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St. John, N.B. Montreal, P.Q. 12

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RAILWAY LINE

Liquor All Along the Road.

(New York Herald.)

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Buffalo News.)

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NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

(Official Report.)

His honor the lieutenant governor, having returned to the chamber and having approved of the selection of Mr. Robinson as speaker, read the following speech:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure to welcome you on again assembling for the discharge of your legislative duties since the recent general elections, and to extend a hearty greeting to those of you who are for the first time assuming the important functions of legislators.

The prosperity of the province and the dominion generally for the past year is most gratifying, and we have good reason for thanksgiving for the many blessings which our people are enjoying.

The successful progress in agriculture which has been made in all sections bears striking testimony to the wisdom of the liberal expenditures which the legislature has from time to time authorized for the encouragement of this most important industry; while the mineral development which is taking place justifies the hope that before very long a considerable revenue will be derived from this source, while the general prosperity will be greatly promoted thereby.

The ceremonies connected with the coronation of our beloved sovereign created the deepest interest throughout the empire. The illness of His Majesty, which prevented its taking place at the time appointed, evoked expressions of profound sympathy, not only among his own subjects, but throughout the civilized world, and the people of New Brunswick shared to the fullest extent in the grief which was caused by his illness, and in the universal rejoicing over his full restoration to health.

During the recess my government has been unremitting in its efforts to arrive at a settlement of the questions connected with the fisheries which are pending between the provincial and dominion governments. I regret to say that these important matters have not yet been brought to a conclusion, but I have reason to hope that before very long a solution will be arrived at which will be satisfactory to the province.

My government has also pressed the claim of the province to receive a fair proportion of the Halifax award, which was paid by the United States for the privilege of participating in the fisheries along our coasts, being of the opinion that under the recent decision of the judicial committee of the privy council, the proprietary rights and privileges in respect to which compensation was paid by the United States were vested in the crown in right of the provinces. My advisers have, therefore, jointly with the governments of Quebec and Prince Edward Island, asked the dominion government to agree to the statement of a case to be submitted to the supreme court, in order to determine the right of the province to its proportion of the award, with interest. While the terms of the reference have not yet been agreed upon, I am hopeful that ere long a case will be stated, as desired by the three provinces referred to, which will enable the question to be settled; and my advisers are confident of a successful issue.

In opening the last session of the legislature, I called your attention to the propriety of taking steps to press earnestly upon the dominion government the desirability of having the British North America Act so amended as to carry out the views embodied in what are known as the Quebec resolutions, at least in so far as relates to the readjustment of the allowances by the dominion to the provinces, and I am now happy to be able to inform you that, at a conference between the representatives of the governments of all the provinces of Canada, an agreement has been reached, and the result of their deliberations has been submitted to the dominion government. I am hopeful that their united request will be favorably considered by the federal authorities. If the proposed readjustment of subsidies is made, it will be of material advantage to this province, as the increased aid will enable my government to more effectively carry on the important duties which are entrusted to it under the British North America Act. The papers relating to this subject will be submitted to you.

During the recess my government, being of the opinion that, as a result of the recent census, and under a proper construction of the British North America Act, this province is entitled to retain its present representation in the house of commons, felt it to be its duty to urge its views in this particular upon the dominion government; and as a result of its efforts, I am in a position to inform you that, while it has not concurred in the views expressed by my government, it is prepared to co-operate in securing an early decision on the question from the supreme court of Canada. The subject of representation is so important that I am sure you will feel that my government has taken a proper course in pressing this matter upon the attention of the federal authorities.

The subject of re-afforestation of the crown timber lands, with a view to preserving for future generations this most valuable asset, has been engaging the attention of my advisers, and a measure having this object in view will probably be submitted for your consideration.

I have directed that the accounts of the income and expenditure of the past fiscal year, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the current fiscal year, up to the opening of the present session, shall be laid before you.

Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the coming year will be submitted to you, and I think you will find that the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the public requirements.

The subject of the liability of employers to employes for injuries sustained in the course of their employment is one in respect to which an amendment of the law seems to be desirable, and a bill dealing with the matter will be submitted for your consideration.

During the recess, an arrangement was come to with the New Brunswick Railway Company, under which, for a small consideration, the company has agreed to convey to the crown a portion of their lands for purposes of settlement. The terms of this arrangement will be submitted for your approval.

You will also be invited to consider proposals which my government will submit with a view to ensure the opening for settlement of other portions of the said lands, pursuant to the provisions contained in certain of the grants issued to the company.

The commissioners appointed to consolidate the statutes have concluded their labors. Their report will be laid before you, and the acts so consolidated will be submitted for consideration and passage.

Your attention will also be invited to other measures of importance.

In now leaving you to the performance of your legislative duties, I confidently trust that your deliberations will, under divine guidance, inure to the general welfare and prosperity of the people.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill to amend the Towns and Corporation Act of 1879.

THE WINDING LEDGES DAM.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Robertson, gave notice of the following motion:

Whereas a bill has been introduced into the legislature of the state of Maine having for its object, among other things, the incorporation of the "St. John River Dam Company," authorizing said company to construct, equip, maintain and operate, with the right of flowage in the St. John river at or near the Winding Ledges, in the town of Fort Kent, in the county of Aroostook, and state of Maine, from any point along the shore or bank of said river to the boundary line in said river between the United States and Canada, and with power to connect with a dam to be built from the opposite shore of said river, in the parish of St. Francis, in this province, provided and whenever authority is given to build such dam from the shore on the side of New Brunswick to make such connection; has been obtained by the said company or some other company from the parliament of the dominion of Canada or other competent legislative authority; and whereas the said company is seeking such legislative authority from the parliament of Canada at its present session; and whereas the construction of such dam across the St. John river at the point or place aforesaid, with the power for the company to hold logs floating down the said river, will, in the opinion of our large lumber operators and others competent to form a correct judgment thereon, most seriously and prejudicially affect the lumber industry in this province from the head waters of the river along its course to the city of St. John, both in procuring the logs from the forest and in their manufacture for export, and will divert the lumber industry heretofore carried on on the St. John river in this province to and through the state of Maine;

Therefore resolved, that the legislative assembly of the province of New Brunswick views with apprehension the incorporation of such company by the parliament of Canada, and protests against the proposed obstruction in and across the St. John river as being contrary to article III of the Ashburton treaty, so called, and which, if accomplished, will most vitally and injuriously affect the great lumbering industry of this province on the River St. John.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that as the reason was an important one and the matter was urgent he would suggest that by unanimous consent the discussion upon it should take place tomorrow. The government had already taken steps to oppose this legislation.

Mr. Hazen's motion was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH.

Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Tweedale, moved that the speech of his honor be taken into consideration forthwith.

Mr. Jones, in moving the address in reply, said: "I wish in the first place to offer my congratulations to the premier on the magnificent manner in which the electorate of this province has expressed its confidence in him at the recent election. It must be highly gratifying to him, after his labors on behalf of the province to know that his work meets with the hearty approval of the people. The people are also to be congratulated on having returned to power a government that has done so much for the province. As a new member, I hope I may crave the indulgence of the house, if I should make any mistakes in the course of my speech. It ought to be a subject of congratulation that since the house was last in session no member of it has been taken away by death, although some have died politically, while some have not offered for re-election. I am glad to be able to join in the congratulations on the prosperity of Canada and New Brunswick.

The question of transportation in Canada is a most important one. Whatever railways run through the Northwest must have their terminus at Canadian ports. Several lines are now proposed for crossing the continent. As there is a large amount of unproductive country between the east and the west, these railways will claim government assistance to enable them to build, but it is an understood thing that such railways must pass through Canadian territory and have their ports in Canada.

The prosperity of New Brunswick is a fact which cannot be gainsaid and that prosperity will be increased when St. John becomes the ocean terminus of all these trans-continental railways.

One of the best proofs of the prosperity of the province is to be found in the increase of its agricultural exports. The exports of butter and cheese for last year reached a value of $341,000. This butter and cheese was the produce of forty butter factories and fifty-five cheese factories, all of which had been assisted by the provincial government.

The government had established 22 roller mills for the grinding of wheat, and last year 453,000 bushels of wheat were grown. I believe that there is a great future for our minerals. The prospects of coal mining are excellent and our oil wells in Westmorland have gone beyond the experimental stage. These minerals will yield a large revenue to the province in the course of time, and the government should be commended for what they have done to develop them.

In regard to the Halifax award it is not necessary for me to go at length into this important question, but I feel I have a right to state my opinion upon it. The sum of $4,500,000, which was paid to Canada on account of Halifax award, properly belonged to the provinces, because it was the price of the use of their shore fisheries for a term of years. The share of New Brunswick in this award, principal and interest, will amount to about $2,000,000. Three of the provinces interested, Quebec, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, have agreed on the terms of a case to be submitted to the supreme court of Canada, and I have no doubt that New Brunswick will get the sum she claims. This is one of the most important things that have arisen for years, for $2,000,000 is a great deal of money. That sum would enable New Brunswick to pay two-thirds of our public debt, and would give us an additional revenue of about $80,000 a year in interest saved.

In regard to better terms for the provinces, it seems to be only just that we should receive an increased subsidy. At present our revenue from the dominion government is a fixed sum, which cannot be increased, no matter how prosperous our country may be. On the other hand, the revenue of the dominion is elastic and increases as the country prospers. Therefore the dominion government should make us a larger grant, so that our necessary services may not suffer. New Brunswick's claim is for an additional sum of $130,000 a year, and it is a matter in which I also think we should all stand together. The question of the representation of this province in parliament is a very important one, and I trust that the provincial government will be successful in its contention that we should not lose a member. This question is to be submitted to the supreme court of Canada, and probably the contention of New Brunswick will be upheld.

In conclusion, Mr. Jones thanked the house for the courtesy with which his first speech was received.

MR. TWEEDALE

said he would dwell more particularly on the clause which informs them of the success which has attended the efforts of the government in securing a portion of the railway land for settlement purposes. Acting in the capacity of a municipal councillor in his county, he had moved a resolution memorializing the government, asking them to exercise their good offices in bringing about a purchase or exchange of a portion of those lands, and the zeal and energy displayed were both appreciated and commendable. It further afforded him very great pleasure is the passage of legislation that would bring about the consummation of results so desirable.

The importance of the successful carrying out of this scheme was best understood by those who realized its necessity. The great question that had engaged the best statesmen of Canada is how to keep our young men in the country, and the young men of New Brunswick were its most valuable asset. They were good men, they had the constitution, brains, pluck and sagacity and would forge to the front ranks wherever they were dropped down in the world. The secret of retaining the young men in the country could be solved in a great measure by throwing open fertile tracts of land that were easy of access, and it would be surprising how rapidly they would be taken up and converted into valuable and comfortable homes.

He suggested that the government, either by itself or in co-operation with the federal government, should establish a system of cold storage throughout the province, so that the perishable products of the farm might be transported, stored and marketed without loss in value by reason of atmospheric conditions.

MR HAZEN

said it is not pleasant for me to commence my speech by making a complaint. On two previous occasions I had pointed out the fact that, as leader of the opposition, I should receive a copy of the speech in time to look over its contents. In 1901, the premier assured me that I would have no ground for such complaint in future, but I have not received a copy of the speech until this moment.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—You could have got it from the deputy provincial secretary. It was my intention that he should have sent it to you, but the speech, as a rule, is not prepared very long in advance.

Mr. Hazen—I do not want to speak in a fault finding spirit. Last session a copy of the speech was left for me at the hotel, and I hope this will be done in the future. At the opening of this new parliament I cannot but feel regret at the absence of familiar faces. I feel that it should be improper for me not to make reference to the late member for St. John, Mr. Shaw, who sat for so many years on my left. I regret his absence, and I know that many others will regret it. I also regret the absence of my two friends from Westmorland who were associated with me for four years, also my friends from Madawaska and from Restigouche. Among those absent is one of the members for Carleton county, an honorable man, who at one time sat in the parliament of Canada. I also must express my regret at the defeat of the junior member for Victoria, whom I have known from boyhood. Such, however, are the fortunes of war. While we regret the absence of old faces and miss them from our councils, we must unite in welcoming the new men who take their places. There is none to whom I would extend a more hearty welcome than the new member from Carleton Co., who has moved the address in a pleasing manner, and the new representative from Victoria. I do not know whether the news that I see in the papers is true, that the cabinet has been filled up and that the upriver counties have been ignored. If so the delegation which appeared at Fredericton in the interests of the new government supporter from Carleton did not succeed in securing him made a member of the cabinet. Perhaps the honor of moving the address has been given to him to console him for his disappointment.

The people of this country would like the government to inform the house why it was necessary to fill the office of solicitor general. We have had no solicitor general for years, and it is a solicitor general is necessary now why was he not necessary for those years? We ought to have some information on that point. To many it will come almost as a shock that there are six salaried heads of departments in this province, while there are only four in the growing province of Manitoba and three in Nova Scotia.

My hon. friend from Carleton referred to the election of the 28th of February last as an indorsement of the government, but in most of the constituencies the conduct of the local government was the last thing discussed on the hustings. In scarcely a single county did they meet us on that issue. The powerful minister of railways and canals came into this province and made it the issue that the liberal party should be supported. I had the honor of meeting that gentleman on the hustings in Sunbury county. He practically refused to discuss local issues with me, and claimed the support of Liberal electors on the ground of the interest of the liberal party in the country. In Northumberland the premier laid down a different issue. In a document which he sent out in that county, of which I hold a copy in my hand, he claimed support for himself and his colleagues on the ground that he had made the county of Northumberland prominent and powerful, and he closed by saying the question for you is who will lead the government, Tweedie or Hazen?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—And they said Tweedie.

Mr. Hazen—Did they? The hon. gentleman emerged from that contest like the last rose of summer. He was left blooming alone, while all his companions were faded and gone. He made his appeal on sectional grounds not on large issues such as we might have expected a premier to do. Columbus discovered America, but my hon. friend must not think that he discovered the North Shore. That section of the province has already been represented in this house and in the dominion parliament by men of worth and ability, by men like the Hon. Peter Mitchell, John H. Johnson and Michael Adams, yet in his extremity the premier had to come to his appeal to Northumberland on sectional grounds. He claimed that men who were opposing him were able to look after the interest of Northumberland. Now I unhesitatingly say that if it had not been for the powerful influence of the minister of railways the premier would not have been sitting on the right of the speaker today.

The speech from the throne was a most familiar sound. At last year's opening of the legislature his honor delivered almost the same speech, and the government might have as well made it do service again this year, for little new had been added.

In the paragraph dealing with the fisheries we were told there was reason to hope that a solution satisfactory to the province would be arrived. Last year it was hoped that a satisfactory arrangement would be made or a case prepared to be submitted to the supreme court. There must be a good deal of hope in the attorney general's breast. In the paragraph dealing with the Halifax award the province of Nova Scotia is mentioned. That province has declined to join Quebec, P. E. Island and New Brunswick in a demand for the money paid over to the dominion under the treaty of 1871. I have been charged with being opposed to the province receiving this award. Such a charge has no foundation on fact. What I contended on the hustings, and what I have always maintained, is that the federal government has taken the view that the money belongs to the fishermen of the country and should be set apart for their use in the shape of bounties. I firmly believe that a strong case on legal grounds could be submitted, showing that the money should come to the province. I have also contended on all occasions that the fishery question is one of supreme importance to the people of New Brunswick, especially to those of Gloucester, Charlotte, Northumberland, Kent and St. John, and that it was therefore in the interests of all that Ottawa should retain control rather than divide it between four or five different provinces. Nova Scotia will not join in the demand for the reason that she has a greater extent of sea coast than the other provinces, and Mr. Fielding and the citizens of Nova Scotia generally feel that it would be in the best interests of that province to leave the management in the hands of the federal authorities. It is stated that New Brunswick's share of the award is $2,000,000. I would like the premier to explain how this amount is arrived at. It must be borne in mind that in the event of a decision favorable to the provinces there will have to be an enquiry as to what fishery was most damaged, whether New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island or Quebec suffered most, and I would therefore like to know upon what basis the distribution was made whereby $2,000,000 is named as the proportion of New Brunswick's share of the award. Further, if the decision is favorable to the provinces the responsibility of protecting the fisheries in a three mile limit is thrown upon their shoulders. It seems natural that the dominion government might say that the property being theirs they would cease to maintain ships and cruisers for its protection, thus throwing the expense of maintenance on the province, which would be very considerable.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—A narrow view that to take.

Mr. Hazen—That seems to me the attitude of Premier Laurier and Finance Minister Fielding, and if such be the case then it seems to me that even with $2,000,000 it will be found that we save a very small sum for the general expenses. It is in the interests of the fishery rights that it should be managed from one common centre, and I hope the premier will give us full particulars, stating the nature of the case and when it will be submitted.

In reference to the paragraph on better terms, I might say that last year's speech from the throne contained the statement that the attention of the house would be invited to this matter. Another subject referred to in that year's speech was the absorption of the branch railways of the province by the intercolonial railway, but neither this nor the matter of better terms ever got further than the lips of the governor. Since last session a conference of provincial premiers has been held at Quebec, at which the question of better terms was discussed. In 1887 a similar conference was held at Quebec, the representatives from New Brunswick being Hon. Messrs. Blair and Mitchell and from Nova Scotia Hon. Mr. Fielding and Hon. Mr. Longley, and that recently held was merely a revival of the last one referred to. Realizing more than ever that in consequence of the extravagant expenditure, unless more money was obtained from some source, the province would have to throw on the municipalities the burden of maintaining public works, the terms of the conference of 1887 were revived, which called for additional amounts to the various provinces as follows: Ontario, $760,000; Quebec, $500,000; Nova Scotia, $170,000; New Brunswick, $130,000; P. E. Island, $65,000. For this revival Hon. Mr. Tweedie was not in a position to claim much credit, for when Mr. Blair in the session of 1888 moved concurrence in the Quebec resolutions, Mr. Tweedie in a vigorous speech opposed them, remarking that the New Brunswick delegates must have had the wool pulled over their eyes and ridiculing the delegates in general. He referred to Messrs. Fielding and Longley as secessionists and to Mr. Mowatt, one of the Ontario representatives, in very uncomplimentary language. But what a change of heart the present premier has experienced. This, too, in face of the fact that what was a fair arrangement in 1888 could not be considered so today. Since that date there has been a very considerable increase in the revenue obtained from New Brunswick, and if increased revenue is a basis of the demand for better terms, which it is, then New Brunswick is entitled to far more than the amount mentioned in the resolutions of 1887.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—Do you object to the proportion?

Mr. Hazen—No, but the premier objected to the proportion.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—He has grown in wisdom.

Mr. Hazen—His wisdom comes from the fact that the Northumberland deal placed him in the executive, and he is now willing to accept any proposition having for its purpose the relief of the financial burdens of the province. To secure better terms, however, means greater burdens in the way of additional taxation, for depend upon it, the people will have to pay back every dollar through customs and excise duties. Better terms, therefore, would be no relief to the people, although it may relieve the government. At nomination proceedings in Sunbury county I put a question to the minister of railways and canals, asking him whether there was any hope of better terms or the fishery award being arranged favorable to the province, and he uttered not a word, which would lead the electors to believe that there was no ground for any such hope.

The paragraph dealing with representation was not so hopeful as those relating to federal aid and the fisheries. It has been already stated by papers supporting the dominion government, among them the St. John Telegraph, the leading liberal paper in New Brunswick, that as a result of the last census Restigouche and Gloucester, or Albert and Kings would be united for federal purposes. I trust, therefore, that the premier will tell the house what assurances he has in reference to representation.

The speech from the throne promises very little legislation. Legislation dealing with the subject of re-afforestation is promised. Such a law wisely framed would be in the interests of the province. It is important to preserve our forest wealth, and done one of the ways is to see that the regulations of all licenses granted are carried out. In granting long leases it is most imperative that the regulations should be strictly enforced. Under these leases land in the northern counties is often held for speculative purposes, thus locking up the land and preventing men of enterprise from establishing industries of benefit to the province.

The resulting of lands from the New Brunswick Railway Co. would be wise legislation. I am told that that land is well suited for agriculture, being comparable with Carleton county. The opening up of lands like this would be in the interest of the province and do more to keep the young men at home than the immigration scheme upon which the government spent so much money. That policy seems to have been abandoned, for the reason that immigrants are attracted to the great west. In my opinion New Brunswick is a better country than the west, the social conditions are preferable and we have everything to make a people prosperous and happy. Immigration is bound to flow this way in the near future, and I am glad that efforts are now being made to make the country attractive, so that our young men will be kept at home. These efforts will have the hearty support of myself and every member of the opposition. Reference has been made to the consolidation of the statutes. In 1900 the sum of $30,000 was voted for this work, which I objected to as being extravagant and unnecessary, as every important act had been consolidated a year or two previously. Still the government insisted that the work was necessary, and were to lay it before the house of 1902. This was not done, and we are now told that it will come in for consideration at the present session. The member for Carleton has referred to the matter not mentioned in the speech, and that was the question of transportation from the west. I agree with him that parliament should subsidize no trans-continental lines without having clauses inserted in the charter making St. John the winter port. If the Grand Trunk runs through the province seeking an outlet at St. John every man living along the route should be on his duty to see that the line follows the west branch of the St. John. It is not creditable that such a fertile country is without railway communication. In reference to the recovery of His Majesty King Edward VII., I think that, irrespective of politics, we all agree on one thing, that we are united in the attachment which we feel for the British crown.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved the adjournment of the debate, and on his motion it was made the order of the day tomorrow.

FREDERICTON, March 27.—This afternoon Hon. Mr. Pugsley stated that he regretted to have to inform the house that the premier was suffering from an attack of la grippe, which would make it necessary for the reconsideration of the address to stand over until Monday. He had also received authority of the premier to inform the house of certain recent changes in the executive. A few weeks ago the Hon. Mr. Hill, who had been a member of the executive for some years, resigned, and his resignation had been accepted. That resignation was not caused by any differences with the government on questions of policy, but was owing to circumstances that arose in the county of Charlotte at the recent elections. These circumstances were such that it seemed to be recognized as necessary, both by the government and Mr. Hill, that he should tender his resignation. The matter was one of deep regret to the premier and his colleagues, for Mr. Hill has brought to the discharge of his important duties great ability and long experience. His place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Sweeney, one of the new members from Westmorland. The position of solicitor general had been filled by the appointment of the Hon. Mr. McKeown. In consequence of this Mr. McKeown's seat was now vacant. The writ would be issued forthwith. The nomination would take place on the 7th of April and the election on the 15th of April. The filling of this office had been done after careful consideration, and in the belief that it was in the public interest and would tend to the more economical administration of the criminal law. Mr. McKeown had had a good deal of experience in criminal business, and he brought to this office a degree of ability and knowledge of law which would render the interests of the crown safe in his hands.

THE WINDING LEDGES DAM.

Mr. Hazen's resolution in regard to the Winding Ledges dam then came up. Mr. Hazen said that in moving this resolution he felt it would not be necessary for him to make any extended remarks. The subject was one that was well understood and the resolution generally approved. It expresses the sense of this legislature that the bill which has been introduced in the dominion parliament to authorize the construction of the dam at Fort Kent, on the River St. John, should not be passed, because it would be a great injury to the people of New Brunswick. He was moving this resolution from no partizan motive, but he felt it to be his duty and that of the house for them to do what they could to strengthen the hands of the delegation which had gone to Ottawa to cause the defeat of the bill. If the house passed this resolution unanimously it would have a powerful influence. The bill was first introduced into the Maine legislature to incorporate certain gentlemen in Maine and some in New Brunswick under the name of the St. John River Dam Co. One of these New Brunswick gentlemen was the Hon. Wm. Pugsley, who states that he had given the use of his name before he understood the scope of the bill, and who has since withdrawn it. A similar bill is now before parliament. The object of the bill is to hold the lumber which is cut above the proposed dam, to manufacture it there, and to ship it over the Bangor and Aroostook railway. This lumber now comes to St. John, the logs being floated down the St. John river, and manufactured in mills in the county of St. John. The business to St. John would be a very great injury. He believed that the construction of this dam would be contrary to the third article of the Ashburton treaty, which declares that the navigation of the River St. John shall be free and open to both parties and shall in no way be obstructed by either the United States or Great Britain. The building of this dam would certainly be an obstruction to navigation, while its practical effects would be very injurious to the lumber industry of the St. John river. It is said that at least 100,000,000 feet of logs that now come down the St. John river would be manufactured at Fort Kent, in Maine, and cut up off from that business. The result would be a great loss of employment to the people in this section of the country. A number of persons connected with the lumber industry in this province have presented a memorial to the house of commons, protesting against the passing of this bill. Among the other injurious effects which it would produce would be the delay that it would cause in the driving of logs out in the province of Quebec down the St. John river. The season for driving is a short one, and at this dam not more than a million and a half feet of logs could be sorted in a day, so that it would take from thirty to forty days to deal with all the logs, and by that time the river might have fallen to such an extent that logs would be held up for a whole year. He was informed that last year the cut in Quebec was sixty million, all of which was driven down the river to manufacture. The labor to manufacture this cost $210,000 and the labor of driving it down the river $120,000, making a total of $330,000 expended last year for labor alone in marketing the lumber cut by New Brunswick lumbermen in Quebec. In the opinion of prominent lumbermen this source of employment would be entirely cut off if the Winding Ledges Dam Co. secured a corporation. It may be said that there is no danger of the dominion parliament passing this act, but he (Hazen) was told by a senator of Maine and the parliament of Canada should grant the legislation asked for, it is doubtful if the province could induce the imperial authorities to take action in the matter.

MR. ROBERTSON,

in seconding the motion, read the third section of the Ashburton treaty, which clearly shows that the framers had in mind the possibility of such dams being built, for it requires that the navigation of the St. John river shall be free and open and in no way obstructed. The city of St. John and other sections of the province are deeply interested in this question. Some sixty millions of logs are brought down the river every year from points above Fort Kent. If it were possible to put a sluice in the dam there might be some reasonable ground for building it, but those who know best saw a dam cannot be built without materially interfering with the safety and rapid passage of timber along the St. John, and it is the opinion of all well posted that the dam should not be permitted. It would cripple one of our most important industries and be a violation of treaty rights. The resolution should pass unanimously, so that the federal parliament should understand the importance to New Brunswick of this affair. Because of the abundance of lumber in St. John the port of that city occupies a position of supremacy among the ports of the continent. When ships were finding it difficult to secure full cargoes in Boston and other ports, not a vessel was leaving St. John without being loaded to its full capacity. Now cut off sixty million of lumber secured above the proposed dam and taken to St. John for manufacture and export, the result would be most injurious to St. John as a prominent Canadian port. Therefore it was important that the resolution should pass the house without a dissenting voice, and he was sure that the federal authorities would hesitate before permitting any such act to pass.

HON. MR. PUGSLEY

said it was most desirable that in the consideration and determination of this question they should be able to show to the parliament that they had obtained all the information available before taking action. A resolution passed would be of very little value. He had just telegraphed, placed in his hands which had come from a member of a gentlemen residing in Madawaska, protesting against this resolution and the action the government had already taken. In view of this he thought that the people who objected to the resolution should have an opportunity of presenting their views. One of the members from Madawaska was absent, and both should be present when the resolution passed. While the matter is no doubt out of very great consequence to the lumber operators, there are other interests to be heard from, and whatever action we take should be unanimous. In making these observations he desired not to be understood as opposing the resolution, for he was in favor of it, but it ought not to be passed without careful consideration or without all parties being heard. He would therefore suggest that it stand over until Monday. Several months ago he was communicated with by a gentleman at Edmundston, who wrote to him to say that it was proposed to build a dam at the Winding Ledges for the purpose of generating power and running mills. He wrote back that he did not take a small interest in this enterprise. He enquired whether it would interfere with navigation on the river, and he was informed that it would not. Under these circumstances he agreed to take a small interest, and paid for it. But this interest was infinitesimal compared with his interest in the city of St. John. He was free to say now that in the light of subsequent events he thought he had made a mistake, but it was a mistake of the head not of the heart. Afterwards he was communicated with by George S. Cushing, a valued client, who stated that the effects of the dam would be to obstruct navigation. Mr. Cushing informed him that no matter what safeguards there were in the bill, there would be delay in sorting the logs cut above the Winding Ledges, and delay might cause the logs to be hung up for a year, as the river falls so rapidly. He told him that he would at once withdraw from the enterprise, and he did so. He notified the gentleman who had induced him to take stock, and asked him to withdraw his name from the bill. He wanted to be free, and he was free today to take such a position as the public interests demanded. During the recent election campaign he regretted to say that he had not been treated fairly. Although he had withdrawn from the enterprise and had made his withdrawal public, his political opponents and newspapers opposed to the government endeavored to influence voters by declaring that he was seeking to destroy the lumber trade of St. John. Yet the very men who were most interested in this trade, and who had presented the memorial which had just been read against the bill, had such confidence in him that they had employed him to prepare it. The statement made in fact his work. From the best information he had been able to obtain, he believed that the interests which would be injuriously affected by this bill were in a large measure entirely overshadow the interests in favor of it, and he was therefore prepared to vote heartily in favor of the resolution. But he thought it would be better, in its further consideration should be postponed until Monday, so that there could be no charge of unfairness.

HON. MR. HILL

suggested that a committee should be appointed to hear any delegation opposed to the resolution and to report to the house forthwith. With regard to voting, he was prepared to vote for the resolution now, but he thought it would be best to hear both sides, there being no necessity for haste.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said he thought the suggestion a good one.

Mr. Hazen thought that no good could arise from delaying the resolution. The first minister yesterday thought the matter so urgent that he obtained the unanimous consent of the house to have it dealt with today. If the government have, as they say in their despatch to Mr. Blair, given this matter careful consideration they and the members of the legislature are quite as well prepared to vote on the question now as they will be on Monday next. He did not see that any good would arise from resorting to a committee. The hon. attorney general said he was in favor of the resolution. Why then does he decline to vote for it today? The delegation now at Ottawa in opposition to the bill have no doubt been greatly strengthened by the action of the government against it, and they would be still further strengthened by a vote from the legislature.

HON. MR. PUGSLEY

said it was the duty of the house to give all interested an opportunity of being heard. It is better to refer the matter to a committee to hear the views of any delegation that may be sent to oppose the resolution, then if the committee report unanimously in favor of the resolution it would carry infinitely more weight than if passed in the absence of one member from Madawaska and without giving those opposed to the resolution a chance of being heard. It would weaken the hands of the delegation now at Ottawa to oppose a bill if the matter were passed to the vote today. He therefore moved that the resolution be referred to a special committee, to report back to the house with the least possible delay.

MR. ALLEN,

in seconding the motion, said there must be another side to this case, and it was only just that it should be presented. Then the legislature could say it had liberally discussed the measure and done all in its power to prevent the passage of the bill now before the parliament at Ottawa.

MR. ROBERTSON

said he hoped the house would not take any position that would cause delay. He did not want to prevent any one from being heard, and if the house agreed to refer the question to a committee they should be required to report back with it with the least possible delay. Long delays might look as if we were trifling with the matter, and it was too important a question for that.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley amended the motion by adding that the committee should report back to the house not later than Wednesday.

MR. HAZEN

said no good purpose was being served by this delay. He was surprised to hear the attorney general admit that he had made a mistake. It was not dignified for the attorney general to allude to canvasses made during the election. If every member ventilated such grievances the session would be prolonged to a length never before known. In reference to those canvasses, it was responsable for the people to look to the attorney general to protect the interests of the province. How incongruous to find the first law officer of the crown associated with an enterprise which he now admits would work an irreparable injury to the lumbering interests of the province.

MR. TWEEDDALE

said that while he believed the leader of the opposition was sincere in all he said, yet he felt it was only just to defer action on the resolution until those opposed to it had a chance of being heard. Madawaska has a strong representative in Ottawa in the person of Hon. Mr. Costigan, who was one of the promoters of the dam, and if he is able to show that this resolution was forced through the house, the hands of the delegation now at Ottawa in opposition to the bill would be materially weakened.

HON. MR. PUGSLEY

said he was glad to observe that there was a desire on all sides of the house to deal deliberately with the matter. In the absence of one of the representatives of Madawaska it would be unseemly to force the resolution through the house, especially when there was no need of undue haste. The legislature has always been careful to give ample opportunity to all persons interested in a measure to make their views known, and in the present instance more good than harm will result from delay.

THE MOTION

to refer the matter to a committee was carried, and the Speaker named as the committee Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Hon. Mr. Pugsley, Mr. Osman, Mr. Hazen, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Allen and Mr. Flemming.

Adjourned until Monday.

GREAT FUTURE FOR CUMBERLAND CO.

Extensive Improvements at Springhill Mines.

Ten Million Tons of Coal in Sight—Important Developments in Many Other Sections—145 Square Miles Recently Taken up.

(From the Mining Record.)

A little over a quarter of a century ago the town of Springhill was not in existence; now it has a population of about 8,000 people, who have been drawn to the locality by the great success attending the Cumberland Coal & Railway Co.'s operations. About 14 years ago J. R. Cowans, whose family is largely interested in the property, known as the Springhill Mines, became manager; and he has proved himself to be one of the shrewdest men who has ever been connected with the operating of coal mines in this province.

At the time Mr. Cowans undertook the management of the property, the company owned but seven square miles; but, by his shrewdness and foresight, it now boasts of possessing over 100 square miles, extending from several miles southwest of Springhill to Oxford Junction. He has unfaltering pursued the policy of developing and improving the property, and as a result at the present time he has ten million tons of coal in sight.

Mr. Cowans has made great improvements, not only in connection with the mine, but in connection with the railway, which is owned by the company, and which extends from the Intercolonial railway to Parrsboro.

NEW SLOPE SUNK.

A slope has been sunk, as a test, on this property, to a depth of forty-two hundred feet, and coal is found at this point of a very superior quality. About sixteen years ago it was thought that coal did not extend far to the southwest of Springhill, but this has been proven to be erroneous, and the main workings are now over a mile to the southwest beyond the point where the field was supposed to terminate.

To above the foresight and sagacity of Mr. Cowans, it is only necessary to say that before the present law respecting crown lands came into force he purchased in fee simple about four thousand acres of timber lands in Cumberland sounty, at practically a nominal figure. It is calculated that the present value of these lands alone would amount to more than the original cost of the Springhill mines to their present owners.

The geological department of Canada has spent much time on the Springhill coal field, and Hugh Fletcher, who is probably the best expert on coal measures in the Dominion, has spent the past four summers investigating this field. He did not leave the field until about the end of December of last year, and thus was enabled to prove a great deal more of the territory than in any one season in the past. By a system of bore-holes and trial pits he has traced the Barlow seam to a point about six miles south-westward from Springhill.

HALIFAX MEN INTERESTED.

Beginning at a point about five miles southwest of Springhill, there is a block of areas covering about twenty-four square miles, owned by T. R. Gue, president of the Acadia Powder Company, and J. A. Johnson, both of Halifax. These areas have recently been bonded to a Boston syndicate, the members of