POOR DOCUMENT

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LOCAL HOUSE ADOPTS MR. HILL'S AMENDMENT IN THE BALLOT QUESTION.

Members Freely Discuss Desirability of Legislation to Secure Purity at Elections--No Division on the Question--Mr. Tweedie Brings in Important Bill in Connection With Grand Falls Water-power.

Fredericton, April 7—In the house this afternoon, Mr. Allen, speaker, took the chair. The bills agreed to in committee yesterday were read a third time and passed.

Mr. Robertson presented the petition of A. A. Stockton and others in favor of the St. John Canal & Dock Company's bill; Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill relating to sewerage in Lancaster, and a bill to enable the municipality of St. John to make improvements in the hospital; Mr. Poirier a bill to authorize Gloucester to issue $5,000 debentures; Mr. Jones, the petition of the warden of Carleton county, mayor of Woodstock, and others for a bill to incorporate Carleton county hospital; Mr. Gogain, a bill to incorporate the Kent Northern Railway Company; Mr. Osman, a bill to incorporate the Prescott Log Driving Company; Mr. Flemming, notice of inquiry as to the contract of Flood & Sons, for school books; Doctor Ruddock, bills relating to the General Public Hospital, and the water supply in Lancaster; Hon. Mr. Tweedie, a bill to enable the school trustees of No. 1 district, Nelson, to issue debentures; Mr. Flemming, a bill to amend the Woodstock incorporation act; Mr. Jones, notice of motion to introduce Carleton county hospital bill.

Redistribution Word from Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the government had a further communication from the government at Ottawa, with regard to the redistribution bill. He had a letter today, which sugested that an immediate reference might be made to the supreme court, now sitting, and which would sit next week. The attorney-general was now endeavoring to have the case ready, so that it might be argued before the adjournment of the court.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the number of criminal prosecutions he had personally conducted in the courts during the year was three, but that he had given his personal attention to nearly every criminal case in the province—from 75 to 100. In almost every case the papers had passed through his hands, and the counsel who were to conduct them in court had received instructions. In the Higgins case, for upwards of a month prior to the arrest, he had been advising with the police authorities, attending the inquest and giving his attention to it generally. He looked upon the actual attendance in court at the trial as the least important of the duties of the attorney-general.

The Restigouche & Western.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the only order-in-council passed in regard to the Restigouche & Western railway was the following: The committee of the executive council have had under consideration the memorial of the Restigouche & Western Railway Company, and the recommendation of members of the legislative assembly that aid be given to the road beyond that already authorized. The committee of council recognize the great importance of the railway which the company is building, and the beneficial effect which it will have on the development of the northern section of the province, and while the committee of council are unable to recommend the granting of assistance, in the mode and to the extent asked for by the company, they recommend that the legislature be asked to consider the question of granting such further reasonable assistance as may meet with the approval of the legislature, such as will be likely to secure the resumption of the work of construction of the line, and its completion at an early date; provided that it shall be a condition of the granting of any additional aid which the legislature may authorize that the bridges upon the line shall be of steel, with abutments and piers of masonry.

When Mr. Hazen's notice of motion in regard to the transactions of the government with the banks came up, Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the information would be furnished without an address.

The Ballot.

Mr. Copp continued his remarks on the motion relating to the election law. He took issue with the Sun's statement that he was opposed to a secret ballot. Any remarks that he or the member for Charlotte had made could not convey such an impression. He was willing to go on record as being in favor of the most secret ballot known, to prevent coercion and bribery at the polls, and he thought the legislature was prepared to have it known that it was in favor of placing political morality on a high basis.

He hoped the committee would recommend a measure providing secrecy, and making it possible for voters to cast their ballots irrespective of any influence.

Mr. McLatchy said the provincial law, amended so as to make the polling booth private, would be better than the dominion law, inasmuch as an elector could take every desired precaution to have his ballot properly made out before going to the polls. He wanted to see bribery and corruption effectually stamped out in New Brunswick, ane he hoped the committee would bring in a measure that would have that effect.

Mr. Grimmer said he wished to go on record as being in favor of something that will lead to greater purity at the polls.

Mr. Osman said he did not see that the dominion ballot would improve matters, but he was in favor of any measure that had for its object the elevation of public morals, and would therefore vote for the resolution as amended by Mr. Hill.

Mr. Tweeddale believed that if it be possible to enact a law giving us pure elections, it is the duty of the house to do so; but he did not think it wise to enact laws unless there is a reasonable certainty that they will be strictly enforced. Otherwise disrespect for all laws will be created. He wished to go on record as favoring purity in elections, and punishment of bribery.

Mr. Smith agreed something should be done to improve the election law.

Mr. Ryan said the people of Albert had said that the present ballot was good enough for them. When a man can make his own ballot surely it is secret enough, still if a committee of the house could devise a more secret ballot than the present one, he was with them.

Mr. Hazen.

Mr. Hazen said he did not impeach the sincerity of the gentlemen who moved the amendment, but regretted he did not make it a separate motion and let the secret ballot resolution rest on its own merits. The question of the secret ballot was quite distinct from the question of bribery. The present ballot is in no sense a secret one. There could be no improvement until the law provided that no one should be admitted to the room except the voter and the agent. While the present dominion law is not perfect, it has this advantage, that if the returning officer does his duty, no one can tell how a man votes. In almost every country in the world the Australian ballot system has been adopted. It seemed to him that when we find all other countries adopting this system, we might very well follow their example. With regard to the amendment he desired to say that he would be happy to accept it and he trusted that the result of the deliberations of the committee would be the framing of a law that would have the effect of stopping bribery, corruption and intimidation.

Mr. Pugsley's Predicament.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley thought it a hopeful sign that there was such a strong expression of feeling in favor of so amending the law as to secure purity of elections. We ought not to adopt a ballot simply because it has been adopted in other countries, neither should we be carried away by the sentimental desires to follow the example of any other province. The adoption of the Australian ballot had not prevented the most disgraceful bribery in other countries and he instanced the state of Delaware. He thought our present ballot system might be so improved as to afford entire secrecy and freedom from intimidation or bribery. He would change the law so that no one but the returning officer, the clerk and one representative of each candidate should be admitted into the polling booth. He would prevent persons from hanging about the door to intercept the voters and he would have a private room in the polling booth in which the voter might obtain his ballot and where official ballots would be placed on the same kind of paper for both sets of candidates so that they could not be distinguished. He believed that if this was done entire secrecy would be secured.

He was going to vote heartily for the resolution and amendment but without committing himself to the Australian ballot. He wished to refute the idea that the present election law is as bad as had been made out by the member for Charlotte. It contained the most stringent provisions against bribery. The difficulty was that there was no provision made for carrying out the law and he thought it would be the duty of the legislature to provide machinery for enforcing any law that was passed. He thought the leader of the opposition took an exaggerated view of the amount of undue influence exercised on voters. The great evil against which they should endeavor to put down, was bribery. He felt quite sure that the result of the labors of the committee would be to place on the statute book a law that would be creditable to the legislature and satisfactory to the people.

Mr. Fleming said they should have a ballot system that must be secret. He agreed with the attorney general that the present system might be amended and improved so as to secure greater secrecy.

The resolution, as amended, was then adopted without division.

Mr. Barnes introduced a bill to incorporate the Beersville Railway Company. Whitehead a bill to amend the Fredericton Boom Company's act.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that Professor Robertson had been in communication with him and it had been arranged that he should address the members of the legislature in regard to agriculture and the Sloyd school system. He would like all the members to be present.

The house then took recess until 7.30 o'clock.

An Important Water-power Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie it was resolved that the house go into supply on committee of ways and means on Tuesday next.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie the public accounts and the auditor-general's report were referred to the committee of public accounts.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Geo. W. Allen was made chairman of committee of supply and ways and means.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved the house into committee on a bill to authorize the leasing and development of the water power at Grand Falls, Mr. Copp in the chair. The premier said the great aim of capitalists at the present time is to obtain water power for developing their electricity. Some years ago a company obtained a charter for utilizing the water power of Grand Falls. One of the incorporators was Sir Wm. VanHorne. Unfortunately they did not carry out their agreement. Two years ago their charter was extended on condition that they would spend $100,000 prior to March 3 last. Their charter has now elapsed and it is thought desirable that the government should have the power to lease this power at Grand Falls to any company that should require it. He thought, indeed, that all the important water powers in the province should be under the control of the government. The province of Quebec was deriving a large revenue from its water powers and ours should be looked after. The bill enacted that when any person afforded evidence to the government of their financial ability to develop this water power and made a deposit with the receiver-general of not less than $50,000, they might receive incorporation by letters patent and in case they made default in the conditions imposed, their deposit would be forfeited. When any company desired incorporation for utilizing our powers they should give evidence of their bona fides. Heretofore we have been too much disposed to give away our franchises to persons who had no money behind them.

Mr. Hazen—Has the company incorporated before abandoned all idea of going on? Two years ago we extended the term of their charter and he understood they were not satisfied with the conditions and went to Ottawa, where they obtained an act without any limitations. If the company rely on this there may be a conflict of authority.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the company had not set up any claim so far under their dominion franchise, They say they are not ready to go on. If there is a conflict of authority with the dominion we will be prepared to meet it. Sometimes it looks at Ottawa as if the ministers thought the provinces had no right which the dominion was bound to respect. Now, whatever the dominion government might please to do at Grand Falls, we are ready to fight them and he thought the province would come out on top.

Taking Over All Water-powers.

Mr. Hazen said it seemed to him the government ought to carefully consider the taking over of all the water powers in the province. They are becoming of priceless value. The Grand Falls water power is one of the greatest in America. He thought the province should derive a revenue from its water powers and that the bill should be guarded so that the government might impose a rental. He thought also that the government had taken the proper position as regards the company going to Ottawa and he entirely agreed with the premier that the federal parliament had no right to give up our franchise. In reference to the other water powers in the province some questions might arise as to the rights of riparian proprietors.

For instance, the Grand Falls at Nepisguit was held by a company of anglers, who had made large expenditures there and who might object to their fishing being interfered with. It would be necessary to give these persons proper compensation and also to guard the fisheries against injuries. He asked if the government proposed to impose a rental to be paid by parties obtaining water power.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie thought the suggestion a good one; while he thought that private interests should be protected they should not be allowed to override public interests. He would take care that the rights of all should be safeguarded.

Hon. Mr. Hill said that the disadvantages of granting incorporation by letters patent were overcome in the present instance by the more important consideration that all our great resources should belong to the people of the province. The water forming the Grand Falls comes from many water sheds to which no man has contributed and was it not equitable that owners of land on either side of the river should claim that which nature produced? The government should not part in fee simple with the natural resources of the country. They are wealth producers and should in all cases be leased so as to swell the revenues of the province. He was therefore glad to vote for the bill.

Mr. Tweeddale said it was evident that the company whose charter had recently expired had not sought corporation in good faith. What is expected in the leasing of public franchises is the development of industries, thereby enhancing the value of private property. He would not like to see too many restrictions placed on the bill as they would have a tendency to discourage enterprise. It would be time enough to enforce the payment of an annual rent to the provincial treasury when industries had been developed and wealth put in circulation.

The people of Victoria county, especially of Grand Falls, were anxious for the development of the water power and he knew they would heartily endorse the action of the government and approve of the bill now before the house.

The bill was then read section by section and after all its sections were agreed to, progress was reported.

Mr. Hazen presented the petition of the St. John Horticultural Association in favor of a bill amending the act relating to the association.

The house adjourned at 9.30 o'clock.

The flying frog is found in Borneo. He uses an expansive membrane on each of his feet in sailing from tree to tree. The webs enable him to do this in the same way as the wings of our modern flying machines enable their inventors to remain for a time in the air.

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I mean that exactly. When you say the results are not what I claim I don't expect a penny from you.

I have no samples. Any mere sample that can effect chronic Rheumatism must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, and it is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. It has cured the oldest cases that I ever met. And in all my experience—in all my 2,000 tests—I never found another remedy that would cure one chronic case in ten.

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WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL.

Many Matters of Importance Dealt With at Yesterday's Session.

Woodstock Band Asks for a Grant---Discussion Over Smallpox Bills---Two Days of Sport Proposed for This Summer---Miss Ross, Matron of the Hospital, Resigns.

Woodstock, April 7.—The monthly meeting of the town council was held last evening, Mayor Belyea and all the councillors were present but Coun. Burtt, who is confined to the house by sickness. The debit bank balance was shown by the treasurer to be $9,000. This fact called forth a discussion, in which it was shown that a large amount was due in taxes, and strenuous efforts will be made to collect the same.

Dr. E. S. Kirkpatrick addressed the council on behalf of the band, showing that since its organization, less than a year ago, the band had expended $380, and was now $40 in debt. It was a band so efficient that he doubted if there was a better band in the province. Their leader, R. S. Dixon, had 14 years service in the imperial army bands, and was most efficient. The matter was referred to the finance committee, and a grant of $100 yearly will likely be given.

The resignation of H. W. McClary as driver of the town team, was accepted and John Henry Bagley was appointed in his place.

The plans for the remodeled town building were presented and referred to the fire and town hall committee.

The secretary of the local board of health requested the original bills contracted for smallpox, for presentation to the Provincial Board of Health, in order that the payment of $1,350 be made by the government to the town. The town clerk did not care to have the original bills leave his possession, and the council, as well, thought it risky, so the matter was held over to allow communication with the secretary of the county board, I. B. Curtis, for a way out of the difficulty.

The Union Telephone Company, who are about to start a new service in town, wished permission to attach its wires to the town poles, and the request was referred to a special commission.

J. B. Ganter was appointed engineer at the pumping station for one year.

A movement is on foot by the citizens of Woodstock to hold a two days' celebration, including horse races, parades and sports of all kinds, to excel anything ever before held in the town, about the 12th and 13th August.

At the last meeting of the hospital executive, the matron, Miss Annie Ross, who has so efficiently served in that capacity for a year, tendered her resignation to take effect 1st June.

DREYFUS MAY GO TO DEVIL'S ISLAND AGAIN.

Lively Debate in French Senate Indicates That the Famous Case Will Be Reopened.

Paris, April 7—It seems that the debate in the chamber of deputies yesterday and today, which resulted, by a vote of 281 to 228 in the invalidation of the election of the Natlionalist deputy, Syveton, is likely to lead to the re-opening of the Dreyfus case, and perhaps to the rehabilitation of the former prisoner of Devil's Island.

M. Jaures' speech in the chamber today constantly lashed the Nationalists to the highest pitch of fury, the chamber resounding with cries of "Traitor," "Liar," "Go to Berlin," and other shouts, drowning the speaker's voice.

At the conclusion of M. Jaures' speech, War Minister Andre announced that the government was ready to open an administrative inquiry and aid in the widest investigation of the truth regarding the Dreyfus case. He declared that the honor of the army was not involved, but that the conscience of the country was greatly disquieted by the appearance of extenuating circumstances in the judgment on a crime of the nature of which Dreyfus was accused.

Finally an order of the day declaring confidence in the government and the determination of the chamber not to allow the Dreyfus case to pass from the judicial domain, was adopted by a vote of 250 to 75.

The vote was a great triumph for M. Jaures, and also means the reopening of the Dreyfus case.

THE NEW ROUND HOUSE HERE TO BE A BIG IMPROVEMENT.

The Old and the New Contrasted—Sketch of the Extensive Work to Be Done by the Intercolonial Near Gilbert's Island—Will House the Largest of Engines.

Were you ever in the round house?—that dim vaulted, soot-smelling building where the weary, travel-soiled locomotives come to receive all manners of attention at the hands of men who wear overalls and carry oil cans and bundles of waste.

Did you ever ramble in and see the engines for all the world like so many race horses, being rubbed down and petted and made much of? Did you ever fool around the men while they worked and ask foolish questions of them and be given certain answers about engine machinery that you couldn't understand, and then walk away with grave countenance and an air of superior wisdom as if you comprehended all they said, and wouldn't be above enlightening them on the fine points of engine construction if they took the trouble to preface the request with nicely modulated please?

Like a Living Being.

Somehow or other a locomotive, especially when you see it in the round house, seems synonymous with a living, breathing body. You can't help comparing it and a human being. Each needs food and water, and each is liable to jump the straight and narrow track and wind up heaven only knows how. Each is perhaps prone to go a bit fast, and make more or less of a noise in the world, according to capability, and each must needs occasionally repair to home, hotel or hospital tired, dirty or in need of repairs.

To the locomotive the round house represents the whole three places and, perhaps, a good deal more. There it is shown to a room to become clean and refreshed, cools down, its hard panting lapses into easy breathing, the palpitations give way to composure, its honest toiling body is rid of the sweat, the grime, the grist of the road and it sinks into delicious siesta.

Then if it becomes disabled, if a bone in its anatomy snaps, or is sprained, why there are those in the round house, or in the neighborhood who will give professional service, and others who will nurse it back to customary strength.

Yes, a round house is an important factor in a locomotive's life and, by the way, all I. C. R. locomotives with any sense of personal comfort, ought to travel 150 miles an hour, these days, out of sheer exhilaration, if for no other reason, for know ye, all true and tried locomotives, you're going to have a new home in St. John and its going to be a good one, as far ahead of the old one as you are ahead of the stage coach.

The Present Round House.

The present round house dates back to the building of the I. C. R., and in its day has done good service, but now its accommodation is inadequate for the requirements of the road, notably in this that it is too small to permit of the I. C. R.'s latest type of engine, entering and being cleaned.

Anyone claiming citizenship has surely seen our locomotive hotel, that black circular domed building down by Gilbert's Lane. Somebody's there both night and day, there being two shifts, for the iron guests keep coming and leaving at all hours in the twenty-four.

All classes happen along, the shunter, the freight, the express. The high, broad doors swing open and the engine rolls majestically in and onto the turntable. Heigh-ho—presto—what a change from outside!

A lofty, vaulted place and similar in shape but a good deal larger than a circus ring. There's a row of windows, streaked and smudged; smoke glooms and wavers, an engine is gently sighing over there to the right and a man whom you can't see is busy shovelling—if asked you'd be inclined to say he was shovelling ashes.

Like a Huge Wheel.

The flooring is plank and the general plan of the place is something after the shape of a wagon wheel. The big round pit in the centre in which the turntable works is the hub, and the short lines of track radiating from it are the spokes. An engine once on the turntable can be swung so as to glide off on to any of the 18 tracks. Between the rails of each track, or stall, there is what is known as the pit (looks suspiciously like an unusually long open grave), so that when the engine is stalled the cleaner can walk about beneath and do what he pleases with the under mechanism.

Into this pit also descends the ashes and whatever waste matter there is, and its as well for the "pitter" to be somewhere else when it drops.

It needs five men to properly clean an engine, two on either side and one beneath. The number of men employed about the place is 12, and as a rule they're generally busy.

The Master Mechanic.

David A. Sinclair, master mechanic, a man who has practically spent his life in giving good service to the I. C. R., is in charge of the place and all matters appertaining thereto. For 43 years he has been connected with the road, 19 years as driver and the remaining time as master mechanic.

The New Round House.

So much for the old round house which, by the way, will soon disappear for ever, for the prospects indicate that it will eventually be torn down to give more yard room. About three-quarters of a mile farther down the track there's a stretch of level land which people call Gilbert's marsh, and a small, isolated hill known as Gilbert's island. It is believed water once surrounded it, but such has long since receded, thereby enabling us to provide a running mate for the reversible falls, an island surrounded by land. However, like the works inside of a watch it has nothing to do with the case.

Recently, the government purchased 40 acres of this land, contractors commenced to figure and calculate; improvement, enterprise, advancement brooded over the community and presently it became known that a new round house was going to go up. There's activity, grim and great, going on down there now, it's been progressing for more than a month.

The site chosen is on land between the track and the marsh creek, just a short distance this side of the One Mile House. Over at the island, a stone crusher is crashing and phit-phulling, and down where the ground is being prepared you behold tons of crushed rock, pyramids of sand, unpainted shanties, stacks of piles, mechanics in shirt sleeves, and nobody loafing.

The new round house will cost $72,000, besides minor buildings such as machine shop, store house flushing tank, coaling plant and repair yard. The term round house applies in a somewhat paradoxical way to the building under construction, for it is going to be crescent shaped.

Messrs. Flood and Bates have the contract and expect to finish it by July.

The building will be without the tower that adorns the veteran of '59, further up the track, but what it may lack in a picturesque sense, it will make up in effectiveness.

Semi-circular in Shape.

The building will be semi-circle with a radius of 171 feet, have 18 stalls, 85 feet deep by nine feet. This means sufficient room for the largest locomotive on the road. The turn table will be of improved pattern and the flooring will be of concrete—12 feet of it. The basement wall is to be of brick and the height will be 23 feet from the base of the rail to the summit of the brick work. The engine pits are to be on pilings and each pit will drain into a mud basin, a notable improvement on the old style of pits, where all matter had to be shovelled out in the best manner possible.

The roof will be of the ordinary gravel type and equipped with smoke jacks, which will carry of the smoke of the locomotives and cause the atmosphere of the round house to be clear and clean.

The system of heating to be installed is known as the hot blast system and will prove greatly superior to the steam method employed in the old round house. The heating is an important matter to consider, for not only is there the comfort of the employes in winter to be thought about, but in that season the locomotives come in caked with ice and choked with snow, so that immediate and effective melting becomes necessary. The heat will come through pipes laid on the ground from the machine shop, which will adjoin the round house on its southern side.

Just now ground is being prepared for the reception of 3,500 yards of concrete, in the making of which a large number of men are employed, the total number of workmen on stone crusher in concrete making, carpenter work and in other departments being 80. The Marsh creek has been bridged and, as the work progresses on the round house, a trolley track will run to the repair yard for the purpose of carrying machinery to be used in repairing disabled engines.

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