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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1919

SIXTEEN PAGES.

TWO IMPORTANT BILLS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Every Provision Made For Ensuring Votes For Women Under Provincial Act

HOUSING ACT HAS GOOD FEATURES

Rapid Progress Made With Business of Session With Soldiers' Settlement Act and Amendments to Highway Act Under Consideration.

Fredericton, March 20.—Two important bills promised by the speaker were introduced in the legislature today. Under that extending the electoral franchise to women, the latter will be given the same vote in the conduct of provincial affairs as is now enjoyed by the men. Adequate provision is made for the addition of the names of the women to the voters' lists and special provision is made in order that none may miss the opportunity to exercise their franchise on the first occasion through ignorance of the law on their part or oversight on the part of the revisors.

The other, the bill to provide for better housing, is largely in accordance with the plan laid down by the federal government which will advance the money which may be loaned to persons wishing to erect dwellings. Municipalities which wish to do so may take advantage of this act, but they are not compelled to do so. Under the act eighty-five per cent of the value of the building to be erected will be advanced by the government and in case of persons who cannot put up the fifteen per cent required the municipality may erect the building and lease it on terms which will eventually enable the leasee to become the owner.

An interesting variation of the federal plan is the provision for extending the aid to the erection of farm houses which is not included in the federal act, and the government is endeavoring to secure this concession for the benefit of the farmers of the province.

The entire day was devoted to the expediting of the business of the session and considerable progress was made.

In the afternoon a large part of the time spent in committee was devoted to the consideration of amendments to the Highway act, and in the evening the Soldiers' Settlement bill occupied the attention of the committee of the whole for a greater part of the time.

Official Report.

Fredericton, N. B., March 20.—The house met at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on standing orders.

Mr. Dwyer, from the committee appointed to present the address to the lieutenant-governor, submitted the following message from his honor, which was read by the speaker:

"I thank you for your address and beg to assure you that I entertain the fullest confidence that in all your deliberations you will be guided by a most earnest desire to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this province."

The following notices of inquiry were given:

By Mr. Smith (Albert), as to permanent roads constructed in Albert county, the remuneration of those in charge.

Mr. Campbell presented the petition of the municipality of St. John for the passage of an act to amend the act relating to the election of commissioners.

Mr. Potts presented the petition of the municipality of St. John for the passage of an act to amend the act relating to the election of commissioners.

Mr. Dugal introduced a bill to amend the consolidated statutes relating to the parish of St. Basil.

Mr. Baxter presented the petition of the municipality of St. John for the passage of a bill to amend an act relating to sewers in the parish of Lancaster.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the Primitive Baptist denomination of New Brunswick.

Mr. Grimmer presented the petition of the Citizens' Gas Company for the passage of an act incorporating said company.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to amend the act relating to rates and taxes in the parish of Northfield, Sunbury county, and Canning, Queens county. He explained that many "foreigners" were employed in coal mines at those places and authorities had difficulty in collecting rates from them. The bill provided that the necessary legal formalities had not attended to a demand could be made by the employers for the amount of the rates.

Hon. Mr. Murray moved that the house on Tuesday next resolve itself into a committee to consider supply to be granted to his majesty.

Hon. Mr. Veniot submitted the report of the minister of public works in connection with the charges against road superintendents in the parish of Shippeagan, Gloucester county.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that the time for the introduction of private bills be extended to the 27th inst., inclusive.

Hon. Mr. Robinson introduced a bill to provide for better housing. He explained that the measure, as drafted, differed slightly from housing bills submitted to other legislatures. It provided for the acceptance by the government of the dominion government's proposal to loan \$1,000,000 to be expended throughout the province in better housing. It also authorized various municipalities to borrow the money from the provincial government and to use the same in accordance with the stipulated terms.

A housing plan was now being drafted and would be available in the near future. The bill also provided that loans could be made through the farm settlement board for the purpose of providing better buildings. The limitations as to loans had been left fairly broad as it was not deemed advisable to have them too closely defined. A clause in the bill provided that as an inducement the council had decided to offer exemption from taxation to make loans either to companies or individuals for a period of thirty years. On advantage of the scheme was that it would enable money to be borrowed at a low rate of interest. Provision was made in the act for a town planning scheme as well as a housing scheme.

Aid to Grist Mills.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to authorize the municipality of Victoria to grant exemption from taxation to grist mills and flour mills. He explained that there was some difficulty experienced in his county in having a grist mill established. Negotiations for the establishment of such a mill were now under way and as an inducement the council had decided to offer exemption from taxation.

Mr. Michael gave notice that on Tuesday next he would move the suspension of rule 77 to permit of the introduction of a bill to enable the town of Edmundston to issue debentures.

The house then went into committee with Mr. Leary (Westmorland) in the chair, and agreed to a bill to extend the time for the completion of the St. John & Quebec railway.

Hon. Mr. Foster, replying to Mr. Murray (Kings) said he had hoped that the bill would be completed by July 1. The delay last year had been on account of the difficulty in securing steel, and he was not sure that an agreement had been entered into for the completion of the road under the penalty that the penalty had not been forced. It was a matter for the legal advisers of the government to deal with.

Amending Highway Act.

The committee next took up consideration of an act to amend the highway act of 1918.

Hon. Mr. Veniot stated that at a conference which had held with the minister of railways and commissioners of highways, at Ottawa in January it had been agreed that secondary trunk roads could be classified and made eligible for federal assistance. The secondary roads were in the branch road division and there was no time to reclassify them before the time set for holding the ratepayers' meetings. The government was asking to suspend the election of commissioners until such time as the federal aid scheme was worked out. The 1,000 miles of trunk roads in the province had been reclassified and would add 1,600 miles of road which would also be entitled to federal aid. It was still undecided as to where the federal grant would be paid on a mileage basis or on a basis of population. The present proposal provided that the meetings should be held on the first Monday in April. It was held on the third Monday in April. It was decided on the question of statute law to decide on the question of winter road making. Power was given to the government to suspend the election of commissioners if deemed advisable.

Mr. Baxter said he thought if the honorable member had had confidence in his scheme for the election of commissioners he would not have reserved to such an expedient. He thought the minister should go and appoint the officials so that the federal money would be spent by the appointees of the department of public works. He saw in the proposal of the minister the entered wedge of a scheme to do away with the election of officials. He believed the minister now saw that the plan was unworkable and never would be and he (Baxter) was glad it was being thrown out.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the honorable member was misjudging the case. He still believed that the plan was workable. The highway districts were not as small as the minister had stated. It had not been the policy of the government that they should be. His only object in amending the act was to meet the situation that had been created by the proposal to grant federal aid.

Mr. Baxter said that he hoped the minister would act on the question and appoint the commissioners through the department of public works.

Mr. Pinder wanted to know if under the act any meetings had already been held on a decision on statute law and the appointment of commissioners.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the first meetings under the act were set down for the first Monday in April.

Mr. Pinder said that in his section there were people who performed no statutory labor and paid no taxes.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that in all counties there were road taxes which remained unpaid.

He adopted a plan to bring about an improvement. When he took hold of the department there was between \$50,000 and \$60,000 due on road taxes. He was now endeavoring to collect that money.

Mr. Sutton wanted to know if all collectors were supplied with copies of the highway act. Several had told him that they did not know where to send the money they had collected.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he was under the impression that copies had been sent to collectors through the secretary-treasurer of municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he knew of some members in his country who had made no returns. He would like to know who would be qualified to vote at the ratepayers' meetings.

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Mr. Young thought the third Monday in April was a little late for holding ratepayers' meetings as at that time many men were absent on the drive.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said he had given the matter much consideration. The first meeting in April was too early and he had decided to make it the third.

Collected Back Taxes.

Mr. Pinder said he noticed in the public works report that \$16,513 had been expended in Gloucester county on the roads and only \$7,741 had been paid by the municipality. It looked to him as if Gloucester had contributed less than the other counties. He noticed that in York the government had expended \$11,000 while the municipality had contributed in taxes \$10,000.

Hon. Mr. Veniot explained that when he took charge of the department he found that in the county of York there was some \$8,000 in back taxes to the credit of the road fund. That money had been expended last year along with the amount collected in taxes for the current year. That accounted for the large sum expended in York last year.

Mr. Pinder said that there were more statute law performed and fewer delinquents than in other counties. In all the North Shore counties more and better statute law was performed than in the county of York. He was not sure that the money was being collected in the county of York. He was not sure that the money was being collected in the county of York.

Mr. Smith (Albert) asked for a definition of what he meant by "qualified ratepayer." Hon. Mr. Veniot said that "qualified ratepayer" was an error and he would amend it by striking it out. He explained that he did not say "qualified ratepayer" but "qualified ratepayer" was an error and he would amend it by striking it out.

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British Officers Like American Cooking, King George Finds On Visit To "Y" Hotel

He Gets Assurance His Men Are Not An Annoyance Because They "Happen To Drop In At Mealtime"

If the peoples of different nationalities can be brought together at dining tables, there won't be any need of peace tables, in the opinion of King George V. It has been the King's custom recently to go about meeting American officers and men at the camps and Y.M.C.A. centers in England. On a visit to the Washington Inn, the American officers' retreat in London, he remarked to Stanley Ross Fisher, the "Y" man in charge of social activities there:

"You men of the Y.M.C.A. are doing a great work. I understand that a good many English officers frequent this place, especially at meal time. I hope they are not in the way."

"Not at all," replied Fisher. "We like the idea."

"Good," said the King. "So long as American and British officers have their knees under the same table, we needn't worry about international complications."

The King and Queen are more familiar figures to thousands of Americans in England than any President has been. They have visited nearly every big hotel and "Y" but in England and Scotland.



Referring to a statement published in the Daily Mail of Fredericton, of the 18th inst., that B. F. Smith was advanced \$2,875 by the province, he said he wished to qualify that statement as absolutely false; also referring to a statement in the same paper to the effect that he had been paid twice for potatoes he made the same statement. Every arrangement had been made with the late deputy and there never was any question of his being paid twice. He lived up to his agreement in every way.

Hon. Mr. Foster rose to a question of privilege, and said that the St. John Standard of the 20th had said he was a member for Victoria county was solely responsible for the appointment of the commissioners who investigated the N. B. Power Company. As was well known the commissioner had been appointed by the board of directors of the company. He hoped that all newspapers might learn the facts before publishing statements.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to amend the schools act and also a bill to amend the issue of school debentures by Stephen and Milltown.

It being 6 o'clock, Hon. Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Evening Session.

Upon the house resuming after recess, Mr. Hunter presented the petition of the municipality of York and the town of Markham and Devon for the passage of an act to establish a municipal home.

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abled soldiers wanted to know why the provision was not extended to all soldiers. He thought that the federal government should offer just as great inducements for the settlement of soldiers on the east as in the west.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale went fully into the provisions of the bill explaining that the government was merely co-operating with the federal authorities as represented by the soldiers' settlement board. The original act providing for assistance for soldiers to settle on the land was applicable only to the west but the federal authorities that New Brunswick should be included and had succeeded in having the act amended. He said the federal act was being administered by a committee of three men who had their headquarters in St. John. Mr. Mavor, the chairman of the board, had visited the province and conferred with members of the provincial government. He explained that the board wanted to protect the public against loss in connection with the settlement of soldiers and also wanted to protect the soldiers. It has been proposed that two commissioners be appointed to act with the board, one a practical farmer who could judge the ability to make a success of farming, and another to see that the farm selected was good value for the money. The board had asked the agricultural department to assist them in regard to conditions in the provinces and to assist in carrying out the terms. While the bill was drafted along lines of similar terms of legislation being enacted in other provinces, it was more explicit and comprehensive. The Saskatchewan act practically relegated all the authority to

the Lieutenant-Governor in council. He wanted it understood that the bill embodied a dominion government proposal, to aid in settling on land the men who had fought for the empire.

In his opinion the greatest benefit the federal government was conferring on soldiers was by assisting them to settle upon land. The men could settle down to farm life, and while they might not be so wealthy, they would be pretty sure of an independent livelihood.

Buying 2,000 Acres.

In order to assist disabled soldiers to occupy small farms, the province was appropriating \$30,000 for the purchase of 2,000 acres of land. It was proposed to select land in the vicinity of towns and cities, and encourage the men who had been placed upon it to raise poultry, keep a few cows, and engage in truck farming.

Mr. Young wanted to know if the men would be given the land or if it would be sold to them.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that applications for the land would have to be made to the "soldiers' settlement board" and the board would select the land to be transferred gratis but the government would retain an equity in the same. Should the farm be abandoned after ten or twenty years, and sold by the settlement board the government would then realize on its loan.

Mr. Tilley wanted to know how long the soldier had to occupy the land before he would actually own it.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that the provincial government provided the land and the soldiers' settlement board did the rest. The federal government would loan the soldier \$2,500 for twenty years at five per cent interest to enable him to equip his farm.

In regard to crown lands the soldiers' settlement board would make the selections through the department of lands and mines. The soldier would apply for the lots he required and make application to the soldiers' settlement board for assistance to settle upon them. If a soldier had applied for 100 acres of land before going overseas, it would be necessary for him, upon his return to prove his status as a soldier who had been turned over to him by the department without any conditions attached. He would then go to the soldiers' settlement board and ask for assistance to enable him to clear the land and build a house. In case of that kind the soldier would be asked by the department of lands and mines.

Mr. Baxter said that while the honorable member had spoken at considerable length he had failed to convey the information that he (Baxter) wanted. What he had asked for was information as to why the land to be granted for truck farming was limited only to disabled soldiers. He would like the premier to give him the information.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the terms of the bill had been fully explained for the benefit of the committee by the minister of agriculture. There were three ways to assist the returned soldiers. By granting land, giving him money, or loaning money. A gift of money was out of the question, and the dominion government was making loans, and the provincial government proposed to provide the disabled soldiers. He (the premier) should go a little farther in the case of the disabled soldier. He (the premier) felt that the disabled soldier was deserving of more consideration than the man who was well and strong, but the dominion government thought only one principle could be applied. He had pointed out the different conditions prevailing in the east, and of the necessity of retaining our young men. That was the reason why in the proposed legislation they were going further than the other provinces. The government was purchasing improved land, and would give it to returned soldiers absolutely free.

Mr. Baxter said that he was in accord with the principle laid down. He thought that truck farming in New Brunswick was capable of great development and would assist materially in building up the province.

Mr. Crockett asked if the provisions of the bill would apply to soldiers from outside of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that the legislation would apply to all British subjects. He was the rule adopted by all the provinces.

Section two of the bill and the two following sections were agreed to.

Mr. Tilley, on section five, wanted some information with respect to the lien to be taken by the government.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that in case

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