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THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE PROROGUED ON FRIDAY

Bills to Tax Theatres, To Establish Vocational Schools and Provide Health Dept. Passed—
Woodsmen and Stream Drivers Ex-
cluded From Workmen's Compensation

Fredricton, April 22—Premier Foster promised additional assistance to the Miramichi Hospital at Newcastle. This, he said, was a new institution only opened during the last two years, which was provided by the munificence of Mr. Ernest Hutchinson, of Douglastown. It was, he understood, one of the finest equipped hospitals in the province and served a district where the help it gave was much appreciated.

Mr. Crockett of York, said he wished to corroborate most heartily the remarks with regard to the Miramichi hospital. It was one of the best managed institutions of its kind in the province and it deserved an additional grant.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced "an act to assist and enable His Majesty the King to recover money illegally or improperly withheld or retained." He explained that it was prompted by disclosures made in regard to the St. John Valley Railway. Mr. Byrne said that the leader of the Opposition wished to include the Central Railway in the scope of the bill, but the report of the Central Railway Commission, which alleged the diversion of \$130,000 from its proper channels, had been brought down in 1908 under the Hazen administration and no action had been taken upon it.

Protection of Game
Hon. Mr. Smith explained that amendments to the Game Act prohibited the shooting of Caribou before October 10, 1921, and Partridge before Sept. 15, 1921. It also provided for a bounty of \$2 on wild cats and fifty cents for porcupines. He said that he had received many complaints from different parts of the country regarding the destruction wrought by porcupines. It was said that they had destroyed much valuable timber.

Prohibition Inspectors will act as Game Wardens.
One section forbids the selling of moose or deer meat. If this is found to work a hardship it will be amended next year.

Workmen's Compensation
Fredricton, April 22—The House went into committee to consider the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. McGrath raised an objection to the section and sub-section of the bill, which has to do with medical and surgical treatment for injured workmen. He contended that it was unfair to hospitals, as well as to the medical profession, that provision was only made by the Act for first aid treatment. He said it was difficult for a man to pay medical and hospital charges when in receipt of his full income, and it would be much more difficult when that income had been reduced to 55 per cent of what the man usually earns. St. John had a large hospital, which was supported by the province and city and, therefore, would not be affected by the section to which he had called attention. If such were not the case, he felt sure there would be a large delegation from St. John on hand to oppose that feature of the bill. He read to the committee a resolution adopted by the Miramichi Medical Society, in opposition to the sections of the bill to which he called attention. He thought that an accident, instead of being reported to the board, should be reported to somebody competent to judge the nature of the injury, and the man should be kept under medical supervision to prevent something more serious from developing. He held that doctors who practiced their profession among the working classes, gave about one-third of their time without remuneration, and they were fortunate if they got paid for the other two-thirds. It looked to him as if the bill would compel medical men and hospital authorities to treat cases of accidents and industrial diseases free of charge. The Employers' Liability Act gave them some protection, but the Act now before the House did not.

Mr. Tilley of the Opposition pointed out that the section to which the honorable member had objected, had been taken from the Nova Scotia Act, and it worked well in that province.

This section was adopted.
Fredricton, April 24—With Hon. Mr. Burchill in the chair, the House took up further consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The section giving compensation for industrial diseases was allowed to stand.
No Compensation for Loggers and Drivers
Attorney-General Byrne moved that those engaged in "logging, cut-

ting lumber, pulpwood, fire wood and railway ties, rafting, booming, transportation of lumber, pulpwood, firewood and railway ties" be excepted from the Act.

This amendment was strongly opposed by Messrs. Tilley, Sutton and B. F. Smith of the Opposition. Northumberland Men want to be left out?

Mr. McGrath said that, coming from a lumbering country, he felt that he was competent to express an opinion upon this matter. Conditions in Northumberland were similar to those in Gloucester as far as woods operations were concerned. Small sub-contractors doing most of the work. He had no hesitation in saying that the people in the lumber woods would not object to being left out of the scope of the Compensation Act.

The amendment was adopted.
The amount payable on account of the death of an employee caused by the negligence of a fellow employee was limited to \$3,500.

Mr. McGrath moved an amendment to section 89 to the effect that the board might provide for the payment for hospital care for an injured workman.

Bill Agreed To
The bill was agreed to with amendments and reported.

Theatre Tax
Theatres are to be taxed provincially.
(Continued on page 4)



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