

POOR DOCUMENT

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Queens County Gazette,
GAGETOWN, N. B., APRIL 26, 1899.

In The Local Legislature.

FREDERICTON, April 17.—Bills to amend chapter 31, 61st Victoria, so far as relates to the county of Gloucester; to exempt a pulp industry at Bathurst from certain taxation; to amend chapter 68 of 35th Victoria and chapter 89 of 38th Victoria; authorizing Northumberland county council to control and regulate peddling within Northumberland county; amending the act incorporating the Shear Boom Improvement Company; to better define the bounds of the parish of Springfield; authorizing the trustees of school district No. 16, Bathurst parish, Gloucester county, were agreed to with amendments.

Progress was reported on the bill amending chapter 53 of 59th Victoria, relating to collectors of rates and constables in Victoria county.

Mr. Carvell omitted the bill authorizing the town of Woodstock to take a vote of the ratepayers on the question of taking stock in a pulp mill or other industry to an amount not exceeding \$30,000.

Mr. Emmerson sought the propriety of passing legislation enabling towns and cities to become partners in local industries, as this bill proposed, was very questionable.

Mr. Carvell said the town council was unanimous in favor of the bill. He (Carvell) must confess that he saw a great deal of force in the remarks of the premier, and would not be unwilling that the matter should stand over, so that he would have opportunity to confer with the town authorities.

Progress reported, with leave to sit again.

Mr. White introduced a bill changing the terms of the Sunbury county court; also in the absence of Mr. Dunn, a bill respecting the fisheries of New Brunswick.

FREDERICTON, April 18.—The event of the session was the presentation of formal charges to-day by Mr. Hazen in the matter of the alleged bridge scandals. Mr. Hazen first referred to the following bridges: Mill Cove bridge, Restigouche; Grand Manan bridge, Charlotte; Sanders Brook bridge, Queens; Dingee bridge, Queens; Lefebvre bridge, Westmoreland; Blackville bridge, Northumberland; Campbell bridge, Kings; Truman's Point bridge, Westmoreland; also to the sub-structure and superstructures of Petitcodiac bridge and Port Elgin bridge, Westmoreland; of Mill Cove bridge, Restigouche. Then he charged that the Hon. Henry R. Emmerson, the chief commissioner of public works, wholly failed in his duty by giving the construction of many of these public works to his personal and political friends, with out public competition and tender, and for the purpose of assisting the parties constructing these public works, or supplying the material, knowingly and willfully, and in dereliction of his duty as chief commissioner and as a member of the executive government paid out of the public moneys of this province two prices, and in some cases even more, above market rates for the construction of said works. He further charged that the inspector of some of these works, appointed by the chief commissioner, was financially interested in the contractors, persons, or corporations, doing the work, or supplying the material, and that in consequence of this dereliction of duty on the part of the chief commissioner, he knowingly and improperly allowed these contractors to take from the public treasury many thousands of dollars to which they would not have been entitled had proper methods prevailed. He further declared that to enable such contractors, persons or corporations to improperly make large sums of money out of the province, the chief commissioner allowed alterations to be made in the plans and specifications of some of the above-named works after the contract was awarded, thereby lessening the cost of the work to them, but not to the province. He concluded by declaring that "with the knowledge of the said Hon. Henry R. Emmerson and through his said dereliction of duty and his desire to aid his personal and political friends, and to strengthen the government of which he is a member, the treasury of the province has been defrauded out of large sums of money."

Mr. Emmerson expressed his pleasure at Mr. Hazen taking a definite step at last. He gave the charges the most emphatic denial. The charges are not based on facts. He would ask the fullest inquiry and investigations into the charges.

Mr. Tweedie said that now that the leader of the opposition has made his charges, it seemed to him that he should have gone further and asked for a com-

mittee to investigate them. He would like to ask the leader of the opposition if he intended to ask for the appointment of a committee.

Mr. Hazen said it was for the department to say what course it intends to pursue. If steps be not taken for an investigation it was his intention to follow his statement by a further motion.

This discussion occurred at the afternoon session. In the evening Mr. Emmerson said: Although Mr. Hazen had not asked for a committee of inquiry, I feel it incumbent upon myself to ask for an immediate investigation of these charges. I court the fullest investigation into these charges. The question of the cost of our bridges is one of policy, and I have frequently stated that I was willing to be judged not only by my contemporaries, but by history with respect to whether the bridges we have erected were not in the best interests of the country.

The resolution was seconded by Hon. Mr. Lablolle, and is as follows: Whereas, Mr. Hazen, one of the representatives of this house from the county of Sunbury, has from his place in this House this day formulated charges against the Hon. Henry R. Emmerson, Premier of the province and Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works, which said charges are: (Here follow the charges.)

And whereas, the said Hon. Henry R. Emmerson from his place in the House has demanded that the said Mr. Hazen should move for a committee and have the said charges, so formulated, investigated and tried out in the usual and constitutional manner, but the said Mr. Hazen has refused to ask for such committee.

And whereas, the Chief Commissioner has from his place in the House denied the truth of said charges, and has asked that the same may be investigated forthwith;

And whereas, this house regrets that the Hon. member for Sunbury should have delayed formulating his charges to so late a period in the session, it is nevertheless of opinion that the charges are of so grave a character that it is important in the public interest, notwithstanding the large additional expense which thereby will be entailed upon the province by the prolonging of the session, that they should immediately be fully investigated.

Be it therefore resolved, that a committee of the House consisting of seven members be forthwith nominated by Mr. Speaker to examine into the said charges and report whether they find that the said Henry R. Emmerson has in the construction of many of the public works set forth in said charges to his personal and political friends, without public competition and tender, etc., etc.

And the said committee have power to call for papers and documents and to summon and examine witnesses upon the said charges under oath; and

Further resolved, that said committee so proceed with such investigation as appears to them to be necessary, and their labors from day to day until they have fully investigated said charges and reported upon the same to this House.

Mr. Emmerson said while these charges did not directly impute him any wrongdoing, yet as they alleged that he knowingly and willfully permitted others to extract from the treasury large sums of money, they amounted by application to a direct charge against himself. He therefore, felt it in his own interests, and in the interests of the position he held that he was entitled not only to the fullest and freest investigation, but to an immediate investigation and inquiry.

Mr. Hazen said: I protest against the passage of a resolution that puts me in a position that I did not take. The resolution, with a view of influencing public opinion in advance, says that I refused to ask for a committee—a statement that is entirely at variance with the facts. This afternoon when I made the charges after some little time I was asked by the honorable gentleman opposite what course I proposed to take. I said I had made the charges and I was awaiting to see what course the honorable gentleman himself would take before I decided

what course to follow, and I most distinctly object to having it placed in that resolution that I refused to ask for a committee, and I ask the honorable gentleman to strike those words out.

After some remarks by Mr. Tweedie, the resolution was adopted without division.

The Speaker appointed as such committee Messrs. Carvell, Robinson, O'Brien, (Northumberland), Gibson, Veniot, Shaw and Glasier.

The house in committee further considered supply. Of the item of agricultural, additional, \$500, being reached. Mr. Hazen asked what this was for.

Mr. Lablolle said it was to increase the salaries of the two dairy superintendents, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Tilley, \$100 each, and the salary of Mr. Peters, deputy commissioner of agriculture, \$200, and \$100 to Mr. Alward on account of increased work in the department. Mr. Alward now receives \$100; this will make it \$200. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Tilley receive \$900 and will now receive \$1,000. Mr. Peters has been receiving \$1,000. This increase will restore the salary to that formerly enjoyed by Mr. Inches and Mr. Lagrin.

On the item of butter and cheese factory, increased grants \$1,000 being reached. Mr. Lablolle spoke at length on the affairs of his department. Gratifying progress had been made, he said.

Mr. Hazen said that in any intelligent and practical efforts put forward by the government to aid the cause of agriculture he could rely upon the hearty support of honorable members on his side of the House.

Mr. Smith said he believed that a brighter day had dawned for the farmers of the province since the present premier became the head of the government.

Mr. Carvell was satisfied that the government was pursuing the right course.

Mr. Robinson urged that a grant should be given for an exhibition at Sackville. He congratulated the government upon the great success that had attended its agricultural policy.

Mr. Porter said the agricultural department was second to none from the standpoint of building up the province.

Mr. Tweedie said that an appropriation would be made for holding exhibitions this year, the exact details of which had not as yet been decided upon by the government.

The item was passed.

The bill authorizing the construction of a telephone line between St. George Village and Letang Harbor, Charlotte county, and the bill to aid in the construction of a graving dock in the port and harbor of St. John were agreed to.

Progress was reported on the bill to confirm a conveyance from the city of St. John to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and for other purposes.

Mr. Thompson introduced a bill to revive and continue the act incorporating the Gibson and McPawville Electric Railway Company; Mr. Shaw a bill relating to the appointment of treasurer or chamberlain of the city of St. John, and to the appointment of constables of said city; Mr. Tweedie a bill relating to making and issuing of debentures by municipal and other incorporated bodies; Mr. Robinson a bill incorporating Shelburne and Coast Railway Company; Mr. McKeown a bill relating to the value of the real and personal property of the St. John Sulphite Pulp Company, Limited, at Misep, parish of Simonds, St. John county, for taxation purposes.

FREDERICTON, April 19.—The Legislature sat for two hours this afternoon and considerable business was transacted. Some bills passed their second and some their third reading.

The bill introduced by Hon. A. S. White regarding the prohibition of any Lord's Day makes it an offense for any person or corporation to sell or expose for sale or to purchase any goods, chattels or other personal property, real estate, or to do any worldly labor or business. Conveying travellers or Her Majesty's mail by land or water, the sale of drugs and medicines; and the prosecution of works of charity and necessity are excepted. The fine against corporations requiring or allowing employes to violate this act is \$100. A sub-section permits the delivery of milk or ice to customers, the working of telephone and telegraph lines, the operation of livery stables, necessary Sunday working on Monday morning papers, the exercise of their natural labors by clergymen and physicians, church organists, choir singers, sextons; the going to sea or owing to part of ships; going in search of shipping by tug and pilot boats, or the carrying on of any mill or manufacturing process that must be continuous proceeded with to prevent injury to machinery or of manufacture.

Other sections make illegal tipping in a tavern or other establishments; the public exhibition of himself by an intoxicated person; hawking or using profane language in the street; playing at skittles, ball, four ball, rackets or other noisy games gambling, running races on foot, horseback, in carriage or other vehicles; fishing, lathing in the limits of an incorporated city, or within view of any place of worship or any private residence. Sunday excursion by boat or train, or part by boat and part by train, having for their principal object the carriage of passengers for amusement or pleasure only, is made an offence punishable by a fine of \$200 for each offence, and action can be taken in any place from which the excursion started, passed or stopped. One-half the fine was to go to the plaintiff and the other half to the municipality in which the offence was committed. The conductor of the train or captain of the steamer is also liable under the first section for performing Sunday labor. This does not in any way apply to regularly operated ferries. Penalties for a violation of any of the provisions of the act are not less than \$1 nor more than \$20 and costs, in addition to all special penalties. The bill does not apply to Indians. Other Sabbath observance acts are incorporated with and made part of this act.

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