

EXPENSES OF THE PRINCE'S VISIT RATHER HEAVY

And Call Forth a Considerable Amount of Discussion When in Supply.

ST. JOHN BILLS UP

Those Relating to School Matters Were Given a Second Reading on the Ground of Urgency.

Fredericton, April 21.—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Roberts introduced a bill to amend Chapter 174 of the Consolidated Statutes relating to the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society which, on the ground of urgency, was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. Robinson moved for the suspension of Rule 77-78 to permit the introduction of a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Demolition Summer Resort Company.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to authorize the City of St. John to levy and collect for the purpose of paying current indebtedness incurred for school purposes. He explained that the amount to be collected was \$75,000, and it was proposed to pay it off in three annual payments. On the ground of urgency the bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to ratify and confirm and issue of debentures made by the St. John School Trustees in 1917. He said that some doubt had arisen in regard to the legality of the issue and it was proposed to confirm it by legislation.

Mr. Burchill wanted to know if the bills introduced by the Hon. Premier were Government measures. If not they were liable to the payment of fees.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that he understood the bills relating to the Schools Act usually went through as Government measures without payment of fees. He suggested that the bills be given a second reading and a decision made in regard to the matter.

Hon. Mr. Speaker thought that whatever was customary in the past should be followed.

Hon. Mr. Foster thought that the bills might be referred to the standing rules committee.

Mr. Baxter said the Schools Act was essentially a matter for a Government bill and could not be amended by a bill introduced by a private member. He thought that the chairman of the standing rules committee should give an opinion as to whether the bills should be referred to that committee.

The bills were read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to amend the Schools Act. He explained that its object was to allow the City of St. John to increase the assessment for school purposes to \$225,000. On the ground of urgency the bill was read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Roberts introduced a bill to enable the Parish of Lancaster to assess for recreation grounds and also to bill to confirm certain measures taken during the influenza epidemic, both of which were read a second time.

Hon. Dr. Roberts introduced a bill relating to grants of public money. He explained that its object was to enable Municipalities, Cities and Towns to grant money towards the Victorian Order of Nurses if they desired to do so. It also confirmed an expenditure made in that way in the Parish of Lancaster.

Hon. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill to amend the Public Health Act of 1918. He said that the change proposed in the Act were not of a very important nature. He had to do with the publication of the regulations in the Royal Gazette, and another concerned the vaccination of employees of lumber camps. The present Act made employers in lumber camps responsible for an outbreak of smallpox within fourteen days, even if they had seen to it that the employees had been vaccinated.

It was proposed to change the feature of the Act. On the ground of urgency the bill was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that the fee paid on the bill relating to the estate of the late L. P. Fisher, of Woodstock be refunded.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on corporations.

Hon. Mr. Robinson moved that the fee paid on the bill to incorporate the Central Trust Co. be refunded.

Hon. Mr. Foster asked the House to take recess to permit the hon. member to hear a report from the Secretary of the Commission of Teachers' salaries.

The House then took recess.

Mr. LeBlanc, on the House resuming after recess submitted the report of the committee of municipalities.

The House then went into committee with Mr. Leger (West) in the chair and took up further consideration of supply.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) on the item of \$5,000 for unforeseen expenses, said he felt that all should be ready to extend a cordial welcome to members of the Royal Family, but it should not be allowed to open the door of extravagance and injudicious expenditure as had been the case last year. He would invite attention to a bill of \$384 for the use of house and grounds at Kothsey, and to another of \$256 for repairing the avenue and grounds of Government House. His Royal Highness was at Kothsey only a part of an afternoon and he (Smith) would like to know why it had been necessary to spend \$1,200 on the grounds of the Lieutenant-Governor and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Anna Pugsley. He would like the Hon. Premier to tell who had authorized the expenditure and certified to the bills.

Hon. Mr. Foster said he would reply to the hon. member when he had finished his remarks.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said the catering at Kothsey had cost \$2,000, but he did not object to that. He did, however, object to the purchase of 276 yards of Brussels carpet. He presumed it had been bought at a fair price, but when sold afterwards only \$66.49 had been realized on it. He also notices that caps, gloves, and even socks, had been bought for the chauffeurs and he thought that was going too far. He did not wish to be understood as criticizing the expenses incurred in entertaining His Royal Highness, but he did not think the cost should have been so high.

He noticed that J. A. Pugsley & Co. had been paid \$700, on a car which had been purchased in order to convey His Royal Highness to Kothsey. One would almost have thought that the very fact that the Prince of Wales had driven in the car would have enhanced its value, but it had been turned over to the same party at much less than cost. He felt it his duty to raise his voice in protest against such an expenditure. He noticed that J. A. Pugsley & Co. had been paid \$384 for the use of another car. Such a thing seemed to him to be almost beyond the conception of humanity. He would like to know who authorized the expenditure and whether or not the bills were all paid.

Hon. Mr. Foster said he would be pleased to give the information asked for, but regretted that the hon. member had not been present at the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee earlier in the day when the matter had been discussed. When he (the Premier) learned that the Prince of Wales was to land at St. John he was naturally much pleased, but it was not long before difficulties began to present themselves. There was no precedent to follow, but he had naturally turned his attention to the expenses which had been incurred in entertaining the Duke of York on a previous occasion. He found that the cost to the province on that occasion had been \$25,940.63, and he made up his mind that the cost of entertaining the Prince would be kept well below that figure. His request to the Government that he be given charge of the arrangements was granted, and he would tell the hon. member that he was responsible for the expense and had certified to the accounts. He would further say that nothing had been done of which he was ashamed. He did not think it came with good grace from the hon. member to charge that there had been graft in connection with the entertainment of the Prince. The absence of a suitable place in which to entertain the royal visitor was a serious obstacle. Colonel Henderson and Sir Joseph Pope visited St. John and conferred with him in regard to the matter. Colonel Henderson had pointed out that as the province was without a Government House, the visit of the Prince would be limited to one day. He (the Premier) had suggested that a public reception be held at St. John in order that as many people as desired to do so, might have an opportunity of greeting the Royal visitor, but his proposal was not entertained. It was finally decided that a reception be held on the grounds of the Lieutenant-Governor at Kothsey. These grounds were the property of His Honor and the province had no right to use them. His Honor, however, was pleased to place them at the disposal of the province, and for that a debt of gratitude was due him. As St. John had been chosen by the Prince as his first landing place in Canada the Duke of Devonshire and Sir Robert Borden had journeyed there to meet him and it had been necessary to provide entertainment for those distinguished visitors. The Lieutenant-Governor invited the Governor-General to his home and General McLean extended hospitality to Sir Robert Borden. As it was necessary to provide accommodations for the Governor-General's staff the home of Mrs. Anna Pugsley which is next door to that of the Lieutenant-Governor, was engaged for the purpose. It was found necessary to make some repairs and improvements and for doing that an expense of \$384, was incurred. It was also found necessary to make improvements to the grounds of the Lieutenant-Governor which were used for the reception. The cost of that work amounted to \$836. Those who lived at Kothsey knew how difficult it was to secure help in that district. The expense incurred might look large, but the money had been economically spent. In regard to the carpet used at the drill hall, it had been purchased from Mr. A. O. Skinner, and after the reception he had been instructed to sell it. An hon. member for St. John (Potts) had disposed of the carpet, and no doubt had obtained the best price possible.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) Did they use the home of Mrs. Anna Pugsley?

Hon. Mr. Foster—I saw the hon. member for St. John pass that note over to my hon. friend.

Mr. Tilley—You must be a mind reader.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that he had made arrangements for the staff in accordance with orders, and if they did not stop there it was no fault of his.

His reference had been made to the purchase of caps and gloves. He wished to say that so long as he held the position of Premier, distinguished visitors to the province would be entertained in the best manner possible. The caps and gloves had been purchased for the use of the chauffeurs whom he felt should be properly fitted out. In regard to the expenditure on automobiles he could say it was scarcely to be expected that he could go around endeavor to borrow a car. It was necessary to supply one for the Prince, another for the Duke of Devonshire and another for Sir Robert Borden and it had been difficult to procure them. A nice one was needed for the use of the Prince, and one was purchased at the cost of \$4,391. Extra tires were purchased for three cars, as they did not wish to take chances on blow-outs.

Mr. Smith (Carleton)—Was that or sold back to J. A. Pugsley and Company?

Mr. Foster said that it was not. The car was sold to a private party for \$4,300, and J. A. Pugsley & Co. had been paid a commission for selling it. It had been difficult to find a market for a car of that kind, and they had done well to dispose of it at something like \$200 less than the cost. Many difficulties had been encountered in arranging for the visit of the Prince, but he felt that the expenditure was justified and there had not been one cent of graft.

Mr. Potts said that as his name had been mentioned he felt he should make a statement. The carpet used at the reception consisted of two borders, which had been sewed together. He had been able to sell it at a price of \$238, and the cost in the end had been \$560. As the carpet had been used at a public reception on a very wet day, he thought the Government had done very well of it.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said he could agree with the Hon. Premier that the province had lost only \$200 on the automobile transaction. He noticed that the sum of \$380 had been paid for the hire of a car.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—You are not read-

ing it right; it says "auto hire."

Hon. Mr. Foster said that three cars had been hired for the distinguished visitors and others had been used.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that the cost of the cars had been \$4,100, and the Government got back was \$4,100, so there was a discrepancy of \$1,080. He did not think that the Hon. Premier had placed the matter fairly before the committee. Other items should have been added which would have brought the deficit up to \$1,600.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that there might have been thirty cars.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that there had been a deficit of \$1,600, and some of the bills were certified to by Mrs. E. S. Carter, and not by the Hon. Premier.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that while Mr. Carter may have certified to some of the bills, he (Foster) saw them all and certified to many of them. There had been many newspaper and motion picture men on hand to greet the Prince, and it had been necessary to provide cars for them, and properly so. Some expense had been incurred for the use of tugboats, and the services of boat men, which the Dominion Government had been asked to pay, but had not done so. The hon. member for Carleton could get the information he required from the public accounts. He would add that the total cost in connection with the entertainment of the Prince had been \$1,657.21.

The item passed, and the committee reported progress.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that Supply be made the order of the day for Friday next.

The House went into committee, with Mr. Burchill in the chair, and considered the bill to amend the bill to consolidate the several Acts respecting the protection of persons employed in factories.

Mr. Sutton, speaking to the section providing an age limit of 14 years for boys and 16 years for girls, said that this was going to work hardship. There were numerous families in straitened circumstances, the children of which went to work at an early age to help support themselves. The sons and daughters of farmers worked at an age younger than those named, and why should a distinction be made between them and the people of towns or cities?

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that such was the wording of the old Act.

Mr. Sutton said he knew that, but that legislation limiting chances to obtain employment was dangerous. He believed there was a permissive clause which would cover the objection of the hon. member for Carleton. Mr. Sutton said that such had been the law for some years past, the law had been violated generally. Children did go to work and there evidently was no respect for the Act.

The bill was reported as amended.

The House went into committee, with Mr. Sutton in the chair, and agreed to several Sackville bills, to authorize the town of Edmundston to borrow \$25,000 for streets and sidewalks, and a bill relating to the Inlandtown and Lancaster ferry. The bills were agreed to.

Mr. Magee, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc, moved that the special committee on the bill for the incorporation of villages be permitted to meet during the sittings of the House.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved the suspension of Rule 78 to permit the introduction of a bill to incorporate the Union Church of Madam, York County.

The House adjourned at 9:44 p. m.

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