

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Municipality Committee Consider Several Important St. John Bills.

Favor Mr. McKeown's Bill Being Made Optional, to be Decided by a Plebiscite—Other Interesting Legislation.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 22.—Mr. Burehill, for the corporation committee, reported against the bill amending the Madras School Act.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Poirier (Gloucester), said the question of erecting a permanent steel bridge over the main Caraquet river on the present great road line, had been brought before the government by the members from Gloucester.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Glazier, said the contract for building the Nason bridge across the Rusagornis river, in the parish of Lincoln, Sunbury Co., was awarded to Messrs. McKenzie and Simpson.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the contract for erecting the Coal Branch stream bridge, near coal mines, Weldford, Kent Co., was awarded to L. J. Wathen.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the government has had under consideration for some time the repairs of the washout at South Branch railway crossing, in the parish of Blisville, Sunbury Co.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the contract for a bridge across the County Line bridge, Queens Co., was awarded to M. O. McKenzie, but William Howe of Petersville was interested in the work and he built the bridge.

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bridge at Kingston. As the government was about to make an entire change in system and amalgamate the great roads and the by roads, and as under the new system all would be treated fairly, he suggested that Mr. Johnston might withdraw his motion, which the member for Kent did.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved that the date for the introduction of private bills be extended for five days. The house went into committee on bills 41, 45 and 50, and they were agreed to with amendments. Bill 41 relates to the Hillside Branch Railway Co., and its object is to declare that the failure to hold the annual meeting shall not impair the validity of the charter of the company.

Hon. Mr. LaBrosse, in reply to Mr. Hazen, said the government is aware that the bridge across the South Branch of the Oromocto River, near Smith Bros' mill, was carried away by the freshet in October last.

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St. Louis bridge would be brought down. Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry with regard to Flewelling's wharf at Gondola Point; the Vincent bridge, in the parish of Gloucester; the Dunham wharf, parish of Kingston; and the Menard's bridge, parish of Greenwich.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley laid on the table copies of the correspondence between the attorney general and Justice James Blight of Alberta in reference to proceedings taken against G. R. Sangster and others for perjury.

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Continued on Page Seven.

JACK STANTON

Writes an Interesting Letter From South Africa.

A Death Day—Sentry Shot Himself—A Narrow Escape—The Elusive DeWet.

The following are extracts from a letter received today by his father from Jack Stanton of this city, who is with the Leinster regiment. It has been nearly four months in reaching St. John.

VRBDE, Orange River Colony, Dec. 15.—I had a ten days attack of dysentery, but did not go to hospital. This is a very unhealthy locality. We have an average of one death a day in a garrison of 1,500. There are 150 in hospital now with dysentery and enteric, and the majority of them are very bad cases.

We are all scattered about here, the regiment being distributed around the hills surrounding the town. The town is in a hollow, and is completely surrounded by grassy hills, so high that you will get within a mile of the town before you see it. These hills are of uniform height, and are fine positions for defence. In front of our position lies a valley about 3,000 yards wide, just too far for a rifle to carry, but right for the field guns, so they can't hurt us from the far ridge, and the country is too open for them to venture across. There are about 400 Boers reported to be lying about nine miles distant toward Newcastle, and they send small parties in to "snipe" us. But I am glad to say they are having poor luck. We have had several night alarms, but nothing like an attack. We had three turnouts this week, but no one was hurt. One of these alarms was caused by a fellow who was "sentry-go" and however he managed it he shot himself in the ankle. The shot aroused the others and we were all turned out. When the wounded man was brought in he told several different stories, but the doctor, after examining him and asking questions, declared he did it himself. Last night

we found the bullet, and it was one of our own. Whether he did it accidentally or deliberately with intention of being invalided, we don't know. We had a pretty warm time of it coming back from Standerton. They followed us along the whole way, and did a lot of firing, but no one was hurt on our side. Just to give you an idea of what happened to us going to Standerton. Of course when a body of troops is on the move they always have mounted scouts out in front to reconnoitre, and close behind the scouts they have battalions of mounted men. These are sometimes fully a mile in front of the main body, particularly if it is a convoy. Well, when we got to a place about eight miles from Standerton our scouts reported strong batteries of the enemy all along our front, so the artillery was brought to the front and the mounted men started out to round the enemy's flank. But much to their surprise they found that the "enemy" had forestalled them and had outflanked us. They were just about to open fire when one of the troopers happened to see a flag being waved by one of the "enemy," and on watching for a while found that it was a signaller calling up. Their signaller answered, and we found that the "enemy" was the 3rd Brigade going out on a column of destruction, burning farmhouses, commandeering cattle, etc. We had a good laugh, but it came very near being a serious joke.

There is very little of interest going on here, only listening to the Mausers tapping, and that is getting to be as familiar as the patter of a rainstorm. We are told that we will probably leave for home about the middle of February, but if you ask me it will be nearer April. There's not the least change in the war. They keep cornering De Wet (on paper) and he keeps getting away.

Advertisement for 'FREE' watches, featuring an image of a pocket watch and text describing the offer.