

ESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN LEGISLATURE

RAILWAY MATTERS DISCUSSED IN THE FREDERICTON HOUSE

Work of St. John Great War Veterans and Returned Soldiers Committee, Hospitals, Ferries, Roads and Other Matters Considered During a Busy Day—Finally Attorney General Byrne Calls Up Partisan Political Measure Wherein He Would Make Flesh of Some and Fish of Others—The Valley Railway and Central Railway Affairs.

(From Official Report.)

N. B. Ferries.

Fredericton, April 22.—The House met at 11 o'clock a.m. The bill respecting highways was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to provide for the purchase and sale of sheep.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that the public accounts committee had still a great deal of work to do, and if it was proposed to hold morning sittings of the House, could it be arranged that the committee would sit at the same time.

Hon. Mr. Foster said he quite appreciated the importance of the work of the committee and would arrange for the committee and the hon. member to be carried out.

The House then went into committee of supply.

On the item for natural history societies, Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said one of the hon. members for St. John was not then in his place, and requested him (Smith) to ask the government if the allowance to the St. John society could not be increased by \$100.

Hon. Mr. Foster spoke very appreciatively of the work of the society and the doing and of the excellent collection of nature subjects which it possessed and would arrange to have the additional amount asked for provided for in the supplementary estimates.

On the item for hospitals, Hon. Mr. Burchill said he wished to put in a plea for some additional assistance to the Miramichi Hospital at Newcastle.

Wants St. John Reduced.

Mr. Melanson said that the county of Kent was not wealthy enough to maintain a hospital and its inhabitants mostly used that at Moncton, to which the county contributed \$1,000 a year, and he would like to see Moncton get an additional grant from the government. He thought the St. John public hospital was rather overpaid in comparison with the other institutions in the province, and he felt some reduction should be made in its grant and the amount taken away divided amongst the other hospitals.

On the item of \$130,000 for the Provincial hospital maintenance, Hon. Mr. Foster said the committee would notice that the item was a rather heavy one and was a striking example of the increased cost of living. The same item in 1914 was \$96,000 only. The institution was admirably managed by Dr. Adams, and the greatest care exercised in making purchases, but however careful the superintendent might be, he could not avoid having to pay the higher price for the present day conditions demanded. He thought the Premier might say that when in Ottawa recently he had an interview with the dominion authorities in regard to the future of returned soldiers, whose minds had been unbalanced. It might be that they would have to build additional accommodation to take care of these men and the dominion government would contribute towards the cost of the building \$100 per man resident there, and an additional \$150 per man for maintenance.

Hon. Mr. Murray.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) heartily agreed with what the Premier had said as to the excellent manner in which the institution was managed. It was to be regretted that the number of patients in the institution seemed to be getting larger every year and that it might be taken care of just the same. No doubt there would be quite a number of soldiers needing the services of the institution, and as the expense of the institution would be considerable, it only showed the need for rigid economy in other directions. He thought that many people scarcely realized the seriousness of the present situation and how necessary it was to use every necessary measure.

Mr. Burchill said he noticed in the auditor's report there were some outstanding accounts owing by the municipalities for the maintenance of patients in the institution and he would like to know if any amounts had been paid in, since the auditor's report was printed.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Provincial secretary) said that some amounts had been paid, and others would be settled as soon as some alleged contractors had been dealt with. When he first took up the collection of these overdue amounts, he protested most strongly against the practice which some municipalities used to adopt of setting up cross accounts. The amounts due for the maintenance of hospital patients should not be mixed up with other matters, but should be paid promptly, and claims that the county might have for jury fees or any other trifling matters should be sent in to the government and they would be dealt with.

On the item for ferry accommodation, Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said that the principle which the hon. member from Moncton had suggested for adoption in regard to hospitals might very well be extended to ferries. There were a large number of bridges doing very important work in the county of Carleton, which received no assistance whatever from the government, while the counties on either side of it, (York and Victoria) both got assistance for their ferries. He thought there should be no such discrimination. In particular, the ferry at Bath was so heavily worked that an agitation was on foot for a bridge.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said he had the matter under consideration and a grant would be made this year towards the ferry at Beechwood and to some other ferries next year also.

Mr. Robichaud said while the committee was discussing ferries, he would like to call the attention of the committee to the fact that there was an island called Shippegan, off the coast of Gloucester, which depended for its communication with the mainland on a ferry. There were 2,200 people on the island, who produced all their own food. The ferry was over taxed at times and in three trips it took over 60 carloads of produce from the island. Its catch of fish was valued at one quarter of a million dollars per year, and it also shipped away about 100 carloads of potatoes. He asked that the grant be increased from \$300 to \$400.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the grant of \$400 was a very good one, and that the plans had been submitted to the provincial government and the provincial engineer had given an opportunity to check them up.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said that he only referred to the matter because the C. P. R. was liable to make mistakes as any one else. He knew that the auditor-general had discovered errors totalling several thousands of dollars in favor of the province and that steps had been taken to recover the amounts.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) asked what proportion of the estimated revenue of \$100,000 from the Valley Railway would be for the current year.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that \$72,000 constituted the revenue up to September 30, 1917, and that for a period of about one and one-half years. The balance was estimated. He did not expect that the revenue would be more than \$2,500 or \$3,000 per month. The item of supply was passed without division and the committee arose and reported.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that further consideration of the bill be fixed for Thursday next at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that the public accounts committee be granted leave to sit during the sittings of the House.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to amend the theatres and cinematograph act, explanation that this provided for the proposed services of the theatres and other forms of amusement.

The House took recess at 1:10 to resume at 3 o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

Hon. Mr. Byrne, on the House resuming at three o'clock, submitted the report of the law committee.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill entitled "An act to assist and enable His Majesty the King to recover money illegally or improperly withheld or retained." He explained that in view of certain disclosures made with respect to the St. John Valley Railway, it was felt that public opinion demanded that the government should upon the statute books legislation of the kind proposed by the bill.

The Central Steal.

The honorable leader of the opposition, in referring to the proposed bill in his speech on the opening day, had not objected to its principle, as he seemed to realize that such legislation would be strongly supported by public sentiment, but he had urged that the scope of the measure be broadened to take in the Central Railway, which had been under investigation by a royal commission in 1908. Whether or not it was the intention of honorable members opposite to endeavor to defeat the object of the bill because it did not include the report on the Central Railway inquiry, he (Byrne) was not in a position to say, but he was hopeful that such was not the case.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said that he was not going to discuss the bill at any length. He expressed surprise that his honorable friend had taken advantage of an opportunity, when none of the legal fraternity among the opposition, were present to discuss these matters, but he did not think the bill should be broadened and that its partisan character should be removed. The government now in office had a responsibility that the negligence of the previous government should be removed. They should have taken in all railways. If they did that, and not until then, they would believe that they were governed by a desire to preserve the public life.

Hon. Mr. Foster presented the re-

port of Thomas V. Williams, railway auditor, on the New Brunswick Coal and Railway Co., the Southampton Railway, and the Fredericton and Grand Lake Coal and Railway Co.

Mr. Leblanc presented the report of the municipalities committee.

Hon. Mr. Roberts presented a bill amending the act relating to the registration of drugs and poisons.

Hon. Mr. Murray, (provincial secretary), presented the report of the Halifax School for the Blind.

Hon. Mr. Murray, (Kings), asked if there would be many more government bills to be introduced.

Hon. Mr. Foster believed they had reached the end.

The House went into committee on bills with Mr. Leger, (West.), in the chair.

Valley Railway.

The bill respecting the St. John and Valley Railway Co., was taken up. The House went into committee with Mr. Smith (Charlotte), in the chair, and took up consideration of a bill to authorize the Andover Water Commissioners to issue debentures; and a bill to authorize the town of Dalhousie to issue debentures.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings), speaking to the Dalhousie bill, pointed out that objection had been taken previously in the session to municipalities being given power to issue debentures for long periods.

This bill permitted thirty years debentures.

Mr. Leblanc said that the period mentioned in the bill was too long; twenty years would be long enough. He moved an amendment to that effect.

It being six o'clock, the committee rose to resume at 8.

Night Session.

Resuming after recess, the committee agreed to a bill to amend the act relating to the construction of a line of railway by the Tobique Valley Railway Extension Company.

Hon. Mr. Robinson introduced a bill relating to the Demolition Summer Resort Company.

Hon. Mr. Foster wanted to know if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was willing that the House proceed with the refunding bill.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said he had gone over a copy of the bill and thought it should include an itemized list of the amounts to be refunded.

Mr. Smith (Charlotte) gave notice of enquiry as to what position George Cochrane of Moncton held in the provincial service, and the amount of his remuneration.

The House then went into committee with Mr. Leger in the chair, and took up consideration of a bill to authorize the funding of the floating debt of the province and for other purposes. This bill authorized the issue of one million dollars of six per cent. debentures to date from February 15, 1918, and to mature on February 15, 1928, and to be free of succession duty to bonafide non-residents of the province.

The bill was allowed to stand. A motion was made to refer the bill to the committee on the construction of permanent bridges, and the balance will be used for the payment of the following:—St. John roads, 1917, \$163,385.75; discount on bonds to 31st October, 1916, \$41,443.15; floating indebtedness at 31st October, 1916, \$178,841.89; deficit on ordinary account, 1917, including St. John and Quebec Railway interest, \$415,579.21; permanent bridge expenditure, \$11,000.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) thought that the item for special road expenditures should be included in the amount to be funded from the tax on autos.

Special Road Account.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the item referred to was expended on special road account with the understanding that the legislation would be enacted to bond the same. He did not feel like taking the amount out of the auto fund.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said that the sum of \$500,000 had been bonded for roads and he understood that it had not all been expended.

Hon. Mr. Veniot replied that \$334,000 of the amount had been expended. Some of the items in the special road expenditures made by the old government dated back to June, 1916, before his hon. friend from Carleton had taken over the department. At the time the expenditure was made nothing had been said about funding the fees from motor vehicles.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said that the roads built from the special expenditures were practically the same as those constructed under the legislation of last session, and he did not see why all should not be included in the one bond issue.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said he saw no difference in the nature of the work done, and that it might all be paid for out of one bond issue. It was true that some of the work had been done before it had been decided to bond the motor vehicles tax, but it had been the intention of the government to do that.

Hon. Mr. Foster intended to have a list of the items prepared for submission to the House before the bill reached its third reading, and with that understanding the bill was agreed to by the committee.

The bill to vest the title of certain wharves in the Dominion government was further considered by the committee and agreed to with an amendment submitted by the hon. minister of public works.

Workmen's Compensation.

The House again went into committee with Mr. Leger (West.) in the chair, and took up consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Hon. Mr. Byrne in reply to Mr. Tingley said that the accident fund was the fund from which compensation to workmen was to be paid. Death claims would also be paid out of the fund.

Mr. LeBlanc on sub-section 3 of section 2, said he thought in awarding damages for injuries there should be no discrimination against him, but receipt of a military pension. He thought that the provision should be stricken out.

Mr. Tingley was inclined to agree with the hon. member for Restigouche. He thought a workman on being injured was entitled to the full compensation from his employment regardless of whether or not he might be in receipt of a pension from some other source.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that the bill was prepared under the direction of one of the best commissions in New Brunswick, and he would be loath to make any changes if it could possibly be avoided. He had experienced a little difficulty at first in reading the

section under discussion, but it had become plain to him that the commission had taken a common sense view of the matter. It was proposed to have the claim decided by a board and not by the courts, and he considered that an excellent feature.

The board would consider when making an award whether or not the claimant was in receipt of payments from fraternal societies or other sources, and he thought that was right, as after all an injury should not be made a source of profit. In his opinion the section should stand as it was. The sub-section was agreed to without amendment.

Mr. Burchill speaking to the section on "navigation," asked if some distinction could not be made in regard to small power boats used in inland waters in connection with the lumbering industry. He also pointed out that the act would not apply to fishing tags outside the limits of the province. By including small power boats used on inland waters an unnecessary tax would be placed on a very small class.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said he could not see why the provisions of the act should apply only to vessels of New Brunswick register. There were many tug boats operating in New Brunswick waters which were registered in Halifax, and he did not believe in exception was intended.

Mr. Megee said he had been given special assurance fishing vessels were not included.

Mr. Gupitil.

Mr. Gupitil said most of the vessels plying New Brunswick waters were registered in Nova Scotia. That matter should be determined. He also wished to know if a vessel outside the three mile limit would be governed by this act.

Mr. Baxter said it would be better to hold this section for further consideration. He pointed out that in Nova Scotia to operate steamers on the River St. John and thus escape the provisions of this act.

Mr. Gupitil asked about the three mile limit.

Mr. Baxter said it was impossible to extend the limits of the province and jurisdiction over vessels outside the three mile limit lay with the Dominion parliament. He did not see how the liability could be extended beyond the limits of the province.

The section on the scope of the act was also allowed to stand.

Mr. Baxter speaking to the section on compensation not being assignable or liable to attachment, said that under this dishonest men might take advantage and seek to avoid payment of their just debts.

Hon. Mr. Byrne pointed out that the section was applicable subject to the approval of the board of commissioners.

Mr. Tingley said he would like to see the section passed as it was. Compensation should not be attachable for a debt which the injured man might have incurred prior to injury.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said that the period of one year which made application for compensation under the act was too long.

Hon. Mr. Byrne speaking to the section on the appointment and tenure of commissioners, said that there was a feeling that the section was not sufficiently comprehensive, and that the suggestion had been made that the commissioner be removable for cause on the finding of two judges of the supreme court. He wanted the sense of the committee upon that suggestion.

Mr. Baxter said he did not see any reason for adding such a clause. It was realized that any government would have the right to remove a commissioner with or without cause. The repeal of the act could always be used to accomplish that even if the clause suggested were added.

Mr. LeBlanc suggested that the case might arise in which it would be desirable to get rid of a commissioner, and yet the cause on which two judges could reach a finding could not be proven.

Mr. Sutton said he was in favor of the suggested clause.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that a committee of manufacturers had asked to have the clause added to the section. Hon. Mr. Byrne said he was ready to let the section stand at it was.

The section was passed without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Robinson speaking upon the section relating to location of the head office of the board of commissioners said he was somewhat surprised that there was no suggestion that the office be located in Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Young said he could see no reason why the head office should not be located in Fredericton. That city was good enough to be the capital and it should be the centre of the administration of this act.

Mr. Peck expressed the opinion that the board should sit at or near where the claims originated.

Mr. LeBlanc moved that Moncton be the place of head office.

Mr. Sutton moved that Woodstock be the place of head office.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that St. John was named because manufacturers were centralized in that vicinity. It might be provided that the lieutenant-governor-in-council would be empowered to designate some other location for the head office if such were desirable.

Hon. Mr. Robinson moved an amendment to that effect.

The amendment was carried.

Hon. Mr. Byrne on the section relating to the conduct of proceedings of the board submitted amendment to provide for public hearings before the board's decisions are made.

Section 27 provides for the payment of the salaries of officials and necessary administration expenses out of the revenue of the province, but an order the payment of a portion of the amount out of the accident fund.

Mr. Peck wanted to know if it would not be cheaper for a workman in some cases to abandon the act and go after his employers under common law.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said a workman on being injured must make application to the board and could not bring an action against his employer under the provisions of the act.

Mr. Peck said he understood that a workman if not satisfied with the board's decision could appeal to the supreme court.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said that the act did not provide for an appeal on a question

HOW TO GET RID OF RHEUMATISM

"Fruit-a-tives" Point the Way to Quick Relief

Verona, Ont.

"I suffered for a number of years with Rheumatism and severe Pain in my Side and Back, caused by strains and heavy lifting."

"When I had given up hope of ever being well again, a friend recommended 'Fruit-a-tives' to me and after using the first box I felt so much better that I continued to take them; and now I am enjoying the best of health, thanks to your wonderful fruit medicine."

W. M. LAMPSON.

"Fruit-a-tives" are sold by all dealers at 50c a box, 4 for \$2.50, trial size 25c.—or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ontario.

of fact but only on a question of law and jurisdiction.

Mr. Peck thought that would meet his objection.

Mr. Dymally thought the expense to the province should not exceed \$5,000 in any one year.

Mr. Tingley thought that the matter could very well be left in the hands of the governor-in-council. It might be some years before the act would be self-sustaining and even should it cost \$7,000 or \$8,000 to administer it, the money could not be expended in a better way. He thought there should be a good deal of give and take in the matter.

Section 28 which provides for the auditing of the board's account by a provincial auditor or chartered accountant, was amended to provide for the appointment of an auditor by any interested association to act in conjunction with the provincial auditor or chartered accountant.

Section 29 which requires the board to report annually before the 1st of April, was amended so that the report would include a statement of receipts and expenditures, and the disposition of funds under the different clauses.

Mr. Michael dealing with a provision in section 35 which provides that there shall be no costs in cases of appeal, said he thought that the division was hardly fair.

Mr. Baxter said that should it be necessary for a workman to appeal to the supreme court he would probably have the support of the labor union, but cases might arise where he would have to stand alone, and ask for a review of the decision of the commission.

In the case of the lawyer who argued for the commission his pay was sure, as it would come out of the funds of the commission, but the workman would have to pay his own costs. The section might be amended by giving the commission discretionary powers to pay its own costs, as well as that of the workmen in cases where an important point had been raised. He would like to see the matter left in the hands of the board.

The section was passed without amendment.

The House adjourned at 11:15.

MUCH DEPRESSED IN SPIRITS

On Account of the Exhausted Condition of the Nerves—Though Several Doctors Were Consulted Results Were Disappointing.

Albert, N. B., April 6.—All energy and ambition seem to disappear when the nerves become exhausted. Hope and confidence fail and you feel blue and get to looking on the dark side of things.

Such was the experience of Mrs. Tingley, but she soon got to seeing things differently when Dr. Chase's Nerve Food was used to form new rich blood and build up the exhausted nerves.

Mrs. Geo. T. Tingley, Albert, N. B., writes: "Will you please allow me the privilege of giving my experiences with Dr. Chase's Nerve Food? I was for a long time in a very nervous, run-down condition, and much depressed in spirits. I suffered a great deal at times, and it was four or five years ago before I fully discovered what the real trouble was. The least noise would irritate me, and at times I felt as though I certainly would go crazy. I took various remedies, and consulted different doctors, but to no effect. A friend advised me to begin the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food at once. I complied with the request by procuring the medicine at the earliest convenience and can truly testify today to the great benefits I received therefrom. I was able to see a marked change in my condition before I had finished the use of two boxes. I kept up the treatment, however, until I had taken about a dozen boxes, and now feel safe in saying that I am cured of nervousness. I am entirely relieved of those terrible feelings I used to have, and cannot too highly speak of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, which has done so much for me. I shall ever be ready to testify to the merits of this wonderful remedy, and gladly recommend it to all who suffer as I did, feeling sure it will give them quick and permanent relief."

This letter was endorsed by George C. Anderson, J.P.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, a full treatment of 6 boxes for \$2.75, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates and Co., Limited, Toronto. Do not be talked into accepting a substitute. Imitations only disappoint.

A Fair Division.

A Devonshire vicar's wife, says The Canadian Food Bulletin, keeps a book in which a daily entry is made of all economy in dining room and kitchen. At the end of the month the money is divided equally between the servants and put into War Savings.