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The St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1921

PAGE 3

A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

START WORK OR ABANDON ALL CLAIM DEMAND MADE BY GRAND FALLS PEOPLE OF POWER CO.

Four Hundred Delegates at Capital to Protest Against Any
Extension of the Time Given Company to Develop
Power There—Financial Interests Plead Unsettled State
of Money Market as Reason for Delay.

Special to The Standard
Fredericton, N. B., April 6.—The
legislature was crowded—the gal-
lery, as well as the floors of the House
resembling a packed day, when the
Grand Falls Power bill was taken up
before the corporation committee in
the assembly chamber this afternoon.
The delegation representative of
points along the river from St. Leon-
ards to Woodstock, comprised between
three and four hundred people; they
came in a special train of six cars by
C. P. R., arriving about one p.m., and
they left again at eight o'clock this
evening.

Discussion Very Wide

There was a general discussion of
the Grand Falls project before the
committee, representatives of the var-
ious organizations interested in the
opposition to the bill to extend the
rights speaking or reading resolutions
held in the district affected, but
there was such a noticeable lack of
constructive criticism that before the
delegation had finished making some
of their own speakers commented on
the fact. The company's position was
set forth by P. T. Dodge, of New
York, president of the International
Paper Company, who definitely declar-
ed that it was the company's hope
and intention to have the develop-
ment of the Grand Falls actually un-
der way by the two years' period of
extension now requested is completed.
After hearing the delegation, the
committee adjourned to meet in pri-
vate session at a later date for con-
sideration of the bill.

The Official Report

Fredericton, N. B., April 6.—The
corporation committee at 2:30 this
afternoon in the Assembly Chamber
took up consideration of the bill re-
lating to the Grand Falls Power Com-
pany Limited. A delegation of 400
persons, including residents of Grand
Falls and nearby towns and villages,
was in attendance. Peter J. Hughes
appeared as counsel for the promoters
of the bill, and John M. Stevens, K. C.
and H. M. McMonagle were present in
the interests of the town of Grand
Falls.

Mr. Hughes said that the object of
the promoters of the bill was to secure
an extension of time for the purpose
of undertaking the development of the
water power at Grand Falls. The com-
pany, which was organized in 1911,
was backed by strong financial
interests both in Canada and United
States. After its organization the
company started to gather in impor-
tant interests of private parties, and
also rights held by the Federal gov-
ernment.

The War Unrest

That took some years to accomplish
and it was not until 1914 that arrange-
ments had been completed so as to
make possible the beginning of opera-
tions. Then the great war broke out.
The legislature had in 1916 extended
the company's charter until one year
after the declaration of peace. The
company was asking for an extension
of its rights for a period of two
years from the first of May next. He
realized the people of Grand Falls
were keenly disappointed because
their great water power had not been
developed. It was hoped that if an
extension were granted they would
soon be in a position to go on with the
work.

Cost of Works

As the estimated cost was so im-
pendous, the company felt that par-
tial development of the work might
be undertaken. Engineers, however,
and the plan had to be called off. They
were told that the minimum develop-
ment of power was between 35,
000 and 40,000 and the cost would be
in the vicinity of \$4,000,000. Then the
question of erecting transmission

lines presented itself, and it was
found that they would cost between
\$5,000 and \$10,000 per mile and in
some cases \$15,000. For a straight
line to St. John alone the cost would
be approximately \$2,000,000. So far
they had been unable to discover any
demand for the power if it should be
developed. Advertisements placed in
a number of newspapers had brought
only three replies. Should they erect
a power mill with a capacity of 200
tons a day, it would consume 20,000
horse power, which would leave 20,000
horse power still to be disposed of.
By the use of storage dams, it would
be possible to develop 75,000 horse
power. Engineers had stated that in
order to get proper results there
would have to be a dam ten feet in
height, which would back up the
water for ten or fifteen miles.

Cannot Get Cash

He was in touch with financiers in
New York who had told him that un-
der present conditions it was absolute-
ly impossible to secure financial sup-
port for a proposition of that mag-
nitude. To raise between eight and nine
million dollars for such an undertak-
ing at the present time was simply
out of the question, and for that reason
they were asking for an extension
of two years. He did not think there
should be any prejudice against his
company because they had more than
\$20,000,000 invested in Canada.

John M. Stevens

Mr. John M. Stevens, K. C., said
that the Grand Falls Power question
had been before the public for many
years, but practically nothing had been
done in the way of development. The
company had been tied up for twenty-
five years.
If the statements made by Mr.
Dodge regarding the enormous cost of
development and the limited revenue
to be derived from the sale of power,
it rather looked as if the valuable es-
tate which the province possessed in
the Grand Falls was worth nothing.
It seemed to him that the company
acted on the supposition that it owned
the property and could do as it liked
with it. No business concern own-
ing such a property would be willing
to having it tied up for a period of
years, and in an unproductive state as
regards revenue. He did not think
that even the International Paper
Company would agree to such an ar-
rangement in the conduct of its own
business.

Should Revoke Order

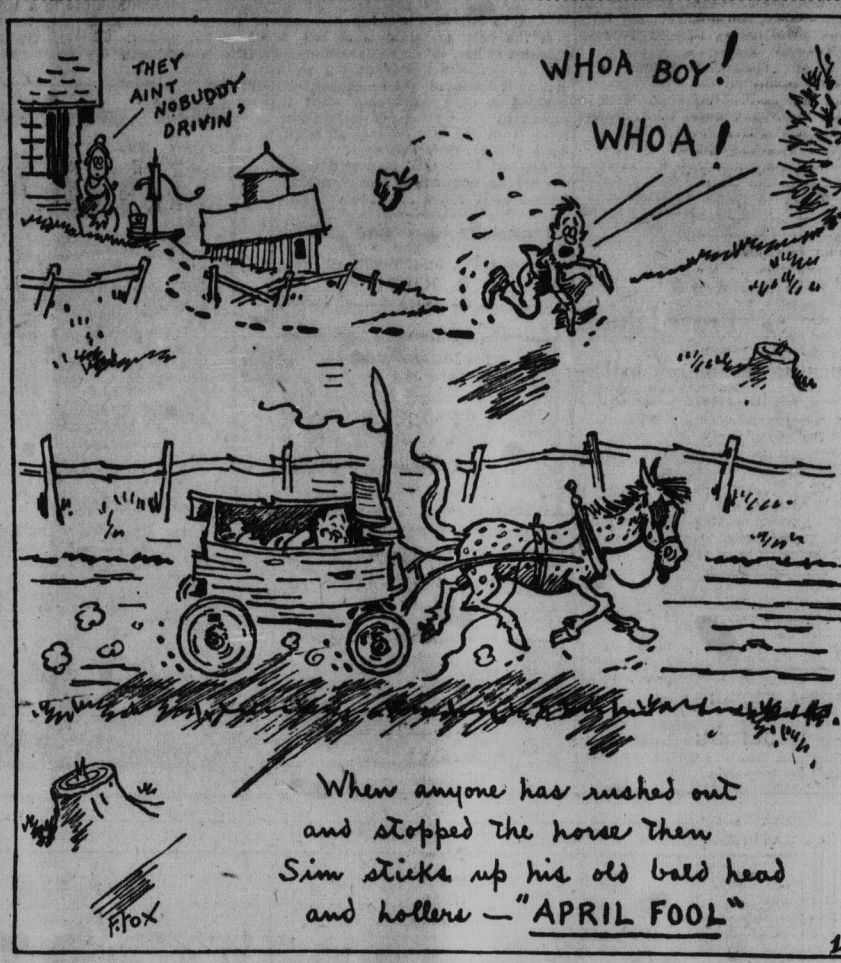
He took the ground that having fail-
ed to keep their agreement, their
rights at Grand Falls should now be
taken from them. They acquired
those rights with the hope of gain,
and having failed down, why should
the province of New Brunswick reim-
burse them for a loss in speculation?
No business concern would do that.
The province should not do it. The
other property which they had acquir-
ed would be of no value without the
water power at Grand Falls. The peo-
ple now asked that the company be
deprived of their rights at Grand Falls
and their deposit forfeited. He had
no doubt that if granted an extension
they would return at the end of two
years for another renewal. They talk-
ed about advertising for consumers of
power, but it was a fact that towns
and villages along the river were now
importing electrical power from the
United States.

Many Anti-Resolutions

Resolutions passed by the citizens
of Grand Falls, the Andover Board of
Trade and the Woodstock Board of
Trade, protesting against a further
extension of the company's charter,
were presented.
C. E. Gallagher, of Bath, expressed
himself as being heartily in accord
with the resolution adopted by the
Grand Falls Board of Trade.
Mr. B. Frank Smith said that the
people of the river parishes of Car-
leton county had long waited for
water power development at Grand
Falls, and had become tired of listen-
ing to excuses. Mr. Dodge had told
of the things accomplished by the In-
ternational Paper Company, but the
fact that that company manufactured
enough paper to go around the world
420 times, would not give light, heat
and power to people living along the
St. John River. Notwithstanding the
stringency of the money market, it
was apparent that the company had
been able to develop water power at
Three Rivers, Quebec, but were wait-
ing to allow New Brunswick to wait.
He was doubtful if conditions would
be any better at the expiration of two
years.

Importing Power

Frank Hagerman, in presenting a
resolution passed by the town of
Harvard did not think the extension
asked for should be granted.
Mayor L. F. Violette, of the town
of St. Leonard's, said the people of
his town had, by resolution, expres-
sed their opposition to a further exten-
sion of the charter of the Grand Falls



Sim Smiley works a pretty slick trick —

Power Company in St. Leonard's and
other Madawaska towns. They had
not to import their power from the United
States now.
M. L. Hayward, of Hartland, who
appeared with Mr. Stevens, opposed
any further extension of the com-
pany's charter. Referring to the al-
leged prejudices against foreign cor-
porations, he said that if the interna-
tional Paper Company had lived up to
its agreement, it would be very popu-
lar in Victoria county at the present
time. If the cost of development
would be as large as Mr. Dodge es-
timated, and no market could be found
for the power, what sort of a miracle
did he expect to happen within the
next years to bring about a change
that would enable the company to
make a profit. He said the company
had been granted certain rights
and had failed to live up to their
agreement, and were now asking
for something to which they were not
entitled.

Mr. Dodge said no one was ready
to finance the Grand Falls develop-
ment. If all the towns represented
in the delegation were supplied with
current from Grand Falls they would
not pay dividends of 5 per cent. on
the total outlay. He knew that rates
as high as ten and fifteen per cent.
with bonds were being paid for money
for industrial development in popu-
lar communities. Grand Falls was
situated in a wild country with a
sparse population. Bankers simply
laughed in the faces of the promoters
when they were asked to finance.

Trouble in Work

Engineers employed at Grand Falls
had found it impossible to locate the
tunnel where it had been expected
to place it. Extensive beds of sand
were found and a diversion around
them must be made at great expense.
This was an indication of the impos-
sibility of laying down a guarantee
of what could be done in two years.
A sum of \$1,250,000 was tied up at
Grand Falls. In interest and taxes
the company was paying \$200,000 a
year. He could assure the committee
the development never had been lost
sight of. The intention had been
to locate a large paper mill there
with the usual community develop-
ment.
Hon. Mr. Veniot asked if another
company would develop the Falls
would Mr. Dodge's company establish
an industry.
Mr. Dodge replied that it would but
not at Grand Falls.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that develop-
ment would mean another industry
to the province.

A Plan Suggested

Mr. Baxter asked Mr. Dodge if he
would be satisfied with an extension
of two years on condition that the
Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council must
be satisfied with the progress made
in the development.
Mr. Dodge said there would be no
objection.
Mr. Baxter said he wished to treat
every one fairly. What he was try-
ing to do was to put the proposition
of Mr. Dodge into a brief form. The
balance of his proposition would be
that if development were not satis-
factory to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-
Council, and another company should
make application to take over the
rights, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-
Council would have the power, vest
the rights in the applicant company
on condition that compensation would
be paid for work actually done.

How to Determine Value

Mr. Dodge said that he would sug-
gest that in the event of any such
transfer, the value of property be de-
termined by four judges as had been
provided in the old bill.
Mr. Baxter said that the property
valuation probably could be de-
termined.
Mr. Dodge said that the books of
the company were open for inspec-
tion. He would like to point out
that there was a strong doubt of the
work being completed within two
years.
Mr. Baxter said that it also should
be taken into consideration that the
work might not begin until the last
three or six months of the period.
Mr. Dodge said that he could

quity for next Friday as to whether
the salary of the registrar of deeds
for Westmorland had been increased,
and whether any protest had been received
from the Westmorland County Coun-
cil in reference to the matter.
Dr. Curran introduced a measure
with reference to fire protection in
the Parish of Lancaster.
Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to
amend the act regulating the issue of
shares and securities by public utility
companies, as provided by the
Joint Stock Companies Act, in the
hands of the provincial secretary.
The power to increase capital
stock would remain, as provided by
the Joint Stock Companies Act, in the
hands of the provincial secretary.
Hon. Mr. Veniot introduced a bill to
amend the act to provide for the fund-
ing of motor vehicle fees.

Probate Court

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to
amend the Probate Court Act. He ex-
plained that it gave power to the pro-
bate judge in cases where a claim
was filed against an estate and the
claimant or his advocate failed to ap-
pear and to dismiss that claim and
proceed with the passing of accounts
as if such claim had not been filed.
Hon. Mr. Hetherington introduced a
bill to incorporate the Queenstown
Public Hall Company, and Hon. Mr.
Michael one to amend an act relat-
ing to the Town of Edmundston.

In Committee

The House went into committee,
with Mr. McManus in the chair, and
took up consideration of a bill to
amend the Schools Act, and a bill to
amend an act respecting Victoria
Public Hospital, which were agreed to.
The committee also considered a
bill relating to the Town of Mary-
ville.
Mr. Young said he had not
had an opportunity of going before the
Municipalities Committee when the
bill was under consideration before
that body, but he was surprised that
the committee had seen fit to strike
out the first section, which provided for
a change of boundaries. The town
when originally incorporated, includ-
ed a considerable farming area, and
now desired to have the area re-
duced. There was a length of highway
within the town limits about three
quarters of a mile in length, from
which no benefit was derived. The
purpose of the change in boundaries
was to place this highway under the
Public Works Department.

Municipal Troubles

Hon. Mr. Veniot said the munic-
ipalities committee had gone thor-
oughly into the bill if Maryville should
succeed in reducing its area, num-

ous small towns throughout the prov-
ince would attempt to do the same.
Many towns had been too greedy in
including outlying farms within their
limits for the purposes of assessment.
Having discovered that the upkeep of
outlying roads was excessive, they
wished to "pass the buck" to the pro-
vincial department of public works.
Campbellton, Dalhousie, Shediac, New-
castle and Fredericton were in that
position and were making the at-
tempt. He would ask the committee
of the whole House to consider this
matter seriously before agreeing to
the request of the member of York
(Young). It was true that a portion
of this highway was in poor condition
because of the dislike on the part of
the town authorities to go into the
property of the Nashwaak Pulp and
Paper Co. to skirt road. That diffi-
culty could be overcome by joint ac-
tion on the part of the town and the
province under the Highway Act. Be-
fore the committee it had been said
that the town had difficulty in collect-
ing taxes from the Nashwaak Pulp and
Paper Co. Here was a total of two
and a half miles of highway which
the town wanted the province to take
over.

Bad Roads in City

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that within
the limits of the City of Fredericton
were four miles of the worst highway
in the province. His department had
refused to improve it, and this year
the city was undertaking the improve-
ment itself.

St. John Case

The committee took up consid-
eration of a bill respecting the paving
and opening of public streets in the
City of St. John.
Hon. Mr. Mercereau said that he
had had some experience in opening
streets in St. John for cable opera-
tions. It seemed to him that the road
engineer was given too wide powers
by this bill.

Mr. Scully said that the bill had
been inspired by the paving of Doug-
lass Avenue. The city did not want
that pavement torn up, sufficient no-
tice was given interested parties, and
if they did tear the pavement up they
should pay for the replacement.
Mr. Baxter said that if a gas pipe
should burst there would be danger
if immediate action could not be taken
by the company concerned.

Hon. Mr. Roberts said that the bill
made provision for such emergency.
Hon. Mr. Mercereau said that a con-
dition might arise over night which
would cause more trouble if not at-
tended to at once.

Mr. Scully said that such an act was
absolutely necessary to protect the
people of St. John. Sufficient notice
was given and a hardship would not
be worked. The bill was agreed upon.

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