the work of the Company, means shall be provided by the said Company whereby public traffic may be continued during such temporary obstruction." This clause should be in every one of these bills and is one which no Company should ,object to.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I meant that the powers of this Company be limited to the extent of the powers possessed by any other company. It would be difficult to foresee what it may be possible for other companies to do under the law as it stands. Five years from now something may be introduced, some company may ask for a right for the new employment of electricity and there may come a question which can only be determined by the law courts. When the original New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Co'y., the patent of the Anglo-American Company began operations here, the telephone had not been discovered,—only telegraph was in being. Subsequently the telephone was introduced and the claim was that telephone was an employment of electrical energy which was covered by the grant to the Anglo Company. The Courts upheld the view that that Company had a monopoly and no one else could operate as a competitor of that Company and no company could be given the right to use the telephone without their permission. Some company may utilize their energy for some other purpose and their right be challenged by somebody else and if anybody is held by the Crown to employ electricity for such purpose that also shall apply to this new Company.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—Surely the hon. mover of the amendment must see he will practically be obstructing the company and its electricians. I have no interest in it or any member of it, but why should the electricians of the Company, providing they discovered some valuable thing, have to wait for some other company already incorporated, to put their discovery into practice? This would have the effect of compelling the clever electrician to give away the result of his work, and brains, and surely such an

amendment should not be put into the Bill. It is unfair to put an amendment or addition to the clause to say that this Company must not put into effect any new application of electricity. It seems to me that the public interest will be safeguarded if we see that any improvements or extensions of the company's business must be something for the public benefit, and not detrimental to the public interest or dangerous to life. I cannot vote for an amendment of this kind.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I would point out to my hon. friend that what he has said doesn't meet the point of my amendment. If the company should discover some new method of employing electricity then the new company can take out a patent for it. Under the Patent Laws they would have the right to operate this new dscovery. This amendment could not affect a man's patent right, he can do anything with it. Any individual can take out a patent, and the Company can buy it from him. This gives the company power to operate its electrical undertakings for any purpose for which any company at present incorporated may. It is not necessary to follow them.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—It must wait for some Company to put new ideas into practical operation.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—"All purposes for which it is now or hereafter may be used" by any other Company. I would like to say that with reference to this being a private Bill that we in this House are not bound by agreements made outside. I have no interest in the Bill, for or aganst it. It occurred to me that the phraseology was a menace to public safety under certain conditions and I suggested the danger to the House. I suggested the amendment, but am not wedded to it, though I believe the Bill is important; and if the House is prepared to let the Bill go in the form in which it stands I have no desire to impair it in any manner or fashion, but adduced the case of the Anglo Company and Marconi and thought it well to point the moral to the House. I submit that we should not be influenced in our views on legislation by the fact that parties outside made an agreement for all who will operate to their own advantage. This aspect does not concern us; we should consider the question on its merits. The Hon. gentleman suggests that we leave the wording "for all purposes" and to leave out the words "for which electrical energy may now be used," &c.' I do not know but that would meet the situation, on consideration, except in fact that other companies could not use it for all purposes.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—They can for all legitimate purposes.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—As a matter of fact this Company under the original phraseology could use it in establishing telephone and telegraph lines unless barred by any other statute. I do not know but cutting out the words "for all purposes" will meet it.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I would suggest an alternative amendment, giving the same range of powers as the present companies have, "to generate accumulate and distribute electricity for motive power, light and heat. This is practically the essence of the charters of the other Companies, in fact the exact wording of the charter 1913, given the Northern Electric Company of Catalina, and I take it for granted that this Company does not want to get possession of any more extensive powers by means of indefinite clauses introduced into their Act of Incorporation than those given other similar Companies. They are not trying to get ahead of the

other Company or Companies. There is nothing vogue about these terms. They are clearly defined, and the best plan is to put the Company on the same terms as the others.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Section 1 gives the company the right to the waters of a certain stream for the purposes of the development of electrical energy. With reference to the remarks of the hon. member that this House is not bound by anything except their own will and pleasure, I would merely say that my duty is to introduce this Bill into this House. I am not a member of the Company, nor did I represent the Company before the Select Committee. All the parties interested were represented by their solicitors before that committee. The wording of the Bill is that agreed upon by the Committee of the House of Assembly, and passed by them unanimously. The effect of the first section is to give the Company the right to develop electrical energy, and when they develop it the Company may use it for all purposes. This Bill gives no exclusive privileges as to lighting or other uses of electricity, nor has the Company the right to in any way interfere with the rights of any other Company or individual.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I would like to say a few words on the Bill before the House and at the same time to preface them by joining with other hon. members in extending my heartiest congratulations and welcome to this House to Hon. Mr. Ellis. I have listened with pleasure to the various speakers on the Bill before the House, and I intend to vote for the Bill as it stands. My reason is that a Select Committee of the Lower House was appointed to enquire into the details of the Bill. They had a conference with the directors representing each side, and as this was a private Bill, I think it my duty to resist in giving the Company what it wants. If both sides agree on what is wanted and the Bill is properly passed, I do not see, after it has passed the Lower House, why objections should be raised to it. I have no objection to make to it. I would like to know the reason for changing it.

HON. J. D. RYAN—I should like to say a few words on this Section of the Bill. I do not like to see a monopoly given to any concern and I cannot agree with my hon. friend on my right, that because this Bill was passed by a Select Committee, therefore we should pass it. I do not know what our services are for. I think we are here to supervise any matter coming before us. Regarding the remarks of the introducer of the Bill, while it is a private Bill, I think, with all due respect to the Colonial Secretary, some other persons should have charge of it because it looks much like a Government Bill.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I took charge of it before taking the Office of Colonial Secretary.

HON. J .D. RYAN—You had another office as Minister of Justice. This did not change the position. Personally, I know the Hon. Colonial Secretary is as competent as any hon. member that could be appointed but, as I take it, a public departmental officer taking up a private Bill looks a little out of place. Going back to the Anglo or the New York Mgr. London Telegraph Company, they had a monopoly for years because at that time it was thought they could not run a cable across the Atlantic, but they had the courage of their convictions and made a success of it. Some 12 or 15 years ago another Company came along to establish a wireless station here at Signal Hill, Mr. Marconi was in charge. He was

the first to introduce this system of telegraph, which is making such strides now, but after operating three or four days he had to shut down. The government of the day—I was one of them at the time—were only too glad we should get any new appliances in this country, and we did not want to interfere with the Anglo at all, and had no idea at that time we would interfere with them. As I said a few days ago, I have no interest in the United Towns Electric Co. nor in this new Company so am perfectly free, but the United Towns Electric Co. were the first there, and they ought to have some protection from this House. It would be like the days of the old Gas Company in Harbor Grace, which I referred to a few days ago; small as it was it had to go out of existence because the place was not big enough for it. I suggest, in the interests of the country, that we do not make a monopoly like the Anglo had here which drove out a contemplated company which was a great loss to the future of the country. We ought to do nothing to interfere with those who come after us.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—While my hon. friend on my left does not agree with me, I certainly agree with him in one thing, that we should not allow monopolies, and if we were doing an injustice to the present company, I would oppose it. I agree with competition. I have no interest in one Company or the other; it makes no difference to me what concessions they get, but I think with the hon. gentleman in charge of the bill, that this Company should get a square deal.

HON. MR. HARVEY—A good deal has been said about this conference which has taken place between the companies. What in the world has that to do with us? These are people representing two private companies and it has no bearing whatever on the position before this House. I therefore eliminate that argument. We have to look at this bill as it stands before us, irrespective of any question of conferences between two private companies or their lawyers. We hear a great deal about monopolies I myself was quoted as protesting against them. Now I say this bill is a bill against a monopoly. It is a company coming in to compete with another company which has a certain monopoly. Monopolies are not necessarily bad, but absolutely necessary in some cases. Take a street railway, or a water power. You cannot have two companies running street cars on the same street, and in order to develop a water power we must give the company a monopoly of it or the public could not get any good out of it. Competing companies cannot develop the same water power. I do not follow the arguments of Mr. Anderson or Mr. Ryan. Hon. Mr. Ryan argues against monopolies and this bill is directly against them, and Hon. Mr. Anderson argues on the ground that two or three lawyers or companies have met and made up something which we ought to accept. However that is by the way. What I desire to say to the gentleman in charge of the bill is, why is it that this company should be given broader powers than any company hitherto started? If that is explained, I withdraw my amendment, but in the absence of a satisfactory explanation I must press my amendment, or that of the hon. President.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I intended to reply to some of the observations of Hon. Mr. Ryan, but that has already been ably dealt with by Hon. Mr. Harvey. This bill does not support a monopoly; there is no suggestion of a monopoly. Certain companies already have a monopoly;

a company in Brigus, which is reputed to have assigned to the U.T.E. Co. has a certain monopoly, but this company asks no monopoly whatever, only the inclusive right to use certain water powers. There is only one other point in the remarks of Hon. Mr. Ryan to which I would like to refer. He desires to censure me for my connection with the Bill and assures us he has no connection with the matter. That may be, but as a Conception Bay man I have a deep personal interest in it. Being a Harbor Gracian with a home in Harbor Grace, I would like to see the wishes of my friends and neighbours granted to the fullest extent, because the development of electrical energy in that town means a great deal. With soft coal at $16.00 a ton and hard coal at $26.00 a ton, the proposition of heating with electricity is a sane business proposition with which any corporaton having cheap water power might deal. The town of Carbonear has a special interest for me; my earliest days were spent there at a boarding school. I could not look over the names of those signing this petition without feeling a deep personal interest in the measure. And then when it comes to Heart's Content town I have a further additional pleasure and interest, because that town gave such loyal and enthusiastic support to the party with which I am identified, and there I have so many friends and acquaintances. With Harbor Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content so fully represented on the petitions for this bill, I could not do otherwise than take the responsibility of censure from the hon. gentleman and give it my enthusiastic support. With respect to the question of my hon. frend, Mr. Harvey, as to why this wording is somewhat different to other bills, I would merely say that if he reads through this bill carefully I think he will agree with me that the bill is much better drafted and a saner production than any previous electric company bill. As a matter of fact the powers are not greater. Reference is made in other acts to electric power; everything that is done by electricity is electric power. That power is converted into heat and light, and is also used in the telephone and through the air as in wireless telegraphy. It is all electric power, and the company having the right to generate electric power has the right to develop electric light and heat. I see no reason why a bill that has been carefully drawn and is in phrasology that I am quite sure is satis factory to any person reading it through carefully, should be mutilated because in other instances bills now on the statute book are not so well drafted.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I don't wish to prolong the debate unduly, but I should like to make a few remarks in reference to Hon. Mr. Anderson, who said he had heard no argument advanced as to why we should make some changes in this bill. This reminds me of a remark of Mr. Bonar Law in the British Parliament recently. He had expouned some matter and some criticisms were advanced regarding it, which drew from him the remark that he feared he had lost, if indeed he had ever possessed it, the facility of ever making his meaning clear. Now that is my position at the present moment. I have set out the reasons why in my judgment it is undesirable that very extensive powers should be given this company, and my hon. friend has not been impressed with my arguments. I hope I have been more fortunate with the rest of the house. The position is this; there is a section in this bill which proposes to give this company the right to use electricity for any purpose for which electrical may

hereafter be used; that is to say,will give the company an absolute and unrestricted power which no agency or this legislature can take from the company hereafter, and the position I take is that it is undesirable to give this power. I offer as a concrete example, the case of the Anglo Company which gave them a monopoly fifty six years ago, which kept out of this colony an industry now established in Cape Breton—the Marconi station—which means an outlay of at least $250,000 there which we could have had. The hon. gentleman in charge of the bill said it was not fair to have this bill mutilated because other bills had been less skillfully drawn than this one. Not being a lawyer, I am not prepared to say the previous bills were less skillfully drawn. My hon. friend, Mr. Harvey, who made an analysis of some previous measures, set before the house the difference beteween those measures. I assume every lawyer who drafts a bill of this kind has the opinion that his work is better than everybody else's. I know every lawyer going into court endeavours to convince everybody of the sincerity of his case and the absolute stability of it. I start with regard to this bill, on the principle that all the words that are included in it have some specific meaning. If the bill is skilfully drawn, as my hon. friend suggests, every word put there is there for some purpose. I do not say there is anything wrong with that. I think the gentlemen are to be congratulated on the ingenuity displayed in the phraesology, but I do not admit for a moment that such is any reason why this chamber should accept the proposition as it stands. I think on the contrary it is a reason why we should very carefully scrutinize those terms and phrases, and consider whether we are doing our duty to the country in accepting them as they stand. . I suggested one amendment; Mr. Harvey suggested another; Hon. Mr. Bishop has put in my hands now what he would suggest as a substitute for both. It is in short for what we are aiming at. He proposes the clause to be amended thus—Strike out the words "All purposes for which electricity now is or hereafter may be used" and insert instead "for the production of heat, light and power." If that meets the acceptance of the house, I would move it provided the hon. gentleman in charge of the bill can accept it.

TUESDAY, July 24th, 1917.

The House met at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

PLACENTIA WATER COY. INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Placentia Water Co. Incorporation Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Ellis in the Chair.

On motion, the Committee rose, reported the Bill without amendment. The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that the House had passed same without amendment.

PROHIBITION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion the House went into Committee of the whole on the Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the Chair.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Might I ask the meaning of the words, "any unlicensed person or any unregistered clubs." Surely now that we have Prohibition, we should have some simpler machinery to deal with this matter. There are no clubs now, registered or unregistered and no per-

sons licensed except Doctors or druggists.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I cannot answer the hon. gentleman's query and do not know why the words are there.

HON. MR. GIBBS—The sections set forth in this bill are the sections of the Licensing Act. I cannot see how they can apply to the Prohibition Law, because the sections deal with the sale of intoxicating liquors under a license issued by a Stipdeniary Magistrate or the Licensing Board, and offences under these sections deal with specific offences in connection with the sale of drink. Section 39, which is one of the Sections included in this Bill, is one which the police are empowered to visit unlicensed houses. We have no such thing in this country to-day and why incorporate this section into this Bill. The next Section gives the right to seize liquor in unlicensed houses and the next Section deals with the employment of barmaids. There is next a mention of a retail license. That would be a retail license under the Act of 1906, not under this Prohibition law. It is a license where liquor would be sold as the law then stood. But liquor cannot be sold now under such conditions as under the Licensing Act of 1906. I think these various Sections so thrown in, confuse the Act and make the carrying out of the law more difficult. It is better not to pass a law which is imperfect in detail, because it creates endless confusion and trouble. We lawyers want to avoid trouble, for we are looking for a reward in the next world. Then there is a Section dealing with occasional license which is made part and parcel of the Bill. This has nothing to do with the Prohibition Law, and will create endless confusion and trouble.

HON. DR. SKELTON—It appears to me that the more laws are passed the more incomprehensible and confusing they become, and this is the thing that makes the former troubles worse than ever they were. Before we pass this section I am of the opinion there should be an amendment to make it more understandable. I cannot understand it. You can read it in different ways. It has been said that a coach and four can be driven through many of our Acts of Parliament and this, I believe, is one of them. The Bill says there should be a Board of Liquor Control to consist of three persons. I think this Board should be composed of at least five, and three should be a quorum. When a Board is composed of three persons only, the quorum is generally two and then one person may take charge of the other. I hope that this Committee will consider the matter carefully, and evolve something creditable to the House.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—I desire to point out that the explanation of the hon. gentleman only serves to show the necessity that exists for not adopting the section. For instance under section 48, take the case of a doctor or druggist who may have been convicted of a breach of the prohibition act and you or I are found on his premises; we would be compelled to answer before the court why we were on his premises. Surely it is not the intention of the legislature to have legislation of that kind put on the Statue Book when we do not mean anything of the kind. Then we are going to have a black list. Intoxicating liquors are only intended to be supplied on the prescription of a doctor for medical purposes, and are we going to have a black list for a prohibition country where we can neither import or sell. There is another section which the hon. gentleman read to the house under which if enacted a doctor could not give liquor on a premises which was not

licensed for that purpose. I protest strongly against the slip-shod manner in which this legislation has been drafted. Of course so far as this honse is concerned, we have had nothing to do with it; it has simply been introduced in the lower house without any thought or care whatever. There is another point raised, that as regards ships coming into port. No ship coming here to-day can bring liquor within the three mile limit anywhere in Newfoundland because the act makes it illegal. There was a conviction in point before the magistrate a few days ago. A man bought a bottle of liquor in Sydney brought it ashore here, drank more than was good for him, was arrested, convicted and fined $100. If that be good law, then no ship can come inside the three mile limit with any liquor on board, because the section in the 1906 Act which we are now asked to include in this act makes it ilegal to have on board, secret, sell or attempt to sell any liquor. No vessel therefore can have it on board or in the possession of anyone on board because the law expressly forbids it.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I personally am at a loss to understand what the object of this is. Under the 1906 Act the sale, manufacture and importation of liquor are all forbidden under penalty, and it appears the 1916 act was a very good one and provides penaltes to cover all possible conditions. I am going to propose an amendment in connection with what Hon. Mr. Gibbs has referred to, the bringing in by passenger ships and ships in transit of liquors of any sort. I fail to see the necessity for all the sections and it does appear to me the 1316 act covers all that.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I would hesitate of course to disagree with the legal profession as to the necessity of more machinery, but I have no hesitation in disagreeing with them in the methods employed by putting the machinery, as created the 1916 Act in the hands of the authorities in this fashion. It seems to me therefore countless opportunities for making trouble by importing into this act in the fashion proposed to be done all these sections of the 1906 Act. There are no licensed houses in the sense that the 1906 act contemplated, because every house is now unlicensed under this Act. Every man's house is now liable to be entered by a policeman. I think what ought to be done is that a new series of sections should be drafted and put in this bill. This I presume is a labor-saving device and an easy way for the legal gentlemen concerned, but it is a very unsatisfactory one for everybody else. We have this reference to clubs, registered and unregistered. There are certain clubs and societies which existed here for many years, but registered and unregistered clubs that would be a different matter, because they are covered by the Incorporation or Companies Acts or some other statute, whereas the clubs mentioned here as unregistered clubs are clubs that do not now exist. Then there is the question of ships coming into port. I heard it said that ships shall not bring anything into port; I presume what is intended is that ships should not bring in anything to be landed for sale. If that is not what is contemplated, I think there is a duty incumbent on this house to provide that it shall be so. In this as in numerous other cases that I have pointed out we have an illustration of the fact—I do not say anything against the lower house—but I think we have cause for complaint, as to the class of legislation required presented to this house. It is not the kind we should have and I think these causes ought to have been re-enacted in the

bill. The country has now completed, or will have completed within a short time a new consolidation of the statutes and now we find sections and pieces from half those bills that have preceded it, incorporated into this bill, and I think we should have more direct and applicable enactments than those coming now before the legislature.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I entirely agree with the representations of the hon. President to having every measure set forth in the words applicable, but under the particular circumstances of this case, as the sections apply so very nearly, and as it is merely putting into force under the Prohibition Act the recognized procedure under which we were working under the Licensing Act of 1906. It is merely to matters of police procedure and matters of appeals that this referers. I submit that this abbreviated method which the lower branch of the legislature has been pleased to accept is a reasonable one, unless this House is disposed to take up the re enactment of each section, one after another. I may say that this particular method is the one laid before the House by the solicitors who represented the Central Prohibition Committee and in that form the sections went before the House of Assembly and were approved by them. From a technical and legal standpoint it is not as exact as it might be, but for practical purposes at this late date of the session of the legislature, I submit that this is a very admirable way of doing it. Certainly no harm can result because legally the sections are already in existence.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I direct the attention of the House to the fact that we passed a Prohibition Act and it appears to me that the Prohibition Act implied repeals the Intoxicating Liquors Act of 1906 and that the Intoxicating Liquors Act is not now in force here. You cannot therefore put it into Section 2 of this Act. Then how can certain Sections of the Intoxicating Liquors Act apply, when there is no such Act on the Statute Book to day.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I would not for a moment undertake to set up my opinion against that of such an experienced gentleman as Hon. Mr. Gibbs, but it does not appear to me that the 1906 Act was upheld by the passing of the Prohibition Act of last year. I agree with the other hon. members who have spoken with regard to the roundabout way in which certain sections of the 1906 Act are embodied in the Prohibition Act, but I cannot see any harm in passing the Section as it seems to us, and at the next session of the Legislative it will be possible, if thought necessary, to further amend it. I think that then we should have a fuller and more complete Act than now. It appears to me to be entirely to provide penalties for breakers of th Prohibition Act and as all will admit, if it was framd with the idea of convicting persons running shebeens, there is more reason now than ever why the police should be alert and why machinery should be provided in the Bill to give them authority to search suspected places. For this reason, I think it is not worth spending more time in debating the subject and that little harm will accrue from the passing of the Section.

HON. MR .PRESIDENT—Might I ask why that specific provision is made with regard to making rules for limiting the amount of intoxicants to be supplied to any one person?

HON. MR. BISHOP—There should be some limit to the quantity of liquor that Doctors shall perscribe to patients. There should be a limit to be decided upon by the Board of Control.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—The point I make is that it seems to me it does not gor far enough, it ought to specify what is to be given to any one person at any one time. I assume that in view of the experience the authorities are having, they can see in sight the material to work upon.

HON. DR. SKELTON—I leg leave to move that the Board be composed of five men, three of whom will form a quorum.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I think, Mr. Chairman, that for the present it is desirable that the number shall not be increased and that better service will be given by a Board of three. I think Hon. Mr. Harvey's amendment has to do with ships coming here. Perhaps it is desirable. There was an application made quite recently when a ship was laying here for some time. Her Captain was bound to supply the crew with a certain quantity of wine per day, to which they were entitled under their articles, and the men were to receive three or four times the value of the wine if it was not provided. As the stock had run out, the Captain asked permission to be allowed to bring in wine to be taken under the control of the authorities, and put on board his vessel, but permission was refused. As reagrds passenger steamers coming here with a certain quantity of wines and spirits, I hold it is not importation and does not come within the scope of the Act. Vessels of this kind are visited by the Customs officers and the spirits on board are sealed up. This is the practice and any amendment the hon. member may move to protect such ships from penalties when the liquors on board are not to be used here and are only part of the cargo, will be entertained. Such ships should be protected from any penalty.

Hon. Dr. Skelton's amendment to increase the membership of the Board from 3 to 5, was lost on division.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I wish to propose an amendment to this section. I have in mind not only the question of passenger ships with liquor in their holds which come within our jurisdiction, and are, under our present Act, technically subject to fine, but also the fact that for many y[illegible] has been recognized that our c[illegible] is very beneficial for the matur[illegible] of port wine, and it has been the practice for certain quantities to be brought here each year from Portugal, specially manufactured for this trade, to be matured here and sent away again. It is extremely likely that we are going to affect the attitude of the Portuguese towards us in this respect if we shut out their wine. We have received a rdeuction in the duty on our fish which is at last the same as Norway, the most favoured nation clause, and we may prejudice our interests seriously. I cannot see what harm would result from allowing this. All we want to do is to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Colony. It appears to me this amendment will cover all these things and that in these cases of technical breaches of the law it is absolutely necessary.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—While we continue to export fish to and import raisins and currants, etc., from Spain and Portugal, Greece, etc., we ought to do nothing to injure our interests in these countries where we have such extensive dealings. Reference has been made to the port wine which is brought here in bond from Portugal and matured, and then shipped in large quantities to London. It was a common sight to see on the large bond stores in London large advertisements of Newfoundland port wine. I think the suggestion made is well worthy of this House, and I am sure the lower House would appreciate a section of

that kind coming from this House. It would have a great deal of weight.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I may say that this idea as to the continuation of the import of port wine for maturing in this climate, is not a new one by any means. It has been considered very fully and the decision arrived at was that it could not be permitted without possibly causing dissatisfaction. As regards interfering with Portugal, I submit there is absolutely no fear of anything of that kind occurring. We are not discriminating against Portugal not against any other country; we prohibit from all countries alike. The act has been in force since the first day of January and there has been no protest from Portugal or any other country. The amendment I could not accept and I do not think it would carry in the other branch of the legislature. However in saying that I do not say no one should move an amendment to test the opinion of the house, but I should be compelled to vote against it.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I was going to say that if the amendment is lost I put it to the hon. gentleman in charge of the bill that he or somebody has got to make some provision that ships coming here with ships stores and other ships going through in transit with liquor on board, shall not be penalized.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I think it a pity the hon. gentleman cannot see his way clear to allow this port wine to come in here for maturing. I think in these days, when we are all in the same boat, fighting under the same banner of civilization and progress,as it were, we should not allow our local feelings to operate to the extent that we would not permit what may be regarded as a legitimate concessions to an ally like Portugal. I think it all the more regrettable in view of the fact that we know of the fact that at the present time there are scores of people with their cellars full of liquor brought in before this act went into effect to be consumed during the years to come, and many of them are people who have voted for this bill and yet can see no inconsistency in having a private stock of their own for their own consumption, while maintaining there should be no sale or consumption by the public generally. Now that is a position I am unable to understand and I do not suppose I ever will be. While we permit that we still deny a business people the right to bring in liquor from Portugal in bond to be matured and sent out again; that is an example of inconsistency which to my mind it would be hard to beat.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment, because there is no application from the Government of Portugal or any Portuguese residents that this should be done. It is not a business that affects Portugal really. There was a request from the agents of Newman and Co., that they should be permitted to do this. Now, if we had a request from Portugal, then I think it would have been received very differently and been considered. Even if it may be regarded as inconsistency, I submit that it would lead to a great deal of conflict and dissatisfaction.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I fail to see what conflict or dissatisfaction it could lead to. To say the Lower House would not accept it is surely carrying temperance legislation to extreme.

HON. COL. SECRETARY—I cannot support an amendment in this form. Section 2 of the 1916 Act says that Intoxicating Liquors shall not be imported. To say that it shall not be imported for "consumption and sale" means by implication that it may be imported for any purposes other than consumption and sale. The 1916 Act provided for the sale to manufacturers

of intoxicating liquors for manufacturing purposes, and while it may not be altogether objectionable to allow the importation in bond of Portuguese wines for maturing purposes, yet the amendment as drafted does very much more than that. If the Portuguese authorities desire to have an amendment to our law so that Portuguese wines may have the benefit of Newfoundland climate for maturing purposes, I am quite sure their request would receive favourable consideration.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL ACT 1902 AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Harvey, the St. John's Municipal Act, 1902, Amendment Bill was read a second time, and the House then went into committee of the whole thereon by unanimous consent of the House, Hon. Mr. Power in the Chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY—There is little or nothing to be said about this bill. As most of hon. members know, a joint committee of the Legislature has been sitting on this Municipal Charter, has had a great many meetings, and heard the Citizens' Committee and City Council thereon. The Act was so extensive that they finally decided to do nothing with it this session. The present Act embodies only one principle which the Municipal Council and Citizens' Committee desire to have, and that is the placing of the collection of taxation through the owner of the property rather than through the owner and tenant, and this Act authorizes the owner to collect the taxes which are now paid into the Council by the tenant. That in the opinion of the Commissioners and the present Council is going to reduce the danger of arrears and also the expense of collecting taxes, because they will be collected by the owner and not by the Council so far as the tenant is concerned.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I have not very much to say regarding this bill, except to endorse what has been said by the previous speaker.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I understand from the Councillors and Mayor that this is the system now worked by the Council, but there is no legal enactment embodied and for many years past unoccupied buildings have been taxed on this basis by mutual agreement between the Council and taxpayer and the matter has been adjusted in this way by the Council. This is the general broad principle under which it is intended to collect these taxes, and this I am informed is the meaning of the Section. I propose to alter the wording of sub-section (e) a little, as the section is not clear. It reads:—(e) "To make rules. regulations and bye-laws providing for the granting to the owner or builder of any house hereafter erected within the City limits not exceeding one thousands dollars in value of a bonus not exceeding ten per cent. of the cost of such house; provided that the total of such bonuses shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars in any one year, nor the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars in all."

I would alter the wording to read "not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars in any one year." On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments. With the assent of the House the bill was read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the bill with some amendments.

CONTROL OF TRADING IN NECESSARIES OF LIFE BILL.

Second reading of bill respecting

the Control of Trading in the necessaries of Life.

Hon. Mr. Bishop moved that this bill be read a second time.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Just a word on this Bill. I think everybody probably is in favor of this measure. If illigitimate profits are being made it is certainly right in times like these that they should be controlled and kept within bounds. But what I want to say is that we have heard a great deal of that side of the question, but there is something to be said on the other side which we have not heard. It is, that whatever have been the conditions here at any rate the system has kept the Colony well supplied with necessaries, amply sufficient for our requirements, and the Colony has not suffered from a struggle of any kind, a condition of things which has obtained in very few places since the war began. And I further want to say that whatever profits have been made here by the mercantile community have been retained in the Colony; they have not been sent away or placed on deposit at interest, but kept at work and reinvested here since the war began. The capital that is here—that has been made in the Colony has gone into all sorts of reproductive forms. It has gone into shipping when it was very short. It has gone into supplying business. More than one firm today has over one million out on credit. It has been risked freely and liberally and to the general advantage, and it is still going into shipping and other enterprises. We have lost a large amount of shipping and this is one of our greatest problems. This is being constantly reserved and whatever profits are being made are at work for the benefit of the country as a whole and will enable the fisherman, mechanic, laborer and commercial classes to carry on as usual. Risks have been taken readily. This is the other side of the shield which is not generally spoken of, but which it is right should be recognized. As I have said none objects to food control; it should be welcomed and should do a great deal of good in restoring confidence in keeping the public satisfied that things are as they ought to be, the result I may say depends entirely upon the way in which it is administered. The powers are exceedingly drastic and must be exercised with care or great harm may result. The Act and the powers therein contained are capable of great value and advantage, but on the other hand. the position is delicate and if misused more harm than good will result. I only hope and believe that whoever may be charged with the responsibility attached to it will exercise great care and circumspection in the way the powers conferred on them are handled.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I would like to say that it is because I feel confident that no member had anything to say in opposition to the bill that I moved its second reading. Ample time will be offered Hon. members to say what they have to in committee at next sitting as the bill is very important.

The bill was then read a second time and was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop. the 33rd Rule and all other Rules of the House with regard to all bills, amendments, addresses, petitions and all other matters now before or to come before the House for the remainder of the session were suspended.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President announced that he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the

Bill entitled "an Act to Provide Pensions for the members of the military and naval forces of the Colony, their widows, children and other dependents," in which they requested the concurrence of the Council.

On motion the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

HON. MR. BISHOP—In moving the adjournment of the House, I desire to say that while it is important that we should hasten legislation as much as possible, I know there are hon. membes who do not desire to attend to-morrow, it being a half-holiday, and therefore I move that the House adjourn until 3 p.m. of the clock on Thursday.

— —

Thursday, July 26th, 1918.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires the House resolved into committee of the whole on the Public Service Bill,Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE.—I think this bill asking for certain concessions of the rights to use the waters of Heart's Content stream and other matters has received attention that similar bills have seldom received. I cannot but contrast the attention given and the time we have spent in analizing the privileges asked for with the manner in which large subsidies and large grants have passed through this house; even where millions have been concerned. For my own part in reading through this bill I think I can support the whole thing as it stands. Some of the amendments proposed I have no doubt are good,but the greatest objection I have to the thing is in the admission of storage batteries free of duty. This company asks so far as I can see for nothing but what is usually granted and the usual articles imported for the purpose of generating electricity. Now it is admitted by those in favor of the petition that electricity is in its infancy and that it will in future mean a probably addition to the wealth of the community. With this I am entirely in accord. I think under the circumstances we should give every facility for the use of water powers for purposes of electricity, as by granting things of this kind it is possible to give benefit by means of cheap fuel and cheap light. My hon. friend Mr. Gibbs has given notice of moving a resolution which is to give to the Carbonear company the right of excluding this company from the use of certain parts of Conception Bay not included in their charter. This is the kind of legislation I am not agreeable to. Now if this company is as he has said been running at a loss, we should, I think do all in our power to save them that loss by granting this company the same right. If it is a losing business why do they not get out of it, but as I understand it, this business has been a success and I believe this company now asking for these privileges will have the same success. With these few remarks I support the bill in its entirety.

The amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Gibbs to prevent the Company from operating in certain places north of Carbonear where the United Towns Electric Company is now operating was then put.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—As the person in charge of this Bill, I have to rise in opposition to the amendment. I submit that to prevent the new company from carrying on business in this area is taking from them a privilege which is open to any member of the public. If the United Towns Electric Company desired the exclusive privileges of operating in this territory they should have had it in their own incorporating Bill.

The amendment was put and lost.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs' amendment to section 4 was then put.

HON. MR. GIBBS—The reason why this amendment becomes necessary is that in section 2 of the Bill, this Company will have the right to enter upon and call for the expropriation of any portion of the United Towns Electric Co's property in Hr. Grace, Carbonear, or Heart's Content. I take it that the House does not want to confer upon this Company the right to expropriate the property of a rival Company, because that is the effect of this section. All that is asked is that the Public Service Electric Company be not given the right to interfere with the property of its rival in those places where the United Towns Electric Co. does business. My hon. friend to the right of me suggested similar rights on behalf of this Company. The United Towns Electric Co. has no disposition or desire to interfere with any other Company in any manner. It only desires to protect the rights already granted it. The Legislature gave it the exclusive right in Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content to light these towns with electricity. To that end it has the right to erect such buildings as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying on its business in these towns.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—The hon. gentleman says the Legislature has given an exclusive right to the United Towns Co. in the section which it is now proposed to give this new Company certain privileges. This is a new feature of the matter. He says that the Legislature has already given the United Towns Co. the exclusive right to light these places, then how could a similar right be given the new Company?

HON. MR. SQUIRES—He. asks for the right to use the streets of all the towns in that whole neighborhood for the distribution of electricity and cannot interfere with the exclusive rights of the other Company to light these towns. It can put wires or poles to distribute heat.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I do not agree with my hon. friend in his interpretation of the law. He is sufficient of a lawyer to know that if the Bill goes through in its present form it will give rise to litigation and trouble in future. The question we are discussing is the amendment I have proposed to section 3 of the Act, which is a new section. The proposed amendment is to the effect that this Company be not given the right to expropriate any of the property of the United Towns Electric Company. I am not speaking of the distribution of electricity but the right to expropriate any part of the land of the latter Company.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—This is agreed.

HON. MR. GIBBS—Otherwise there will be no encouragement for enterprise or the extension of any enterprise. The United Towns Company may in course of time extend their plant and instal more machinery for the distribution and regulation of power? Surely this Legislature does not intend that this Company should have the right, if it so chooses, to expropriate these improvements? There is nothing to prevent them from doing this because under the Act this Company will have the right to come into those towns where the United Towns Electric Co. is now doing business for the purpose of selling heat or power. There will be the same rivalry between these Companies as between men of business. This Company may see a chance to get ahead of the United Town Electric Co. by expropriating property of the latter Company under the powers contained to this section. This Legislature should therefore protect that

which is already sanctioned by legislative enactment.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—That power is agreed to, but I would point out with regard to the amendment proposed by my hon. friend, that this Company has no right of premption without the authority of the Governor in Council.

HON. MR. HARVEY—This bill has not received any more adverse or careful scrutiny than the average of this type of Bill. It has received more discussion because its provisions are in some respects out of the beaten track. If there is strong opposition to some of its verbiage among hon. members who have proposed amendments to the Bill there is justification for it. I am strongly in favour of the Bill going through, but what we must do is to protect what we conceive to be the rights of the public and conserve the rights of the other Company. I am sorry to see that I have been quoted in the Press as being opposed to the Bill on the ground that it was a monopoly. It has been the other way. The Bill is the converse of a monopoly. Only this morning a gentleman came to me and said I was doing everything to block the Bill.. On the contrary, I am anxious to put it through. With regard to the Section now before us, I find it difficult to follow either side. I don't see why the property of the Company should be protected only up to January 1st, or July 1st, 1917. Supposing these people put up a power house and extended their business, surely it would be unfair if the other Company had the right to bar them out and vice versa. But I believe the necessity of getting the sanction of the Governor-in-Council will prevent anything of this sort. If we put Hon. Mr. Gibbs' amendment through, we are in danger of having this position arise, that the present Company may preempt the right of way, where some of their lines may be going or some other works in connection with the Company may be preempted. It is improbable but possible, and under such circumstances there ought to be some way out of the difficulty, and the Company may, I think, safely trust the Governor-in-Council not to give the right unless it is fully necessary that it should be taken over in the interest of the community. So that as far as this goes I must oppose the amendment of Hon. Mr. Gibbs. But on the other hand we should be careful to see that we are not trenching on the exclusive rights of the United Towns Electric Company. I am not sure if Hon. Mr. Gibbs specifically states that this Act will enable the new Company to utilize power for street railways and lights in Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content and the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill said that exclusive rights preceeded and precluded any right given to this Company for the same thing. I would like to be clear on that. I hardly understand the hon. gentleman on my left (Mr. Gibbs), if he means that the new Company can run street railways in these towns. I have doubts on that point. The government's power to grant or refuse should be a sufficient safeguard in my opinion.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—The hon. gentleman's reference to the Governor-in-Council reminds me of the famous saying of Madame Roland, when about to be guillotined: "O, Liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name." The same might be said in this connection. All the Company ask is that they be protected in the rights which they hold now. There is nothing in the United Towns Co's. charter which prevents this Company from operating tramways. As the United Towns Electric Company has the

exclusive right of supplying electricity for ligting and heating purposes, this Company cannot supply electricity for these purposes. The United Towns Electric Co. merely asks that you won't give the right to expropriate their property for any purpose which they may think necessary for their operations.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I think a reasonable compromise would be to accept the amendment of the hon. gentleman with the alteration submitted by the Hon. Colonial Secretary. If the United Towns Company gets a guarantee that any property in its possession up to the 1st July be not interfered with, it should meet the requirements. For myself I am strongly in favour of inserting such a provision because it is only fair to people with money invested that they should get a guarantee that what they have should not be interfered with in any way, so that we are giving the most that they can expect. Anything that you hold up to the 1st July we will protect absolutely. But to give an undertaking to protect them absolutely for all time to come, in view of the possibility that the same people may to-morrow buy property, or at some other time, knowing what another Company may do, this is a contingency we should take into account. I would suggest that all accept this is a compromise, and as the Hon. Colonial Secretary has offered to accept a clause of that kind, you can get it through without friction.

The amendment was finally carried in the following form:—

"Provided that nothing in this section contained shall authorize the Company to enter upon or appropriate any lands which belong to or were occupied by the United Towns Electrical Company on the first day of July, 1917."

Hon Mr. Harvey's amendment to Section 6 was put. It reads as follows: "All plant machinery, implements, apparatus, tools, utensils and materials necessary for the original construction of the said Company's electrical system and extensions thereof, shall be admitted into the Colony free of duty."

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—I submit that section 6 as it is, is a much better drafted and more reasonable than the one which Hon. Mr. Harvey proposes. I note the objection to storage batteries for motor boats as raised by Hon. Mr. Goodridge. and also by Hon. Mr. Harvey. As explained before, this was not included originally, but was put in by the House of Assembly because they desired they should be permitted for the purposes of experimenting with a new idea that it is possible to develop in connection with the fisheries. But if it is the pleasure of this House to strike out storage batteries, these words might be stricken out. This company did not ask for it. But I think the present section is much better drafted and more reasonable than this amendment.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I would say in reference to storage batteries, that I think the idea of allowing this Company to bring them in for experimental purposes and the purposes of operation within a reasonable limit. is reasonable, but that we should give this Company a general permit to import storage batteries for motor boats that could be stocked by electric companies all over the country is an unreasonable provision, because it would make them the vendors of all the storage batteries for motor boats that were brought into the country. Some limited provision I favor. Now with reference to the provision for installation, development and distribution, as I said the other day, when words like these are used we have to assume

they are put there for some purpose, and we ought to scrutinize these words with great care and weigh carefully whether we can grasp the possibilities included therein. I can conceive where under these words they might get in electroliers, glass shades, bulbs, etc., and I do not think that is desirable.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—The reason why these words were included is this. At the present time all the electrical companies of which I have any knowledge, are importing all necessary articles under the word "construction," and personally it would appear to me as of great doubt whether technically speaking, they are not breaking the law in importing such things as meters and other necessary essential things in connection with the distribution of the current and not necessarily construction work. It is a recognized fact that these are being imported by other companies free of duty and this company wants the same, naturally. To confine this company to the word "construction" when every day that a customs entry is made in connection with electrical companies, the word "construction" is stretched to include matters which should not come in duty free, and making them do the same, is not reasonable and is only continuing a system of bad drafting. If it is the will of this chamber to stick to the old and badly drafted form and oblige this Company to take the same steps as existing companies, and look upon electric meters or transformers or other articles as construction materials, then the company will have to submit, but it is bad law.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Personally, I prefer to see the three words stricken out. On the question of storage batteries for motor boats, I think if this company is going into that business specifically, we should afford them reasonable facility, but I think we ought to stop short of giving them the exclusive right to import all the storage batteries required for years and selling them here.

The amendment was put and carried.

HON .MR. GIBBS—I propose moving a new section to the bill. As before pointed out, this company is empowered under the bill to exercise certain rights over territory which another company has also rights over. In order to obviate misunderstandings in the future and to prevent trouble between them, I think it is only fair that a new section, something to this effect, should be inserted. (Read.)

We have a precedent for that in the Nfld. Products Corporation Act, section 7, which empowers the Governor-in-Council to grant to the company any land belonging to the Crown and not under lease or license. Notwithstanding that section which provides for land only in the gift of the Crown, these words were inserted: (Read.)

Now the section which I propose to the House is another form of words expressing the intention of the legislature when it confers certain rights and privileges on the Nfld. Product Corporation. I think that the Legislature was wise to have inserted it in that act; and I am also of opinion that this new section is a very proper one to add to this bill. It does not take away from this company anything which the legislature gives them, and does not give to any other company which they have not been granted. It is simply a safeguard for the future. I think that its objects are very desirable in a case like the present when the right of rival corporations are likely to be the subject matter of dispute.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—I have to congratulate my learned friend upon having drafted a section which, if passed, will have the effect of de-

stroying this bill entirely. (Read new section.) As soon as they dig a hole in one of the streets they are entering into competition with this other company and impairing their powers. Everything that one competitor does with respect to another may be an infringement of, or an interference with, or an affecting of the business of the other. With respect to the grant my learned friend refers to, the position was this. The Government felt that they had certain rights to Crown lands, but never knew whether they had any right or not, because any squatter can come in and say he was entitled to the land because of long possession or some other reason, and the idea of the government in giving grants over large areas without having a large survey would seem to be unjust, and it was felt the government in making these large grants might be giving away lands occupied by people who had rights, rights in good faith as against the Crown from the fact that thew had built a house, or had cultivated a bit of land, or were using a stream for logging purposes. What we say is we do not know what rights exist, and we give you this land, subject to any claims the people may have against it. That is a reasonable, just provision, but thre is no comparison whatever in this case where a company is given the right to use a certain water power and have free importation of certain articles. I submit the effect of this is to entirely destroy the measure.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—I cannot gather from the argument of the hon. gentleman that the effect of this section is going to destroy the bill. All we ask is the putting in this bill of something preventing any interference with certin privileges granted to another company. There can be nothing wrong in that. There would be no necessity for this amendment at all if this company had not the right to operate over territory over which the legislature has given another company the right. Now then with two parties exercising these rights, surely the legislature ought to say that nothing in this act shall affect the rights of a company that has been previously doing business in the same field. If the hon. member can suggest another form of words that will met his view of the matter, I have no objection to amending the section that I propose, but I think we should have something along those lines.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—It does not seem to me that the passing of this amendment will prove an absolute bar to any litigation between these two companies. I do not know that we should endeavour to make that impossible, but I am very sure that something might arise within the next year or two which my hon. friend Hon. Mr. Gibbs might be ready to take up and defend for one side or the other in connection with this very amendment he now proposes. I think it unnecessary and unwise.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—There is one thing objectionable in connection with this amendment which is worth noting and that is that as I read it it would confirm the charter given to the Conception Bay Electric Co., and there exists a doubt as to whether that charter is still good. The amendment means whether they are in force to-day or not. If a right was given twenty years ago that would hold good against this company. I suggest as a compromise between the two parties something of this sort might be inserted: "Nothin this Act contained shall affect the exclusive rights now held by the United Towns Electric Co. for the lighting by electricity of the towns of Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Con-

tent and the buildings in said towns." You there specify exactly what you are agreeing to and do away with any danger of lapsed rights. If the hon. gentleman will accept that I do not think it can do any harm to the company.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I fail to see why the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill should not consider this amendment. We have already accepted an amendment which protects the property belonging or occupied by the United Towns Electrical Company prior to July 1st. I think that there is a sort of imprision that this new Company is desiring to attack the concessions already possessed by the old company. I do not say it is the case, I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he can prove his bona fides by accepting the amendment, whereas if he refuses to accept it, it strengthens the suspicion that there is something about the Bill which is not square and above board. Here is a proposition where there are two companies in two territories. One has certain rights and the other would like to compete with it on equal terms on their right. If the prvision is put on the Statute Book that the rights and privileges granted to this new company shall not affect certain exclusive rights enjoyed by the other Company, then I fail to see how it can affect the Bill or how the hon. gentleman is going to lessen his status in the matter if he accepts that suggestion and incorporates that section of the Bill. Not to do it would give color to the suspicion that there is something not fair and square about the Bill. I won't say I think there is, but if the position were raised and the hon. gentleman himself was concerned in the new company—I don't say you are concerned, except that you say you are a native of Hr. Grace and that you had connections with Carbonear and Heart's Content—but I have not objected to the Company at all. I am willing that they should go ahead and do business; for that reason I voted against the amendment that my hon. friend, Mr. Gibbs, a little while ago proposed, in order to give the original Company a monopoly in certain places. I pointed out if an amendment were to be considered it would carry with it provision that if rights were given, these rights would not operate injuriously to the people living in these places. I think it will be a graceful act of the hon. gentleman if he accepts that amendment.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—I would like to ask if it is suggested, if we fail to pass this amendment, that this Company can. or will be likely to interfere with the legal rights of the other Company?

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—It cannot. The amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Harvey was put and carried.

The Committee then rose and reported the Bill with some amendments

On the motion that the report of the committee be received, Hon. Colonial Secretary moved that the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Harvey as a new section 8 be eliminated.

The motion was lost on the casting vote of the President, who had voted in favour of the amendment in committee

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the third reading of the bill was deferred until to-morrow.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion the House went into committee on the Prohibition amendment Bill. Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP—In lieu of the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Harvey I would suggest the following as a new section(4).

(4) In the Prohibition Plebiscite Act 1915 and in the Act VI. Geo. V.

Cap. 9 entitled "An Act to prohibit the Importation, Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors into Newfoundland after the 1st day of January 1917" the word "importation" and "import" shall be construed so as not to include (a) the bringing into this colony in bond of intoxicating liquors in transit from some place outside of this colony. (b) the bringing into a port in this colony of intoxicating liquors forming part of ship's stores, where the same are warehoused or sealed up as provided by the Customs Act 1898 and acts in amendment thereof; (c) the bringing into this colony in bond of wines for the purpose of being matured and re-exported.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the bill was then read a third time, passed and sent to the assembly with a message that this house had passed the bill with some amendments in which they requested the concurrence of that body.

KNITTING MILL BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House then went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Murphy in the chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. Chairman, I have no interest in the Knitting Mills, but am a very extensive buyer of their goods. This company started in the year 1911 with a capital of $66,000 and continued during that year to 1912 at a considerable loss, with the result that at the end of 1912 they closed down. The Company was reorganized; fifty per cent. of the capital had been wiped out, and the plant and stock on hand was valued at $33,000. In the reorganization the capital was increased to $100,000 and early in 1913 the Company recommenced operations and in 1914 paid a dividend of five per cent; 1915 they paid seven per cent., and in 1916, seven per cent.. and have been able to accumulate a little reserve. I do not believe the Colony will ever be called to pay one cent of this guarantee. The Company is getting on well, its goods are a credit to the country and in many cases better than the imported article. Up to the present they have produced a good article at a reasonable price. Any other company starting to-morrow would have similar concessions I have no doubt. I support the Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I was rather disappointed that it has not been found possible to do something toward stimulating the production of wool. I have no doubt the matter was carefully considered, and I have no suggestion to make, but should have liked to see some stipulation made by which some stimulus might be accorded the raising of wool.

HON. MR. GIBBS—There is a law on the Statute Book passed in 1910 for this purpose and any Company manufacturing goods from locally raised wool is entitled to a bonus of five per cent. upon the value of the wool manufactured. The Nfld. Knittings Mills last year bought in this country ten thousand pounds of wool and are prepared to buy three times that quantity if they can get it. It just shows what a future an industry of this character has in store for the Colony, because to my mind the woollen industry is one of the best industries for any country. Coal of course, is the basis, but next to coal comes wool, because of the many subdivisions into which the industry is divided. I understand this company employs upwards of one hundred people, and their wage bill is $40,000 annually.

HON. MR. BISHOP—For the infor-

mation of the House, I may say that as regards the encouragement of the raising of sheep and purchasing of wool, the Knitting Mills prepared, printed and published and distributed a very valuable pamphlet urging the people to raise sheep, and the issuing of that pamphlet resulted in considrably more wool being offered this year than before.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, which report was received, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs, the 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.

RIVERSIDE WOOLLEN MILLS BILL.

Second reading of the Riverside Woollen Mills Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS—Hon. members will see that this bill is, so far as its objects are concerned, identically the same as that just passed, the only exception being that it is based on the manufacture of blankets, cloths and yarns. The same guarantee is given, and similar provisions are made. I beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time, after which the House went into Committee on the Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—This Company stands in a different position from The Newfoundland Knitting Mills. It is a growing concern, but up to the present we have no information as to the extent of its business, nothing as to its capital, nothing to show the value of its imports, nothing as to its buildings and trimmings. In the positon of the Standard Manufacturing Co., which imports its own goods and pays 35 per cent. and 10 per cent. extra. They are using the same flannelette for the trimming of oil clothes and in fact they are paying the same duty for trimmings, while you intend to give a Company competing with them these articles for nothing. These concessions, I am informed, could be used in the making of tweeds by these people, and the Government will therefore lose $50,000. The same thing would apply to the British Clothing Co. and other Companies operating here, such as the Royal Stores, wihch could make their tweeds, send them to the manufacturers and turn them into ready-made clothing, and if some concessions are not made then they may have to go out of business . Why should concessions be given to one Company and not to another. The Boot and Shoe Co. never asked for concessions of any kind. I have not the least interest in any of these Companies and only ask for fair play for them. I fail to see why the Nfld. Clothing Co. and the others I have named-shall not get their trimmings and other material in duty free as well as this Company. I do not see why I should support a Bill of this kind when the hon. gentleman in charge of it cannot explain to me the necessnty for these concessions. Though I believe this Company should be encouraged to manufacture blankets and clothee and other goods, I have yet to learn why they should be allowed to get their frillings in duty free, and must again request the gentleman in charge to give us more information on the matter.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I think it is only fair to point out to the hon. gentleman opposite that the Company are not permitted to import all of their things free of duty. The yarns and threads they use in blankets are allowed in free of duty, also cotton yarn. These free threads do not mean sewing threads to any extent, but woolen and cotton yarns, labels, soda.

ash, sulphir for the bleaching of wools, dyeing material, with only such woolen goods, as is used to complete the manufacture of blankets and wrap the goods when made. I do not think that there is the dangr in the Bill that my hon. friend would imply.. Such implication is entirely undeserved. There is a misapprehension on his part when he says that the business is an old established one. The improved idea for the manufacture of tweeds was a failure, and the plant only re-opened since it endeavored to manufacture blankets in competition with the imported article. They were induced to ask for the concssions granted the Knitting Mills and insofar as they require material, coloured yarn and dyes and such like, they are fully entitled to this.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Before further is done I hope the Committee will get more information on the matter. I don't see why these twin brothers should get these large concessions.

HON. MR. GIBBS—As regards the hon. gentleman's reference to Companies not getting similar concessions, if representation were made to the Government shewing that the Companies should get concessions, I have no doubt they would be given. I beg leave to move that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

WAR PENSIONS BILL.

Second reading of the War Pensions Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—In moving the second reading of this bill, I make bold to say that it is one which at least will excite no opposition in this House. for I am sure every member is ready to concede without question that our men who have gone to the war and who may come back to us disabled more or less, are entitled to have the best consideration and the best assistance that is in our power to confer on them. I think it will be conceded also that our scale of pensions should not be less than that paid by our neighbours, the Canadian government . The same scale applies of course, to depndents of those who have laid, or shall, unfortunately, lay down their lives in the great struggle in which we are engagd. It is, I am sure, entirely unnecessary that I should attempt to say anything in explanation or make any lengthly remarks concerning the necessity for the bill and I feel sure that, as I said first, it will provoke no controversy and meet no objection, so I shall simply move the second reading.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered that it be sent to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly, that they had passed the amendment sent down in and upon the Bill sent up entitled, "An Act to amend the St. John's Municipal Act, 1902, without amendment.

Also, that they passed the accompanying bills entitled "An Act to amend the Education Act, 1916"; "An Act respecting the Department of Militia"; and "An Act to mend the Ship-Building Act, 1916", in which they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the said bills were then read a first and second time, and ordered to be sent to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House then adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, July 27, 1917.

The House met at 3 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I beg leave to move that the Public Service Electric Company Bill be recommitted merely for the purpose of amending the new bridge of the measure. The Bill was accordingly recommitted to a committee of the whole House. Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I beg to propose the following as a new section—"That nothing in this Act contained shall affect the exclusive rights now held by the United Towns' Electric Company for lighting by electricity, all streets and highways into and from the towns of Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content, and the buildings in the said towns."

HON. J. D. RYAN.—Even if we passed the bill authorizing the new Company to light these towns, this can have no effect, because they have the exclusive right to that lighting and I would like to know why this is added to the Act.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The amendment as now moved by Hon. Mr. Harvey is in a form acceptable to the petitioners. The old company has certain exclusive lighting privileges. These privileges they hold under their Legislative charter. The wording of the amendments of the Hon. Mr. Gibbs and the Hon. Mr. Harvey was such as to give the old company larger exclusive rights than their charter gave them. These amendments were consequently not acceptable to the petitioners and the new Company. The present wording coincides exactly with that of the United Towns Electrical Company charter and is acceptable because it confirms the privileges the old company has and neither enlarges nor curtails them.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—This is the point we want made clear. Section 2 says that the Company shall have the right to light these towns. We are informed that the Court might interpret that as a right against the exclusive right already granted. The object of the amendment's is to make it quite clear on that point.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have already made it clear that the Public Service Electric Company admits that the United Towns Electric Company has certain lighting privi'eges. This bill is not intended to give the new company any greater right to electric lighting than they would have without any Act of the Legislature. Whatever rights the individual petitioners or their company have to sell electricity within the area of the operations of the United Towns Electric Company the Company wants under this bill, no more, no less. The wording of the Hon. Mr. Harvey's numerous amendments was in many cases such as to be very prejudical to the interests of the petitioner and tended in many instances to circumscribe the new company in favor of the old company to a much greater extent than they would be handicapped, if this act were not passed, in open competition with the old-established company, which has special legislative privileges and certain exclusive franchises. The new company has no objection whatever to this amendment as it follows the wording of the wording of the charter of the United Towns Electric Company and confirms to them whatever exclusive rights they have, and neither enlarges nor curtails these rights. As the body of petitioners from Harbor Grace, Heart's Content, Carbonear and Freshwater did me the honor of entrusting to me the conduct of this bill through this Chamber, I have not been prepared to accept any amendments which would have the effect of putting the new Company in a worse position than it would be if it sought no legislative enactment whatever.

This new section is, in my opinion, wholly unnecessary, but as the gentlemen who have so minutely scrutinized this bill on behalf of the United Towns Electric Company feel that this amendment may be of some advantage to the United Towns Electric Company, the petitioners and the new company raise no objection.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—As I understand the position the 1902 Act which incorporated the United Towns Company, gave exclusive rights at Hr. Grace, Carbonear and Heart's Content, with regard to lighting. In section 2 of this bill the phraseology is such as to cast doubt as to whether this old company's right is as exclusive as the old company think it is. If the Legislature, having 15 years ago passed the Act giving exclusive rights to one company, now comes in and employs language in the giving of lesser rights over the same area to another company, then there may be a doubt as to the rights of the original company, and it may be put to expensive legislation to assert these rights. I do not say the new company has the intention of having it. but it is conceivable that the company under these circumstances would go to Court and say the Legislature gave us certain rights under the new charter having in mind that other rights were given the previous company and we mention that the rights given the previous company are not as complete as that company maintains it rights are, and we should have an issue raised for the courts or it may go to the Privy Council and bankrupt both companies. All this amendment proposes to do is to put into the new company's Act the same language as was employed in the paragraph as was employed in the old Act, so that there will be no possibility of litigation because of sympathy connected with the new company attempts to infringe on the previous company's rights the United Towns Co., would simply have to go into Court, and plead that the Legislature in passing the Act put a proviso into it reaffirming the rights granted the United Town Co. and that therefore the pleas in the part of that company to interfere with rights of the other would be of no value whatever.

HON. MR. SQUIRES.—The amendment now before the house is entirely acceptable to the new company. Previous amendments contained very objectionable wording but this renders misunderstanding and confusion impossible and is quite agreeable in the form read by the Chairman and moved by Hon. Mr. Harvey.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with some further amendment which report was received, and on motion the 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 with some amendment in which their concurrence is asked.

CONTROL OF TRADING IN NECESSARIES OF LIFE BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House resolved itself into a Committhe of the Whole on the bill respecting the Control of Trading in the Necessaries of Life, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the Chair.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I would suggest to the gentleman in charge of the Bill to cut out the provision in Section 1, requiring a quorum in connection with the Board. It will be noticed that the powers which should be exercised by the Board are to be exercised by direction of the Governor-in-Council. The Board will of itself not be able to initiate anything, and the same principle applies in Canada in the larger aspects of the food control there, and the controller

is limited in the higher classes of his functions by the approval of the Governor-in-Council. Yesterday we passed a Bill providing for a Board of Liquor Control, and there was no provision for a quorum in it. There is coming up on Monday a Bill providing for taxes on profits, and there is no quorum mentioned there also. The reference to a quorum arises from the fact that it was at one time contemplated to have a Board of five, but the Government said three was sufficient, and when the number provided was three instead of five, the quorum clause was not necessary. The reason is that this is extraordinary legislation and of an emergency character, and of which I hope we will not see the like again, and it may happen that possibly that some time only one memebr of the Food Control Board will be in St. John's, and he will have to take action, and if there were such a clause as this in the Act, it would not be possible for him to do so. Of course all measures have to originate from the Board and be sent to the Governor-in-Council for approval; under these circumstances there can be no harm result from striking out the clause in relation to a quorum. I might add that as this Bill comes before us on the recommendation of a Commission, which was recently appointed to investigate the high cost of living, of which I was chairman and my hon. friend, Mr. Ellis, a member, it may be well if I state that the principle underlying the recommendation was that it would be necessary to have machinery here to co-ordinate the work of regulating the import, distribution and control of all food supplies, with the measures taken in our neighborhood in Canada and the United States. In the United States they have not got their food legislation formulated. Not six months ago President Wilson appointed Mr. Hoover who did such good work in connection with Belgian relief, and legislation was introduced at his instance. I may say that this bill is a combination of the Hoover Bill as introduced at Washington, and the regular enactment in Canada under the War Measures Act. The American legislation is before Congress yet, because the United States is now the chief food supplying station in the world to-day, seeing that Russia's access in Western Europe is still impossible, and little can be done even by Canada except in the matter of domestic legislation, or simply legislation regulating a more conscription of necessaries. Until American legislation is brought there, nothing can be done by us, either, except to provide machinery with which to go on with. Our views will change as soon as the situation at Washington is clarified. Papers to hand yesterday say the American Senate on Saturday last amended the Hoover Bill to the extent of striking out the proviso which gave Mr. Hoover absolute authority as Food Controller, and substituting a Board or Company. Of course if these amendments are adopted by the Senate, they go to the House of Representatives for approval, and it may be some days yet before the Bill goes there. But meantime the year is advancing, and for us the situation is far more serious, because it may be remembered that in this country with regard to the northern and western coasts they are inaccessible after December and we have only two months in which to get material here to be distributed. The general impression here is that there will be no shortage of foodstuffs next fall, but from my reading I am satisfied that this is a mistake. Mr. Hanna, the Canadian Food Controller, warns the people there that almost famine conditions are impending. With the

steady diminution of the fleets on the ocean, anyone can see how serious the problem of carrying that material overseas has become, not to speak of what will be required for the civil population of Western Europe; particularly when it is remembered that cultivation has been largely abandoned in parts of France and Belgium and also in Italy. In England they did a good deal because the non-military population has been put into national service and helping greatly at farm work. But viewing the whole situation as we have to view it, as the result of undertaking this investigation, the gentlemen comprising the Commission on the high cost of living came to the conclusion that it would be necessary to have some machinery in this country to regulate the problem of food control for the coming fall and winter. We will be short of shipping here and if it be imperative to meet the demands of the northern districts all the material must be got before December and we can by no means be satisfied that we can get what we require in the matter of wheat, beef and pork from now up to the end of the year. Not alone has this problem that aspect, but it also has the aspect of its bearing on the general condition of the country. Pitt said 100 years ago—"I would rather wrestle with the problems which warfare with an enemy involves than those which high prices at home involve." The high prices of the necessary kinds of food may make trouble. They did in the past. It is undoubted that in a country like Russia a great deal of trouble and dissension is existing and is due to the fact that while there is no shortage of food stuffs, there is a shortage of the material to distribute it, and it may easily happen, that we could get food supplies into St. John's which it would be impossible to get into the northern bays and we might have a very threatening and disastrous situation caused to the country, as a result of this. One impression which is widely prevalent with regard to food control is that this Board will automatically reduce prices of the necessaries of life. This I imagine will not happen and if it comes at all a good deal will depend upon what happens in the United States. It may be, that the States will have to take over all crops of food stuffs and use them through the machinery that will be created by the Government at Washington. In that event Canada will do the same and the best we can look for is our percentage of so much flour, pork and beef and everything else and then do the best we can here By far the most useful service this Board can do is to co-operate with that end in view. Then we may pay a definite figure for what we get and the outcome will probably be the new standard for wheat or flour will be put into effect. No white flour will be allowed to come in, but flour which will contain a large percentage of the wheat berry will be substituted with a lessening of half a dollar per barrel in price. But the main difficulty in my judgment will be in getting a sufficient supply of flour of any kind. This is true of other articles. Perhaps Hon. gentlemen in business who know more about it than I could learn in months, may take a different view of it, but I cannot regard the situation as other than serious, when the gentleman who takes charges of the problem for Canada lay down the principle that they must really reduce the consumption by one third. All the issues associated with this problem are the ones that must be faced by the Board. Of course they will have to do all possible and should be able to do much in preventing the charges of excessive profits in the necessaries of life sold here. The High Cost of Living Commission rendered certain findings as to prices

charged here for flour and other food stuffs and the profits realized thereon, which some business men of the city dissented from, and then held a meeting, passed resolutions and called for an explanation and a statement from the H. C. L. Commission. We took the view that occupying as we did a judicial position, we were not called upon to enter into a controversy any more than the judges of the Supreme Court, when litigants were dissatisfied with their findings. But we told the government that if they (the Government), desired us to reply to these business men we were willing to make such an answer; and the Government held it was not necessary for us to do this and so the matter stands. But if there is any desire on the part of this House to give further information as to the reasons which influenced the Commission on the high cost of living in reaching the conclusion it did. I shall be very glad as a member of the Board to do all in my power to enlighten the House as far as necessary in regard to this, and I am sure my colleague, Hon. Mr. Ellis will be equally willing to do the same.

I would suggest that the words "two of whom shall be a quorum" be struck off so that a quorum will not be rendered necessary, because the Board can do nothing without the permission of the Governor-in-Council The motion was put and carried.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendment.

On motion the Bill was then read a third time passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the Bill with some amendment in which they asked the concurrence of the Assembly.

RIVERSIDE WOOLEN MILLS BILL.

On motion the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Riverside Woolen Mills Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I must thank the hon. gentlemen in charge of the Bill for the information for which I asked and I think in justice to this Company and the Knitting Mills the fast should be made known. I understand that this Company started in 1906 with a capital of 130,000. It was suspended in 1907 and had been in liquidation for 5 years, when taken over by the Royal Stores in 1913 with a capital of $50,000. I understand it is not a private but a public company. That being so it is in a different position to what I thought it was. It again started operations in 1913 but did not declare a dividend until 1916, when a dividend of 10% was paid. With regard to the phrase manufacture of blankets. cloths and yarns—is a very wide term; we have all kinds of yarns, and all these may come in under the word. and I think we should have it specified what is meant.

HON. MR. BISHOP—The Bill provides that coloured yarns when imported by the Company for use in connection with the manufacture of blankets, cloths and yarns shall for a period of twenty years be admitted free of duty. Now as a matter of fact these articles are not admitted free of duty. but are admitted and pay duty, but when they are manufactured into blankets or cloths the Company has to go before the Customs and produce a sworn statement that such yarns have been used in this manufacture of blankets and cloths, and should they produce evidence to the satisfaction of Mr. Berteau and his department, then they may get a drawback on the quantity used. That is the modus operandi, which is a very proper one, and prevents any opportunity of fraud or the articles being used for any other purpose. They do get them free of duty, but not until

after they are manufactured. The same thing applies to the Standard Mfg. Co. They get a rebate after the raw materials have been manufactured.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I have no desire to press the amendment; I only wished to have the matter put right, and the explanation is perfectly satisfactory to me.

HON. J. D. RYAN—This bill is exactly similar to the one we had yesterday. There is perhaps a little difference in reference to the goods to be imported free of duty as it includes dyes. Of course as a rule the borders of blankets have a different color from the rest of it. I asked our hon. friend yesterday a question in reference to the South Side hills being whitened with sheep. Now if those parties in their wisdom would get in a few black sheep, their wool would do for the edge of the blankets, and that would obviate the necessity for importing dyes. As we passed a bill of similar nature yesterday, I do not see why we should take any exception to this one to-day. I have much pleasure in supporting this, but I fear we are going too far in legislating for twenty years to comes. I hope they will not need to have this assistance from the Government, and I hope they will succeed.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, which report was received, and on motion the 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.

WAR PENSIONS BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee of the Whole on the War Pensions Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—As one having been connected with the drafting of this Bill and the workings of the pensions department generally, I would explain for the information of the House the reason for adopting the Canadian principle was to obviate a great deal of trouble. When the war started and we decided to raise a regiment, we adopted the principle of paying the same rate as Canada. If we had not done that it would have been difficult for the committee to provide a schedule of pay to allow for all ratings of the Regiment and there would have been all sorts of complications in drafting it and men of every rank would be dissatisfied and special provision would have had to be made here, there and elsewhere, but when the principle of paying Canadian rates was adopted the matter was at once disposed of. We were always able to make answer to those who were dissatisfied, that this was the Canadian principle and what was good enough for the Canadian soldiers ought to be good enough for ours. This bill is practically the Canadian bill with a few adaptations to bring it in line with our local requirements. If we had not adopted the Canadian pension schedule we would have to formulate one ourselves, but this would be a difficult matter in the same city, because all sorts of influences would be exerted to alter the bill in one form or other. But we said "this is what has been done in Canada." We have benefitted by the experience gained from the working of the scheme for two or three years. Hon. members have no idea how thoroughly the Canadians went into their work, how many Commissioners they had and what expert men they put on the work. Professor Todd, of McGill University, threw himself heart and soul into the whole problem. spending a couple of years in France and Belgium and came back and was appointed a member of this Pension tribunal and to my knowledge was the great-

er part of the past twelve months organizing various developments of it. We get the advantage of all their experience for nothing, and there is moreover the fact, that month after month and year after year we can similarly get the result of their experience to assist us in further perfecting our work. They are most willing to give us these aids and to make it possible for us by writing a letter, to get any obscure points cleared up. In the meantime we can satisfy the people of the country that what has been done has been done on the Canadian lines. What may happen in years to come I cannot foresee, but I do know that before the hon. gentleman in charge of the bill is many years older he will have the experience of dealing with other Pension Bills here, as this will not be the first nor the last to be considered in this Chamber for a long time to come. The Canadian veterans of the war will be organized and demanding other concessions as Canada grows greater and richer, and if we advance in the same degree we must put up our pension rates as the Canadians will.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment. It was then read a third time and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

EDUCATION ACT 1916 BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House went into Committee of the Whole on Education Act 1916 Bill, Hon. Mr. Anderson in the chair.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—At the request of the Superintendents of Education I move that the following be section 1 and that the other sections be renumbered:

1. Section 19 of The Education Act, 1916, is hereby repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:

19. There shall be established in St. John's for higher education, a Church of England College, a Roman Catholic College, a Methodist College, and a Presbyterian College.

Under the original section the Roman Catholic College was designated as being for males only and other colleges for both sexes. The suggested amendment puts all colleges on the same basis and makes no reference as to whether the colleges are for males only or for both sexes.

The amendment is approved by the St. John's Superintendents of Education, and is signed by Doctors Curtis, Blackall and Burke.

The amendment was carried.

On motion the Committee rose and reported having passed the Bill with some amendment. The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the Bill with some amendment, in which it asked the concurrence of that body.

SHIPBUILDING ACT 1916 BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Shipbuilding Act 1916 Bill, Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP—In view of the report made last year upon a case that it was thought required investigation in respect of the payment of bounty to a ship built in this country, it occurred to me to be essential that considerable amendments should be made in the Shipbuilding Act. I am still of that opinion, and I may say I anticipated that some further amendments to the Act would be before us this session, but I notice that the Bill comes to us with one item only, which provides for the importation of blocks. It relates entirely to the matter of blocks for shipbuilding. It will be probably remembered by hon. members, that in the report to which I refer, the Inspector or Inspectors of

shipping—Lloyds Inspector and our own Inspector, Bill—were severely criticized because they had passed a certain vessel for bounty. They were particularly criticized because they exercised their discretion in passing the vessel and recommending her for the bounty. I take the position that if the Surveyors be not allowed some discretion, although there are a number of very fine large vessels now being constructed in Newfoundland, not one of these fine ships can be passed by those men and the bounty pald upon them. I do not profess to be a shipbuilder, but do state without fear of successful contradiction that I will visit any yard and take a note of the vessels being built, and I can point out to the Inspector where not one of these ships conforms absolutely with the schedule provided in the Act, and I go further and say that not one ship in a thousand ever complied with the terms of this schedule. Lloyd's inspectors in Britain are always allowed discretion, and if they find some particular thing not in accordance with the schedule, provided that it is nothing that affects the stability of the ship, then they decide the ship is deserving of the bounty and give certificates accordingly. I mention this particularly because these men were most severely dealt with and held up to ridicule and accused of being paid for something they did not do, while it was demanded that the position of Inspector be abolished if competent men could not be found to fill it. I have no doubt whatever of the competency of these gentlemen, and that they would not abuse the trust placed in them, and I refer to it only because in consequence of the strictures of the Commission to which I refer, and the comments which followed in the public press they might rightly refuse the bounty to any of the fine ships being constructed in this country during the present time. I will not move any further amendments to the bill.

On motion the committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion the Bill was 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.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA BILL.

On motion the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Department of Militia Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the Chair.

Committee rose and reported the same without 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 without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, the House then adjourned until Monday next at four-thirty of the clock p.m.

MONDAY, July 30th, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President announced the receipt of a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the amendment sent down in and upon the bills sent up entitled respectively:

"An Act relating to the Prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors."

"An Act respecting the control of trading in the Necessaries of life."

"An Act to amend the Education Act 1916," all without amendment.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—In moving the adjournment of the House I desire to express my regret that circumstances compel me to leave St. John's to-morrow and that I shall not be attending any further sittings during this session. I regret this particularly be-

cause there are one or two important measures to come before the House and I do not wish it to be thought that I am avoiding legislation which I do not desire to take part in. I very much regret it in respect of one bill at least, but circumstances compel me to go, my arrangements are made, and important business is pressing, so that I must proceed as intended. It was my intention to go in June. but I was urged not to as the session would be not more than three weeks. I desire to say further before closing that I appreciate very greatly the uniform courtesy and consideration which has been extended to me during the 9 years that I have had the honour of leading the Government in the House I shall occupy the position no more, and desire to bespeak for my successor, the same kindly courtesy, assistance and help which I have experienced during the past 9 sessions. In moving that the House adjourn until to-morrow at 4.30, Hon. members will understand that unless they receive notice early on to-morrow, they will not require to attend. If there is legislation to come up the House will meet to deal with it, but if it appears that there is no legislation, Hon. members unless special notice is given, need not attend.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. President, I feel that I speak on behalf of every member of this Chamber when I convey to Hon. Mr. Bishop an expression of deep regret at his retirement from the leadership on behalf of the Government and an appreciation of the marked ability and tact displayed by him in that capacity during the past eight years. Not only on behalf of the members of this House would I express regrets and appreciation, but on behalf of the late Government, of which I was Attorney General. I desire to assure the hon. member of the deep regard which his Executive colleagues had for his work as Executive Councillor and as their leader in this chamber. When a few weeks ago the Government and the Opposition entered into an arrangement whereby the general election due this autumn would be postponed until 1918 and in the interim the affairs of the Colony would be conducted jointly by the two parties as a united National Ministry under the leadership of the Right Hon. Sir Edward Morris, K. C. M. G., it was known that the Hon. Mr. Bishop was not prepared to accept an Executive seat in the proposed coalition ministry, it was a matter of deep regret to all. His sympathy and support in the experiment which was being made was shown by him, however, by his continuance as leader of the Government in this chamber, and that is highly appreciated by the Coalition Government, as I feel it is also appreciated by this House. Mr. Bishop has already made many personal and business sacrifices in remaining in attendance at this session to this unusually late date, and I know it to be a matter of regret to himself as it is to us all that the imperative calls so long unresponded to now compel his departure so that we shall not have the benefit of his able leadership for the remaining period of this session. I regret this particularly because there is at least one measure of considerable magnitude still awaiting consideration, a matter concerning which Mr. Bishop's maturity of thought and wide business experience would be very helpful. On behalf of the National Ministry, I thank Mr. Bishop for his sympathy and support during the past weeks and his work as leader of the Government in this chamber, and convey to him our deep regret on his inability to longer delay a response to the pressing calls which are taking him

from his seat in this chamber before the close of the session.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I would like to be allowed to say that I think the Hon. gentlemen of this House deeply regret the departure of Hon. Mr. Bishop, who will not be with us during the days proceeding the closing of the session. He has been courteous in every way. willing to extend to every one of us free debate and every Hon. member will regret his absence, because I understand there are one or two bills to come before us one of which if hon. gentleman could know, never in the history of the House, required more serious consideration than the one referred to. I do not know what part in the debate he would take, but whatever it would be, would be for the prosperity, interest, and welfare of the colony. Our only regret is that he will not be with us for the next few days and we all, I am sure, wish him God speed and every success.

HON. MR. J. D. RYAN.—In common with the other hon. gentlemen who have spoken. I wish to say a few words in connection with the retiring member who has conducted the business in this Chamber during the term of the present government. He has invariably extended to us the greatest courtesy on every question, and one thing can be said, that he never kept us too long, he said as little as he could and what he did say was concise and clear, while extending all the courtesy and assistance that one could expect. We have had a people's government, an amalgamated government and a national government, and we do not know what more to-morrow, but. whatever government may come in, I hope personally that we will receive the same courtesy and consideration, as we have always received from the leader of the Government the past 9 years in this chamber.

HON. MR. BISHOP.—It is very kind indeed of Hon. members. and I am sure I am very grateful to them for their kind, albeit all too flattering references to my efforts as leader of the Government in the Chamber. I have always endeavoured to remember that this is not a partizan chamber and to act upon the idea that every one here is interested as much as myself in the welfare of the country. I thank all for the kind sentiments they have expressed.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I was about to say that Hon. members of the House who had not spoken, would endorse the observations of the hon. gentlemen, who spoke so appreciatively of the hon. gentleman, in his position as leader of the Government During the years that I have been privileged to be a member of this House, I have invariably regarded Hon. Mr. Bishop's handling of the duties of his position as most admirable. I think the House was fortunate in having him. Whoever may succeed him he cannot do better than model his methods on those of the hon. gentleman and I trust he may be back for many years to assist the House in its deliberations in the various questions coming before it. The House adjourned till to-morrow at 4.30 of the clock.

TUESDAY, July 31st, 1917.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the following bills, entitled respectively Acts relating to the Central Hr. Grace District Court, the Judicature and Public Service Acts in which they requested the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Public Service Bill was read a first and second time.

PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on the public service bill, Hon. Sir E. R. Bowring in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment. which report was received, and the 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.

CENTRAL AND HARBOR GRACE DISTRICT COURT BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Central and Harbor Grace District Court Bill was read a first time.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In moving the second reading of this bill, I would say that a few years ago the jurisdiction of magistrates was increased to $200, but under that act there was not included the district of Harbour Grace or the Central District Court of St. John's. The Harbor Grace judge had a jurisdiction of fifty dollars only while the same gentleman sitting as magistrate had a jusisdiction of two hundred dollars. The same applied to St. John's. and the object of this bill is to abolish the incongruity.

The said bill was read a second time, and the house then resolved into committee thereon, Hon. M. Power in the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, which report was received. and 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.

THE JUDICATURE ACT 1904 AMENDMENT BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the Judicature Act 1904 amendment bill was read a first time.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I move that this bill be now read a second time. I would simply observe that at this session we have already passed an Act to Amend the Trustees Act. 1898. That amendment provides that in the case of trust estates of a value less than$1,000 the Court or Judge may allow such remuneration as it shall think adequate. Section 227 of the Judicature Act, which it is intended to amend by this bill deals with insolvent estates. It provides that trustees shall be entitled to such compensation not exceeding 5 per cent. over and above actual and reasonable expenses and disbursements as the Court or a Judge may allow. This 5 per cent. on estates less than $1,000 in value might be entirely inadequate remuneration for a trustee, and it is thought advisable that the Court shall have a discretionary power to allow such amount as they shall think adequate on estates of less than $1,000 in value. I am quite sure this small amendment to the Judicature Act will meet with the approval of this Chamber.

HON. M. POWER—I do not think there should be any tax put upon the estate of a poor person leaving a small amount, barely enough to support or maintain the relatives of the deceased person. I do not think that should be left in the hands of the Court. It is a very serious matter. Many a man struggles all his life to leave a little after him for his relatives, it may be a few girls, or an aged father and mother, and I do not think there should be any tax whatever on that estate.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—If I have the permission of the House

to speak twice on the same matter, I would say that this bill does not apply in any manner to the estates of deceased persons, except in so far as they may have been insolvent and not able to pay their debts.

The said bill was then read a second time, and on motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole thereon, Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, which report was received, and the 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.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President read a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the accompanying bills, entitled respectively:—An Act to amend the Act 6 Geo. V., Cap. 4, entitled 'An Act for the Confirmation of a Contract with the Newfoundland Products Corporation Ltd.,' and 'An Act to amend the Act 10, Edward VII, 1910, entitled An Act respecting Cold Storage, in which they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the said bills were then read a second time.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The bill relating to the Nfld. Products Corporation refers to the act passed in 1915 conferring certain rights and privileges upon that company and they had certain specific times in which to do certain specific things, viz: within two years they were obliged to do certain survey work, and within five years they had to expend in Newfoundland on her territory five million dollars. The financial condition of the world has been such as to make it quite impossible for the corporation to undertake operations of the magnitude they had contemplated. They have undertaken some work and have complied with the act, but they feel it is impossible to expend five million dollars and do all the work within five years, and the effect of this act is to cut out the period of the war and have the date from the time of peace being declared so far as that expenditure is concerned.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The bill to amend the act respecting Cold Storage is merely a further attempt by the passage of a general law to encourage Cold Storage enterprise in Newfoundland. It is an Act for which any company or any concern bona fide undertaking cold storage in Newfoundland may avail of. The first section merely provides for the formal amendment of the Cold Storage Act by the insertion of Section 9, as follows:—

9.—(a) For the purpose of assisting in the creation of a market demand for our less well-known fishes, such as turbot, caplin and plaice, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to contract with any person, firm or company (hereinafter in this Act called "the Company") engaged in the businss of cold storage and other business connected with the fisheries and bait supply of the Colony, for the granting to the Company of a bonus of one cent per pound on all fish other than codfish, halibut and herring. exported by the Company from its cold storage warehouses or plants in any one year of such a term, not to exceed ten years in all, as may be fixed by such contract.

In other words, the Government may, by virtue of this bill enter into a contract with any company undertaking cold storage operations to give a bonus of one cent a pound on such fish as may be exported from New-

foundland, except codfish, halibut and herring. It is subsequently provided in the bill that there shall be certain portions of the warehouses in the outports and of any in St. John's reserved for public use under the control of the government. It also provides that the cold storage plants must be completed and in operation within five years of the date of the contract; ten per cent. of the entire space must be reserved and available for the cold storage of such bait as the Governor in Council may from time to time desire to have stored therein, and shall be stored free of charge. The bonus shall not exceed the sum of $75,000 in any one year. that is one cent a pound on 7,500,000 lbs. of fish which would be the maximum. There is provision also that the company shall not export bait fishes for any other than food purposes, nor shall they within the Colony sell any fishes for bait to any but Newfoundland fishermen, and on the other hand the Newfoundland Government shall not supply any bait to vessels engaged in the bank fishery when the campany has bait for sale. It does not desire to put the Government in direct competition with the Company in the sale of bait. Section 10 has to do with the supervison of the Auditor General, and reads as follows:

10. No payment of bonus shall be made under the preceding sction except upon the crtificate of the Auditor-General of Newfoundland. In order to obtain such certificate the Company shall furnish the Minister of Finance and Customs at the end of each year durng the said term of years a full and correct statement of the quantities of each such fish exported by the Company for the preceding year and shall afford all proper facilities to the Auditor General to make a complete examination of the books, accounts and vouchers of the Company relative thereto in conjunction with an auditor to be appointed by the Company. In the event of any dispute arising between the two auditors in relation to the said statement, the same shall be referred to the determination of a public chartered accountant as umpire, to be appointed by the two auditors. The award of such umpire shall be final and conclusive.

The act is a general act and deals with no particular individual company or corporaton and may be availed of by any person who will comply with the provision of the bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—In sub-sections 1 and 2 the maximum amount of the bonus payable to the Company shall be calculated:

(1) according to the capacity of the cold storage plants or warehouses to be erected by the company in compliance with the conditions of such contract, in which case it shall not exceed four hundred dollars for a storage capacity of One Hundred Thousand pounds of fish and so on in proportion to the storage capacity of the said plants or warehouses; or

(2) at the rate of one-half cent per pound on all fish other than codfish, halibut, and herring exported by the company from its cold storage plants or warehouses in any one year of such term.

Section 2 calculates at one-half cent per pound, whereas Section 2 sub-section (a) says one cent per pound. That I think requires some explanation.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I would not be prepared to discuss Section (b); this form has been changed since I had an opportunity of perusing the resolutions.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Then, in order that there may be no time lost and the hon. gentleman in charge of the bill may be posted as to some view in regard to it, I will make a short reference to the bill. I am not criticisng the bill because I do not un-

derstand it. Section 9 of the bill grants a bonus of one cent per pound on fish other than codfish, halibut and herring; the word "salmon" ought to be there in addition, because it is already being exported and has been for years on the West Coast, and I think if you except salmon you would be doing what is right, because otherwise this company would get a bonus, whereas an individual shipper on the West Coast, of which there are many, would not get a bonus because he has not a cold storage plant. In Section (b) there are two sub-sections and as I understand them the meaning is this: They enable the Government to make a contract and the terms of the subsidies may be based on two grounds. They may be based on half cent per pound on the fish exported in any one year, which will not exceed $75,000, but whether that maximum applies all through I do not know. Under the original section it is provided that they get one cent per lb. and where the relative difference and the explanation of the difference comes in, I am at a loss to understand. I am not putting this forward by way of criticism, but to get an explanation. That is one aternative, but there is another and I think the meaning of it ought to be very clear before it is put through. "According to the capacity of the cold storage plants or warehouses to be erected by the company in compliance with the conditions of such contract, in which case it shall not exceed Four Hundred dollars for a storage capacity of One Hundred Thousand pounds of fish, and so on in proportion to the storage capacity of the said plants or warehouses." Now, as I see it, that is a dark saying, but I see some light through it which is not a very pleasant light. I do not say for one moment it is contended this is a bill to subsidize the export of fish other than cod, such as halibut, herring and salmon, but you will note that Section 1 does not exclude cod and herring at all, but permits of a subsidy of $400 for a storage capacity of 100,000 lbs. of fish, an admission of a subsidy for codfish. This is what the wording conveys to me and is one point I desire to have cleared up before proceeding with the Bill. This is not the only puzzle in this Secton. It provides that every 100,000 feet of cold storage room shall be entitled to $400 subsidy per year. I have no idea what the storage capacity is to be, as it is not clearly given, but I hear it is very large, and I would point out that though it contemplates the operation of a modern plant that second hand machinery may be used and it may apply to a store which is only insulated one or two inches. The clause in this regard is altogether too vague, in my opinion, but there is anothr point that strikes me. It is this: Suppose a company erects a cold storage space in a series of plants, in all equivalent to a capacity of 20,000,000 lbs. of fish. (I have heard it stated that this is the amount the company aims at providing, and it is not an unlikely amount.) If they have 20.000.000 lbs. of space the subsidy applied to that would be $80,000, but the subsidy is limited to $75,000, if that limit applies to that section, which is not clear. The subsidy on 20,000,000 would be $80,000, and suppose the minimum applies, the subsidy is $75,000 per year. What is going to be the cost of the plant that the company will put up, for it is all very well to say it applies to any company, but the particular company to which you will apply it is the company already operating and which we are glad to see operating. What is going to be the cost of putting up 20,000,000 feet of cold storage space? It is difficult to say. I do not know myself, I shall quess it (and I have had some experience) at from $500,-

000 to $750,000. But at any rate, $75,000 per year is 5 per cent. on one and a half millions of dollars. Is it a reasonable Bill to put through that we give 5 per cent. on one and a half million of dollars when nothing like that amount is going to be invested This is an unreasonable provision. I cannot believe the House will put through any Section of this sort without understanding it, and can hardly believe that as it reads to me it is correct. In addition to all this under the original Act to which this Act is in addition, the erectors of these plants are entitled to receive from the Government one-third of the whole cost of the plant. My own concern erected one at Rose Blanche, costing $8,000, and the Government, under the Act, returned us one-third of the cost, but taking it for granted that the plants cost one and a half millions of dollars, under the original Act the company is able to go to the Government and ask 30 per cent. back or $450,000, and still are able under that clause, to recover 5 per cent. on the one and a half millions of dollars. In addition I see nothing in the Bill to call for continual operation. Suppose any company puts up a plant to store 20,000,000 lbs. of fish for $1,000,000, they go to the Government and get 30 per cent. back, and then under this Act they can ask an annual payment of $75,000, and they need not do one stroke of business. Surely neither the promoters nor the other branch of the Legislature intend this, yet it appears to be what this Bill provides for. We must clearly understand these Sections before starting to put them through. It is certainly difficult for me to understand the position in regard to it. I am not criticising the thing because I do not understand it and have spoken only because I know the session is nearing its end, and I do not want to ask members to spend an extra day in the House looking for an explanation which the hon. gentleman will now be able to provide when we next meet.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I appreciate the hon. gentleman's courtesy and will get the information required by next sitting.

On moton it was ordered that the Bill be read a second time on to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House that he had a message from the Assembly that they had passed the amendment upon the Public Service Electric Company's Bill, without amendent, and noting in the minutes of the House, by direction of the Speaker, that the amendments to the Section re Custom's Duties are merely verbal.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House adjourned till to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, August 2nd, 1917.

The House met at 3 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

NFLD. PRODUCTS CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the second reading of the Nfld. Products Corporation Amendment Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—As one who supported the charter for this company, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether there is an assurance at all that the company are at work and likely to get to work after the war. Is there anything at all known about them. because the gentleman who was really responsible as the technical expert to the company, Mr. Wilson, as we know, is dead. This contract was given in war time, 1915. I myself then put the question as to whether they were wise in only asking for the time specified in the bill

then, and asked whether the money would be raised, and expressed considerable scepticism myself, but was assured by Mr. Wilson and others the money was practically raised and that there was no question whatever but that the company would go straight on. I am quite favorable to extending this if there is really any possibility of something being done, but otherwise, it would be extremely unwise to tie up this valuable property if nothing is going to be done.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I understand that after the death of Mr. Wlson, who was the promoter and particularly interested in this matter, a vigorous effort was made to obtain capital, but as the financial situation became more acute because of the long continuance of the war, it was quite impossible to bring the matter to a head. They did undertake operations in regard to survey, and spent con, siderable sums of money complying with their undertaking to begin work within two years. I was informed by the Department of Agriculture and Mines there was no failure by the Company in that particular. I have been assured that the company is in existence and that those associated with Mr. Wilson have been using every effort to bring the matter to a successful issue.

The bill was read a second time, and the House resolved into Committee of the whole thereon, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, which report was received.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I beg to move the bill be read a third time.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I beg to move the bill be recommitted. It is not in any sense in a spirit of hostility but for the reasons I have stated. for the purpose of moving an amendment that instead of the term being extended so as to date from the conclusion of peace, it be extended for one year because I think an extension tying up a large amount of property in this way is a thing the legislature ought to keep control of and renew from year to year.

The bill was re-committed.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I move the following amendments:—All the words after "the" in the 7th line be struck out and the following inserted —Sixteenth day of April 1917."

The amendment was passed.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the bill with some amendments. The 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 with some amendment in which their concurrence was requested.

COLD STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading of Cold Storage amendment bill.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Bill was read a second time after which the House went into Committee of the whole on the Cold Storage Bill, Hon. Mr. J. D. Ryan in the Chair.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The Cold Storage Act of the year 1910 provided in Section 1 that the Governor in Council might lawfully guarantee on behalf of the Colony for any period of years not exceeding fifteen a dividend not exceeding 5% on invested capital in any firm or company engaged in the business of Cold Storage connected with the fisheries of the Colony. The guarantee to all persons or companies was limited to a dividend on an amount of capital not exceeding a total of $500,000. That Act provided that certain plant, and machinery should be exempt from duty. The Governor in Council was authorized to give subsidies not exceed-

ing a total of 30% of the amount expended on the construction of Cold Storage plants. The plants would, by virtue of Section 6 of that Act be subject to the inspection of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under Section 8 the Governor in Council was empowered to make regulations to secure the enforcement and operation of the Act.

This bill is not intended to destroy or in any way infringe these provisions of the 1910 Act, but consists merely of the addition to that Act of two sections to be known as sections 9 and 10. The new section 9 provides that "For the purposes of assisting in the creation of a market demand for our less well known fishes, such as turbot. caplin and plaice, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to contract with any person,firm or company engaged in the business of Cold Storage and other business connected with the fisheries and bait supply of the Colony for the granting to the company of a bonus not exceeding one cent per pound on all fresh or frozen fish. other than codfish, halibut and herring exported by the company from its cold storage warehouses or plants in good condition in any one year of such term not to exceed ten years in all as may be fixed by such contract." That section limits the maximum amount of bonus payable to the sum of $75,000, and provides that bonus shall be calculated in either one or two ways, the person receiving the bonus undoubtedly selecting whichever of the two ways would give him the greater bonus, namely, (1). According to the capacity of the Cold Storage plants or warehouses the $400 bonus for every 100-000 pound of bonus being an amount not exceeding storage capacity, or (2). At the rate of one-half cent per pound on all cold storage fish exported other than codfish, halibut and herring. That section also provides that any contract entered into between the Government and any firm or company under the provisions of the Act shall be subject to certain conditions as to the time for the completion of the erection of the plant, a reservation of 10% of cold storage space for such purposes as the Governor in Council may from time to time require; the sale of bait to vessels engaged in the bank fishery at a reasonable price; and a provision that any firm or company should not be permitted to export squid, caplin or herring for bait purposes. The new section 10 provides that the payment of bonuses shall be made only upon the certificate of the Auditor General and that certain returns be furnished the Auditor General to enable him to satisfy himself in connection with the matter. In the event of the Auditor General and the firm's or company's auditor being unable to agree as to the statements furnished, the question should be referred to a public chartered accountant as umpire, the award of which umpire being final.

For many years continuous efforts have been made by the various Governments of the Colony to develop cold storage in its application to the fisheries of Newfoundland. It cannot be seriously contended that the efforts of the past have been productive of very satisfactory results. True it is that some private individuals of enterprise and vision, some of whom are at present in this Chamber, have to a small extent developed the idea of the cold storage of fish for bait and other purposes, but no such developments of the cold storage idea as would be of any large practical benefit to the development of our fisheries has been undertaken. It is thought possible that with the enlargement of the scope of the 1910 cold storage Act by the addition of these sections 9 and 10, it may be possible for a contract to be entered into between the Gov-

ernment and responsible parties who would be prepared to undertake the cold storage of our fish and bait upon a large scale, particularly the cold storage of our food fishes for export for food purposes. The development of such a large industry naturally calls for the expenditure of large capital, as also a large faith and business enterprise on the part of those who are prepared to risk substantial sums of money for the development of a new enterprise. It is consequently essential that substantial concessions should be given. I feel, however, that the concessions here offered by the Government are very reasonable, the liability to the Colony being exceedingly small as compared with the enormous advantages which would accrue in the event of this cold storage enterprise being put into efficient and successful operation on a large scale, as is contemplated by these sections.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE.—Do I understand that if any application is to be made for the 5% interest guarantee it is to be paid under the 1910 Act as it now stands?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The bill before the House does not repeal or modify in any way whatever the Act of 1910. Section 1 of the 1910 Act provided for the payment to the firm or company undertaking cold storage business "of a sum by which the net annual profits of such person, firm or company may be less than five per cent. on the capital invested by any such person or paid up in any such company." That section stands, and any person who in the past has been availing of the 1910 Act or who hereafter desires to avail of the provisions of the 1910 Act may under Section 1, claim the 5% guarantee as provided thereunder. The object of this bill is merely to add to the 1910 Act and not to detract therefrom. All the rights and privileges which any person heretofore has had under the 1910 Act, that person still continues to have under the 1910 Act after these two sections which constitute the present bill have been added thereto. The effect of these two additional sections is to enlarge the scope of the Act and not to limit it.

HON .MR. ANDERSON.—I must admit that this bill is certainly beyond my comprehension. This bill is to be in operation for ten years, and a company with a capacity for 7,500,000 pounds of fish and exporting them for this period and getting the maximum bonus, would receive in that time $750,000. Now codfish, halibut and herring can never be exported in a frozen condition, in my opinion, outside of the United States. Canada has more fish than they know what to do with; England will have plenty by and by, and I am sure it can never be sent to the Mediterranean because of the heat there, so that the only country to send it to would be the United States, and I am afraid we will always be called upon to pay the subsidy.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—May I be permitted to again point out that this bill does not destroy the 1910 cold storage act, but is intended to enlarge the operations of that act and adds to the Act two new sections to be known as sections 9 and 10 of the 1910 Cold Storage Act. The bonus payable under new section 9 is not in any event to exceed the sum of $75,000 per annum, and the amount is to be calculated in either one of two ways. the Government being called upon to pay the company under which ever scale the amount is the greater. In other words, if under one scale the amount would be $50,000 and under the other scale the amount would be $60,000, the company would certainly claim the $60,000 and the Govern-

ment would be bound to pay. The first scale of payment is according to the capacity of the cold storage plants or warehouses. If the company puts up a storage plant and warehouses of 100,000 pounds of fish capacity, the bonus would be $400.00. If the company puts up a warehouse with a capacity of 200,000 pounds, the bonus payable would be $800.00, and so on, an additional $400.00 for every additional 100,000 pounds capacity until the bonus reaches a total of $75,000, which is the maximum payable. The second scale has nothing to do with the capacity of warehouses or plants, but is based upon the quantity of fish other than codfish, halibut and herring exported by the company from its cold storage plants, and that scale is a payment at the rate of ½ cent per pound. Thus under this scale, if the company exports 100,000 pounds of fish other than codfish, halibut and herring it would be entitled to a bonus of $500.00. If it exports 200,000 pounds it would be entitled to $1,000, and so on, an additional half cent for every one pound of fish exported until the maximum bonus of $75,000 is reached. The company cannot get $75,000 bonus under the first scale and a further and additional 75,000 under the second scale, but has the option of selecting whichever of the two scales the company feels will give the greater bonus, provided certainly that in no case shall the bonus exceed $75,000.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Are any Companies at present enjoying the advantages of the 1910 Act, and if so, to what extent in the way of participation in the allowance of the 5 per cent. interest on the capital invested in cold storage?

HON. MR. HARVEY—There is one point in this section that should be taken notice of, and that is salmon. For 10 or 20 years past a certain number of people on the West Coast Messrs. Chetwynd, Keating and others have been struggling with the exportation of fresh salmon to Sydney and there should be some provision by which these should get a bonus. These cannot get a bonus unless they have entered into a contract for the business of cold storage and for bait supplies. In my opinion we ought to accept salmon or have some assurance that these people independently working shall be given the same subsidy as a company, otherwise the companies which are going to establish on the West coast are going to wipe out all these people who have been working for years developing this trade.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In answer to the Hon. President, some companies have availed of the provisions of the 1910 Act as to the interest. The 30 per cent portion is given on account of the construction cost but I have no information as to whether anything has been paid in 1916 or 1917.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I know there were some fish merchants getting the bonus when the Fisheries Investigation was held three or four years ago, as, for instance, Earle and Hodge of Fogo, but I can't say if any are now operating. Hon. Mr. Harvey spoke of a Company in which he was interested. Is that Company applying for the interest guarantee?

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I will not say we shall not apply for the guarantee. We have been operating at a loss, but I think it is up to us and if we do, I think the Government would be obliged to pay us. I think it is being paid to Hodge and also to Earle, but we are no longer operating the place. It has not been paid because we have made no application for it.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I merely ask in order to point out that Job's have established a cold storage plant

in St. John's and seeing that the total amount cut out for paying that 5 per cent. is only $50,000, it would be interesting to know what deduction is to be made from it in the event of the new company applying and getting the same concessions as I assume it can get under the 1910 Act there is a half million dollars distributed.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—The section in my opinion is wrong and I drew out an amendment on the ground that there is a limit to the amount the Government is liable for. The Government is liable to make good the net profits up to 5 per cent. Suppose a company loses $100,000, I think the Government will have to pay the $100,000 lost and then make good the 5 per cent. on the capital. I propose to put in a clause that the Government pay no losses but that they pay 5 per cent. on the capital, i.e., that the whole amount they would be liable for would be that 5 per cent. If a company lost $500,000 the Government would be liable for $25,000 or 5 per cent. I think the whole section in the 1910 Act is obscure and wants amending. but I daresay the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill will fix the clause so that we may know what it means.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Referring to what has been already said as to the West Coast salmon fishery, it does seem a hardship that people engaged in the salmon exportation on the West Coast should be wiped out, but on the other hand it must be borne in mind that if this company starts operations and is assured of a bonus, it can develop such an industry itself on the West Coast, which will more than make up to the people who catch the salmon any loss that might come from the bounty-aided competition this concern will set on foot. The ones who will suffer will be the three or four people who are engaged in this salmon industry, and whether it is possible to protect them is the question. On the other hand is the question whether we should risk the future of a company of this magnitude in favor of some few who may go out of business any moment. I do not know what is the position of these people at the present time; I have seen salmon in boxes being put on board the trains when passing along the West Coast in recent years.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I do not think we need be a bit afraid of this salmon question wrecking the bill. Salmon is going to be the most profitable fish this company can handle. I think the government should take into consideration these few people who are handling salmon.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The Hon. Mr. Harvey very courteously and clearly set forth some objections to the wording of sub-section "b" at the last sitting, and with some of these objections I find myself in complete concurrence. In sub-section "a" I think one of his objections might be met by striking out the word "of" and insert the words "not exceeding." Then in sub-section "b" it was thought that under the construction of sub-section "1" it might be thought they were getting a bonus on codfish, halibut and herring, and to make this absolutely clear, insert after the word "payable" the following, "on all fish other than codfish, halibut and herring." Now then the question is raised that because this provision limiting to $75,000 is put in at the end of sub-section 2. it does not apply to sub-section 1. This is quite correct. It was intended originally to apply to the whole section, but as a matter of fact only applies to the second part of it. To make it absolutely clear I would suggest, that before the word "shall" we insert the words "shall not exceed $75,000." Sub-sections one and

two are really corresponding. The amount in any event shall not exceed one half cent per pound. Subsection 1 provides that the amount which may be paid on these other fishes may be calculated in a proportion depending upon the storage capacity of one hundred thousand pounds the maximum which that company would receive would be $400 a year. Now supposing that the company filled that warehouse only once with these other fish, the minimum they would receive under the half cent per lb. rate would be $500. If it filled their warehouses twice during the year with nothing but these other fish they would still get only $400 bonus, but if they were a large company with a capacity of 200,000 instead of 100.000, then its maximum may go up to $800 a year bonus, and so on, as the capacity increases until the bonus reaches $75,000 a year. It only gets the bonus on the fish actually exported.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—The hon. gentleman states that they get a bonus upon the quantity of fish exported and he calculates apparently on the fish according to the storage capacity. May I ask then why there are two alternatives, one on the fish exported and the other according to the storage capacity according to whichever is the greater? How can he receive a larger amount on the storage capacity than on the fish exported?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The point is this. The gentleman who drafted the bill wanted to make it absolutely clear that nobody should get less than half cent per pound, and the House of Assembly did not seem to be prepared to give everybody a straight one cent per pound. Section B, 1 and 2, from a lawyer's standpoint is very clear. though I admit the difficulty of explaining it. Let us take an illustration: Supposing a plant has a capacity of 100,000 lbs., and the man says he will take his bonus under the haf cent rate; he gets $500, but under the Act the bonus is allowed up to and not exceeding one cent a pound. and he would then be $500 short of what it is contemplated he might receive. He will fall back on section one, and if he can show that he had a storage capacity of 400,000 he would under that section be entitled to the maximum bonus of $1600, but he cannot get $1600 because it is limited to one cent per pound, and that reduces him to $1000 on his 100,000 lbs. of fish. I admit it is a complicated method of getting at the figures. The object is to encourage persons going into this business on a large scale. If he was a large man he would work out his bonus under the first sub-section, but if a small operator he would fall back on the second sub-section.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—For a complicated form of bill coming to this House since I have been a member of it, this takes the cake. Why this bill should be in this form I do not see. and whatever the people who drew up this bill meant I do not know. But what the legislature wants to do is to subsidize the export of this outside fish. I move that sub-section 2 be expunged from the bill.

HON. SIR EDGAR BOWRING.—It would seem to me that sub-section 1 of 9a is so obscure that we should adopt the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Harvey and expunge it from the bill. Although I have listened very carefully to the explanation given with regard to this clause, I cannot get over the feeling that it is possible for the government to pay a very large amount of money to anyone erecting a cold storage plant and not putting any fish in it at all. While the one cent per pound in 9a no doubt applies when fish is exported, the one cent given by this sub-section

seems to over rule that in certain cases and that a person simply for erecting a plant can come under that section and claim $400 for every 100,000 pounds capacity. Now a concern having such a contract with the government may have a plant with twenty million pounds capacity; it does not take so very much room for that; you can put up any size place you like. They might receive from the government $75.000 a year for ten years for doing nothing at all except erecting that plant. I may be wrong in that, but I cannot get this out of my mind and on that account I strongly support Mr. Harvey's suggestion that that clause be expunged. I think that all of us are anxious to see cold storage operations carried on in this country, if carried on properly and efficiently.

But we do not want a Cold Storage plant to be put up simply for the purpose of aiming at subsidies and operating on a small scale. I have seen it in operation in many parts of the world and know that the greatest care must be taken from the time the fish is taken from the water until it is placed in the consuming market, and, when we are speaking of paying such a large amount of Government money to any company. we should have the guarantee that the work will be carried on carefully, efficiently and under expert management, if not they may sell well or meet no success and the country is taxed a large amount for something which does no good. Supposing that this is carried on carefully and efficiently and we pay $75,000 per year for 10 years, who is to pay the money. They tell us the fishermen pays four-fifths of it and nobody else is taxed. The legitimate business of the country, the business which has been the back bone of the country for centuries is to be taxed this large amount simply to bolster up a new industry which may or may not be valuable to the country. In fact, I know it will not, unless carried out by expert management. When it comes to ascertaining what Cold Storage operation has to help it out, it seems monstrous altogether. For one class under the 1910 Act as I have heard it read, a return of 30 per cent. of the capital invested is paid to those erecting the plant; that is if a person erects a plant costing $300,000, $100,000 is to be returned to him and then there is the possibility of getting 5 per cent. interest upon the capital invested if the concern is operated and then the cost comes off the Government for 2 cents per pound and if that comes about it is a tax upon the fishermen of the country, who are the great mainstay of the Colony. It is unfair that we should try and foster a trade which we are not certain will be good, and that we should pay our money with no absolute prospect of success. I strongly support Hon. Mr. Harvey's suggestion that the section be expunged.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I would suggest as an alternative that we consider the idea of sending the Bill to a Joint Select Committee. I do not want to reflect upon my hon. friend's explanation, because he made the position clear as he saw it, but I am not sure he sees it as whoever devised it saw it and I think the proper thing is to havxe a "round-the-table talk" on it, or else send it to a Select Committee and have somebody who knows fully the company's viewpoint set it out for us. Those who put this mysterious clause there must believe there is a good reason for it. though I think it should be corrected, for as it shows now it is an absolute puzzle to me. I do not know why it is there, or why it would not be much more sensible to give $75.000 as the tax upon the capital. But we are up against this danger, that we

do not know what it may mean and we should not legislate in the dark. I would suggest as an alternative to throwing out the section altogether, which may hornstring the Bill, and that we ask that it be sent to a Select Committee and have the people interested in promoting it to give an explanation or ask the other House to co-operate and discuss the whole Bill. Just now I saw Mr. Downey. representing St. George's District, which is concerned in the export of salmon and smelts. When he was in business years ago, he sent hundreds of tins of salmon to Boston and New York each year. and other people now send about the same quantity. That salmon fetches from 12 to 16 cents a pound and we take off 8 cents for handling, putting the fish in at 6 cents a pound after paying all express charges, etc. In addition to that a number of people from Port au Port export smelts and have developed a business of $16000 per year. This bill seriously threatens all these people and in the matter of smelts will hit the fishermen disastrously. This is one of the unfortunate offshoots of every such new venture. If a steamship business is started it eliminates the coaster. When a railroad gets going it cripples highway traffic. When a large venture is started you know that some people will be hurt and we should not go too far in impairing a project of this magnitude by trying to save the small man; but on the other hand we should not be callous altogether. Mr. Downey suggests the alternative, instead of giving this company a free right to export salmon, that we give the company a free right to export halibut, which would induce them to develop this fishery. which is very desirable. If we strike out halibut and put in salmon this would help develop an industry that is now stagnant. These suggestions are worth considering and I would put it to my hon. friend that we have a Joint Select Committee and see if it is not possible to make an amendment which will satisfy the House.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I am sorry to disagree with my hon. friend in this matter. We are now at the very tail end of a long and wearisome session and every week we consider important measures under suspended rules. I have not the time to sit in Select Committees of this kind. It is a tax to study the bills as they come up here and I do not know if any other hon. member has had the chance to study this, but I have endeavoured to get time to try and post myself as well as I could on the meaning of the bill. I do not mind what explanation is given. I am clear in my mind as to what I want in a general way and I think the House should be the same. I do not want alternatives or side issues in the bill, nobody else in the House wants it. The hon. gentleman in charge of the bill may not understand it. The company will be in a position to get 5 per cent upon its investment under the old Act. I do know what the actual capital is going to be. They can get a return of 30 per cent on the amount invested paid back in the first place. I am willing to agree to a bonus of one cent per pound on any fish other than codfish and salmon. If they are to get one cent on salmon I would give that one cent to everyone. I think it would pay the colony. which. would get back the one cent over and over, and I will press my amendment not in any spirit of obstruction, but as a matter of fair play to those who have been exporting salmon in a small way for years past and who will have to compete now. I fail to see why this bill should not have come up three weeks or a month ago. The plant is building and operating. Why it has been left till now

to introduce this very involved bill into the House the last couple of days of the session. I do not know, and I am not inclined to sit on a Select Committee. I move that the whole of sub-sections 1 and 2 come out and section 9 and the following words be added—"Provided that the total bonus in any year under such contract shall not exceed $75,000." I want to have this fixed so that anyone exporting this class of fish could get one cent per pound whether the small fisherman or large cold storage company.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—The reason why I suggested a Select Committee was to avoid a clash, because I can see it coming between the two Houses. The two Houses may consider it a money bill, and dispute our right to amend it at all, in which case we would either be put in the ignominious position of having to withdraw our amendment, or else kill the bill, which I assume is a step none of us would like to take. I made my suggestion because if his amendment is carried (because there is some reason why it should be) here, then if there is no regular Select Committee, there can be an informal Select Committee to reconcile the position again. Moreover, we have not exhausted the possibilities of discussion on the bill. I call the attention of the House to another point which demands examination on page 2, sub-section "e", No. 1, that "all cold storage plants shall be completed and in operation within five years from the date of such contract." I want to know if that means that the Company is not to get a bonus on fish exported up to 5 years, if it fails to complete its plant by the end of five years, and if then the period for which it is to be bonusable is for 10 years longer. I do not know what the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill has to say as to the construction of this clause, but it is one that should be made clearer.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I have a few words to say. It's true what the Hon. President has said on the matter of both Houses clashing. I hope this will benefit the country. but I have little faith in the export of the fishery products of this country in cold storage, though I have confidence in bait which is the key note and foundation of our whole commerce. I have not the slightest doubt whatever that the maximum amount under the bill will be spent, and if such is the case a rebate of 30 per cent will be $150,000, and in 5 years the whole thing must be completed and in a short time we must pay the piper. I hope it will be a success financially and that the fish will be able to pay the expenses. I believe with Hon. Sir Edgar Bowring that it does not require a very great capacity to hold 7,500,000 lbs. of fish at once and I think the fishermen will have to contribute four-fifths of that money. I say now with all seriousness that this cannot be a success, because there is only one market, the United States. We shipped last year 1,400,000 qtls. fish and sent it to countries which always bought it and will buy it cured in the usual way. As far as fresh fish is concerned we might as well ship it to the man in the moon. I forgot that there is a rebate of 30 per cent when the plant is completed so that we must pay $250,000 for 7,500,000 lbs. of fresh fish.—Salmon, squid, plaice, herring, dog fish, white fish, in fact all kinds of fish. Fresh fish is a good commodity and must be as near fresh as possble, for the slightest tint on it going into the English or American markets will forever kill the industry. It is a matter over which we should exercise the greatest care, and I think the suggestion of the President might be adopted, viz: to refer

it to a Select Committee so that we might get a little more information.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The mathematical scale by which the scale is laid down in this particular scale which is the proportion between $400 in money and 100,000 lbs. in capacity, so that section has no connection itself with the bonus or with the fish, but is merely put up to see how it works out. If he exports under section nine, 50,000 lbs. of fish, he would at one cent per pound be entitled to $500. but he cannot get $500 because he is limited to $400 maximum if his capacity is 100,000 pounds, while if his capacity was 500,000 he would get the limit of $2000 a year. In other words he would have to export fish up to 200,000 lbs. before he had reached the limit to which he is entitled. I fully agree that the section needs to be explained, but when looked into it is a good section.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Granting all that, what is the need for it? Would it not be very much simpler to say, when the intention appears to be to give one cent a pound bonus for the export of certain fishes; or if that is thought too much. why not make it three quarters of a cent, but make it a uniform rate so that the small man and the big man and all concerned would know what they are going to get, and I think it would be better to say we will give one cent, or three quarters, or one half, whichever is satisfactory to all. But we should not be expected to pass this without an explanation. I am satisfied there is some reason for it. I am not reflecting on my hon. friend's explanation at all, but we are not as familiar with this as he is and not aware of the processes by which this conclusion was reached. In my judgment the way to deal with this is to let us have a talk, either formally or informally. and let us know why it is put there. I think to reject this section is to rush a clash with the lower House. I agree it is hard to ask the members of the Legislature to have another Select Committee, but nevertheless some understanding has to be reached on this bill during the next few days and I favor doing it by that process instead of sending down an amendment which the Lower House may not accept and forcing us to accept this in the Bill without knowing what it means, or killing the bill, which nobody wants. And I would suggest whether it would not be possible to substitute halibut instead of salmon, and also have some light thrown on this phrase. With regard to the five year term and so on, I think that would be the simpler way to have the matter arranged. Perhaps if the hon. gentleman would report progress we might talk this matter over, any way. and one be brought to understand it, but that we should put in an arbitrary amendment without the thing being clear, would I think, be a mistake.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—In deference to what the Hon. President has said, I will not press the amendment at this time. I am satisfied to have the matter lay over or to have a Select Committee. I want to say in reference to some remarks that have been made that it is a pleasure for me to say this about the new company that has started. We have had before us in my time a plentitude of cold storage measures and there was not a charter of one of the companies that semed to me at the time it went through worth the paper it was written on. We have a company here now at last which is starting with all the elements of success, a practical company which I think and hope will succeed, and I hope will be a great factor to the commercial life of the colony. That, of course, is no reason why we should have a bill here which

we do not understand and the terms of which I am not favorable to. But I think I do understand that section and in my opinion it is one which should never pass.

HON. PRESIDENT.—I am prepared to leave it to the Committee to suggest any course which they think will meet the wishes of the members.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again, which report was received.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly that they had passed the bill entitled "An Act to amend the Saw Mills Act."

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, this bill was then read a first time.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SAW MILLS ACT BILL.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In moving the second reading I would observe that this bill provides that section 5 of the Saw Mills Act shall not apply to pit props cut after the the first day of October, 1915. Section 5 has been read by some people to mean that private property in pit props ceased after they had been cut eighteen months, and this is to make it absolutely clear that such pit props are not included in the provisions of that Section.

The bill was read a second time, and on motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House resolved into Committee thereon, Hon. Mr. Anderson in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Will the hon. gentleman kindly explain why pit props cut after this date named should be eliminated from the provisions of a general Act which provides that no right of property shall be retained in any sort of timber after eighteen months subsequent to cutting.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The reason is that it has not been possible to export a large quantity of pit props which have been cut under the Act, owing to war conditions.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Is it desirable that parties should retain their right for an indefinite period. I have no objection to a period of a few years, but I have to the principle of giving them the right until the timber rots.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—If they are bought with his own good money, surely he has the right to let them rot if he so desires. The object of the 1915 Act was to deal with people who merely went into the woods and cut stuff and left it lying there and did not subsequently remove it to a place of safety under their control. It might be very strongly argued that the 1915 Act, applying to pit props, does not cover the wood cut for pit props and brought out of the woods by the owners and piled in a place of safety. There has been a whole lot of trouble in this connection and the House of Assembly has evidently thought it desirable to have this amendment.

HON. PRESIDENT.—How about pit props brought out and stored prior to October, 1915; why is the distinction drawn between those cut previously and subsequently?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I would believe it to be that there are practicaly no pit props now in Newfoundland for sale cut prior to that date. Up to that time there was opportunity for export, but the special difficulty in connection with export arose during 1916 and 1917, when it has been found quite impossible to export.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I take it that one reason is that wood cut prior to 1915 is probably of very little value for any purpose now. I do not understand why the date is not made

June, 1915, which is the date of the Act.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Why is there any date at all. I have no objection to the thing, but why the date of October, 1915. I think the bill should be amendd to say that a man shall not lose his right to pit props provided he has them stored in a safe place, no matter when they were cut, and I think the best way would be to protect the people who had this material cut so as to put them all on the same footing. I move the words "October 1st, 1915," be stricken out. I think it a pity we do not know the reason for these words being in. and that we should be asked to pass any bill without knowing what its object is. I am not saying this as any criticism of the hon. gentleman, but here is a case where a certain date is put in and I do not think it can be argued that these reasons given us are satisfactory. The amendment was passed.

The Committee rose and reported the bill with some amendment, which report was received, and on motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the 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 with some amendment, and requesting their concurrence therein.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly that they had passed the bills entitled, respectively, "An Act further to amend the Revenue Act, 1905"; and "An Act to levy a tax on Business Profits," in which they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the Revenue Act amendment Bill was then read a first time.

REVENUE BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Revenue Bill was read a second time, after which the House went into Committee on the Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

The Committee then rose and reported the Bill without amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message to this effect.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Bill entitled "An Act to levy a Tax on Business Profits" was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House that he had a message from the Assembly stating that they had passed the Council's amendment to the Nfld. Products Corporation Act, with some amendments, in which they ask the concurrence of the Council.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In moving that the amendment be read a first time, I understand from the Clerk that it is merely a clerical error in which the word "Canadian" was not written in when sent to the Assembly. It merely carries out accurately the amendment made by Hon. Mr. Harvey.

The amendment was then read a first and second time. concurred in, and a message sent to the Assembly to this effect.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House adjourned till tomorrow at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, August 3rd, 1917.

The House met at 3 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I beg to move that the bill entitled "An Act to Levy a tax upon Business Profits" be now read a second time. I consider it a privilege to rise in my place in this Chamber, and on bhalf of the Government submit for your consideration on second reading a bill of the importance to the com-

merce of the Colony and to its revenue, as is this measure. For a very long period of time the Homeland has depended for its revenue to a very large extent upon income taxation. Since the outbreak of the War Great Britain's Colonies have in a limited way attempted to deal with the matter of the taxation of profits. This bill, which has already passed the House of Assembly. unanimously has been drafted along the lines of the Canadian measure which has been in more or less effective operation in Canada, and while I do not propose to suggest that this bill has had that lengthy and matured consideration which is so necessary in legislation of this sort, yet it is an honest effort to put upon the Statute Book a measure which on the one hand will bear easily upon the commerce of the country, and on the other hand will be productive of a substantial revenue for war purposes. This bill does not approach the point of being a general measure, placing a tax upon incomes. It does, however, attempt to compel business men to pay a reasonable proportion of the profits which they make in their business, to the funds of the Colony.

The second section of the Bill is confined to the definition of terms. The third is the essential section and reads as follows: "There shall be paid to His Majesty by the person owning any business to which this Act applies. a tax of twenty per centum of the net profits in excess of the sum of three thousand dollars earned by such business during each of the accounting periods hereinafter mentioned." In this section there is a proviso that in the case of a bank or banking corporation the tax shall be one-half of 1 per centum on deposits. The businesses taxed are "All trades and businesses of any description," carried on wholly or in part in Newfoundland with the exception of the business of life insurance." (See Section 5). Section 6 indicates the manner in which the net taxable profits are to be compounded. Section 7 provides for the appointment of a board of arbitrators in the event of the tax-payer disputing the assessment. Then there are sections dealing with the returns for the purpose of taxation, power of the Minister to demand information, penalties, etc. It will be noted that there is a special section, No. 12, providing a penalty for any official disclosing information or allowing any unauthorised person to have access to the records. The powers of the Board of Arbitrators are defined in the Act and provisions made for appeal therefrom. Section 18 makes the taxes payable a first charge upon the property of the person liable. The Act itself is to continue in force until the 31st day of December, 1918, and no longer. Certain schedules are added providing necessary forms.

The principle of this bill is one which I am quite sure will meet with the favorable consideration of this Chamber. The Government fully appreciates the difficulties of applying to local conditions a law calling for the payment of an income, business or profits tax, but it is felt that the time has arrived when some definite step for the introduction of a special taxation measure of this class should be made and in view of the great liberality which the business community has evinced towards patriotic and charitable purposes, I am convinced that this measure, calling for a compulsory payment towards war funds, will meet with the patriotic support of the business community. There are undoubtedly various provisions which members of this Chambers may desire to discuss at length. That is a matter which can be dealt with more readily in the Committee

stage of the measure than on second reading.

With the contents of the bill I feel that every member of this Chamber is fully acquainted as its subject-matter has already been before the public for some considerable time.- Copies of the bill as printed for the House of Assembly have been in the hands of the members of this Chamber. I consequently feel that further words of explanation are at this moment unnecessary and submit the measure to you who are so fully representative of the mercantile community, upon whom the burden of this measure will in the first instance fall, for your favorable consideration. I consequently move that the bill be now read a second time.

HON. MR. MILLEY—I wish to say a few words on this bill before it is read a second time. It is quite evident that the continuance of the war and our participation therein, has made it necessary for the Government to look around for further funds than those now being received in order to carry out our financial obligations. It is also evident, to me at any rate, that in the bill now before us, we have the result of an attempt to ride rough shod over the first principles of sound finance. I have no hesitation in saying that if the members of the Government had taken sufficient time to study the question of additional taxation, they would no more have brought down such an enactment, than they would have flown in the air. If this bill becomes law, then I hope the Legislature will open very early next year in order to have an opportunity to repeal or seriously amend it before it can come into effect, for I have no doubt that between now and then its unfairness and utter absurdities will become very apparent to us all.

Now, I wish it to be distinctly understood that personally, I shall have no objection to pay the amount that this bill calls for in connection with my own business, I believe in the righteousness of the war in which we are engaged, and I see very clearly that it is going to cost us far more than it has hitherto. Conesquently I am quite satisfied that the amount required from me will not be any more than I am able and willing to give. I mention this, because it is possible that some honourable gentleman may think that I am criticising the bill because I do not want to pay the tax which it will impose upon me. If such were the case I would remain silent, for I would not attempt to use my position as a member of this Council to further my own personal ends. We must not lose sight of the fact that the Government of the day has no opposition—one of the saddest features of coalition government in this and every other land,—consequently, it remains for us to assume the functions of an opposition, not however for the purpose of opposing the government, but of detecting defective legislation, and of endeavouring to see that the laws enacted are reasonable and just.

Laws relating to excess profit taxes are now in operation in several places, but they have been the outcome of very careful consideration on the part of the Governments, and the result of confidential interviews with leading men representing all classes of capital and industry. In some cases it has taken many months to come to conclusions suitable to the best interests of all, and the result has been a ready acceptance by all concerned of the taxes levied. What time has the Government of this country-which has been in existence less than three weeks—had, to give to this important matter? Practically none. Besides that, it has gone through all its stages in the lower house in less than one hour, has had no criticism there, and

now we are supposed to put it through this chamber in less time than that. I consider it an insult to our intelligence and to the intelligence of the people of this country to ask for the passage of such an important measure at the end of a long-drawn-out session and under suspended rules.

What does the term "Excess Profits" mean? Its meaning in Great Britain, Canada and the United States is as different from its meaning in Newfoundland as chalk is different from cheese. In the countries named, huge business totalling billions of dollars is done every year in supplying war materials. This business is done at tremendous profit, and these are the profits that will contribute, to a very large extent, to the Excess Profits tax. In this country we have no such business, due largely to the fact that our Government has not been alive to their possibilities along these lines. In this house, early in 1915, I strongly urged the appointment of a representative in London, during the session of 1916 I again referred to the necessity of such an appointment. On both occasions I spoke after my return from England where I had many opportunities to see the wisdom of such a step, and the insane folly of being unrepresented in Great Britain. Just why nothing has been done in this matter I fail to see, for it seems to me of much importance, for I have seen and heard enough to recognize the value that could come to us through a commissioner or agent on the other side of the water.

In the bill before us I notice that businesses of all kinds are to furnish the money for this extra taxation, and that elaborate machinery, costly, no doubt, is to be set in motion to collect it. All business people have to furnish details of their business to a Board of Referees which has to be appointed; provision is made for disputes which will undoubtedly arise, and litigation after litigation will be the order of the day. Surely some system of taxation, easily collectable, can be devised without any such machinery or trouble as seems inevitable in this one.

For instance, why not tax our exports for a year or two? From the earliest recollection of the oldest gentleman present, our imports have been taxed, and in late years taxed very heavily, while our exports have got off scot free. How easy it would be to collect a tax, say of 20, 30, or 40 cents a quintal on our fish, the person passing the export entry, passing in a cheque to the Cashier at the Customs' for the amount due; no extra officials needed, for it would be as easily done as was the collection of the Surtax of 10% imposed some years ago upon our imports. I mention an export duty on fish because the excellent prices paid now for this article are due entirely to the war. and it is War Profits we ought to tax more than any other at this time. Our fish was never higher in value than it is to-day, and there never was a time when it could so easily bear an export tax. The same applies to cod oil, salmon, herring, lobsters, etc. Then again what about the tremendous war profits made by the companies handling our Bell Island ores? If in peace time, with normal profits. they can pay us a tax on the ore exported, surely in war time, with abnormal profits, they ought to be able to increase this tax considerably. If these ideas do not meet with favor, and good reasons for not entertaining them can be produced, then why not increase the surtax of 10% on our imports to 15% for a year or two? In my opinion any of the above sugestions are far preferable to the method now proposed. and I have no doubt other gentlemen present can give us other ideas which would be

more acceptable to our people as a whole.

In looking over this bill I find many things in it (or rather than can be deduced from it) that are absurd and manifestly unfair. Some of our daily papers have suggested a few of them, and as time goes on, many others unthought of now, will crop up. Perhaps a few which have occured to me might be worth repeating. What about the concerns (and there are many of them in Newfoundland) who never take stock, and therefore never know precisely what their profits are. You order them to take stock in order to assess their profits. Why should a man who ought to be allowed to conduct his business as he likes, be dictated to in this way, if he has paid his creditors 100 cents in the dollar ever since he has been in business? Again, a sealing steamer after two or three bad years has been heavily in debt on the books of its owner. During the voyage just past she has done well, but the profit made is not sufficient to pay off half her indebtedness, yet this bill provides that 20% of the profits of this voyage have to be surrendered. Could anythng be more unfair? Then what about the debts apparently good when the books are closed, but owing to unforeseen circumstances, become hopelessly bad a few months after. The business firm carrying such a debt (and many listening to me now know by sad experience the reality of what I say) will now not only lose the original amount, but another 20% on it as well.

One more criticism, Mr. President, and I'm done. The time set for paying the tax is the most unsuitable of the whole year. In the months of February, March and April all our business men are looking for money to finance the Spring's business, and I feel sure that at no time in the year are our firms more in debt to the Banks, etc., than the very time you ask for this money. We are led to believe that this Council possesses no authority to amend or reject this bill. I doubt very much if such is the case, but I leave that aspect of it to those who have studied constitutional questions more than I have. However, whether we have the right or not, I feel it my duty to object as strongly as I can to placing on the Statute Books of this Colony a measure so ill considered, unfair and vicious, and which has come to us from a House of Assembly which contains no opposition, and from a Government that has been in existence too short a time to be able fully to consider such important legislation. It would be far better for the Government to give the people notice that taxes dealing with the business of 1917 will be introduced early in the season of 1918. and spend the time between now and then in putting into shape some just and reasonable law.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Mr. President I may say at the outset that I fully appreciate the difficulties in drawing a bill of this kind. These difficulties are great in any country owing to the special conditions, but the peculiar conditions connected with the trade of this Colony make it especially difficult to work out fair and proper details here. In very many respects the conditions are unusual here. I want to say at once that I am unaware of the reason for the recent change in the Bill which involved the alteration in the percentage basis. I understand that as originally introduced in the lower house the terms of the tax were 25% upon profits after allowing 6% free upon capital employed. As the bill now stands it calls for 20% upon profits with a general allowance of $3,000. It may seem that the change involving as it does a reduction in percentage from 25% to 20% may mean that there is

in the present form of the bill a reduction in the tax itself. In order to have the matter clear however, it should be pointed out that in large businesses at least a very large increase under ordinary conditions is imposed by the change. To illustrate this let me explain that upon a business employing, say for convenience, a million dollars and showing a profit of 10 per cent., viz., $100,000, you have under the original bill to deduct 6 per cent. upon a million or sixty thousand dollars, leaving $40,000. Upon this $40,000 there has to be paid 25 per cent., or $10,000. Under the change you would have the $100,000 to be taxed less a deduction of $3,000, leaving $97,000. Twenty per cent. of this is $19,400. or just about double the original proposal. I do not know if it was intended to double the tax under these circumstances are not and I am not now discussing the wisdom of this, but I think it ought to be clearly understood that the new tax means of course taking 50% of the real nett profit from a concern of this size making 10% gross. For I think 6% can hardly be regarded in the light of a business profit at all. Six per cent can be obtained to-day by withdrawing it from business and investing it in Government Bonds where it is absolutely safe, where no risk has to be carried, where no business has to be managed nor any work of any kind done. At 15% gross profit the increase under the change would come to about one-third. This condition continues in varying ratios as you go down the scale of businesses until you get below a capital investment of $100,000. I have seen no explanation of why the change was made and it hardly seems equitable that ordinary interest should not be allowed and that money should be actually penalised in this way because it is being actively employed in productive business instead of being invested in Government securities, with the possessor taking no risks, doing no work and privileged to take life comfortably. It has been impossible, Mr. President, for anyone to study the Bill in its final form and what I now have to say has been the result of consideration only of such partial information as has been available from time to time. I now refer to some the details which have come to me.

It is evident of course that the Bill is an adopted Bill. I am not clear about the Section regarding "Non-resident Companies." Wherever located, they become liable for one-fifth of all profits "arising from Newfoundland business." Is a Halifax firm, that buys fish and takes it to Halifax, liable for the profit made on the Newfoundland bought fish until it arrives at final market? Where do the profits "arising from Newfoundland business" begin to end, especially for a non-resident company? Are foreign steamship agents, handling steamers that bring cargo to and from this Colony, liable for the tax? I take it they are. No end of questions arise in connection with this and kindred questions. Take for instance a firm such as Farquahar & Co., with a small capital, acting as agents and managers of the S.S. Sable, and getting a commission on the inward and outward freight from here. I suppose they are liable, and if they are it is the duty of the Minister to get after them and to make them pay. But as Managers of this useful little steamer, are they likely to stand for it? The steamer might come off. Is it better for the Colony to have the steamer or the tax?

What about sailing vessels? Take a man in Nova Scotia who owns a vessel or two, worth say $20,000 each, who is in the habit of chartering them to carry fish from here to the Mediterranean. What is his position? It appears to me that he will have to

pay, and that if he won't, the Minister will have to get after him. If so that shipowner will take his tonnage elsewhere in future. This would be Suppose, however, the tax is not payable by him. Consider, then, what would be the situation of our local shipowner. Under the Canadian law a business capitalised at under $50,000 goes free of tax. All these vessels, therefore, go free of tax up there. If the Canadian owner is free down here, too, how can a Newfoundland owner operate ships in competition with him, if the Newfoundland owner is taxed under our law? What is bound to happen under such circumstances is, that the vessels are sooner or later transferred from the Newfoundland owner, to the Canadian owner, who may or may not run them for the benefit of this trade. By the Act the Colony appears to be placed on the horns of a dilemma. Either it must enforce this tax against Canadian owners, who will then refuse to send any ships here, or the Colony must through the operation of the Act see Newfoundland owners unable to compete, and ultimately perhaps having to sell out, to their rival owners in Nova Scotia. The fact is that when the bill becomes law an exception will sooner or later have to be made to place the Nfld. vessel owner in the same position as the Canadian, if the Colony wants to retain its tonnage. In other words, if the present exemption stands in Canada, exemption from tax will have to be provided for vessels here too. This one point, an exceedingly important one, justifies the feeling that the situation as regards this measure requires more careful thought and investigation than it has received. Consider now the question of fixing the capital etc., invested in a large mercantile business in this country, or of calculating its annual nett profit. There is no possible standard that I know of by which these things can be judged. The value of unrealizable assets which constitute so important a part of all Newfoundland business concerns is a matter of purely personal opinion—opinions differing enormously among those who are daily familiar with this class of problem. The original cost is no criterion of capital value here. The selling value is none. And I am quite sure that with all due deference to the ability of our present Minister of Finance, he can invent no standard for the proper adjustment of such values. In other countries, more commercially developed, with a larger and better distribution of population, with a steady internal trade of native products, with better communications and a plentiful money circulation, the situation is quite different. When a profit is made it is there to be seen and got at, in cash or negotiable securities or property. It is not so here. Every cent of it is out in debts, and nets, and craft, and stocks, and fishery property of all kinds throughout the Colony, and on the Labrador. We have not got the conditions or the cash capital in circulation in this country to make these things realizable and readily available. It is most difficult for any merchant here to say what his actual profit is in any one year, and quite impossible to figure with any accuracy what his assets are worth. The result of any year's business is largely a matter of estimate. The allowances made for bad and doubtful debts involve guesswork to a considerable extent, and may vary greatly between different businesses according as the temperament of the owners or managers may vary.

It is an utter impossibility for the Minister to cope successfully with such involved, and all important details as these—and yet the profit, up-

on which the tax is assessed, is absolutely dependent upon these very details. It is in the nature of things that each firm will value its assets and consequently its profits differently, and they will do so with the most honest intentions in the world. The Minister cannot judge intelligently between them. He could in Canada or England or the United States perhaps, because most of the assets in those countries are of a different nature, and their value is more or less accurately ascertainable. If he could find any practicable standard here, however, it would be a physical impossibility for the Minister to check them even superficially. How long would it take him to go through and appraise it take him to go through and appraise the value of the Bank debts of each one of the large Water Street houses. There can hardly be a question on the part of any body who knows anything about it, but that great inequalities and unfairnesses must occur. Firms are obliged to have their completed statements in the Ministers hands, covering business up to January 1st, in one month thereafter, viz: by Feb. 1st. Does the Government know that very many of the larger firms here are unable with every effort to get their books into proper shape for closing until the middle or end of March. Their statements if put in on Feb. 1st, can hardly fail to be hurriedly and in fact incorrectly made up. The Minister will certainly have to enlarge the time required for putting in these returns.

Mr. President I see only one way in which even a moderate degree of fairness can be obtained in this matter—(I think that complete fairness between the different tax paying concerns is a practical impossibility). That way is through the employment by the Government of one reliable firm of chartered accountants,—independent of the Government and of local affiliations, to aid it and certify the books and business of every firm which has a turnover exceeding a certain fixed amount. These accountants would establish their own office and staff and would be paid by the Government. The work would at least be efficiently done and there would probably be some approximation to relative fairness, and it is possible that the details of individual businesses would not become public property, and the subect of general gossip, and let me say here, Mr. President, that the employment by the Minister of a firm of chartered accountants to do the work would be no answer at all to this criticism. This criticism is that under the conditions obtaining here the Minister and no Minister, should have anything to do with the details of this matter for obvious reasons. The only possible person who should have anything to do with these details of private business or have access to them, should be a trained, reliable permanent official, such for instance as the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General could have access to the details and to the work of the accountants, who might operate under his instructions, and would undertake as part of his public obligation that all details of the businesses dealt with were for himself alone and were not to be divulged to any Government office or anyone else.

I submit that even if the Minister of Finance was qualified to do what this act asks of him, and what fair play between different businesses would demand, he has quite enough to occupy him already without this. I further submit that the Minister of Finance is not the proper man to do this work in any case. Take our present Minister. He has large commercial interests of his own to begin with. Why should he above all business men in the Colony be entitled, not only to be informed in detail of

every one else's business, but actually to be the sole person empowered to make up their statements for them, to value their assets, and to assess their profit and loss account, as well as his own. The Minister has his own business, and with it his special business affiliations and friends, and so will any Minister, and he also is to fix the rate of remuneration of the managers, and in the same way he has to fix the deductions for depreciation, bad and doubtful debts, etc., both for the just and the unjust. Without saying one word in derogation of the Minister, I am surprised that he was himself willing to undertake these onerous and invidious dutites. I think the provision for a Board of Appeal, while doubtless a safeguard, will not be invoked very often except in extreme cases of hardship. Matters will have to be in an extremely bad case as regard unfairness before any, at least of the larger firms here, will face the loss of energy and time and the unpleasantness incidental to an appeal to the Board in question. As to remuneration allowable to directors or managers there should be, I submit, some definite and clear provision such as a percentage on the turnover—a fair indication of the work of management among similar businesses—but it is all wrong to allow amounts to be arranged arbitrarily and with reference to no fixed standard of any kind whatever, even at the perfectly honest discretion of any person who may happen from time to time to occupy the post of Minister of Finance. I repeat that in saying all this I wish to be understood as saying no word against the present Minister as an individual. He is doubtless as independent and unprejudiced a man as we are likely to get.

These are of course mainly matters of detail. What about the wisdom of the enactment as a whole? I confess, Mr. President, to having personally very grave misgivings as to its effects upon general conditions in the Colony. On the other hand, it is clear that if the Colony has urgent and immediate needs of funds, then a tax upon such general lines as this may be necessary. On the other hand if the immediate need is not urgent, then it were well, in my opinion, to make haste slowly and to consider carefully whether the amount which is estimated as likely to be obtained will offset the discouragement to enterprise at this time, and the general dislocation which temporarily at least is likely to ensue. And here I want to say that whether the law goes on the Statute Book or not, I think that the suggestion that has been made that the regular importing houses here will deliberately stop importing by way of protest against it, may be absolutely dismissed. Speaking for the firm with which I am personally identified, and I think for those similarly situated, there is no such intention. They will do their best to carry on. The importing houses might, perhaps, prefer that the Food Commission should take entire charge and do the business, and they would be glad to do the best they could to co-operate with them if they decided to undertake it. But this seems hardly practicable or reasonable. In any event every business concern has got to face the prospect of losses in the near future. Stocks of commodities will have to be carried whatever the trend of the markets, and we may be quite sure that sooner or later prices of commodities have to go down as they have gone up, whatever the commodity be, flour or fsh or dry goods. While this cannot fail to be a discouraging element, I think that there is no ground for suggesting that any deliberate action as suggested is probable. But the question of prudence whatever may

be the inclination of business people cannot be entirely ignored nor can the effects of necessity when they show themselves be avoided, and general conditions may conceivably affect the situation involuntarily. I do not say for one moment that they will. The first duty of any business concern to the public as well as to itself, is to keep liquid and solvent. Business concerns in this Colony to-day are abnormally extended owing to the enormous increase in the value of commodities and to high costs of operation in every direction. A million dollars is required to-day to swing a business that half a million would have swung a few years ago. There has been a very great extension of borrowings and credits. I stated recently in this Chamber that since the war brought new conditions there has been more than one concern operating here that has had to carry over a million dollars on its books as credits. Nearly every mercantile concern here,—I think I may safely say every mercantile concern—is constantly borrowing from the Banks in order to carry along their operations, and if possible to extend them. In the majority of cases, and with perhaps some of the most active of the present-day fish firms, I think it is correct to say that by for the larger portion of the funds which they invest, are funds borrowed from the Banks, upon the security, of course, of Bills of Exchange, promisory note and produce. Business has been good, and the Banks have loaned freely for that reason, and also no doubt because they have recognised—more perhaps than anyone—the need of national production and confidence. The mercantile concerns act practically as the channel, whereby credit and money go from the Banks to the public, and prosperity here is mainly dependent upon free credit. Well we have to consider the natural conditions which will follow the war. Then in the case of the larger concerns, there is the contingency of a sudden demand for heavy cash payments under the Death Duties Act. A demand which under certain circumstances might materially curtail the activities of one or other of the large firms, and then you have the profit tax payable in cash right after the end of the year.

No business can afford to ignore these contingencies. No bank in providing credits can ignore them. I fear that the effect of the Bll is almost certain to tend towards some curtailment of credit, at least. The Banks will now be asked to provide funds, not to invest upon the sound security of fish, oil, etc., where it is more or less secure and from which it will in due course come back to be used again and again in stimulating commercial activities, but to be handed to the Government to be immediately and permanently lost to industry. Now if the Banks are unable to provide the usual facilities, and greater facilities are needed now than ever before, it is a long affair to trace the end of the process. Some of these tendencies ought to be considered. Take for instance the matter of fish buying. The Banks will certainly have to recognize that the partnership between the exporter and the Government implied by this Bill, involves the condition that if a profit is made, a very substantial part of the profit goes to the Government in cash, but if a loss is made the Banks' client must stand it all. Please note that I am not arguing that such an arrangement is wrong. I am merely stating what I believe to be the facts and their effect. The exporters position bcomes affected by the fact that money will not be so easy to borrow. In the Fall he will have to bear in mind that he must make provision to provide a cash reserve to hand over

to the Minister early in the new year. This will be his situaton at the very time that the fish is coming in from all parts of the country, when it is above all the interest of the fishermen that credit should be at its best and money easy to borrow and available to the mercantile community, in order to stimulate demand and competition, facilitate the sale of produce. and advance and maintain its value. For the major portion of the fish nowadays is bought and carried with money borrowed from the Banks. It is the time when the speculator in produce needs encouragement. Here let me say that while we hear constantly of the evils wrought by speculators and speculation, yet the speculator also has his value. Who opens the mine and develops the forest? The speculator. Is it not the speculator who buys largely in the foreign markets and is able as a result to supply his home market at prices lower than that market would otherwise have to pay, of no use? I say we owe something to the local speculator who will come in here in the Fall and put up the price of fish 50c. and $1.00 a quintal, and it is desirable that he should be able to borrow money freely. Now, I ask if the probable effect of the Bill upon the price of fish in the Fall has been well considered. If it has, and if the fishermen themselves understood the position and want it? I for one am going to raise no objection. But I confess I should like to be assured that they do. In other directions besides fish, the effect—certainly at first—is likely to be somewhat similar. At least that is my own opinion, which may, or may not, be justified of course. Take the business of importation. With added caution being exercised on the part of the Banks and lessened credit facilities, the average importer may be obliged to hesitate before he can face a sight draft for, say, $50,000 against a shipment of goods, over which he would not have hesitated before. He will have to borrow the money from the Bank, and may have to wait some time before he can get paid himself. He has, in the Fall when importations should come in freely, to look ahead and see how he is going to pay out cash for his profit tax, and he has to curtail the amount that he can at any time permit the shopkeeper, or the outport merchant, or the dealer, to owe him; and he will certainly have to get after those who do owe him money in the most active part of the year and keep after them to reduce their balances, so that he may have his own affairs in proper shape. Similarly the retailer will probably have to reduce his credits to his individual customers—a great inconvenience to them—and he will also find it more difficult and there will be less inducement for him to carry stocks. In some degree at least I conceive that this effect will be experienced from Northern Labrador to Cape Ray,—or throughout the entire Colony. It may prove serious, or it may not. It may speedily wear off as people get used to it, or it may prove permanent—that is at this stage purely a matter of opinion. What I would like to know is this: have these aspects been properly weighed, first by the Government in its wisdom, second by the House of Assembly, and lastly by the country itself? Now, I put this point. Would it have been better for the Colony as a whole, and especially would it have been better for all classes, other than the mercantile classes, if one-fifth of everything made in Trade during the past two or three years, had been taken by the Government, instead of being retained under private control? What has become of these profits so far? speaking broadly. Practically the whole of them

have been reinvested in a reproductive and helpful way. This Colony's main problem, like the problem of all the world, has been production, and it will continue to be production. Other things being equal, the true criterion of any policy at the present time is this: Its effect upon nationa production. Would production have been better during the past two years if this bill had been in force, and will it be better during the next two as a result of it? I think that the production of this Colony since the war broke out may fairly be claimed to have been good, all things considered. There has been an unhesitating and free reinvestment of existing capital, of profits made, and of money borrowed upon the security of these. These investments are in the shape of credit for supplies of all kinds and descriptions, foodstuffs, clothing, nets, twines, motor boats, schooners, foreign-going vessels, fish and produce, and it has been possible to advance wages generally without friction or strikes. In fact all the thousand and one activities incidental to production and to the marketing of the products of the Colony have been provided for successfuly. The gains of commerce have been utilized boldly and in every direction for promoting the general stability upon which all classes depend. I think that they have been more useful to the community generally so employed, than they would have been if a considerable proportion of them had been taken by the Government and withdrawn from productive and permanent work to be, instead, dispensed in current disbursements. It must be remembered that the effect of the cash withdrawals under the tax, had it been in force, cannot be measured merely by the actual amounts that would have been so taken. A small amount of actual cash used in modern industry has a power far beyond its actual face value, for upon it is built a structure of credit many times the volume of the sum itself, and in addition, its very existence stimulates confidence and enterprise. It must further be remembered that when a fund is once invested in the machinery of production or transportation, it becomes, unlike a Bank deposit, a permanent asset to the community, and that it cannot easily be withdrawn, and often cannot be withdrawn at all, but it tends to provide and increase permanently the means of livelihood to numbers of people other than the owners. It is certainly a proposition worth thinking out, whether the multiplication of such things, whether an active competition in industry, which always accompanies general commercial success may not upon occasion at least be of much greater real benefit to the community at large, to the poor as well as and perhaps more than the rich, than the collection of a certain amount of additional revenue. On the other hand it is to be frankly granted that conditions of a contrary nature may under certain circumstances exist when the additional revenue must be obtained and when all other considerations have to go by the board. In a rich country with plenty of fine capital circulating in all parts, where money is liquid, and internal trade constant and extensive, a policy may be wise and beneficial, though that same policy may be unwise if it is applied to a community differently circumstanced. These are matters which each country must only judge for itself, but it ought to know as well as it can, what it is that it really means to do, and it should weigh its own special conditions carefully before making important changes, the effect of which may prove ultimately to be more widespread than appears at first sight. The new Commission in control of the necessaries of life

with its almost unlimited powers ought to be able to ensure that no illegitimate profits are going to be made. Would it not be worth waiting a short time to see what their experience yields and what advice they can give. There would be no need to lose anything financially by so doing. The idea of it exists that the tax will reach hidden sources of wealth which are being hoarded or made away with is a mistake. The tax will necessarily come out of the productive capital of the country. We need more capital in the colony. If withdrawals affect commercial activity generally and with it the value of fish it may perhaps also be found that a reduction of revenue will result in other directions as against the amount received from this tax. Large production as I have said, sums likely to be the most important necessity of the present and the near future. It is so for all classes among us. I see that the Minister of Finance figures the present nett public debt at thirty seven and a half millions. Of that debt we are fortunate in having about 20 millions carrying only 3½% interest. Averaging the interest right through at 3¾% means that we have to pay away annually $1,400,000 for interest. The weak point about our debt is that it is practically all owed outside of the colony and this large sum of $1,400,000 has to be sent away from here every year. It has been up to very recently an entirely different story in countries like England and France for instance. There the huge state debt were owned entirely in the countries themselves and when such conditions obtain the payment of interest makes no more difference to the community as a unit. It really pays away nothing at all. It simply transfers so much of the national income from one set of people to another. The money is all retained,and it goes back without a moment's delay into industry. Nothing is withdrawn. Here the opposite is the case. None of that $1,400,000 comes back. None of it is reinvested or finds its way into this trade again to maintain and stimulate it.

Suppose that in its inevitable post war drop, the average value of a quintal of fish, including Labrador, Haddock, Bank, Shore, West India etc. drops to $5.00, we shall have to send away 280,000 qtls. every year to pay this interest, and for this large quantity we shall get no return. Whether the colony can do this, besides maintaining its other services, becomes almost entirely a question of production.

Now, Mr. President I have tried to point out as clearly as I can some broad aspects of the position from the point of view of the community as a whole. I want to look at them in the broadest possible way and without reference to the special interest of any class. I want to be absolutely honest with myself as well as with the House. I think these considerations ought to be put forward and that they should not be lost sight of. But of course they are not everything. I am not one of those who are unable to recognize that there are two sides to this as to most questions, or that the other side of the argument has a great deal to justify it. That an effort should be made to meet a larger proportion of the emergency expenditure on the war as is possible, now—in cash—and that those best circumstanced among us ought to be ready and willing to provide special and substantial contributions to the cause The obligation to do so is indeed obvious. I say frankly that I have personally the strongest possible discrimination to raising any criticisms or objections to this bill. Unfortunately however, some of its details are crude and some so utterly unfair that serious consideration of them is essential and some alterations un-

avoidable. While I feel in this way towards the measure however,—that is while I do not want to make opposition to it; I must on the other hand say that my judgment leads me towards the conclusion that its nett effect upon production and general prosperity and even upon the revenue itself is exceedingly likely to be depressing at a time when stimulation is wanted. I am doubtful if the amount actually brought in by the tax itself is going to justify the risk and cost in various directions. It is only as I have already said a matter of my own personal opinion, but I feel that it would not be in concurance with my responsibility as a member of the House if I did not give expression to certain points of view in connection with this matter whch may not have been as yet sufficiently weighed. There seems to have been no lengthy discussion of the matter in the other branch of the Legislature and I doubt very much if as yet the country as a whole understands it. I suggest to the hon. gentleman in charge, whether it would not be possible to hold it over until the country itself has had the various aspects of the matter fairly explained and can indicate definitely its wishes in the matter. If such a course were adopted there is no reason why the Revenue should lose anything thereby. It can be intimated at once that in the event of its adoption at next session its provisions would apply to 1917 business, which would be fair notice to the trade, and the only objection that I see to such a course would be that it might possibly have, owing to the uncertainty, some reaction on this Fall's trade. But in any case it could be no more adverse an effect than the enactment itself would have if in force, especially in view of its present crude and undigested form. On the other hand it would give the Government time to consider the proposed provisions and details of the Bill more exhaustively and to lick the measure into better practical shape. If the Government could see their way to the adoption of this course they would lose nothing by it financially, they will give the public an opportunity to form an intelligent judgment upon it, and they will certainly relieve some members of this House who are anxious to do the right thing, of an embarrassing situation.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I should like to ask the hon. leader of the Government what is the approximate amount that it is expected to derive from this source.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—It is quite impossibe for me to give any estimate.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—This is a national bill from a national government, submitted to this House, I presume, in all seriousness. I wish to place myself on record as saying that it is an impossible bill to carry out as it is at present, and I hope the leader of the government will give us sufficient time to thoroughly discuss the bill in every secton. I believe in conscription of wealth, but I do not believe in partisan and unjust taxation of people who are doing whatever they can to help win this righteous and great war. By the bill before us now you strike at the trade and commerce of this country a paralytic stroke that it may take a long time to get over. I did not come here to-day to make a speech in rich verbiage, but more on account of the prittle prattle along the street. I have come here, and I hope to show this House. although I am not the Minister of Finance and Customs, that there are other sources from which the amount expected could be got without costing the Colony one cent such as would the complications of the bill before us, which would puzzle all the lawyers in Philadelphia and all the

chartered accountants in Great Britain in its settlement. In the bill $3,000 is deducted and 20% is to be contributed to the Government. Well that is fair and reasonable, and if the Government requires it, I do not think a business man throughout the Colony would refuse to pay it; but there is a mistaken idea through certain sections regarding profits in trade. As has been pointed out by Hon. Mr. Harvey ,those profits are of a speculative nature and I can assure hon. gentlemen that the profits on dry goods have been less during the past three years than before the war. The greatest difficulty is where to get the goods, and after they are ordered. how to get them here.

We find the Savings Bank and Life Insurance Companies are exempted. I do not know what dividend the Reid Nfld. Co. has been paying, but the Bell Island Companies, what are the profits they derive from the ore going into the Sydneys from this country. Then there are the Grand Falls and the Albert Reed Companies. Take the professions; take my hon. friend Mr. Gibbs, his capital is his pen, his ink, his desk, his books, that is his stock in trade, but at the same time his income may be $10,000. It is the same with the doctors. Take the factories, why it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to find out how much he has to pay. Take the Knitting Mills which paid last year a dividend of seven per cent., and have a reserve of $14,000. On the face of that we guaranteed the other day them five per cent. for fifteen years and we give them everything, also duty free. Take Parker & Monroe on the same Street, with the same capital of $100,000 and a dividend of five per cent. Under this bill they are allowed $3,000 off and pay 20% on the remainder, which means a duty to the Government of $400, while we make a present to the other factory, on the same street, of $5,000. A good deal has been said about the Banks. Let us takethe position of the Banks. Now I wish to be understood that I have consulted no banker, but have simply taken what I am going to say from their balance sheets.

Reads figures re Banks.

We are entirely dependant upon these Canadian Banks and why should We tax them in this country? I would be prepared to do what is reasonable and fair, but do not tax them out of existence. Now I am going to go further, I may be wrong in those figures. They are paying $12,000 Municipal Tax, under this act now proposed will pay $80,000, office expenses amount to say $120,000. As I said, I did not come here to-day to make a speech, but I hope the opportunity will be given on a future day, but I am prepared to show this House a source of revenue which will at least give to the government 500,000 without costing a cent to the country, and the same machinery which operates to collect the present revenue can do for this.

Mr. President, I submit for the information of this House, five sets of Exporters with a capital of $1,000,000, $750,000 and $500,000. It is possible, and perhaps it is certain, these three firms can finance their trade and commerce without assistance of their banker, so that their interest account would be nil. Then we have the firm with a capital of $250,000, and another firm with $150,000, who with the assistance of their banker and hypotecation of stocks and shipments and bill of sales, will do probably as large a business and whose profits will be just as great under the first Bill of 6 per cent. allowed on capital. Why this Bill was withdrawn I am at a loss to understand, but Mr. President let me examine both. I will take the first three showing a profit of 10 per cent. on their capital, and the others whose

stocks have been hypothecated to the Bank, and shipments secured by the Bills of Lading—whose profits are just as large as the firm whose capital is $1,000,000 less 6 per cent. interest on capital.

Profit, 10 per cent. $1,000,000	
Less	100,000
6 per cent.	60,000
	$40,000—
War Tax, 25 per cent.	10,000

Bill before the House.

Capital $1,000,000	
Profit 10 per cent.	100,000
Less	3,000
	$97,000, at 20 p.c., $19,400
Capital, 6 per cent. $750,000	
Profit, 10 p.c.	75,000
Less 6 p.c.	45,000
	$30,000
War Tax, 25 p.c.	$7,500

Bill before the House.

Capital $750,000	
Profit 10 p.c.	75,000
Less	3,000
	$72,000
20 per cent. $14,400	
Capital	$500,000
Profit 10%	50,000
Less 6%	30,000
	$20,000
War Tax 25%	$5,000

Bill before the House.

Capital	$500,000
Profit 10%	50,000
Less 6%	30,000
	$47,000
War Tax 20%	$9,400

Exporter whose Capital is $250,000 and who does a successful business with his banker—hypotecating Stocks and Securities against shipments on B/L. and whose profits are larger or equal to any firm with larger capitals

Capital	$250,000
Profits	75,000
Less 6%	15,000
	$60,000
War Tax 25%	15,000

You will observe the tax here is $5,000 more than the firm whose capital is $1,000,000 and double that of the firm whose capital is three times greater.

Under the Bill before the House.

Capital	$250,000
Profits	75,000
Less	3,000
	$72,000
War Tax 20%	$14,400

Take a firm who is equally successful in the exporting trade, with a capital of

Capital	$150,000
Profits	75,000
Less 6%	9,000
	$66,000
War Tax 25%	$16,500

The bill under consideration now with the capital of $150,000 with its changed conditions—

Capital	$150,000
Profit	75,000
Less	3,000
	$72,000
War Tax 20%	$14,400

I may state for the information of the House—that the business War tax in Canada does not apply to companies whose capital is less than $50,000.

Let us take the general Importer with a capital of $50,000, $100,000, $150,000, $200,000, $300,000 and $500,000, showing net profits of ten per cent.

Capital $200,000	
6 per cent.	$12,000

10 per cent. 20,000
Less 12,000

8,000
25 per cent. $2,000
Capital $200,000

10 per cent. 20,000
Less 3,000

$17,000
Tax, 20 per cent. $3,400

Capital $300,000
6 per cent. 18,000

10 per cent. 30,000
Less 18,000

12,000
Tax, 25 per cent. 3,000

Capital $300,000
10 per cent. 30,000
Less 3,000

$27,000
Tax, 20 per cent. $5,400
Capital .. ... $50,000 @ 6% $3,000
10 per cent ... 5,000
Less 3,000

2,000 @ 25% $500
Capital $50,000

10 per cent. .. 5,000
Less 3,000

2,000 @ 20% $400

Capital .. ..$100,000 @ 6% $6,000
10 per cent. . 10,000
Less 6,000

4,000 @ 25% 1,000
Capital $100,000
10 per cent. . 10,000
Less 3,000

7,000 @ 20% 1,400
Capital .. ...$150,000 @ 6% $9,000

10 per cent. . 15,000
Less 9,000

6,000 @ 25% 2,500
Capital $150,000
10 per cent. . 15,000
Less 3,000

12,000 @ 20% 2,400

Capital .. ...$200,000 @ 6% $12,000
10 per cent. . 20,000
Less 12,000

8,000 @ 25% 2,000
Capital $200,000
10 per cent. . 20,000
Less 3,000

17,000 @ 20% 3,400

Capital .. ..$300,000 @ 6% $18.000
10 per cent. . 30,000
Less 18,000

12,000 @ 25% 3,000
Capital $300,000
10 per cent. . 30,000
Less 3,000

27,000 @ 20% 5,400

Capital .. ..$500,000 @ 6% $30,000
10 per cent. . 50,000
Less 30,000

20,000 @ 25% 5,000
Capital $500,000
10 per cent. . 50,000
Less 3,000

47,000 @ 20% 9,400
Capital .. ...$750,000 @ 6% $45,000
10 per cent. . 75,000
Less 45,000

30,000 @ 25% 7,500
Capital $750,000
10 per cent. . 75,000

Less 3,000

$72,000 @ 20% 14,400

Bank Tax.

As the bill applies to the Bank of Montreal, Canadian Bank of Commercer the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia, branches in St. John's of the four leading chartered Banks of Canada. There are twenty-one chartered Banks of the Dominion of Canada, with a combined total capital and reserve of $225,134,-067, with a note circulation of $152,-600,000. The war tax paid by the Banks doing business in Canada is one per cent. on their note issue, which amounted to $1,426,000. Were they called upon to pay a tax under a similar bill before this House with their united deposits of $1,542,000, the tax paid to the Government would be $7,710,000, a tax nearly six times greater than they now are called upon to pay in Canada. I am not defending the Banks doing business in this country against taxation, especially a war tax, they should be called upon to pay what is just and reasonable. Facts and figures speak louder than words, I am a firm believer in facts, however large and dry they may be. During the debate of this bill on Friday last, I drew the attention of hon. gentlemen to the capital of the Bank of Montreal. With a capital of $32,000,000, paid a war tax to the Dominion Government of $160,000 on their note circulation, including the circulation of their notes in this country. The Canadian Bank of Commerce Capital $28,500,000, paid a war tax of $150,000. The Royal Bank of Canada, Capital $25,412,000; war tax $118,226. The Bank of Nova Scotia, Capital $18,500,000; war tax $65,000.

These Banks have paid a war tax to the Canadian Government on their note circulation, including the Bank notes in circulation in Newfoundland. By the bill before the House, the Canadian Banks doing business in this country are called upon to pay proportionally six times greater than the war tax of Canada.

Bank Deposits.

I observed from the speech of the Hon. Minister of Finance, that the deposits in the Government Savings Bank was $2,410,939.93, and that in the four Canadian Banks doing business in this Colony amounted to $11,-12,889.43. Estimated balance to credit accounts $4,870,110.57. Total 16,000,-000.00.

25 per cent. specie	$4,000,000
40 per cent. liquid	6,400,000
Loans to the public	5,600,000
	$16,000,000
Earning nothing 25%	$4,000,000

Earning Interest on Short Loans.

CR.

40 per cent. $6,400,000 @ 4%	$256,000
Loans to the Trade of the Colony $5,600,000 @ 6%	$336,000
	$592,000

DR.

$11,000,000 @ 3%	$330,000
Present Government tax .,..	12,000
Proposed new tax	80,000
Rent office and expenses ..	120,000
	$542,000
Profit and loss	$50,000

Chartered Banks of Canada.

Circulation of notes, ...	$142,600,000.
At 1 per cent. tax	$1,426,000

Deposits.

Elsewhere than Canada	$206,000,000
Deposits on notice .. .	893,000,000
Demand deposits	443,000,000
	$1,542,000,000
Nfld. tax ½ of 1%	$7,710,000

Income Tax in Canada.

Tax upon profits proved a failure. There is a bill at the present time

before the Canadian Parliament that seems to me to be fair, just and operative. It is proposed in Canada to levy an income tax of 4 per cent. upon incomes exceeding $2,000 per annum in the case of unmarried men and widowers without children, and exceeding $3,000 in the case of other persons—and in addition thereto a super,tax of 2 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $6,000 and does not exceed $10,000, and 5 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $10,000 and does not exceed $20,000, and 8 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $20,000 and does not exceed $30,000, and 10 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $30,000 and does not exceed $50,000, and 15 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $50,000 and does not exceed $100,000, and 25 per cent. upon the amount by which the income exceeds $100,000, which works out as follows:

Income Tax,

Income of	Unmarried Men and Widowers without Dependent Children Exempt $2,000.	All other Persons Exempt $3,000.
$4,000	$80	$40
5,000	120	80
7,000	220	180
10,000	400	360
12,000	580	540
15,000	850	810
20,000	1,300	1,260
30,000	2,500	2,460
50,000	5,300	5,260
75,000	10,050	10,000
100,000	14,800	14.760
150,000	29,300	29,260
150,000	43,800	43,760

Another Alternative.

Income War Tax for the Colony, earned and unearned, $3,000 to $10,000 5%, over $10,000 5%, and a super tax graded. Or take the Canadian Income War Tax which seems fair and reasonable starting from a basis of $2,000 @ 4 per cent.

War Tax Export Duty, on a Lower Scale.

Dried Codfish:	
1,500,000. qtls. @ 10%	$150,000
Pickled Codfish:	
80,000 qtls. @ 10%	$8,000
Furs:	
$400,000 @ 10%	$40,000
Haddock's:	
5,000 qtls. @ 10%	$5,000
Herring:	
240,000 Bls. @ 10%	$24,000
Lobsters:	
10,000 cases @ 20 cts.	$2,000
Mineral Iron:	
800,000 tons @ 5c.	$40,000
Cod Oil:	
5,000 tons. Value $680,000	
1,2800,000 gals. @ 2c. gal.	$25,600
Cod Oil refined:	
140,000 gals. @ 1c. gal.	$1,400
Seal Oil:	
2700 tons @ $750.	
Value—$400,000	$20,250
Pulp to United States:	
$200,000 @ 5%	$10,000
Pit Props:	
Pickled Salmon:	
3,000 tcs. @ 20c. tc.	$6,000
Sealskins:	
200,000 @ 25c.	$50,000
Imports:	
$5,000,000 @ 2%	$125,000

War Special Bank Tax.

Deposits:	
$16,000,000 1/8 of 1%	$20,000
	$569,850

Mr. President, I have carefully considered the Bill now before us. I have viewed it from every conceivable shape and form. I have studied it—every section. I am not opposed to a war tax, coming from the profits either normal or excessive from the trade of the Colony. I am not opposed to a National Government, I hope

it will be a blessing to the country and our people. My place here is to support all measures designed for our well being. My place here is to take part and support those measures that I believe will be for the prosperity of the country. On behalf of every merchant and corporation in the land, I say again, we are not opposed to contribute our share to a war tax. We are anxious and willing to do so, but not on the lines of the present. I cannot support the second reading.

Mr. President, during the debate on Friday last, I asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary, leader of the Government, if he could inform the House what was the estimated amount that the Minister of Finance expected to get from the Profits Tax. The answer, it was impossible to estimate—with him I quite agree. I have very roughly estimated the amount in my own mind, and put the estimated profits at $2,500,000, at 20 per cent. $500,000, the collection of which will be expensive machinery, and difficult to arrive at valuations and profits. Mr. President, I believe the bill is surrounded with complex difficulties, that I cannot support.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—

I am sure that this Chamber is deeply indebted to the hon. gentlemen who at some length has discussed this bill. While with much that has been said I do not find myself in accord, yet there has been a very great deal of valuable thought expressed, and with many of the observations which have fallen from the lips of the experienced gentlemen who have addressed this Chamber, I find myself in entire accord. It has to be granted that very substantial profits have been made by some because of war conditions, and I feel that of those whose margin of profit has been greatly increased there are very few who would not gladly subscribe their quota out of that margin of profit towards the war funds of the Colony. There are undoubtedly many points in this bill which should receive deliberate and most careful consideration, but the essental idea behind the measure is that these people in Newfoundland who are making big money because of the war should be compelled to pay a substantial sum out of their big profits to help on the war. Up to the present the only way by which those who have been making substantial profits have recognised their obligations has been by private subscriptions, and it must be admitted that private subscriptions and private efforts have been very considerate, but the Government is of the opinion that the time has now arrived when something more should be done than the mere giving by those who are generous of subscriptions large or small for patriotic purposes. I feel that of those who. because of war conditions, because of war prices, because of the enormous increase in the value of steamers, schooners, fish and freights, are making large sums of money per year, should be called upon to pay to the revenue of the Colony for war purposes a definite percentage of these war profits. With respect to the Hon. Mr. Harvey's observation that the examination into a firm's private affairs should be conducted by some expert accountant, preferably by an English chartered accountant specially employed by the Government for the purpose. I find myself in agreement. The Government and the Department of Finance will look upon it as its first duty to see that the information which it will be necessary for the proper authorities to have to decide upon the amount of taxation payable under this Act by any particular firm, shall be absolutely private information. This Act will not be used as a measure under which the private affairs of any firm will

be pried into for the purposes of disclosing that information to the public or to rival firms. The question as to the particular individual by whom this Act shall be carried out under the control, certainly of the Minister of Finance and Customs, within whose jurisdiction this matter lies, is a detailed matter of administration for the consideration of the Governor in Council at a later date. I believe that the entire business community of the Island of Newfoundland, with but very few exceptions, will be glad to assist in the working out of a bill of this sort and to assure the success of this endeavour, which is being made by the Government to bring into the revenue of the Colony for war purposes a reasonable proportion of surplus profits earned because of war conditions. A very large proportion of the firms and families upon whom this special war taxation will chiefly fall have already displayed their patriotic endeavour by being represented by ther partners, associates, brothers and sons at the front, and I am quite sure that as the business community has already contributed of their blood in the cause of Empire as they have already so freely given of their time and money in voluntary effort, they will not hesitate to accept this further and compulsory effort affecting the whole community, to assist further in the fight to which all efforts should be directed. That this bill is not a perfect production, I am prepared to admit. There are a number of classes of men who are undoubtedly making large profits out of the special trade conditions which have arisen because of the war, who do not come within the scope of this measure, and it is my hope at a later date to see such a larger and more comprehensive law in force in Newfoundland which will take within its scope of its taxation, many who are not embraced within the operation of this bill. It is not to be expected, however that a measure of this sort, Newfoundland's first attempt at profits or income taxation, should be a perfect work. Income and estate taxation legislative in England has been the growth of centuries. Newfoundland's internal conditions are such as to make the application of any general principal of accounting and taxation exceedingly difficult in its practical application, but in spite of the difficulties I feel that the problems should be faced and that this measure which it has been my privilege to introduce in this Chamber, is one which in its essential principles of placing substantial taxation upon those who are making substantial war profits, will meet the patriotic acceptance of this Chamber. I consequently bespeak for the bill a unanimous second reading.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—I think with all due deference to the opinions of the Hon. Leader of the Government that the question before us now is of so much importance that we should have little more time to discuss it, and I think this debate should be adjourned for further and more ample consideration of the Bill.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—I have listened with interest to the several able speeches and the many objections made to the Bill, and rise to ask the Hon. Leader of the Government, is he prepared to accept amendments? Of course we have no power to amend a money bill, but I thought that possibly with the consent of the Government the measure might be made easier.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—This is no matter which I can discuss on the 2nd reading. If the principle of the Bill is adopted on the second reading, we go into Committee, and an adjustment be arrived at. Any phase of the Bill which needs adjustment will be

considered in all fairness, but I cannot recede from the general principle of the Bill dealing with war taxation.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—All the speakers this afternoon agree with the principle of war taxation, and disagree only with the manner in which it is proposed by this bill to levy it. It is a novelty to us, and I think it is without precedent in this Colony or elsewhere. It comes to us from the House of Assembly, where it did not receive an hour's consideration, and leaves us very little time to consider and pass it under suspended rules. This is a direct insult to this Chamber, and is not fair to the country, when we are called upon to pass such important legislation, which we only have seen for the first time one hour ago. There is no hesitation and no unwillingness on the part of the people affected to contribute to any taxation that may be necessary to carry out this righteous war, but this tax as an hon. member has said, does not apply to the whole people. It only applies to a section of the community and does not fall upon those, some of whom are better able to bear it. It falls upon a small number of the people to a great extent and will injure them to a great extent, and may have a most detrimental effect upon their business. I am not opposed to any form of taxation for the purposes of the war, and all necessary taxation I will willingly support, but I cannot support this. I have no alternative since no amendment is allowed, but to vote against the second reading. In Assembly it was passed without comment, debate or explanation, or opinion; and certainly the limit of time taken by the Government in formulating the Bill that we know there was a certain amount of bargaining before they got together, and passed the resolution which was then amended and ultimately this Bill comes up to us for a brief examination. It is, if adopted, a most expensive system, costing us a large proportion of our profits in taxation. To help in a just and equitable solution the people opposed to the measure, (who are willing to raise the money for the purposes of the war) suffered the putting of a market tax on export duty (not as erronously stated on fish only) but on the general exports of the country, and if we consider that these exports amount to $20,000,000, a small tax of 1¼ per cent. would amount to $250,000, as much as the Minister of Finance estimates he would receive from this. And this instead of being a heavy tax on the fishermen would be about 10 cents per quintal on his catch, or if you object to the principle of an export tax, which perhaps is not the most desirable tax, (it is certainly advisable to raise the money somehow) this is the easiest, the best and the fairest way. All exports will be taxed, and possibly that export tax will be paid by the consumers and will not bear on the people of this country. Another alternative is to vote a special War Tax, which would amount to 1¾ per cent. if the imports were the same as last year. Anyhow it is erroneous to suppose that fish alone should be taxed, when the tax on fish in common with other exports would be about 10 to 12 cents per quintal. If the Government will reconsider its position on this Bill and word it upon the basis of an export tax, I would support it and be glad they had taken such a course, and it will be in the interest of the country to vote against such a money Bill coming to this House. It is an alternative that we can face. I for one will do so and would feel that I had not done my duty by the Bill without voting against it. As a rule the House of Assembly represents the people, but this is an unknown tax

and for that reason I will vote against it and must strenuously oppose its second reading.

HON MR. KNOWLING.—From the remarks made by hon. gentlemen, it would appear that all are in accord with the idea that a tax must be raised in someway, but everybody objects to the present method laid before us. It is only a few minutes ago that the House had time to consider it. There is too little time given to consider it and so, I would move that further consideration of the Bill be postponed until Monday to give hon. members time to cooly consider the matter so that a definite and acceptible decision be arrived at.

Hon. Mr. Squires here proposed that the Bill be further discussed at 8 p.m. and that the next item on the order paper, the Cold Storage Bill be taken up.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—If we can pass the second reading without compromising ourselves and swallowing the bill, I have no objection, but I am against it as it stands, and I think it unreasonable and unjust. We want justice and fair play. As I said before, the passing of this bill would create a paralytic stroke to the trade and commerce of the country, and why should we within the next few hours start to put through a bill which requires very serious thought and consideration, which has been prepared by a National Government, for a National Country on a National question, and which affects the very foundations of the community. By this bill we are asked to tax profits which nobody has the slightest desire to avoid paying if fair. I have no objection to the second reading of the bill, but I have every objection to swallowing the contents of it.

HON. MR. WINTER.—I would support Hon. Mr. Knowling's suggestion that the discussion of this bill he held over until next Monday. I was away from the country and have not had an opportunity of reading the bill, and why it should be brought in here now and pushed down our throats, I have no idea. I think the government is using indecent haste in trying to rush this. It is one of the most important bills ever brought in here, and they are trying to rush it through without the public having any idea of what it is like, and have brought it here and tried to push it down our throats without any discussion. So far as I am concerned, if not given time, I shall certainly vote against it. The gentlemen who have spoken here have all admitted that a certain amount of taxation will have to be made, and all know the money, or a great deal of it, will come from Water Street. It is only a question as to how it will get the money. There is a great difference of opinion as to the best way of getting it, and I think it is a matter that requires all the consideration this assembly can give it, and I do not think we should be compelled to vote on a matter which we have no opportunity of discussing or getting intelligent opinion on.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—In deference to the honourable gentleman who have spoken in reference to the Bill being adjourned until Monday, and particularly with regard to Hon. Mr. Winter's explanation as to being absent from the Colony and has not had an opportunity of being acquainted with the measure, I would be prepared to accept the motion that further debate be adjourned until next session.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires, the House resolved into Committee on the Cold Storage Bill, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I move that the Committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again. In the course of a discussion with a Minister of the Crown this afternoon,

I was informed that this clause is meant for the protection of the Colony, whereas I thought it was for the protection of the Company, consequently I hope that on Monday the hon. gentleman in charge and myself will be able to evolve something that will be able to meet all views.

HON. MR. KNOWLING.—Would it not be better to take the 1910 Bill and this and consolidate them. You will then have the one bill and that would simplify the matter very much.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I entirely agree with Hon. Mr. Knowling that it would look much better business, but this has not been the practice in the House. We go on amending act after act and it was not until a year or two ago, after we had been doing that for twenty years, that we got the idea of consolidating our acts. The 1910 Act stands as it is, and this bill is merely the addition of two or three other sections. Reading the 1910 Act and this, I do not think any clash will be apparent.

The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again, which report was received.

Hon. Mr. Squires tabled copy of report of Public Schools of Newfoundland under Roman Catholic Boards, for the year ending December 31st, 1916.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Squires, the House then adjourned until Monday next at four o'clock.

MONDAY, Aug. 6th, 1918.

The House met at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Cold Storage Bill, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

Amendments proposed by Hon. Mr. Harvy were adopted without discussion and the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same with some amendments.

Second reading of Business Profits Tax Bill.

Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the second reading.

HON. SIR E. R. BOWRING.—Before this Bill on the Business Profits Tax be read a second time, I would like to say that in times like the present, with such a fearful war raging and as there are so many requirements for money for Newfoundland to do its share to maintain a Battalion at the front, it should be a difficult thing to make any particular objection to reasonable taxation. In fact I am sure that we all are more than anxious to pay everything that we can into the Treasury to help on this great cause that we all have so much at heart. But in doing this, I think we should all if possible devise a scheme whereby all may be taxed alike and that there should be no particular taxation on any special section of the community more than another.

The Business Profits Tax that we have before us, seems to me to partake somewhat of class legislation. It seems to me to aim at only one class of the community and that is the business class. I think it will be admitted that the business men of Newfoundland are as patriotic as any other section of the community are willing to pay all reasonable taxation, and are more than anxious to do their bit during the present great war. But I am sure they feel that under this Bill they are being discriminated against. I am sure it is not the amount of the taxation in question to which they object, but the method by which it is to be levied. We know that at the present time Newfoundland requires to raise

a very large amount of money, and no doubt the business men of the country will pay their full share, but I think it is hardly right that they should be asked to pay practically all the money that is wanted. Now I have faith enough in the business men of the country to know that they, no matter how the tax will fall, will keep going; that even if this Bill passes in its present form it will not put them out of business; that they have more practicability than that and will go on. But they will have to go on much more carefully than before. They will not be able to run the great risks which are run by all the business houses in Newfoundland to the same extent as heretofore. They must in all their calculations, have in mind that in good years 20 per cent. of their profits will be taken from them, while in bad years no help will come to them from the Government. That being the case, if they are not to make big profits in good years, if they are not allowed to keep them against the bad years, no doubt it must mean very large curtailment of business, particularly in the supplying business. It may be argued that it might be for the good of the country if supplies were curtailed, and I do not know but that it might be the case, but in all fishing countries like this, the element of risk is very great, I might say greater than in any other business carried on in the world, and this means that if it be carried on successfully, large profits must be made some years and large losses met in other years. So that the business men who wishes to continue, must conserve his interests by piling up large reserves in good times against the bad times which we all know come sooner or later. The tax proposed under this Bill on business profits does not follow, as far as I know, any precedent. We find in England when business profits had to be taxed there was no tax at all upon profits as they existed before the war; the tax was what is called an Excess Profits Duty, which means that all profits made over and above those in pre-war years were subject to a tax, which figured out in Engand from 50 to 80 per cent. Now in a country such as England this was a heavy tax, but it allowed persons who were in business to retain their ordinary profits and pay large taxes upon their war profits. I think that was the right method of taxation, and I imagine that really is what the Government is after now—taxation of the excess profits made during war times. But this Bill does not do that at all. It goes rather too far. It says we will tax all profits, except up to the small amount of $3,000. Now this amount in a fishing concern is nothing at all. In Canada they started on their war taxes, much the same as this Bill does, (I think this Bill is a copy of the Canadian Bill) but with this difference, that Canada allowed free of taxation 7 per cent. on the paid up capital for incorporated Companies and 10 per cent. upon paid up private companies, and that is a material difference which we are asked to pass to-day. Here there has been no allowance for interest on capital paid up in the case of companies, public or private, so that the capital from a Company registered and paid up, is not permitted to have interest charged free of taxation at all A man who may be running his business with money borrowed from the Banks, capitalizing his business from the Banks, can no doubt, charge up as all of his expenses the interest he passes to the Bank. I would like to ask why should borrowed capital from the Bank be treated differently to the money borrowed from shareholders as paid up capital in incorporated or private companies. Money,

capital, or whatever you like to call it is entitled, wherever you find it, to some consideration and I claim for paid up capital that any business should have, beyond question, the right of a reasonable interest upon that capital free of taxation; that any concern with a registered capital should not in any way appear at a disadvantage, simply because it is registered or because it is shareholder's money. I fancy that if this particular point was taken up by those in charge of the Bill, they would agree that capital should have to be allowed interest free of taxation in the same way as money borrowed from the Bank is allowed free of taxation. There is a question in the minds of many of us as to whether this Bill provides the best means of raising the large sum of money needed here at the present time. Personally, I do not think it does, for it seems to me that to collect this tax we should have to organize new machinery. It would require a small army of accountants to adjust complicated business accounts, and it might be found in the end that the expense of collecting would outweigh the tax to be derived. The expense of the new organization we have originated here to collect the main bulk of our taxes at the present time and which should reach all parts of the Island, will be enormous. We think nothing of taxing our imports and gaining a year's revenue from that source, but it is generally admitted that the consumers pay. It is the masses of the people in this country who pay the import duty. But if it is admitted that the consumer pays there can be no objection to having an export tax on all that we export, for the consumer in the foreign country in that case must pay whatever taxes are levied upon it. There is one important matter that strikes me that might be difficult to manage if this Bill goes through in its present form, and that is that when the time comes around to pay these taxes and a business man is asked to find a large amount of cash to pay them and he goes to the Bank just after the end of the year, when most of his capital is still out in large stocks of fish, oil, etc. necessary to his business, when he, at that time has an overdraft at the Bank, I would like to know what the attitude of the Banker will be when that man goes to him and asks for $10,000 or $30,000 to pay the Government? The Banker would say, "Well, where is your collateral " He would say: "Out on the ocean in schooners, lines, twines, stocks, shops and stores and not available I cannot turn it into cash. And you will not accept any of my fishing plant as collateral?" I fancy that the man who would go to a Banker under such circumstances, would not get what he looked for, and if he did not I presume the Government would have to distrain upon his business and put out of business a concern that might be well able to meet its obligations if it had time to do so and were not unduly pressed. Another point, the main point. This Act calls for accounts to be rendered on the 1st February or within thirty days of that. I know from experience that most large concerns here do not close their books before March, April and possibly May. I cannot think for a moment that it is possible to render accounts at such an early day, and if the Bill goes through, I hope that this date here mentioned as February 1st, will be extended to, say the end of April. There will be, I feel sure, great difficulty to ascertain the profits in financial concerns, for the value of fishing vessels and fishery plants is a very difficult thing to arrive at and it depends so much whether a year is good or bad; for during a good season, these things may be saleable

at considerable money, and in bad seasons may not be saleable at all. No doubt the Government are perfectly right in controlling in every possible way, any profiteering, and those who during the war try to do that kind of thing, should certainly come under some kind of restriction and be prevented from making money out of those who cannot help themselves. Speculation is always ripe in war times and the speculator will be found wherever you go. He is a noted curse in most countries and he will be found here in Newfoundland doing his speculating and profiteering as he is found in the Mother Country or in other parts of the world. In many cases he can be controlled, but in some he cannot. The President of the United States has issued to the business men of America a very striking address which seems to me worth quoting from. There is a so-called business credit in war and President Wilsons says this, and I hope what he says will come home to all the business men here and that they will value his advice: "Patriots leave profits out of the question in these days of our Supreme trial, when sending hundreds of thousands of eligible men across the seas to serve the great cause, no man who stays behind to work for them and sustain them by his labour, will ask himself what he is going to make out of that labour; no true patriot would permit himself to take toll of the heroes, or seek to grow rich by the shedding of their blood." That, I take it, is what our business people will do. They will not think of their profits while the boys are going to war to sacrifice themselves, but will work to pay all reasonable taxes without thought of profit, but when taxing one class, tax all in the same degree, and do not make a direct hit at any one particular section of the community.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I want to say I am not going to take the time of the House, but with the assent of hon. members I should like to make myself clear to the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill. I am not going to vote against the second reading. I am in favor on general principles of the tax, as I have already explained. I retain my opinion that the net result of the bill is likely to be of value in the long run for the revenue of the country. That is my opinion. But I sink that opinion; we are not the taxing body; I admit my opinion may be wrong. Consequently for that reason I support the principle of the second reading of this bill, but I do and have to qualify that by saying that I entirely disagree with the bill as it stands at the present moment, and I will refer shortly to two or three important points, which I think ought to correct its details before it goes on the Statute Book. In the first place there is the question of vessels which is a matter of interest to the whole country; not a matter of internal trade, but of foreign competition. The second thing which I think ought to be corrected is as to the Government office which has control of the collection of these accounts. It ought to be in the hands of the Auditor-General, who has no party affiliations and who is not himself engaged in competitive commerce. I say the party to collect this tax ought not to be the Minister of Finance. While I may be Minister of Finance to-day, someone else may be to-morrow; I may check his books and insist on his cutting down his valuations, or his reserves, or his allowance as a director, and I may on the same day fix my own. I think this is monstrously unfair and absurd, and if that is not one of the things altered, I reserve myself the right to vote against this Bill on the third reading, though I don't say I will do so. The point which I have raised, viz., that of

directors' fees, is a matter which ought to be fixed in some way. The last and greatest point of importance to which I refer is that of the six per cent. interest. Now, I raised that point and pointed out that one business capitalized at $50,000, nominally is allowed six per cent. right through, including 6 per cent. on the nominal capital and other capital, borrowed money from the banks, or from its own shareholders, that is a concern with this amount of nominal capital, and a further $450,000 borrowed gets the whole interest free of tax, but if I capitalized my business at $500,000 and put my own money there in cash, I am not allowed a cent against interest at all. It is a monstrously unfair position, and means this, that it would pay me as a merchant to go to the bank and borrow the rest of the money and run my business on a capital of $50,000, thus reducing my capital and keep my own money on deposit; then I would pay no tax on the interest, and this technicality results in this injustice that if my personal capital happens to be all registered as start capital it is taxed, and my next door neighbor with only a small part of his registered gets off without paying any tax at all, such as I am paying. That is a change which I think this House ought to insist on having fixed before letting the bill go on the Statute Book. In connection with that position, there is the position of rentals. Now, a business firm here which owns its own premises and pays no rent is under the bill as it stands, obliged to pay the tax on the estimated rental of its premises to itself, but if it pays that same amount of rent to an absentee landlord the amount goes as a charge against the business and it escapes the tax and consequently a person renting a premises from an absentee is in a better position than the man who has had the temerity, to put his money into buying his own premises. I know I have no right to speak twice on the second reading, but I say specifically while I am not going to vote against the second reading I reserve to myself the right to vote absolutely against the bill as it stands at present if we are not met in matters which do not affect the principle of the bill, but which do affect the fairness and justice of it. I want to say further that while I have called attention to the fact that the change from 25% to 30%, an apparent decrease in tax has in actual fact increased the amount of the tax which most businesses are called upon to pay I want the hon. gentleman to understand that is not the reason that I object to it. I want that clearly understood. On the contrary, if the hon. gentleman will say we will allow you the six per cent. off, but we want more than the twenty-five per cent. I will say all right. and I will agree to it, but I am going to insist on these two or three points, and if they are not made right I am going to oppose this Bill when it comes to another stage, but I am not objecting to the twenty per cent. as against the original provision, on the ground that the tax is increased. I want that made clear. If you want more taxation, I say, all right if it is only made as it can so easily be made, a fair tax; and I hope in this matter that my position is clear.

HON. MR. MURPHY.—A great deal of time has been given to this bill, and as I understand from the hon. gentleman in charge that he is not going to accept any amendments I think we are wasting valuable time in discussing it further. We do not get perfect bills very often here now; there are always some amendments necessary. I do not approve of everything in this bill myself. I have had an experience with the Canadian

Act, but that allowed seven per cent. before the tax went on a proportionate amount of our earnings. But here we want money, and must have it, and I am very much afraid we will want more of it, and while some have given generously and voluntarily of their wealth and their sons, others have given very little, and it is right and it is proper we should have some laws to get at these people and make them contribute. The bill is not perfect; we generally have to amend our bills in some form or other, and as we are to have another session in February or a little later, they may find this bill is unworkable, and as Hon. Mr. Harvey has said, no man wants to have his business exposed. It may prove unworkable in many cases and as they are doing in Canada we may have to try some other way which would be fair and equitable. With regard to the banks, I think they should be called upon to pay. These institutions certainly are taking a lot of money out of this country; if they were local banks it would be a different matter. Make them pay the same as they do in Canada, but I think we should stop there. No doubt a lot of people will escape this, and have escaped in the past, but I do not see any use in wasting any more time about it. If the Government are determined to accept no amendments let them take the responsibility of putting one more bill through the house which will give them lots of trouble. We have learnt a great deal about this matter, but we are wasting time and money here now in spending any further time over it. We might be earning a few dollars outside.

HON. MR. ELLIS.—Mr. President. As this is my first occasion to address the Chamber, I would ask for the kindly indulgence of the House, while I make some brief remarks, on the subject of the Bill, now under discussion.

I support the bill in the first place, because I consider the measure under present circumstances reasonable; in the second place, because, it is essential to the Public, and, in the third place, because, I consider it is one that calls for a degree of self-sacrifice on the part of the Members of this House, and, because, these are days in which the spirit of self-sacrifice should be our inspiration. I consider, that in view of the obligations which confront the Colony, the duty is cast on every one of us, to do our part, as fully, as we possibly can, and in regard to the matter under discussion, this we can only accomplish by accepting the measure, in its main principles, leaving for consideration, in the Committee stage, such alterations, as it may seem to call for. I think there is a mistake in the minds of some Hon. gentlemen, of this House, who have already spoken on the subject, as well as, in the minds of many outside this House, as to the scope and purposes of this Bill. This is not a measure, I take it, which will oblige a small section of the public to pay the cost of the war. It is not a project to force the business community to meet unreasonable obligations. The Minister of Finance makes a request to an element amongst us, which has admittedly made large profits the past few years to contribute a share of their profits this year and next year towards meeting the increased obligations, of carrying on the Public services, of this Colony, as a consequence of the war. Honorable gentlemen of this House, know that at this very moment, the Government has been called upon by the business community, to embark upon extraordinary expenditures, in order to assist them, in carrying our fishry product to market, and bringing in the supply of foodstuffs, coal, salt and other necessaries, for the requirements of the Colony, for the

next year or so. Therefore seeing that the effect of this step will materially assist the business community, in carrying on its operations and enlarging its opportunities for profits, is it unreasonable to argue, that the business, out of their abundance, should not contribute a small share of the profits, they would make, in order that the burden, cast upon the State, in these critical times, may be lightened. It will be seen by reading the Act carefully, that it is intended to remain in force, two years only. The funds obtained from it, will be applied not towards reducing our War bill, but, towards paying the interest thereon, and, the other extraordinary expenses, which I have indicated. I take it that every member of this Legislature,realises fully that we cannot begin to consider the problem, of how we are to deal with our war debt, until the war itself is over, until we know the full amount, the war has cost us, and, until we can see the future clear ahead. In my opinion, when the time comes to consider a scheme, for such a purpose, it should be planned, so as to embrace every element in the country, from the poorest to the richest. It should be known as the war tax measure, and the money obtained under it, should be ear-marked for the special purpose of paying the cost of the war. The present proposal is not of that character. It is intended as an emergency measure, and, it should be considered in that light. I regard it as our duty to accet the Bill, in this spirit.

The Governor and the Premier, in their address at Saturday's gathering in front of this building, with great truth pointed out that there were many in this country who did not realize the seriousness of the situation, which at the present time confronts the Colony and the Empire, and were not doing their part in this dire emergency. For us in this House to reject this Bill, would in my opinion, to some extent simply place us in the same category.

I was glad to hear from the hon. gentleman who has charge of the Bill, that he would be prepared to receive proposals for possible modifications in it and at that stage I have no doubt that the views of the gentlemen, who consider that they can improve on the details of the measure, will be thoroughly ventilated with advantage to ourselves and to the Bill, so that the outcome of our action and of our deliberations will be to stimulate every citizen to put forth his greatest effort to overcome the very serious position that our Country and Empire at large, is now faced with.

I would like to comment on one or two points raised by Hon. Mr. Bowring, who compared this bill with that in force in England. He allows that the tax there is much greater, from sixty to eighty per cent. being placed on profits.

HON. MR. BOWRING.—Excess profits.

HON. MR. ELLIS.—Well even if it is excess profits surely the difference between that and the tax proposed here is great. Then Hon. Mr. Anderson referred to my haying a contract at $200,000 and that I would be compelled to pay to the revenue $10,000. I consider I would be in a very good position to pay the $10,000 when I would have $40,000 for myself, and would not consider that a hardship. Now it is not going to be any hardship on anybody. If it was put on permanently for all time it might have some effect, but this is only proposed for a year or two; it is in fact only an emergency measure. The Minister of Finance is worrying as to where he is going to get the money

to carry on the business of the country and I think the scheme he suggests is as good as can be thought of. There may not be as much collected as is expected, but I think it will amount to a substantial sum, and I hope the bill will go through, and in Committee stage it can be amended in such a manner as to be acceptable to ourselves and the people of the country.

HON. MR. KNOWLING.—This bill is to be objected to principally on account of its being purely class legislation. No member of this Council has objected to taxation; but this bill calls on a small number of people to make up a large amount. There are members of the professional community who earn large amounts, anthing from $3,000 to $25,000 a year, and they are not called upon to pay one cent. The whole of this amount is expected to be made up by the mercantile community. That is not fair, but whatever it is I am satisfied they will do their part and do it cheerfully, but anybody that has any regard for fair play would never expect that the whole amount should be paid up by some few individuals. The details should have been discussed. I do not think it worth while going over them again because it would only be reiterating them.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Under the rules of the House it is only permissible to speak once on the second reading. I have been very liberal in my allowance to hon. members in exceeding that rule, but there must be a limit. Hon. gentlemen can ask questions in Committee. The suspension of the rules do not permit that a debate may be continued indefinitely

On the motion for the second reading of the Profits Tax Bill being put the House divided. The contents were Hons. Messrs. Harvey, Gibbs, Winter, Power, Ellis, Squires and Blandford.

Non contents—Hons. Messrs. Knowling, Anderson, J. D. Ryan, Goodridge, Skelton, James Ryan and Milley.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—The Clerk having reported that in the division there is an equal number (7) of each side, I give my vote in favour of the Bill being read a second time.

The Bill was then read a second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Colonial Secretary the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

HON. MR. MILLEY.—It is now going up for 7 o'clock and I would move that the House adjourn until to-morrow, as several members who have spoken on the Bill have left with the understanding that the debate would be continued to-morrow.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Only two hon. members left the Chamber. Why should we not do business to-night? What guarantee have we that these gentlemen will be here to-morrow. I have reason to know that Hon. Mr. Murphy has left the Chamber not to return here this session, as he goes on the train to-morrow, and Sir E. R. Bowring may be gone for the night but could be got over the phone if the House is in session. If it be the wish, however, of the House to adjourn, I have no desire that hon. members should come here after tea.

The House having decided on the matter it was decided by a vote of 8 to 6, that the House take recess until 8 p.m.

On resuming after recess the House went into Committee on the Profits Tax Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—On this Section, 3, I have already spoken ad nauseam. I have already pointed out that it would pay any business to make away with its own capital and borrow from the Banks. Let me illustrate the ethical weakness of this Bill. I have a Company here with a

declared capital of $1,000,000 registered; there is a Company next door with only $500,000 registered capital, but using a further $500,000 which is not registered, and they carry this latter $500,000 technically as a boon to the business, although it is owned by exactly the same people and filling exactly the same function as if it was all registered and declared capital. The profits of this second business are however technically charged with 6% interest upon this deposited amount of $500,000. The position of this Company is untrinsically identical with that of the Company which has $1,000,000 in declared capital. The one has incorporated one half its registered capital and deposited half. The other, unfortunately for it, has declared the lot. The first company, suppose they both make 10 per cent. on the capital employed, pays the profit tax on the whole $100,000 and the second company pays the profits tax on only $70,000. Is that common justice or is it justifiable legislation? In the one case the $1,000,000 owned by the principals has to pay the profits tax on the entire profits, and in the second case it is exempt altogether on $30,000 being 6% interest upon $500,000 which happens to stand nominally on deposit, though owned by the same people. This is not a fanciful case, but one which exists here. But there are more extreme cases that might be used in illustration. You might have a company with only $50,000 paid up capital and the shareholders or partners in that company may have deposited to their credit $950,000, making them the owners and users of $1,000,000, and in such a case the whole of this will be exempt up to 6 per cent. on the $950,000 so deposited this interest at 6 per cent. is charged, and by the Act $3,000 equivalent to 6% on the remaining $50,000 is exempt, and consequently the whole comes off without any tax being paid on it at all, whereas if the same company technically happened to have the whole $1,000,000 registered as capital, they would be liable to the tax on the whole amount of the profits and would not get the $60,000 fee at all that the other company would get. This principle, or defiance of principle, works all through and, I think, is manifestly unfair and unjust and is a matter that should be, and can easily be, adjusted. It is not a question of the amount of the tax, if more taxes are wanted, double the tax, if that is required by all means double your levy but I do beg of the Government to give us a tax that is fair and not force us to oppose a measure which we do not want to oppose.

HON. MR. WINTER.—I entirely agree with Hon. Mr. Harvey. It seems to me the greatest objection to the Bill is that it deals unfairly with business people as regards the amount of the tax. It discriminates against capital, instead of discriminating in favour of it. I understand it was the policy of the Government to do everything possible to encourage local capitalists and keep the money in the country rather than send it out of it, but the effect of this Act will be to drive money out of the country rather than keep it in. Suppose I start my two sons in business, giving one $100,000 capital to start and the other a similar sum, and both start together. One put his whole $100,000 in business, the other invests it in the Victory Loan or otherwise, outside the Colony. He goes to the Bank with this loan and says, "I want a loan of $100,000, there is your security." The Bank gives it to him and at the end of the year the result is that both make the same profit of $20,000 each. The position of one is that he is allowed $3,000 on the $20,000 and he has to pay 20 per cent. of the $17,000. The other $100,000 pays

$6,000 to the Bank, which he pays as interest for the $100,000 borrowed. If that $6,000 is charged up, that comes out of his profit of $20,000 and then $3,000 comes off leaving $11,000, so that he is taxed only 20 per cent. on $11,000, where the other is taxed 20 per cent. on the $17,000. I started both with $100,000 and one is taxed $3,400 per year and the other $2,200. One pays 50 per cent. more than the other, showing that there is something radically wrong about it. There is nothing to prevent both investing their money outside, and instead of keeping the money here they invest in the loan and borrow from the Bank on its security. If two concerns make the same profits they should meet the same taxes. But here a man keeps all in the country and gets penalized for keeping the money in it. It is a perfect outrage on the people. The business people have no objection to being taxed, they know that money must be found and it is only fair that those who earn the money must be taxed, but if taxes are levied let them be fair, honest and equitable. This matter has been brought before the Government, but we have heard no argument to justify it in any way and it is the means of perpetuating a rank injustice. Think of a man carrying on business on the credit of the Bank and getting all that capital free of taxes, whereas the man who puts every cent in business is not allowed anything. This section should be reconsidered and I cannot for one moment believe that the Government will insist on putting it through if they see it in our light nor can I believe they want to do anything unjust by the trade.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I would suggest with reference to Clause 3 that we have an explanation from the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill as to the reasons why the Government adopted this course. It is not satisfactory to us for a Government spoksman to say the Government had their own reasons for forming a Bill in a given day. That may be very well for the Government, but it is not good enough here. I am prepared to support this Bill in its essentials, and I can conceive of conditions where strong arguments might be made out in defense of this section as it stands, but I am not going to vote blindly for any measure. I want to know the why and the wherefore of everything I give my support to. With regard to the general principle, I would remind the House that it is well recognized now in various form of legislation, that the rich man is required to pay more than the man of moderate means. If an income tax was adopted here to-morrow, it probably would follow the lines of the Canadian Act recently passed, or the British Income Tax which has been in force for many years, and that is it would have a sliding scale by which a man would pay part of his wealth for the upkeep of the State, proportionate to the amount of his income or his capital.

This is not a new principle even with us. We enacted a Death Duties Bill a few years ago with a sliding scale rising from a levy of one per cent. on an estate of a thousand dollars up to a levy of ten per cent. on an estate of a million. Nobody questioned the fairness of that, and everywhere the ground is taken that the more wealthy a man is, the more he should contribute to the State's requirements. In saying this I do not mean that in connection with this Bill any flagrant injustice should be done. I sympathize with hon. gentlemen who feel strongly on the matter, and I suggest a compromise, that is to say, that an allowance of five or six per cent. as interest on capital up to, say, $250,000 be allowed, the pro-

fits tax to be paid in all cases on amounts above that figure. I put that forward as a compromise. I always favor a compromise in cases where disputes arise between the two Houses as I think a give-and-take policy is preferable to one of deadlock.

I have no criticism of the gentlemen who voted against the second reading of this Bill this afternoon, but I know of no circumstances in the long life of this Council more regrettable than was that vote. This country is now facing the most serious crisis in its history. It has sent five or six thousand of its best young men to the war. From every home they have gone out, and in every home their relatives, who have seen their boys go forth at the call of duty, are watching the response which the men of wealth in this country are making to the call that has now been made upon them to do their part. I regret to have to say that, in my opinion, the vote this afternoon has done more to widen the breach between the masses and the classes in this country than anything in my recollection. However much hon. gentlemen who took the view that this Bill should not get a second reading, may attempt to justify their stand, I fear they will find it extremely difficult to explain their position to the people of this country and particularly to the men and women of the masses who have given so generously the best of their blood to fight for the cause of liberty and freedom. It is, I think, a regrettable circumstance that this House, reprsenting as it does, the wealth, and business, and commercial interests of the Colony, should have decided this question as it did to-day. If it were not a Bill that affected the personal intrests of hon. members in the way in which this Bill does, the effect would not be so bad, but when hon, gentlemen in the same breadth in which they say they are prepared to agree for taxation, deny the principle of this Bill, and show that they are adopting an irreconcilable attitude, I fear the effects will not be helpful to this Chamber nor increase harmony within the country.

With regard to the argument on behalf of the Banks, I would say with all respect to hon. gentlemen who have spoken, that there has been altogether too much special pleading for the banks in this debate, in my opinion. The banks are not in this country for their health, and if they were not making good money they would not remain here, and while I do not advocate exacting the pound of flesh from them, I think the banks ought to make their own defense, and that it should not be made by gentlemen here under the circumstances it was made this afternoon. When these Canadian banks came amongst us twenty-five years ago, we were in bad shape, and they drove hard bargains with us, and in later years, when we were in bad shape again, they likewise drove hard bargains with us, but we weathered the storms, and there are sixteen million dollars of our money on deposit with these banks to-day. Does any hon. gentleman mean to claim that these sixteen million dollars are used in this country and that all this money is kept here? I would remind members of this House who are in business, that in 1907, when there was a panic in the United States, but things were normal here, the rate of interest was raised here against our people in order that our money might be used in Canada, and the same thing was done in 1911, when it became necessary for the Canadian banks to get money to assist in moving the crops in the Canadian West. I do not think these facts can be disputed. But, on the other hand, I do not say the tax is right as it

stands, and here, too, I would be prepared to compromise in the public interst. It has been said that, as against the sixteen millions of our money which they have, and for which they give only three per cent. while they charge six, they have four million dollars held in gold as security. These banks may have to hold twenty-five per cent. in Canada, but surely nobody claims that they have four million dollars here. Does any hon. gentleman believe they have?

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—I have no reason to believe they have not.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—Well, I have no reason either to believe they have not, except what my common sense dictates, and that is that they have not this money or anything like it.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—They have to hold it somewhere.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—That may be. But that is another matter. The claim made was that the banks had four million dollars in specie here. I deny that and I decline to accept as of any value whatever any argument based on that assertion, until hon. gentlemen who make it, can satisfy me that the money is actually in the Colony.

HON. MR. HARVEY—In reply to the remarks of the Hon. President as to the suggested meaning of the twenty per cent. and a sliding scale. To begin with, if the principle of a sliding scale is meant let it be put clearly and above board; secondly, as this works out, the larger the profit the smaller the taking under the twenty per cent. as against the twenty-five per cent tax. A company of a million capital making $100,000 would pay exactly double under the present 20% straight tax as against the original proposal of 25% after allowing 6% interest free of tax. That criticism and the objection to the new bill is simply the two firms with identically the same business. The technicality of the form in which the capital is, that is, whether it belongs to the partners solely and is loaned by them or whether it happens as a matter of private convenience to have been declared as capital makes an enormous difference in the amount of tax paid; and you cannot make a fair tax here unless you allow the six per cent. free unless you take the interest upon all borrowed money. You cannot do it fairly under a business profits tax at any rate. Increase the tax by all means if you consider it necessary but make it fair between form and firm.

HON. MR. WINTER—Just a few words in reply to the Hon. President. He stated here that the resason why there was a difference was that some were richer than others, but I stated the case of two firms starting with the same amount of capital and doing exactly the same business and earning the same profits, yet one was taxed more than the other. The point he raised does not apply. One company started with his own money and the other borrowed it, and the one borrowing is allowed six per cent. and the other nothing.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—In reply to my hon. friend, I would point out that he is advancing merely a suppositious case, and therefore one that does not exist, and one that is not likely to exist in this Colony. I, on the other hand, am dealing with conditions which every member of this House knows exist, not alone in St. John's, but in other parts of the country, where some men have large capital, while others are endeavouring to get on with limited resources. The latter are entitled, surely, to some consideration, and the wealthy man with a big property and immense resources, can hardly afford to be treated as lenient in the matter of a tax as

the others. In Canada, according to the Canadian Finance Minister's last Budget Speech, discriminations are made in the taxes that are levied as to excess profits and otherwise, and I fail to see why objection should be taken to the same principle here. In my mind, a compromise that would allow a concern five or six per cent. interest on a quarter of a million dollars, would be a solution of the matter that ought to be acceptable to everybody.

HON. MR. HARVEY—With regard to the section dealing with non-resident Companies, if a firm in Barbados consigns a cargo of molasses to be sold here on commission, it is liable to the tax. I quoted on the second reading the case of Messrs. Farquhar and Co. I take it they would have their purser as agent so that the ship would be responsible for the tax; not only responsible, but that it is the absolute duty of the Minister to make them pay the tax. I think the Government should be careful how they do it. The ship is small, but to this Colony she has been of substantial value the past two years. It would be better to have the Sable I. coming here than to tax her. If we do that we may drive her away. The clause is vague and defective to a degree, and may involve more than we can foresee to-day unless it is ignored in some cases. Then there is the question of schooners chartered here. The Colony needs schooners to get the fish away to the markets. Canadians are not taxed at present in Canada, and if they are taxed here as this Bill provides, these ships will not take part in this trade and we will be short of that tonnage. This is a very dangerous course, and requires much consideration. Is it to be left to the discretion of the Minister to enforce it or to ignore it at his discretion, for I think it will have to be ignored in many instances? If such is the intention, as it must be the fact, why not give power to tax anyone in any way he likes?

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I think that all ought to be taxed and I do not say it in any captious spirit. But anybody doing business from the outside of sufficient magnitude to bring him within the scope of the Act, should be taxed, nor do I think any will refrain from doing business because of any such tax, because no man sending schooners here will do business for us if he can get a better freight outside. This is the position to-day and the people of Lunenburg do not send vessels down here if they can get freights at Nova Scotia. Other things being equal they stop at home, because it is much more difficult in certain forms of trading to come down here.

HON. MR. HARVEY—An enormous amount of fish is carried from here on Canadian schooners in the Fall and a great proportion of our fish has been carried on them the past two years.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—But do you suppose that their being taxed will keep them away. They start from Lunenburg and Halifax, go to Sydney, coal and bring it here, take a load of fish across and get a cargo of salt to come back. They know where they are going and do a better business that way than any other. The diversity of business makes it an acceptable proposition for them and they come here and the fact that they are going to be taxed will not keep them away. We do not start to tax them until after they make $3,000. I have it in the back of my head where the very firm the Hon. gentleman knows. Farquhar and Co. was fined $4,000 10 or 12 years ago for a violation of the sealing laws, and because of somebody's manipulation the money was never paid and I hope when this tax comes to be enforced we will not have that kind of thing happen again.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I must emphatically protest against the Finance Minister, who is himself connected with business, having access to the right to examine the books and accounts of other commercial concerns under the Act and being permitted practically at his discretion to tax one who may be his friend and also to tax his enemy at the same time. If the Minister were to go out of office tomorrow and take the information he learns with him how unfair to others is the position. The Finance Minister has not the time to discharge properly the duties now imposed on him, nor is he the proper person to carry them out. A chartered accountant would be the proper person, a permanent official, and there is no doubt whatever that the Auditor General or his assistant ought to be the men for work of this character. And then try and get some degree of fairness as between the different firms so that the tax would be just and equitable. If I am taxed my neighbor should be taxed at the same time and on the same basis. There are innumerable things connected with this which the Minister cannot do and should not be called on to do and if I were Finance Minister with a business of my own I would not consider it just that I should be saddled with the invidious duty of personally taking my neighbours who were in the same commercial way of life as myself. I protest altogether against the whole thing and suggest that the Auditor General or some other official should be appointed permanently for the purpose.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT.—I hold no brief to defend the Bill or the Finance Minister and I am only speaking as an ordinary member. I pointed out that the bill is a transcript of the Canadian Bill. The Finance Minister in Canada operates the bill through a special bureau. Here, I take it, the same will be done. There is no direct touch between our Finance Minister and the business people of the country, but I do not think it will be seriously agreed that anybody occupying the position of Finance Minister will do a deliberate injustice to people. Whoever our next Finance Minister maybe, I do not think he will be a man who would do an injustice to anybody in business. This is not the record of any Minister we have had, and altogether it is all "the Minister" under this bill, still there is the Executive Government of which he is a member, and I can't conceive of any executive that will do an injustice of the character suggested by the hon. gentleman, that a minister would make an allowance to one firm that he would not to another. But let us turn to another aspect in the original bill and appeal from the Minister to the Supreme Court. I think it was a mistake to have removed that clause from the bill because when all is said and done while we have a Supreme Court, we should have sufficient confidence in it to make it the Court of ultimate appeal on all matters, but if you want the Supreme Court to appeal from the Minister, everything would be public because of the publicity of the Court. Personally I do not think there is reason to apprehend that the Finance Minister will do an injustice, but if I did think so I would suggest that provision be made for an appeal to the Supreme Court or for some authority to be created to administer the bill. In Canada it is referred to the department of the Finance Minister.

Sir Thomas White, the Canadian Finance Minister, explained in the House of Commons on May 29th, as will be seen by the Canadian Hansard, from which I am quoting, how his Department was run. It was conducted by some permanent officials with special aptitude for the work, who were transferred to organize and operate this new branch, and he said

of them that their administration of the Act had been most satisfactory. He said that it was so satisfactory that he was proposing to increase their salaries, and he gave the impression that he did not interfere in any way which, I take it, is what will happen here also, that competent men will be selected, put in charge of the work, and given a free hand. It has been urged in this debate that the Act is impossible to effectuate without a staff as large as one of our military contingents. I see no reason why, if they can carry it out in Canada with a few men, we should need any large force, nor do I see it is going to be any more expensive than it is in Canada where the outlay incurred in its operations, according to the Finance Minister, is infinitesimal.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I am sorry that I did not succeed in making my position clear. My point is that conditions in Newfoundland are absolutely different from those in any other country. The Canadian Act is based on conditions totally different from our own, and in any case I do not believe the Canadian system is perfect. I have heard the hon. President hold forth most caustically on the administration of the Canadian Army methods, and I do not think that because a thing is Canadian and done in a certain way in Canada that it is any argument that it is suitable arrangements here. I am very glad to hear his faith in the invariable justice of the executive governments of Newfoundland. The present executive government is a combination of two governments, and if the individual opinion of one is any indication of the justice of the other, all I have to say is that these valuations are not reassuring. But I have no faith, to be frank, in the overwhelming justice of the executive governments in Newfoundland, because it is qualified by political feeling as a rule. These things would not go before the courts except in cases of extreme injustice. An appeal is a thing which business people cannot afford. To go before the Court and have to produce books, and waste time and money, means that things would have to be very unjust and unfair before anyone would take them up in that way. Now you take it as if the thing were on all fours with Canada. Is Sir Thomas White a man in competitive business with others in Canada? Of course not. He is doing his duty all the time. Here it is very different, and there is no comparison. And any way you cannot compare the ease with which profits can be arrived at in Canada with the difficulty apparent here. I have already dealt with the impossibility of any merchant here figuring out with any accuracy his own profit and loss account. Here we have practically the whole business community, the major part anyway, situated within a quarter of a mile of each other on Water Street, and it would be impossible to keep matters secret. If known that a concern owes large sums of money, it might absolutely ruin that business. And I am certain if these things come into the hands of the Minister of Finance, even if he is able to prevent their leaking out of his office, he may not be there long, but somebody else will be coming in, and these things will become known. And that speech of Sir Thomas White that has been read, bears out my remarks. He says there has been no difficulty. There is no difficulty in Canada or in England, because they have practically liquid capital and an enormous trade in internal production, and everything is liquid, values are established; but take a firm here with $25,000 invested in a premises at Ferryland, and $50,000 at Fogo, and $5,000 at Joe Batt's Arm, and these are ex-

tensive places, and another in Labrador, how are you going to value them? It will not be possible; and my contention is you have not some permanent individual studying the thing, all the time, you will not be able to do it. We want somebody who is in touch with all these things all the time, and the Finance Minister cannot do that. He is the final court of appeal until a board is invoked, but I do not think a board will be invoked, because some people would rather pay too much tax than waste money and time and worry to go before them. But to leave these things to the Finance Minister, means that he neglects them altogether, or that he does them badly. If he neglects the work, we shall have the firms of Bowring Bros., Steer Bros., and others all valuing their amounts on a different basis. Some people are too sanguine. Say I have $5,000 invested down in Moreton's Hr. and it is worth $5,000. Another firm says we have not done very well down there and will write the $5,000 off. One firm will pay a tax on one basis, and another on another, and the great trouble will be to ascertain valuations, and that is what is going to make the great difference between here and Canada. Here it is pure guess work, pure imagination what the things are worth, unless you have a competent concern, such as Read, Son and Watson who are in touch with nearly all the firms here. That is what I object to, also I want to keep these things out of the hands of a party politician, and that is what it will be if it is left in the hands of the Finance Minister. We want a permanent individual here who would not be fired out as soon as he has learned his job.

HON. PRESIDENT—I do not want this discussion to get into a debate between my hon. friend and myself, but I think it is a sound argument,that there should be a permanent official in this job. I do not think the Finance Minister is going to take it up. The hon. gentleman said just now he has heard me descant on the weakness es of the Canadian politicians, but at the same time I do not know he has ever heard me arguing that Canadian politicians would deliberately misapply an act of this kind or any other act. Political prejudices may oblige politicians to do certain things to carry party advntges but there is a distinction to be drawn between things done to get votes, and the carrying out of the laws after these are made. For instance you take some rabid politician to-day and you put him on the Supreme Bench, and to-morrow you expect him todo absolute justice as between man and man, and he will do it so far as we know, and if the gentlemen now making up the ministry have been saying hard things about one another I do not think they are the first or that they are likely to be the last, who do so, and I do not think if the hon. gentleman looks over the record of public men, he will find in the administration there has been much crookedness or dishonesty or any of the offences that would lay ministers open to the objection that he has put forward. I assert that some permanent individual will have to be employed to carry out this act. The hon. gentleman says the Minister will have to do it. Well, the Minister has to do lots of things which he does through his deputy or an official who stands in the position of a deputy. For instance, the Colonial Secretary is the head of the Post Office Department, and has to do scores of things which are done through the Postmaster General. It is the same with the Minister of Justice administering the constabulary department through the Inspector General. Up there the Minister has to do certain things, but the statement of the Minister himself, which I quoted just now shows the

minister has had two men specially selected to do the work. I have no doubt that there will be provision made for the appointment of a man to carry out the operations of this bill. but for myself, though I have differed from time to time with some politicians and said hard things about them, I would be prepared to leave the working of the Act to the persons appointed by the Government. But if anyone has any fears about it why not let us put in a proviso that these matters go to the Supreme Court.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—(On section 6)—There ought to be in my opinion another sub-section to this section covering the position of a firm which is carrying on business on its own premises. Where a firm is carrying on business on a rented premises say belonging to an absentee landlord,the charge for rent which may be $10,000, more is deducted from the profits before that tax comes on, but if the firm owns that property, has had the temerity to put itself in the hands of the Newfoundland government and buy out that premises, then no rent is provided for by this act, and it has to pay the profit tax on the rental of the premises, but if owned by a foreign concern then the tax would come off. Suppose a firm owns its premises outright and charges no rent at all; there are properties like that here. There are some in Newfoundland where firms own their own premises and will write off the rent as part of their general profit and loss account. Thus it comes under tax If the rental however is actually paid away to an absentee landlord it does not come under the tax. The absentee landlord is thus encouraged and the local firms is discouraged and penalized if it is unlucky enough to own property. Could anything be more ridiculous or any principal more vicious.

I think this is the place to refer to another matter which is the only other matter I propose to canvass the section in regard to remuneration to directors. As I stated before, the remuneration of directors ought to be fixed on some tangible basis which would be fair and I suggest it might be adjusted with advantage upon the basis of a percentage on the turnover. It might be adjusted at different percentages for wholesale and retail business.

HON. MR. WINTER—I think the 1st February is too early, for it is impossible for business men to have their business returns by that time. I should think that the 1st of April would be a better date. I speak for myself. We close our books on the 31st January, but it takes some weeks before you get your figures correct.

On motion the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Hon. the President informed the House that he had a message from the Assembly, saying they had passed the Steam Service Bill and asking the concurrence of the Council in the same. On motion the Bill was read a first and second time, was reported in Committee, was read a third time, passed, and a message sent to the Assembly acquainting them that the Council had passed same without amendment.

Hon. the President acquainted the House that he had a message from the Assembly that they had passed the amendments to the Cold Storage Bill sent down by the Council, without amendment.

Hon. Colonial Secretary laid upon the table a copy of the Report of the Church of England Schools for the year 1916, also a copy of the Report of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines for 1916.

On motion, the House adjourned until 4 p.m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY, August 7th, 1917.

The House met at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the Committee stage of the Business Profits Bill was deferred for the present.

BAY OF ISLANDS STEAM SERVICE CONFIRMATION BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House resolved into committee of the whole on Bay of Islands Steam Service Confirmatipn Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, when it was read a third time and sent to the Assembly.

PROFITS TAX BILL.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Profits Tax Bill, Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON.—During the debate on this Bill last evening the Hon. the President of this House took it upon himself to pass upon my action in connection with the measure a very scathing criticism and generally upon the Hon. members who voted against the Bill, and had nothing but praise for these hon. members who voted for it. Now, I believe in the principle of the Bill and that the Government of the country require all the money they can get and would be one of the first to assist them in doing so. But when the President of the Council, as he did last night, questions the position and views of those who opposed it, it is unfair and unwarranted, and it was sufficient for him with his casting vote to carry it through its second readirg. This was the end of it and upon that vote I am prepared to await the approbation or the condemnation of the country, but I fail to see why for voting as we did we should receive the condemnation of the Hon. the President. I thought it unfair, unreasonable and uncalled for and I do not know whether in the history of the House there is a precedent for any such criticism upon any member, past or present, who voted as we did against the second reading of the Bill. These gentlemen of the House were not opposed to the second reading (though they did so) if some guarantee were given them that some proposed amendments would be acceptable to the Government. But they received no guarantee of any kind and for this reason the hon. gentlemen who opposed the Bill did so. I do not think there was any justification for this attitude of the Hon. President and I would again assert that I am prepared to stand or fall by what I have said and with the stand I took in conjunction with other hon. gentlemen in my attitude towards the Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I would like to ask the hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill, if he is prepared to make any statement at all to the House.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Section 3 of the Bill it is that outlines the hon. gentleman's policy on the Bill. One part of that section calls for a tax of 20 cents on the dollar on the nett profits of any business covered by the Act in excess of a sum of $3,000. The second paragraph of the section provides for a tax upon the Banks to the amount of one-half of one per cent. on all monies in deposit up to the 31st December. It has been pointed out in the Chamber that this tax of one-half of one per cent. on the Banks may be indiscrimination against banking Corporations, and it may be that these Corporations are being taxed more heavily under that provision than businesses generally are taxed under the main portion of Section 3. There is no such desire

and this proviso with respect to Banks may be intended to extend to all Corporations and the one-half of one per cent. would be computed on all monies deposited, or 20 per cent. on the profits whichever the banks might prefer. With the exception of this amendment, I will not take further ideas or amendments on that section.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I must confess that I am disappointed at the attitude taken by the hon. leader of the Government. What is the meaning of such an attitude. Here is a reasonable alternative. The Council wants to pass this measure and we ask consideration of it on the plane of common, ordinary justice. Has our national government descended to what is petty and contemptible and mean when they cannot give attention to an appeal to take into consideration simple, fair and honest suggestions for the improvement of the Bill. I feel sure that all the members of the Government cannot feel this way towards this matter. I can hardly believe that the attitude of any section that may control the Government is so petty in its attitude and so ignorant as to refuse absolutely even to consider any variation whatever in the details of this Act, especially as it received no real consideration or debate so far as I know in the House of Assembly. Surely every consideration should impel them to concede the claims of ordinary justice. I know it is stated that class legislation is the ground for our complaint. I myself have been quoted as objecting to the Bill on the ground of class legislation. I do not object to class legislation under certin conditions, as I have repeatedly stated in this House. I regard the cry of class legislation as a catch cry. I have no quarrel with so-called class legislation when it seems desirable, provided fair play is used betwen man and man and when it is based upon justice and not upon injustice. If this Bill is lost now, it will be lost upon the responsibility of the Government solely and only, and it is unfortunate, I think, that may be there will be, is sure to be an absolute misunderstanding in the country as to the facts. It is difficult for the ordinary man on the street to understand the particular unfairness involved between competing firms in connection with interest. It is on that ground alone that I oppose the passage of the Bill and I will waive all the other points. Some of these other points are such as the Government ought to pass without any compromise or hesitation, however. They are simply suggested for the improvement of the Bill and they do not involve changes, but they do correct injustice purely and simply. We do not demur if the tax is increased to double the amount herein provided. I will waive my judgment in this regard. I will waive my judgment but will not waive my conscience, which tells me that this particular point especially involves grave injustice. It will tax my neighbor differently from the way it will tax me. I am not able to follow the Government and consent to deliberate injustice. But I want this understood, I am not voting against the tax upon profits, I am willing to support a tax upon profits very much heavier than this tax if an honest tax; but this is dishonest tax, so that I move the Committee rise and give the Government a chancve to do what is right, and an opportunity to meet us again after attending to this request.

HON. SIR E. R. BOWRING.—I feel on this mtter very much the same as Hon. Mr. Harvey. I have only to say that I stand to-day exactly in the same position as I did yesterday, viz: That I oppose this Bill, not because

of the amount of the tax, or how it will bear upon me or my class, but because of the injustice of the Bill which could have been so easily ar ranged if the Government thought fit. If we were all placed in the same boat and taxed equally I would not have a word to say against it, but as the Bill stands an injustice is being done to a certain class and I feel I cannot vote conscienticusly for this section now before the Committee.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—I must congratulate, the Hon. gentleman on the case he has made under rather unfortunate conditions, I am afraid. The argument that a man who gets six per cent and saves the six per cent. justifies the imposition of this tax is not the point at all. I am not arguing against the taxing of interest, but I do object to the taxation of interest from one man and not from another under an Act professing to be a business Profits tax, and that does not differentiate simply between a rich man and poor man, but actually between two men exactly on the same level. Take two businesses of the same size and the same nature side by side on Water Street, and under this bill they are taxed unevenly. If you want to increase the rate, or double it, I am satisfied, but I do object to my neighbour with the same amount of capital and the same business being taxed on a different ratio from my ratio and that is what the government is doing, and there is no necessity for it. This is not a question of mathematics or of scientific finance; this is a question of justice and injustice, of right and wrong, and if it was any other I would say nothing about it. The trouble is that it bears unevenly between two men in the same standing. Surely the Government must know that; and I know there are members in the government who do know it. The principle is not that this council or anyone wants to rule out taxation, but if you are going to tax, tax fairly. If you want to tax the man making more money make a sliding scale and do it right, but not unjustly. I am extremely sorry; I am very anxious to see the bill go through; I recognize the position put up here by the President the other night, but it is a matter of doing right or wrong, and if the government insist unjustly and unfairly and in a petty manner in ramming this thing down our throats, it is most unfair, and I, for one, am not going to stand for it.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I can assure the House there is no intention on the part of the Government to do any violence to this chamber, and I admit that in this act there must necessarily be some inequalities and the Minister of Finance is fully qualified to make that right in the practical application of the act. But there is nothing wrong with the act itself, no such violation of principle, no such inequality as would justify this House in an attempt to defeat the measure. One firm may value its book debts at ten cents in the dollar; another at fifty cents; I have known in my professional experience in certain Bankruptcy matters that debts are sometimes valued at one hundred cents in the dollar if not more, but these are matters for those who are indentified with the taking of accounts next year when in the months of May or June, they are examined into and taxation adjusted. Take the ordinary taxation of estates. For thirty years we have had the Probate Law and to the probate papers necessary there are certain stamps required, the affixed and the value of the stamps has been graded upon the valuation of the estate. That is an unjust tax in the sense that it does not bear equally on everybody, because an estate with ten thousand dollare and no liabilities,

and one of ten thousand dollars, with $9,500 liabilities, pay exactly the same. But on the other hand in the greater number of cases perhaps seventy five per cent, it works out equitably and fair. It is the same in connection with other modes of taxation in Newfoundland. A man invests money in his wifes name and so that investment does not form a portion of his estate made payable. I do not think there are any gross violations of the principles of justice and fair play in this measure which would justify even a suggestion for taking such steps against on a bill of this sort, when the whole object of the bill is to place the burden of taxation where it can best be borne.

HON. MR. HARVEY.—Is there anything to justify the Government in not giving us an explanation as to the suggestions made by this chamber?

HON. MR. BOWRING.—What is asked is that capital invested in business should have six per cent free. That money invested in businesses belongs in many cases to the widow and the orphan. I can say in the firms of Bowring Brothers and C.T. Bowring & Co., there are many orphans interested in that business, and we as managers, are responsible to them, and if there is no dividend forthcoming we have trouble and have to see to it. One would imagine from what the Hon. Mr. Squires says there are only two classes here the rich and the poor. It is nothing of the sort. Businesses which have the largest amount of capital in them are representative of very poor people. In many cases the people are living on the mere dividends they get from that business. In our business there are many shareholders, they amount to hundreds, and we are getting more of them. There is no one man in our business owns the money but it is divided up and many of them are poor, and I am not going to stand aside and let the poor people interested with us be robbed of their dividend, if I can help it, while banks can have their six per cent free.

HON. PRESIDENT.—Before the motion is put, and before the curtain rings down on what I think may possibly be a tragedy in this branch of the legislature, I would like to make some observations. I am afraid Hon. gentlemen who are taking a somewhat extreme stand which they are taking in regard to the present stage of the bill, scarcely realize what may be the outcome of it. We are here in this little country to-day facing a crisis identical with that which confronted the Upper chamber in the Mother Country seven or eight years ago. For a number of years the relations between our two houses have been most admirable, and have been growing gradually more conciliatory the one with the other. We have reached this stage of the session with every amendment made by this house and there were many, agreed to by the lower house, and that is something to be proud of. Now, however, we are confronted with a situation which to my mind means a parting of the ways, and the beginning of a struggle which cannot but end disastrously for this chamber. If I judge the sentiment of the House aright, the motion is going to carry and the bill be lost. That will be a success for the gentlemen who take that view but only a temporary success, and it is just as well that the House should recognize that fact. In these days under the institutions under which we live, there is one fundamental principle recognized, and that is the right of the Elected House to control taxation. We are going to bid defiance to that right, and I do not see how we can expect to do that successfully. I do not see how we can expect there motives of the

Hon. gentlemen who are adopting that course, however honest and straightforward they may be, will meet acceptance from the community, for the reason that—it is just as well to speak frankly—this bill affects us personally and directly in our pockets and in our pecuniary concerns. If this house took this attitude on any other bill, it could do so with infinitely better grace than on this, and particularly at this time. My Hon. friend Mr. Anderson just remarked that I indulged in a scathing indictment of the hon. gentlemen who voted for the second reading. Well I am very sorry the hon. gentleman thinks I did anything of the kind. I think I was most scrupulous to say I did not for a moment question the sincerely of their motives, but I do say, and I repeat it now that however fair and praiseworthy their motives may be, they cannot on full reflection expect the mass of the people of this country to give them credit for these motives in view of all the surrounding circumstances. The world is at war, and this little country is doing its best to play its part. We have scoured the island from end to end and gathered up about six thousand men and sent them overseas. We are at the present moment facing an agitation that the conscription of men shall be put into, effect, and there are members of this House who favor that, but yet when it is sugested that a moderate amount of the profits which they themselves have gained as a result of their operations during the past two or three years shall be conscripted for the purposes of the State, they object most vigorously. I am not prepared to say they are wrong, but I do say they will never make the people see they are right. The gospel of social justice decrees that if we are to expect the masses of the people to give their children to fight for this country and the Empire and all the war stands for, the wealthy people of this country must do as the wealthy people of every other country, that is contribute out of their abundance a reasonable share towards meeting the burdens which this war is beginning to involve. My hon. friend, Mr. Anderson, says he was quite with the government in the principle of the bill. Well I was reminded, as he spoke, of an old saying often used in the British parliament: "It's all very well to dissemble your love; but why did you kick me downstairs?" It is all very well for the Hon. Mr. Anderson to dissemble his belief in the principles of this bill, but why did be vote last night to kick the bill out on the second reading? I can admire the attitude of the hon. gentlemen opposite, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Winter, who said, "We recognize that capital should pay its share, we will vote for the second reading, but if you do not make such amendments in committee as we think are fair and right, then we will nôt pledge ourselves to vote for the third reading." That is perfectly understandable. I confess, however, I cannot understand the position of my hon. friend, who says: I am in favor of the principle of the bill; I am willing to do my part, and yet who votes against the principle, for that was all that was involved in the second reading. And what is that principle- It is that the revenue of the country shall be increased by a tax on business profits, whether that should be five or six per cent. and all the other matters in the bill were mere matters of detail to be settled later if they could be. The bill is not an ideal one, and personally I regret that the Government cculd not see their way clear to acept some of the amendments made last night, but if they could not do so, then I think it is best for us to recognize the fact that if the Government wants the bill,

our wisest course is to give the Government the bill as it stands.

In England in 1909 the Liberal Government of Mr. Asquith introduced certain legislation, notably making provision for Old Age Pensions, and enacting other measures of the same character, described at the time as socialistic legislation. To meet the cost of these measures the House of Commons proposed certain taxes, notably one on lands. That tax personally interested members of the House of Lords, which is supposed to representhe monied classes in England, just as this House is regarded here as representing the monied classes, and the bill was rejected by the House of Lords by a very decisive majority when it came up there. The Government of the day—and bear in mind that I am not suggesting that this narative is to have any bearing on local events, appealed to the electorate and was returned with a very substantial majority . The government sent up the Finance Bill again and it had to be passed because the Government obtained an assurance from His Majesty the King that if the bill was not passed by the House of Lords as it then stood, he would create enough peers to pass it without dispute or question. But that is not the whole of the story; not alone was that act passed, and the budget in its original form passed, but another act was sent up which destroyed the veto powers of the House of Lords; an act which made it the law of the land, and it is the law to-day, that any bill passing three times in the Commons and rejected by the Upper House would become law without their sanction. But even that was not all. Measures were then taken for the reform of the House of Lords itself, for the destruction of the principle and the substitution of a body composite in its character which would perform the same functions inthe future as the House of Lords, but which would be kept more in touch with the trend of modern events.

Now that is the situation which would befall us, and we should reflect seriously upon it before reaching a decision to reject the Bill. I would like to ask the hon. gentlemen opposed to the Bill, and with whom in some respects I sympathize, what they expect to gain by a rejection of the Bill? Can it be seriously supposed that if the House rejects the Bill this afternoon, the Government will, to use a collognisation, take it lying down, and is it to be seriously imagined for a minute that the amount of $250,000 or a sum of approaching that, which is needed by the Minister in order to meet the public obligat'ons a year from now, is to be allowed to lie in the grave in which we plan it this afternoon? I do not think so for a moment. I think the Bill will come back again, perhaps not this Bill but some other Bill, perhaps not a Bill in this form at all, but a Bill which might impose far more serious taxation. For instance, this Bill as it announces is not a rectorative measure. It does not apply to last year. I have heard many argue that he Bill ought to have applied to last year and have opposed it for this reason in that the profits made by business people last year were in all probability the greatest in the history of the Colony. Perhaps this is a mistake, but certain it is if there was a case for an import of taxation of this character this year, there is, in the opinion of some at least as strong a case for similar taxation with regard to last year. This Bill has been denounced as class legislation. Well it is class legislation in a sense, in the sense that the wealthy class is expected to contribute out of their wealth to the needs of the State. But in another sense it

is class legislation and in that sense it is in the same way as such legislation in class legislation in the Mother Country and in all the Allied countries. In England to-day they have what is known as the Excess Profits Tax. But that is only one of the taxes. It is rather remarkable that some gentlemen seem to have mixed the situation in that respect. At the outset a tax known as the Munitions Levy was imposed on that country, and the Excess Profits Tax imposed on all other forms of industry. But recently the two were merged. I might say I have here the Budget of Mr. Bonar Law and might from it read a verification of what I state. But it is not necessary. The Excess Profits Tax started in 1915 with 50 per cent,. last year it was made 60 per cent .and this year 80 per cent. over pre-war profits or over the average profits of two or three years before. I say from the English Hansard, but the main point is that a man to-day pays 80 per cent. of his pre-war profits on industries in the Old Country. But even then that does not dispose of the matter. Then he bases his Income Tax on what is left, not only on the 80 per cent. but out of the income he enjoys, he is taxed to the extent of 5 shilling in the pound. Well in view of these circumstances I cannot understand why hon. gentlemen should take the view that this legislation is so drastic and bears so hard on certain people in the country. But if you go from the Old Country to Canada what do you find, you find that in 1915 Canada imposed no Excess Profits Tax there but a Business Profits Tax, in which after eliminating concerns with less than $50,000 capital it allowed 7 per cent. to corporations and 10 per cent .to individuals and then took 15 per cent. I think, as a Business Profits Tax. I read last night here that for three years of war, that tax had been increased, and now a man is required to give 25 per cent .of what he makes over 15 per cent., and 10 per cent. of what he makes over 20 per cent. That is a very much heavier tax than is asked from our people and this is the third year that the measure has been enforced. At this point we come against another strange illusion propagated by Hon. Mr. Anderson who says that the tax failed there and they are going to abandon it. It is not a failure. I read last night the statement of the Finance Minister, Sir Thos. White, in which he said it was not a failure, but was entirely satisfactory. Proof of my words is found in his last Budget Speech delivered on the 23rd of April. There is nothing in the statement to indicate that the tax has been abandoned because it is unsatisfactory, on the contrary the Finance Minister claims he is going to get during the three years of the currency of the tax, twice as much as he had figured on. This is precisely the position in England also. Bonar Law says that he got £140,000,000 sterling from the Excess Profits Tax, whereas he only expected £88,000,000. We next go to the United States and find that there they brought into effect what they call an Excess Profits Tax, but their tax is a business profits tax, just like ours. I have here the official text of the Excess Profits Tax law passed on the 3rd March, 1917. This provides for the imposition of taxes on business profits, just as our bill does. Now that Bill recognizes the right of capital to get certain interest, but you will note on theother hand, it is not an excess profits tax, it is a tax on all profits in excess of 8 per cent., in other words it is a business profits tax like ours. I submit in the light of these facts it is not attenable to say that this measure is class legislation, and as such ought to be rejected. I think it

ought not to be rejected. This House ought to recognize seriously the danger that may arise from any attempt to invade the prerogatives of the lower chamber, and to insist upon the throwing out of money Bills under circumstances which indicate however from all we know the suspicion that it was done because hon. members of the House dislike the idea of paying their share of taxation from the businesses in which they are engaged. The ordinal principle of the Bill is that no man would be asked to pay anything under this Bill unless he has made profits greater than $3,000 in addition to all his legitimate expenses. The outstanding feature of the discusion now is that the House should carefully consider and carefully weigh what they do, to endeavor to look ahead and see what may be the outcome, and in that spirit consider before reaching a decision the effect of which will be to kill the Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Just a word in reply to the Hon. President, whose speech was weighty, thoughtful and certainly carried with it matter for serious consideration. A great deal of what the Pesident has said was devoted to the relative amount of tax paid here and elsewhere, and so far as that went, it was entirely beside my attitude and those who think with me. I have repeated again and again and say once more, bring in a bill with double the txation and I will pss it; I personally at any rate. I am not opposing the bill as such, but there is no doubt this detail at least involves great injustice.

The President has told us, wisely no doubt, that we have serious consequences to face if we do not adopt this bill as it stands. Well, if we have; if, as he suggests, we get a much worse bill here; if the government are petty enough to take revenge because we are trying to get them to correct injustice, and the government I say are petty now, are petty enough not to listen to reason and fair play—and if they are petty enough to go further and put on a double tax, simply by way of revenge, then all I can say is that I am sorry inded for the country. Let them go ahead and do it. As to the consequences to this House; let them go on; we are right ,and the President is right to call our attention to the possible result of what we are doing; but if they do away with the Council altogether, I am going to do what is right and I am going to do what my conscience dictates, and if they discharge me as a member of this House and put me in the penitentiary to-morrow, I am goingto vote against this bill as it now stands.

HON. PRESIDENT—My arguments in regard to the measures in the Old Country and the United States were directed not towards what the hon. gentleman says, but towards the arguments of the hon. gentleman who said this bill is class legislation| Now in regard to the suggestion as to the government. I would be sorry to have the idea get abroad that I indicated that the government intend to penalize this House by possibly introducing a heavier bill; I said it was a contingency that might possibly be taken into account. I know that people have spoken in regard to a retroactive bill, and that it is said there are strong grounds for it, but I think it a contingency we should take into account. My position is one, as I said before, one of a great deal of sympathy with the hon. gentleman and others who take the view of this bill he does, but as the Colonial Secretary has pointed out the principle underlying the bill is that the better off a man is the more he should contribute.

HON. SIR EDGAR BOWRING—But it does not do that.

HON. PRESIDENT—Well, perhaps it does not in one sense, but as I pointed out last night, the Death Duties Act has an ascending scale of taxes and that is one variation of it; this is another. However, I was more concerned in the fact that whether the bill was good or bad or indifferent, whether the consequences may be good or evil, the responsibility will not rest on this House. If we accept it, we will do good; if we reject it, then this House will be put in a very unfortunate position.

HON. MR. HARVEY—What about the government; do you think their position defensible?

HON. PRESIDENT—Certainly, the position of every government is defensible which speaks for the people. If the people do not like it they will get rid of the government who do it. We live in a democratic age and have to recognize the fact that the sovereign people will rule. Eighty years ago Lloyd George would have been torn limb from limb by many in England; to-day he is the darling of the people.

HON .MR. HARVEY.—I cannot follow the position that because a government supported by the people are trying to do a wrong which the people know nothing about, we ought to support them. There will be the prejudice cry that this Council refused to pay the tax, I have no doubt. That is what is going to happen, I presume. But the Council is not objecting to paying the tax. That will no doubt be the cry raised, however.

HON. SIR EDGAR BOWRING.—There is only one thing I would like to point out to the Hon. President, and that is he has been holding up to the House as an example what is done in the Old Country and in Canada and in the United States, and we find in all these countries the principle of interest on capital is admitted throughout, and to a much greater extent than we are asking for here. We are looking for six per cent. tax free; in Canada, I understand, they allow from seven to ten per cent.; in the United States the same; and in England we find all pre-war profits tax free. Why cannot we take a leaf out of the books of these countries?

HON. J. D. RYAN—Yesterday when I voted against the second reading of this bill, I did not vote with the intention of not paying my share of the taxes of this country, but because I did not think it a just tax, that is my reading of it. I do not think the supplying merchants of this country should be bound to pay the most of that tax, while others earning large sums of money are not taxed at all. If you tax the people, do it justly and let every person bear a share according to his ability, but I think it a very serious thing to see our supplying merchants taxed a considerable sum out of their capital and I think it would be a great injustice to them and to the country. They do not own all the money in the country, even the very rich men. There are a good many small people, as you can find out from the returns of tfhe Savings Bank, and they are the capitalists of the Island. I would not like the idea to go abroad that we do not want to pay a just share of the taxes, but I think we should have something more than we have here. These, of course, are unusual times and it is the duty of patriotic people to come to the rescue whatever government is in power. We have been reading in the press that it would be a great calamity if this bill was refused, because it would result in a general election, while the very same voices have been calling out for the last four years for a general election. I think it is like a fine day when a north easter suddenly comes up; they were

crying out for a general election, and now the cry is that we should not have one. If the government of the day intend to have an extension of time, I think there is common sense enough in the people of the country to say we do not want an election for this year. But to have this Chamber put down as not willing to pay their share of the taxes, I think is a mistake, because although some of us may vote against the bill we do not want to shift our responsibilities owing to war conditions.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I have listened with much interest to the addresses of the gentlemen who have favored this Chamber with the benefit of their opinions upon this bill, but have failed to discover amongst the criticisms, reasons and arguments advanced any criticism strong enough, any reason weighty enough, any argument convincing enough to justify this Chamber in seriously considering, much less passing, such a motion as is before the Chair. With all respect to the prerogatives and dignity of this Chamber, may I point out that the situation which must result if this motion be passed is one fraught with serious possibilities to this Chamber. The motion is that the Committee rise. The passage of that motion means the defeat of the bill; it means a deadlock between this Chamber and the House of Assembly upon a financial measure. A deadlock between the two Chambers is not in itself an improper situation for this Chamber to create in any matter of grave public importance. It is a position which it might under certain circumstances be the bounden duty of this Chamber to stand to invincibly, but it must be remembered that the bill before the House is of a special class, a class in which the prerogatives and privileges of this Chamber are distinctly limited by the constitution as compared with those of the House of Assembly. If this were a bill dealing with the general law and constitution, if it were a measure affecting the criminal law, the civil law, or any other matters which might come before the Legislature other than that of finance, this Chamber would rightly be in a position to say it regards the bill as one which should have received much more thorough consideration and debate at the hands of the House of Assembly than it has received, one which should receive much more careful thought and be much more elaborately worked out in detail than has been the case in this instance, and proceed to amend the bill and work out the detail. In dealing with any other financial measures this Chamber might in this Committee stage deal with each section of fhe bill, in fact entirely reconstruct the bill and not only be acting within its constitutional privileges, but in the case of grave measures it might be performing the exceedingly important balancing, controlling and critical functions which the constitution delegates to this Chamber; but I submit, Sir, that this bill is not the bill to be submitted to any such dissection at the hands of this Chamber, nor is it a measure which should be the subject of such drastic action as that of summary rejection. The criticisms of the measure have been criticisms of detail, criticisms of method of enforcement, criticisms as to comparative inequalities as between tax-payers who come within the scope of its operations. These are all details which can be worked out at leisure, and, as a matter of fact, can only be worked out finally and with ultimate satisfaction by actual experience in the application of the Act itself. I do not for one moment propose to suggest that this bill is a perfect measure, but I do urge upon you that the essential

principle of the bill is a just one, that its passage by the Legislature at this session is one of vital importance. I appreciate the fact that the gentlemen who are so strongly opposed to the passage of this measure regard their opposition purely from the business standpoint of making quite certain that the Act is one which will bear with justice and equality upon those whom it is intended to affect. The fact that many of those who are in opposition to it have given most abundantly of their time and effort in public and patriotic work since the outbreak of the War and have been most lavish in their subscriptions to philanthropic charitable and war work, is sufficient proof that this expressed antagonism to the bill is not due to any lack of patriotic desire to subscribe freely and largely towards war funds. I would urge upon these gentlemen, however, the fact that this is not the time, nor this motion the means which should be used for quibbling about equalities or inequalities in war effort. Newfoundland has because of its patriotic achievements since the outbreak of the war rightly earned for itself the distinction of England's most patriotic and loyal Colony. The voluntary sacrifices which have been made on field and flood for the honor of our Empire, the freedom of British institutions, the development of a citizenship freed from the curse of the Kultur of German militarism and seditious propaganda, have been magnificent. As the voluntary offering of personal service and sacrifice on land and sea have been glorious, so have the voluntary financial offerings, and amongst those who have done the most are some of the families represented in this Chamber by gentlemen opposed to this bill. I feel that in addressing you I am not asking too much when I ask you to lay aside mere questions of detail, mere technicalities in connection with the operation of the law, mere matters of inequality as to the proportion of taxes which have to be paid by individual firms or companies, and ask you to realize that war itself is one great inequality, and to be prepared to take this further step and make this further sacrifice of submitting to what you have been pleased to term inequalities in taxation rather than by a motion of this sort attempt to destroy a measure without which this reasonable and just principle of the taxation of profits cannot be applied to Newfoundland. It may be true as has been vigorously argued by those who are in opposition to the passage of this bill that inequalities must result. It may be true that the man who invests his own capital in his business has no interest on his personal capital so invested, while the man who uses borrowed capital from the bank is allowed to charge the interest paid by him to the bank for that capital, but I feel, Sir, that the gentlemen who have that capital and are in the proud position of being themselves the owners of their businesses wholly or to a large extent and not dependent upon bank accommodation so largely as some others, should feel proud of their opportunity to subscribe more largely. Mathematically just that proposition may not be, but war conditions are not conditions which are weighed in the voluntary sacrifices of blood and treasure. From one home a son goes forth to live one glorious hour of heroic life before the foe, and then with his life's blood to inscibe his name upon the roll of Britain's honor. Another lad goes forth, fights as valiantly, spares himself no risk, and after years of conflict returns bearing upon his unscatched breast the honors of military achievement. Viewing these things as we do, at one mo-

ment through the mist of sorrow over the snuffing out of heroic life, and at another moment looking upon the scene with the sunshine of honor, victory and life about us, we see apparent inequalities so great that inequality representing a mere difference in dollars suggested by the honorable members as resulting fom the operation of this Act is as a dead level and as insignificant as the straws upon a mud puddle by a country road. I appeal to you, gentlemen of this honorable Chamber, renowned as you are for your patriotic activities, men whose sons, associates and friends have been prepared to give their comforts, wealth and lives for Empire in this hour of crisis, do not hesitate to assume the responsibilities which this Act is intended to impose. Face the disadvantages, unpleasantnesses and hardships which you think may possibly result from this Act, rise nobly to an act of voluntary sacrifice on this occasion, rise to this financial offering as many of you have already risen to higher voluntary sacrifices in this same cause of Empire. When the mothers of our Colony are dropping their heart's blood in sorrow over the sacrifices of those whom in dire labor they brought forth; when the fathers of our land are bowed under the burden which the eternal absence of those in whom was their pride and joy has laid upon them, those whom they had educated and loved, those for whom they have striven for success that they might place their young feet firmly on the round of fortune's ladder; when the hearts of the wives and sweethearts lie mangled under the passing of the Juggernaut of War, do not, I appeal to you, assume the responsibility of entirely throwing over and utterly defeating this taxation measure because of any imperfections or inequalities which you may perceive in it. just as you might be prepared to discard an imperfectly rolled cigar; but rather join with the whole country, with the whole Empire and with our Allies in voluntary support of this special profit tax legislation, and joy in the privilege of subscribing largely from the profits which annually flow into your coffers as successful men May I again urge you to consider the seriousness of the issues, to consider the imperative necessity for this special taxation measure, to consider the necessity not only for the further sacrifice of body and of spirit, and that further sacrifice will undoubtedly be very great,—but to remember that a sacrifice of the lesser good, a sacrifice of treasure, is also vitally important to assist those who are prepared to make the greater, the supreme sacrifice. for the cause with which the entie well-being of our Empire and our Colony is identified. Yea, with which our very existence is identified! I consequently, as representative of the National Government in this Chamber, plead with you to lay aside the consideration of trivial things and rise to the privilege of self-taxation and self-sacrifice which this bill offers and give it a unanimous passage through this Chamber.

The motion that the Committee rise was then put, and on a vote being taken there appeared:—

Content:—Hons. Harvey, Bowring, Anderson, Milley, Winter, Goodridge. J. D. Ryan, Jas. Ryan, Knowling. 9.

Non. Content:—Hons. Colonial Secretary, (Mr. Squires), Gibbs, Power, Ellis, Murphy, Blandford, President, (Mr. McGrath.) 7.

So it passed in the affirmative, and ordered accordingly.

On motion of the Colonial Secretary the House adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2.30.

WEDNESDAY, August 8, 1917.

The House met at 2.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

At 3 p.m. His Excellency the Governor arrived and the members of the House of Assembly having been summonsed to the Bar of the House, gave his formal consent to the various Bills passed during the session, after which the House was prorogued.

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