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TOBIQUE DAM BILL THROUGH THE COMMITTEE

After Somewhat Stormy Passage, and Amid Much Criticism.

BY LEGAL MEMBERS

Who Were Inclined to Regard Some of Its Provisions With a Considerable Amount of Suspicion and of Treasuring on Public Rights.

(Continued from Page 1)

Official Report.
Fredericton, N. B., April 22.—Assembly Chamber.—The House met at 3 o'clock.
Mr. McGrath rose to a question of privilege and read from the St. John Standard an article copied from the Chatham Commercial, which he said misrepresented the attitude of the Government and also of the members for Northumberland with respect to the Miramichi Water Power Bill. The same paper had published an article which set forth that Gen. E. Fisher had imported from Ontario a Plymouth Rock rooster with an egg record of 280. He considered one standard about as reliable as the other.
Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on standing orders.
Hon. Mr. Robinson, for Hon. Mr. Byrne, submitted two reports of the law committee.
Mr. Lohrke presented the report of the committee on municipalities.
Hon. Mr. Robinson introduced a bill relating to the Demerits Summer Resort Co., which was read the second time.

The Game Act.
Hon. Mr. Smith introduced a bill to amend the Game Act. He explained that it provided for extension of the close season on beaver to 1923, and would impose an increased fee for the taking of beaver under permits. The renewal of the close season on seals was provided for. It would be made an offence to carry firearms into the woods during the open season. Future licenses would be accompanied by three tags, one for the shipment of hides, another for the carcass, and another for the head.
The fee to non-residents would be increased from \$10 to \$15, and the bounty on wildcats would be repealed. Non-residents trapper licenses would be increased from \$25 to \$50. There would be an increase in the penalties for killing moose, caribou and deer in violation of the law, and there would be a penalty for the use of poison by trappers.
A royalty would be imposed on all pelts, and buyers and trappers of furs would be required to make returns of shipments.
Mr. Leslie moved that a bill relating to the town of Dalhousie be referred back to the Committee on Municipalities.
Hon. Mr. Murray introduced bills to provide for the redemption of the Harland Bridge guaranteed debentures falling due in 1920, and to provide aid for cities, towns and municipalities in defraying the cost of small-pox and influenza outbreaks. On the ground of urgency the bills were read the second time.

Grand Falls Water Power.
Hon. Mr. Foster presented a petition signed by five hundred residents of Grand Falls praying that immediate steps be taken to develop the water power at that place, and that no further exemption be granted to the present holders.
Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to incorporate the Union Church at McAdam; also a bill to amend the Consolidated Statutes relating to schools. He explained that the last-mentioned bill was based on the report of the committee, which had made certain recommendations regarding teachers' salaries. The bills were read a second time.
Mr. Crockett moved that the bill to amend the Act respecting the Registration and Qualification of Dentists be placed on the order of the day for reference to the committee of the whole House.

Tobique Dam Bill.
The House went into committee with Mr. Smith (Albert) in the chair, and took up consideration of the bill relating to the Fraser Paper Company. Mr. Tilley asked if provision had been made that fishways to be installed in the dams must be under the supervision of the Federal fisheries inspectors. He was under the impression that that had not been done, and an amendment he moved to that effect.
Hon. Mr. Roberts said that the committee must be satisfied not only that fishways would be installed, but that they would be feasible for the salmon to pass the dam. This matter was of the utmost importance to the city of St. John.
Mr. Burchill said when the Corporation Committee considered this bill large delegations of those interested in salmon fishing had appeared. The opinion was that fishways should be provided.
Mr. Sweeney said that hon. members for St. John city were correct in bringing up this matter. He had always maintained that fishways should be installed in any dam. It looked as if the section concerning fishways had been stricken out, and the Legislature should regard the omission; it was very necessary that the fishways be constructed in live water, so that the salmon would find their way to them. He believed that such fishways could be constructed.
Mr. Campbell said that, like other hon. members who had spoken, he had been in the Law Committee when this bill had been before the Corporation Committee. He was not at all satisfied that the fish would be able to find their way up stream. It was a serious question. The purpose of the bill undoubtedly was to establish a great industry, but that industry would be one which would not last forever, for it ultimately would deplete the forest. To obtain this industry there was danger that something would be done which would ruin the industry which might last forever.
Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that this

entire matter had been discussed by experts from the Department of Fisheries before the Corporation Committee. They had admitted that salmon could pass a twenty-foot dam; one of the proposed dams would be forty feet high, but on account of flowage from the lower dam would have a height of twenty feet for the fish to ascend.
Messrs. Fraser had no desire to hinder the salmon from going up the Tobique. The time had come when this great natural resource must be developed. Water power was a great advantage, and there was none below the site of the dam. Sulphite mills at Bathurst and at St. John discharge into the river, yet the fish passed.
The amendment moved by Mr. Tilley was adopted.

Sulphite Drainage.
Mr. Sweeney said that he had information that the chemical from a sulphite mill draining into salt water was neutralized but that if it drained into fresh water that would not be.
Hon. Mr. Veniot said that Dominion Fisheries Officials had been present before the Corporation Committee and had offered no objection on that ground. There was very little salt water in the mouth of the Nipisiquit River. Dominion officials had come there when the pulp mill had been established and had inspected it. They had offered no objection and the salmon are still in the river.
Mr. Sweeney said that all the hon. members of the House did not know as much as the hon. Minister of Public Works about fisheries and chemicals. He had not been in the Corporation Committee when this had been under discussion as the Law Committee also had been sitting.
Hon. Mr. Veniot—"The hon. gentleman should have been in the Corporation Committee. The matter was fully discussed there."
Mr. Sweeney said that he had good information that this matter had not been discussed before the Corporation Committee.
Hon. Mr. Veniot said the matter had been mentioned and as the gentlemen representing the fishing interests did not discuss it, it had been dropped.
Mr. Sweeney said that he was perfectly within his right in introducing the subject and he did not want a lecture from anybody.
The amendment was adopted.

The Giant Octopus.
Mr. Sweeney on Section 7 said he would like to see a provision in the bill that would prevent the giant octopus from amalgamating with other octopuses. The Province had some experience of that kind in the past. It was to be regretted that a provision of the kind he suggested had not been inserted in the charter of the Central Telephone Company. Had it been done there would have been no amalgamation, and the Province would not be now threatened with an increase of rates.
Mr. Baxter said the hon. member was absolutely right. Section 7 contained clauses which should not be in the charter of any company. The company was not a public utility, but might become such before the year 1920. Great progress had been made in the pulp industry, and the United States was now thirsty for Canada's pulp products. The prohibition of the export of pulp wood from Crown Lands was a wise step, and its retention was now threatened by the American Senate. It might not be unwise to compel all the pulp wood of the Province to be disposed of in Canada, as the people did not want to be hewers of wood and drawers of water for one hundred million Americans. He could recognize the work of the corporation lawyer in the bill. He considered that there were a lot of clauses in the bill which were unnecessary for the carry-

Pitfalls in Bill.
Mr. Baxter said that it was not in Section 10 which had reference to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The Province had no fish exports but the Department of Fisheries had. He would move an amendment and if he could have that protection for business interests in his constituency he would be content, if not he would think that the hon. Member for St. John (Tilley) was a gladiator of this undertaking.
Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"There is no objection to such an amendment. Draft it and we will put it through and save time."
Hon. Mr. Foster said that he had been under the impression that the



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corresponding clause of the St. John River Hydro-Electric bill had been incorporated in this bill.
Mr. Sweeney said that another phase seemed to have escaped attention. If the cesspools, sewage or drainage from a sulphite pulp mill was permitted to enter the river it would not be necessary to have fishways for there soon would be no fish.
Hon. Mr. Veniot said that matter had been spoken of before the Corporation Committee. Sulphite cesspools would interfere only with spawning ground and there was none below the site of the dam. Sulphite mills at Bathurst and at St. John discharge into the river, yet the fish passed.
The amendment moved by Mr. Tilley was adopted.

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ing on of a legitimate enterprise.
Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that the stipulations of the kind referred to by the hon. member were inserted in most of the charters issued under the Joint Stock Companies Act. All kinds of powers were given to companies seeking incorporation.
Mr. Baxter—"When I was attorney-general I struck out a lot of those things."
Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said that if companies were expected to develop the water powers of the province, their rights must have some protection. It was the intention of the committee to tie up the bill and make it unworkable they might as well throw it out at once.
Mr. Baxter said that the Fraser had been given too much power in connection with the Madawaska river and had dealt uncharitably with other interests. He had been misled in regard to that bill when it was before the House.
Mr. Tweeddale Whines.

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The amendment was adopted.

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there would have to be safeguards for the protection of the company and its investment. If the committee imposed conditions in the bill that would make it difficult for the company to finance it would be impossible to go on with the enterprise. In regard to the fishways the company was willing to meet any reasonable demands that would make them satisfactory. He did not like to hear enterprising men of the province referred to as "octopuses." The industry of the kind proposed on which from four to twelve million dollars was to be spent would have to be a large one in order to make a return on the investment. The company would employ a large number of men, help the commerce of the country, and give ten times the value the province was now deriving from the raw material.
Mr. Baxter said that he had made no objections upon the gentlemen who were interested in the bill. He had spoken on behalf of those who were concerned in the salmon fishing industry. The bill had some good features, one of which was that it made no provision for preference stock. He had offered objections to the features of high finance, which the bill contained. He did not think that at least two members of the government, as business men, were in favor of giving the company all the powers which they sought. He could assure the hon. minister that he had not

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