POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

LATURE.

ns System--Ag- ural Report.

, March 26—The house met The Farmers' Institute bill third time and passed.

w presented the petition of the t. John for the passage of a bill d the act for the better prevention agrations in that city.

ultural Report.

r. Russell, chairman of the agricul- al committee, submitted the following port:

Your committee note with pleasure the determined effort of the department for the last three years in gathering and publishing in the annual report a reliable return of the different crops grown in the province. These statistics have been obtained, so far, without cost to the province and at a very great increase of labor to the departmental officers. Your committee would recommend that a grant of say $500 be made to assist in the collection of these reports, to be used as payment of subscription to an agricultural paper (say the Co-operative Farmer), one copy for one year to be offered to each secretary of school trustees who sent in the crop report for his school district.

We note with pleasure that, according to these crop reports, the average per acre of grain and roots is gradually increasing, showing that our farmers are using improved methods of agriculture.

Your committee are assured that the educational work carried on by the department of agriculture through the means of farmers' institutes is doing a great deal of good. Seventy three of these meetings were held during the past year and the total attendance was 10,322 persons. These meetings were addressed by experts in the several lines of agricultural work. Your committee heartily agree with the commissioner for agriculture in his intention to procure, during the present session, such legislation as will place this educational work on a firmer and broader basis.

Your committee note with satisfaction the large and continued increase in the amount of cheese and butter manufactured in the province and the very satisfactory prices obtained for these products last year. By the instruction given to makers at the provincial dairy school, and the efforts of the travelling instructors or dairy superintendents the quality of both cheese and butter manufactured in factories has been kept up to a high standard, and consequently the product has sold for top prices both in the local and English market. The butter and cheese manufactured in the different factories of the province last year realized the handsome sum of $284,24.70, being $68,325.07 in excess of the previous year. Your committee feel that the money spent in encouraging this branch of farming is producing good results.

Your committee is pleased to note that the recommendation made last year regarding the sale or transfer of pure bred stock throughout the province has been carried out, the commissioner for agriculture having made an agreement with the Co-operative Farmer, published at Sussex, to publish under the head, "Pure bred stock for sale or exchange," a list of all pure bred animals that farmers wish to dispose of. We understand this has become a favorite means of making known to intending purchasers where stock can be had and that a large number of animals have changed hands in consequence. The report was adopted.

Bill for Torrens System.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill entitled the Land Titles Act and he briefly explained the purposes of the act, which, he said, had been introduced in several of the United States, in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and in certain cities and sections of Ontario, and which gives very general satisfaction wherever adopted and is regarded as a great improvement over the old system. The present bill is not obligatory, but only optional, and possibly the government will not press the bill at the present session. He asked the careful consideration of the members of the house upon the bill, the adoption of which, he believed, will enhance the value of real estate. The Land Titles Act is very voluminous, extending to 152 sections besides 12 schedules, and rules of procedure. The object of the bill is to substitute what is known as the Torrens system of lands titles for the present registration system. Under this system the evidence of ownership is a certificate of title from the district registrar, which is registered in his book of titles. This does away also with all searches of titles. The province under this act will be divided into land titles districts, in each of which there shall be a land titles office, and an officer to be called the district registrar. There may also be a deputy registrar and such examiners of titles as are required for each district, and likewise an inspector. The registrar shall keep a book to be called the day book in which shall be entered, by a short discription, every instrument which is registered, with the day, hour and minute of filing. Application may be made to bring any land in each registration district under the new system by filing an application with the district registrar, and, after this application is filed and a certificate granted, the provisions of the registrary act shall cease to affect such lands.

The bill makes provision for the perfecting of titles and defines the powers and duties of district registrars. Any person sub-dividing land for the purpose of selling it in allotments is required to deposit duplicate plans in the office of the district registrar, and the registrar may require any owner of land in his district to file plans of it before bringing it under the new system. The act is not compulsory.

Other Bills.

Bills were introduced by Hon. Mr. Tweedie, an act relating to the town of Chatham; by Mr. Mott, to amend the act relating to the town of Campbellton; and by Hon. Mr. Pugsley, an act relating to the admission of attorneys, all of which were read the first time.

Mr. Burchill presented a further report of the standing rules committee and obtained leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. Labillois laid on the table the petition referring to the sidewalk of St. Louis bridge, asked for by Mr. Johnston.

To Amend Elections Act.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley stated that he had been approached by several members with the request that some amendments might be made in the elections act. He asked all members who desired amendments to that act to submit to him at as early a date as possible a memorandum of any changes which they thought desirable, so that these changes might be incorporated in the amendments to be made in the act. The house then adjourned.

To Hon. Mr. Tweedie's explanation of yesterday concerning the Educational Review, should have been added the words that the letter of Mr. Hay had only been received on Friday and this was the first opportunity he had of withdrawing the statement of which Mr. Hay complained.

Fredericton, March 27.—The house met at 3 o'clock. Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid on the table the report of the Boys' Industrial Home. Hon. Mr. McKeown, of the municipalities committee, reported recommending bills 54, 25, 59, 13, 19, 24, 12, 14, and not recommending bill 46. The latter is the St. John Exhibition plebiscite bill.

Mr. Johnston gave notice of inquiry with reference to a sidewalk on the St. Louis bridge.

Mr. Shaw gave notice of inquiry with reference to the Bostwick bridge, Big Salmon river.

Mr. Shaw introduced a bill to amend 41st Victoria, chapter 6, for the better prevention of conflagrations in the city of St. John.

Mr. Humphrey gave notice of inquiry with reference to the bridge across the Tantramar river in Sackville parish.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to amend 63rd Victoria, chapter 8, relating to the distribution of certain school monies in the Botsford parish, Westmorland.

Mr. Porter introduced a bill relating to the Grand Falls Water Power and Boom Company.

Mr. Flemming gave notice of inquiry with reference to a bridge across the Tobique River, at Plaster Rock; North Forks bridge, parish of Douglas; the Hays Mill bridge, the Murray bridge, parish of Kinsclear; the Texas River bridge; the Dunbar bridge, the Clearwater bridge, the Kiley bridge, the Springfield bridge, the Kitchen Creek bridge, the Brown bridge, the Coac bridge and the McBain's bridge.

Hon. Mr. McKeown made a further report of the municipalities committee recommending bills 42, 43, 44, 39, and 63. The two latter with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved that bills 39, 63, 43, 42, 44, 12, 14, 19, 59, 13, 24, 25, and 54 be placed on the order paper for immediate reference to the committee of the whole.

Other Bills.

Mr. O'Brien, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Burchill, presented the report of the committee on corporations which was against bill No. 47, and recommended that the fees paid on this bill be refunded. On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie the fees were ordered refunded.

Mr. Tweedie explained that a bill had already been passed covering the same ground, the development of the coal areas of Queens and Sunbury, and it was not thought well to have two acts of the same character.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie bill 65 was placed on the orders of the day.

On motion of Mr. Fish the house went into committee on a bill authorizing the school trustees of Newcastle to issue $8,000 in debentures, the money to be towards payment of the outstanding indebtedness of the board and the support and maintenance of the school. The bill was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Copp, Mr. Melanson in the chair, the house went into committee on the Rusty Cove Marsh bill. The object is to incorporate about 75 acres of marsh land at Bay Verte and to provide for the election of commissioners of sewers for this marsh. The bill was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Appleby the house went into committee on the bill to authorize the municipality of Carleton county to issue $10,000 worth of debentures to pay off the floating indebtedness of the county. The bill was agreed to.

St. John Bills.

On motion of Mr. Shaw, the house went into committee on the bill to authorize the common council of the city of St. John to confer the freedom of the city on certain persons. The bill was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Purdy the house went into committee on the St. John bill to amend the union act, Mr. Flemming in the chair. This bill provides additional provisions in regard to the taxation of the agents or managers of fire and life insurance companies, marine insurance companies, accident insurance companies, plate glass and boiler inspection insurance companies; bill agreed to.

The house went into committee on bill 19, which was agreed to. Mr. Todd in the chair. The bill authorizes the city of St. John to supply water to the inhabitants of Lancaster. The county councillors of Lancaster are made members of the water and sewerage board of the city of St. John, but they are permitted to vote only in connection with matters appertaining to the supply of water for Lancaster.

Bill 39 was committed. This is to enable the city of St. John to supply light, heat and power to the western side and to operate a street railway therein. The sections relating to light, heat and power were agreed to, but that relating to a street railway was held for further consideration.

Bill 43 was agreed to. This changes the date of holding the annual election of county councillors in Northumberland from the second Tuesday in September to the second Tuesday in October.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley presented the petition of Geo. McAvity, Howard D. Troop, James Manchester, and others that the bill to incorporate the St. John Valley Railway Company may pass.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Fish in the chair. Bill 65 was agreed to. This act authorizes the Roman Catholic bishop of Chatham to convey to the town of Chatham a lot of land lying upon the east side of the St. John street in that town, the same being required in connection with the system of water works.

Bill 34, to incorporate the Coverdale River Log Driving Co., was agreed to with amendments.

Bill 21, relating to the Free Public Library of St. John, was considered in committee and progress reported, with leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. Farris presented the petition of C. J. Cooper, John Cooper, John Peters and 330 others, praying that the legislature will not grant such legislation as will hinder the construction of a railway leading from Gagetown to Welsford.

Hon. Mr. Farris stated that by a petition introduced today by the honorable attorney general incorporation is asked for a company which has for its object the construction of a line of railway from Welsford to Fredericton, without touching at Gagetown, a railway from Welsford to Gagetown would pass through one of the most beautiful and most fertile sections of the province. It would pass through valuable coal and iron deposits as well as a very beautiful section of country, and the petitioners and the residents of Queens county did not wish any legislation enacted which would hinder or prevent the construction of such a line of railway. The building of a line of railway from Welsford to Fredericton would doubtless prevent the construction of the Welsford to Gagetown line.

The house went into committee, Mr. Copp in the chair, upon the bill to enable the city of St. John to give aid to the extent of $100,000 and a free site of land to any company that will engage in the business of building of steel ships at that city, and to exempt the property of such company from taxation.

Considerable opposition was shown to that section of the bill permitting the company to manufacture marine engines, machinery and boilers in competition with similar manufacturing concerns at present existing in St. John. Mr. Shaw thought that to allow the company to do so, while it would be receiving a large bonus as well as exemption from taxation from the city would be to submit present manufacturers of engines, and machinery to unfair competition. Mr. Purdy, Hon. Mr. Hill and Hon. Mr. Pugsley took the same view, and an amendment was suggested, limiting the engines, boilers and machinery to be constructed by the company to such as are required by the ships built by the company. All the other sections of the bill were agreed to and progress was reported with leave to sit again.

House took recess until 7.30 o'clock.

Library Bill Agreed To.

Mr. Purdy moved the house in committee on the bill to authorize the city of St. John to make a grant of money not to exceed $2,000 for the purpose of defraying the cost of inquiring into and reporting upon the whole subject of the laws regulating the levying and assessing of rates and taxes in the city of St. John.

Mr. Appleby thought the government should undertake this work and make a general assessment law.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said there were many difficulties in the way of such a law as each city and town had a system of its own which it thought its special circumstances required. Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to amend the act relating to permanent bridges. He explained that it was to authorize the issue of short term debentures, without a sinking fund to pay for bridges.

Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill relating to the Boardman collection of birds, and heads of animals. He explained that it was to provide for the payment of the collection recently purchased by the crown land department from Mr. Boardman, of Calais. Under the agreement with Mr. Boardman, the amount can be paid at once or in installments. The money will be paid out of current revenue.

With Mr. Scovil in the chair, the house went into committee upon the bill to incorporate the Sackville Sewerage and Water Company. The incorporated company has a capital stock of $45,000 and is empowered to enter upon private and public lands and lay water mains and sewers, and to supply water for domestic and other purposes. The bill was agreed to with amendments.

A discussion arose as to the advisability of incorporating, in this bill, a section whereby Sackville may take over by expropriation the proposed water and sewerage system at any time the ratepayers may so vote.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie stated that the government would consider the advisability of introducing a general act to cover all such cases and make it applicable to all water and other systems owned by private corporations and which municipalities may wish to acquire and operate.

Bill 60, relating to the New Brunswick Petroleum Company, was agreed to.

The purpose of the bill is to declare the capital stock of the company 69,000 shares, to be fully paid up and non-assessable. It was agreed to.

The house went into committee on the bill to incorporate the Albertite Oilite & Cannell Coal Company.

Mr. Osman said the bill had been very fully discussed in the committee on corporations and all parties were agreed as to its passage. It gives the company large powers with reference to mining and other objects, so large in fact that one member had said to him that the company could do anything under this act but preach the gospel. The bill was agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to aid in the establishment of an agricultural school in the maritime provinces. The house adjourned at 10.45.

Fredericton, March 28— The house met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Labillois replied to an inquiry by Mr. Melanson, as follows:

"The government has under consideration the erection of several bridges in the parish of Botsford, Westmorland county. One or two of them are situated near Copp's Mill, near Shemogue, and the chief commissioner is in correspondence with Mr. C. F. Avard, supervisor of the district, to ascertain whether the names of bridges on file in the department of public works include every bridge that requires attention in the district."

On Mr. Melanson's inquiry with reference to the Point du Chene bridge being read, Hon. Mr. Tweedie said he would like to have the ruling of the speaker in regard to this notice. Allegations were made in it which might or might not be true by which the government could not accept without further evidence. To accept these statements might lead the chief commissioner into difficulties. For instance it was stated:

"That the bridge was in a dangerous condition, and that it should be repaired, or a new bridge built, because it was unsafe."

The goverment had not been particular in asking to have the rule applied strictly, but in view of the multiplicity of questions and of the allegations made in them, it might be well to apply it now.

Mr. Melanson said the bridge was so unsafe last spring that it was impossible to take a pair of horses over it.

Mr. Hazen read Bourinot as to the rule with regard to inquiries that no argument or opinion should be offered or any facts stated except as were necessary to the proper statement of the question. He thought that the question was a fair one.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—You cannot be serious in saying that there is straight allegation that the bridge is unsafe.

Mr. Speaker expressed the opinion that the question was hardly in order.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—Let Mr. Melanson strike out the allegation that the bridge is unsafe and the chief commissioner will answer. The allegation was struck out.

Hon. Mr. Labillois replied to the question as follows:

"Arrangements were made last fall with Mr. John M. Brown, of Moncton, to repair the Point du Chene bridge in the parish of Shediac, in the county of Westmorland, but Mr. Brown was unable to secure lumber at a reasonable price, and the work had to be postponed. The department is now informed that Mr. Brown has recently secured the necessary lumber at right prices and the bridge will be repaired without much further delay."

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Melanson, said:

"Plans and specifications are now being prepared by the department of public works for the erection of a new bridge at Shemogue in the parish of Botsford, in the county of Westmorland, called the Adam Avard bridge."

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Melanson, said:

"The department of public works is in correspondence with Mr. Thomas D. Gould, supervisor, to ascertain the condition of a bridge in the parish of Shediac on the main road about two miles from Shediac, called the Philip Leger brook bridge.

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Melanson, said:

"The department of public works is in correspondence with Mr. Thomas D. Gould, supervisor, to ascertain the exact condition of a bridge situated at Harshman Brook, in the parish of Botsford."

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Hazen, said the contract for building the Flewelling wharf at Gondola Point road, parish of Rothesay, Kings county, was awarded to Mr. Thomas Gilliland.

The tenders were as follows: Thomas Gilliland, $600; R. A. & George Anderson, $650; Irving & Anderson, $775. Terms of contract, wharf to be completed 1st March.

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Hazen, said:

"The contract for building Vincent bridge, parish of Greenwich, Kings county, was awarded to Mr. W. Brewer."

The tenders received were as follows: Smye & Chapman, $1,542; R. A. & George A. Anderson, $625; W. Brewer, $570. Work to be completed April 1, 1901.

The lowest tender was not accepted on account of objection filed by members for Kings county, lowest tenderer having left bills unpaid in the county in connection with this work.

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Hazen, said:

"The contract for building Dunham wharf, parish of Kingston, Kings county, was awarded to Mr. Thomas Gilliland."

The tenders received were as follows: Thomas Gilliland, $1,040; R. A. & George Anderson, $1,000. The lowest tender not accepted on account of objection filed by members for Kings county, lowest tenderer having delayed work on the Belyea wharf, and having left bills unpaid in the county in connection with his work.

Hon. Mr. Labillois, in reply to inquiry by Mr. Hazen, said:

"The contract for building the Menzie bridge, parish of Greenwich, Kings county, was awarded to Mr. George T. Seely, jr."

The tenders received were as follows: A. E. Smye, $725; George T. Seely, jr., $225; William McKee, $339; contract calls for completion of the work in April.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie submitted the report of the committee on law practice and procedure, recommending bills 61, 18 and 49, the two latter with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Burchill submitted the report of the committee on corporations, recommending bills 58 and 57, the latter with amendments.

Hon. Mr. McKeown presented the report of the committee on municipalities, recommending bill 68 and bills 29, 31 and 45, with amendments.

Mr. Lawson introduced a bill respecting cemetery companies.

Mr. Barnes presented the petition of August Legere and others for the passage of a bill to authorize certain inhabitants of Richibucto to assess themselves for lighting purposes. He also gave notice of a motion to suspend rules 78 and 79 to enable this bill to be introduced.

Mr. Laforest gave notices of inquiry with regard to the Sullivan bridge, Dumbarton bridge, Stillwater bridge, Oak Bay bridge and Fairbank's bridge, all in the county of Charlotte.

Mr. Melanson gave notices of inquiry in regard to McGregor bridge, Finger Board bridge and Cottage bridge, Restigouche county; Clerk's bridge, Ryan bridge, Eldon bridge and Copeland bridge, Upsalquitch bridge, Carrol bridge, and Wright Brook bridge, all in the county of Restigouche.

Mr. Copp introduced a bill to incorporate the Canada Railway and Coal Company.

Mr. Allen introduced a bill to amend the act relating to the solemnization of marriage. He said that in Stanley there is a church called St. Peter's, formerly connected with the Presbyterian church, but now separated from it. The pastor of that church had applied for license to solemnize marriages, but the provincial secretary thought that he was not empowered under the act to grant a license. This bill was to enable a license to be issued.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that after the application had been made by the Rev. Mr. Mullin for a license under the act, he had received notice from the clerk of the presbytery in St. John that Rev. Mr. Mullin had been deposed from the ministry, and that his ordination vows had been cancelled. Public notice had also been given of this matter in the papers, and therefore as Rev. Mr. Mullin was not a minister in good standing and did not come within any of the provisions of the act, he felt that he was not in a position to grant him a certificate. Now the question is whether it is advisable after a man is deposed from the ministry and starts a church of his own that the legislature should recognize him and give him the right to marry.

Mr. Lawson said he understood that Mr. Mullin was only cut off from the Presbytery of St. John, and he thought that being in charge of a congregation he should receive a license.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill to incorporate the St. John Valley Railway Company.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McKeown rules 78 and 79 were suspended to permit the introduction of a bill to amend the act incorporating the trustees of the St. John Young Men's Christian Association.

Mr. Lawson moved the following resolution: Whereas by reason of the holding of the greater part of the available land suitable for settlement in the county of Victoria by the New Brunswick Railway Company, whereby the settlement of the county is greatly impeded and the extension of growing and flourishing settlements is prevented;

Therefore resolved, That in the opinion of this house it is desirable that such portions of said lands as are suitable for settlements should be reacquired by the province to be settled under the settlement laws of the province, or that such steps be taken as will insure their being thrown open to settlement on terms not more onerous than those applying to crown lands.

An act to authorize the Roman Catholic bishop of Chatham to convey lands in the town of Chatham.

An act to change the date of holding the annual election of county councillors in Northumberland, and to amend the municipalities act for the purpose in so far as it relates to the said county.

An act to authorize the city of St. John to supply water to certain of the inhabitants of Lancaster.

An act to amend the act 52 Victoria, chapter 27, entitled an act to unite the city of Portland with the city of St. John, and to amend the charter of the city of St. John and the law relating to civic government.

An act relating to the Rusty Cove marsh in Botsford parish, Westmorland.

An act to authorize the school trustees of Newcastle to issue debentures.

An act to authorize the common council of St. John to confer the freedom of the city upon any person or persons in certain cases.

An act to authorize the county council of the municipality of Carleton to issue debentures to pay off the outstanding floating indebtedness of the municipality.

An act relating to the hard labor sentences in the county and city of St. John.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie the time for the introduction of private bills was extended until Monday next.

The house went into committee on the bill to amend 63 Victoria, chapter 48, relating to the application and distribution of certain school monies of Botsford parish, Westmorland.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill to grant aid to the University of New Brunswick for erection and equipment of the new science building. The bill was read a second time on ground of urgency.

The following bills were read a third time:

The bill to authorize the city of St. John to exchange lands for lands in possession of the crown, south of Sheffield street. The bill to incorporate the Sackville Water & Sewerage Company, and the bill to incorporate the Albertite Oilite & Cannel Coal Company; the bill amending the act incorporating the St. Croix Electric Light & Water Company, was considered in committee, and agreed to with amendments.

The bill to change the date of the annual meeting of the French rate payers of Shediac from January to November was agreed to in committee. House went into committee on the bill to incorporate the Maritime Pulp & Paper Company; agreed to with amendments.

The house went into committee on the bill giving certain powers to the Supreme Court relating to assessments for rates and taxes removed into the court under writs of certiorari; agreed to with amendments.

The bill amending the law relating to the town of Campbellton was committed. The bill authorizes the town to issue debentures to the amount of $65,000 for a sewerage system.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley stated that a numerously signed petition had been presented against the enacting of a section to give the town council power to compel business men and merchants to close their places of business even against their will.

Mr. Hazen thought that the legislation asked for by Campbellton was of a dangerous character. Mr. Copp was in favor of the section. Mr. Appleby and Mr. Hill supported the section. Mr. Flemming believed the legislation was in the best interests of the community. Mr. Hazen read the petition against the bill, which was signed by 30 merchants and others of Campbellton.

Mr. Burchill did not think that such legislation should be placed upon the statute books. It might be all right for Campbellton, but he knew of communities where such a regulation would work great hardship.

Mr. Osman was in favor of the proposed regulation, it being only local in its application and permissive as well.

Mr. Hazen thought that the legislation asked for would work much hardship to the small merchants of Campbellton. He moved that the section be struck out.

On the vote being taken Messrs. Hazen, Lawson, Burchill and Carpenter voted yea. The action was adopted and the bill agreed to.

House agreed in committee to the bill to amend the act to provide increased fire protection for the village of Sussex. Hon. Mr. Pugsley explained that the object was to enable the fire wardens of Sussex to establish a system of sewerage and water supply.

The bill to authorize the municipality of Victoria to issue debentures for the purpose of erecting a new record office was agreed to in committee.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley gave notice of a motion to suspend rule 79 for the introduction of a bill to incorporate the St. John Steel Ship Building Company. He also presented the petition of John H. Thomson, George McAvity and others in favor of this bill.

Mr. Lawson said that he would call attention to a few facts which he thought should be brought to the notice of the house. The county of Victoria had been benefited by the building of a railway from Woodstock to Edmundston, about 162 miles in length. By an act passed in 1870, 10,000 acres of land a mile had been granted by the province to aid in the construction of this railway. It then became the established policy of the government to grant the lands of the province to aid in the building of railways. He was sorry that the honorable member for York was not in his seat because he has large business interests in the New Brunswick Railway Company. The point of his motion was that whereas all other railways in the province had been given cash subsidies and had thus become a burden upon the whole province, this railway was charged wholly to four counties, namely, York, Victoria, Madawaska and Carleton. The total land grant given to the New Brunswick Railway Company, was 1,647,772 acres, located only in the four counties named, and of which 946,931 acres are in Victoria county. As the total acreage of Victoria county is only 1,324,200 acres, the New Brunswick Railway Company owned three-quarters of the county. It is true that the New Brunswick Railway Company says that if they do hold the land they pay the taxes thereon. He would call the attention of the house to the fact that the tax upon their lands is only one-half cent an acre. This was not all. In 1885 this legislature enacted that no tax should be levied on lands not lying within three miles of a settlement, but that the company owing the land might spend the amount that would otherwise be taken for taxes in making roads and in otherwise improving the property. The fact is that the New Brunswick Railway Company pays hardly any taxes to the county, but spends the money clearing out the rivers and improving their own property. He believed that these lands should be thrown open to settlers and particularly that section between the Tobique and the Danish settlement. It is true that the company says they are willing to sell, but they want $1.50 an acre, which is too great a tax upon the young men who wish to acquire a farm for themselves.

If this province had a claim on the dominion government for the money it originally spent upon the Eastern Extension Railway, he believed the county of Victoria had a much greater and fully as equitable a claim upon the province for compensation for the large grant from its domain given to the New Brunswick Railway Company. The county did not ask the province to buy back all this land, but they thought that a portion of the best farming land, and which is not the best timber lands, might be exchanged for lumber lands in other parts of the province. The opinion has been expressed that the dominion government should bear a share of the expense of buying back these lands on the ground that whereas the dominion gave large subsidies towards the building of other railways it bore absolutely no share of the expense of building the New Brunswick Railway, and more than this, in opening up this land for settlement the increased population would bear a share of taxation for federal purposes. If something was not done by the next session of this house, he felt it would be his duty to bring in a bill to repeal the wild lands act.

Mr. Porter seconded the resolution, and in doing so said that it gave him very great pleasure to discharge that duty. The question at issue was one in which a very great deal of interest was taken. Upon its solution depended in a very great measure the industrial and social prosperity of our province. When our young men come to that conclusion and look around for a farm of 100 acres if he wishes to settle in Victoria county and goes beyond the limited bonds of present settlements he finds the land all taken up. It is swallowed up by grasping and soulless corporations, and the young men are thus compelled to go west. Our best land remain untilled, our forests uncleared, our country unsettled. Or if the young man would go into the lumbering industry, he finds the pine, the spruce and the cedars all marked "taken." Our best lumber lands are either granted to or leased by capitalists and all are in the hands of greedy monopolists. We, in this country, have three interests, land, currency and transportation. Without land people cannot exist and with it in the hands of a monopoly our people are little better than slaves. Soil right is very different than any other property, it is limited and bounded, and private ownership of the land should be limited too. All free men have a right in the soil, which is as self-evident as is the right to the air which we breathe. Currency is the greatest circulating medium and makes for industrial development, and we find it controlled by banks and corporations, who compel us to pay tribute to them for its use. And so with transportation. Corporations and capitalists control that and compel our people to obey their mandates and fill their coffers.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said that the resolution deserved the fullest consideration of the house and the careful attention of the people of the country. He was sure that the sympathy of the people went out to these counties whose lands are so largely controlled by a corporation. The same grievance exists in the great west where millions of acres of the most fertile lands have been given to private companies in order to assist in railway construction. In our province the conditions are different and even worse than in the west. There the lands are given out in alternate blocks of 640 acres and each alternate block is open to settlers. In our province it is not so, but whole sections of the country have been granted to companies and individuals, as is particularly the case which has just been brought before he house from the honorable member from Victoria. All recognized the fact that these immense land grants are a wet blanket upon the development of these portions of our province. We should not reflect upon those who were entrusted with the affairs of the province in by-gone years, but he knew that every member of the house would agree with him that if we had to do over again many things which had been done in the past we would do them in a different way. It should be also remembered that timber lands were not so valuable as at the present and what at that time was considered of small value, is now of enormous value. Some time ago an intimation was given him that the government was inquiring as to what terms the province might get back much of the timber lands now held by the New Brunswick Railway Company. Inquiries were sent to the representatives of the company, but no answer has been received. He had heard that the company are asking $3 per acre for such of their land as it suitable for farming.

Mr. Lawson—About 20 years ago the company opened a road through a section of their land and offered it for settlement for $3 per acre. This was too great a tax upon the young men, who would be settlers and none of the lands were taken.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley agreed with the honorable member that $3 an acre was too heavy a tax upon a settler and he could assure the house that the government would do everything possible to get at least a part of the land from the company. The statutes provided that the company shall make such regulations for settlers upon their lands as will be approved by the governor-in-council. It may be that the government will compel the company to put a certain portion of their lands on the market for settlers and fix such regulations as can be approved by the governor-in-council. If this is done it might be that the government may reacquire a certain portion of these lands. The honorable member has referred to a proposition that the dominion government might assist this province in getting possession of these lands and opening them up for settlers on the ground that as a dominion government did not contribute anything towards the construction of the New Brunswick Railway and did subsidise other railways it might form a ground for an equitable claim on behalf of this province. He could assure the members for Victoria that the government is earnestly desirous of solving this difficulty.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

The house adjourned at 10.40.

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"A volcano," said the teacher in a Long Island school, "is a mountain and has a crater or deep hole in the center, from which it throws up or emits smoke, fine stones and lava. Now, children, can you tell me what is a volcano?"

"Yes, teacher," said one of the boys. "A volcano is a sick mountain."—New York Post.

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Three New York churches are to be removed to make way for the new East river bridge. Religion is never allowed to stand in the way of business in New York.—Boston Globe.