

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15th, 1903

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Subscriptions for 1902 and previous years are now overdue; and subscriptions for 1903, are now payable. Our friends will please bear these facts in mind

Stock Farm Cattle.

For some time it had been reported that the Government Stock Farm cattle had been sold at private sale to the Dominion Packing Company. The report seemed almost to incredible to be taken seriously; but no doubt any longer remains regarding the matter, the Government, through the Commissioner of Agriculture, have committed this most arbitrary act.

Sessional notes.

The proceedings in the Legislature on Monday afternoon were brief, as the House did not meet till quite late. In answer to questions by Mr. Currie, Hon. Mr. Cumiskey said the Government had had an examination made by an engineer of the proposed site of the bridge across the North River near Brighton; had received an estimate of the cost of the proposed bridge, and that the estimate was, with a swing and span to admit of the passage of vessels \$200,000, and without the swing and span \$150,000.

Hon. Mr. Rogers moved the second reading of the bill amending the domestic animals act. He said the alterations were intended to prevent the running at large of certain male animals and preventing hogs from running on the shores and eating fish offal, something very bad for the character of our Island pork.

The Commissioner of Public Works then moved the second reading of the bill to "Amend the Public Roads Act 1901 and an act in amendment thereof." Among the proposed amendments are the following: Section 19 is repealed and the following substituted: The Overseer shall forward to the Road Inspector on or before the fourth Tuesday in July in each year a full written return of the names of all men liable to pay taxes under this act, and also the number of horses, and the number of horses, and the names of the owners thereof.

A Ridiculous Fiasco.

OUR readers will remember that on the 4th inst. Hon. Mr. Wear asked for a committee of the Legislature to investigate certain charges made by the Guardian newspaper. The committee was granted under the following resolutions: Resolved that the charges made by the Guardian newspaper published in Charlottetown in the issue thereof of the second and third days of April instant which are hereto annexed and which allege a branch of the privileges of this House, be referred to a special committee with power to summon and examine witnesses on oath and to send for persons, papers and documents. On the 8th

very arbitrary. Something might happen a valuable horse while engaged breaking the roads in other hands than his owner. He thought it would be fair to give an aged person an option to buy something if he wouldn't wish his horse to go out.

Mr. Mathieson criticized the bill at some length. The Commissioner, he pointed out, always expressed himself as profoundly satisfied with the public roads act. Every change, in the Commissioner's opinion, was for the better. Mr. Mathieson was of the opinion that never in the memory of the oldest inhabitant was there a time when the winter roads had been so scandalously neglected, as during the past few years. Winter roads were of importance, as well as those of summer. As regards the amendment about taking out the horses of the aged he thought it would make matters worse. It applied to the horses not only of men but of women; and that there were the horses of clergy men, who were exempt from taxation. He said that it was an improper thing to permit an overseer or his agent to go into the stables of such persons and take out valuable horses regardless of the wishes of their owners. The proposed increase in the pay of road makers from \$1.50 to \$2 per day he regarded as objectionable. He thought there was no difficulty about getting men to work for \$1.50. As a matter of fact he thought there was considerable competition for the position.

On Tuesday Mr. John McLean presented a petition from the inhabitants of Souda praying for an act of incorporation. Mr. Anthony McLachlan presented a counter petition setting forth that the town be not incorporated, because the proposed municipal machinery is too expensive, the burden of taxation too heavy for the few upon whom it will be levied and the proceeding too hasty. Mr. McLean then presented a bill in accordance with the prayer of his petition which was received and read a first time.

Mr. Morson asked the Commissioner of Agriculture if any disposal had been made of any fat cattle from the Government Stock Farm during the present year, and if there had been, he asked a statement showing how many animals were sold, to whom they were sold, the date of the sale or sales and the prices obtained. Hon. Mr. Rogers laid a statement on the table showing that several head of fat cattle were sold to the Dominion Packing Company, weighing respectively 900, 960, 1260, 1350, 1270, 1260 and 1870, and that the price paid by the D. P. C. was \$3.75 per hundred pounds.

In answer to questions by Mr. Mathieson regarding Lawella's bridge the Commissioner of Public Works said the contract had been let to Mr. John Handrahan by tender, that seven tenders had been received as follows: \$225, \$248, \$264.50, \$277, \$297, \$475 and \$690. The contract, he said, was let at the lowest figure.

During the afternoon sitting on Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Gordon called attention to the importance of framing our statutes so clear and distinct that no man can err concerning them. The resources of the English language being ample for this purpose they ought to be carefully used. In many cases our statutes were so drawn up that magistrates found much difficulty in interpreting them correctly. In this connection he quoted a section from the Public Roads Amendment Act from which, he said, a magistrate might easily draw the inference that he was to summon a horse before him. It reminded him of the saying of the late Hon. Joseph Howe: "There is no end to the manufacture of laws nor to the confusion which the manufacture produces." After considerable discussion the Amendment Act was agreed to, committee rose and the House adjourned.

The greater part of Wednesday's sitting was occupied with the discussion of the Divorce Act, and amendments thereto. Mr. Morson submitted an amendment to the effect that married women who have property of their own and who desire to protect it as against purchasers for value and creditors of their husband should file a statutory declaration specifying the articles which belong to them. Such a declaration would, he said, save them trouble in case of levy upon goods of the husband, and a proceeding by the sheriff against the danger of seizing the goods of the wife together with those of the husband. As the law is at present sheriffs levy at their peril, and creditors are liable to great wrongs by a dishonest pair in collusion. Messrs. Wear and Palmer opposed the amendment.

Mr. Mathieson pointed out that the passage of the bill would be exercised in the hands of the husband and wife should be disturbed. Anything that would tend to weaken the marriage tie would be wrong. Although, at marriage, the property of the wedded pair is made a common fund, the wife's fund is not answerable for the husband's debts. He considered the proposed amendment would tend to guard the community of interest in respect to those who are married. Mr. Gallant opposed the amendment on the ground that unnecessary complication might arise, in consequence thereof. Hon. Mr. Gordon strongly opposed the bill. It was his opinion that all laws of this kind tended to undermine the ties that bind the family together. Laws such as this are calculated to undermine the foundation of society. Mr. John McLean showed that conditions here are different from those in large centres of population. This being a farming country, the creation of separate interests as between husband and wife would only tend to disturbance in families. The amendment in his opinion would be a step in the wrong direction. He thought that for all concerned, outsiders should have their rights preserved against the operations of dishonest people. A vote being taken on Mr. Morson's amendment it was lost on a division of 10 to 15. Mr. Irving and Captain Read voted with the opposition and Mr. McKinnon with the Government.

The business of Thursday the 9th was mostly devoted to asking questions. Among these was the following in which Mr. Mathieson asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of the House a statement showing in detail: 1. The amount received by the Government during the year ending 31st December A. D. 1902 by virtue of the Act to enable the Government of Prince Edward Island to receive temporary loans.

2. The amount withdrawn during the said year from said loans account. 3. The amount of interest accrued due on said loans account during said year. 4. The amount of interest paid by the Government on said loans account during said year. 5. The total balance of interest due and unpaid on said loans account at the close of the year ending 31st December A. D. 1902. The Premier replied to questions 1 and 2 that he was having statements made up. Regarding 3 he said that there is no interest due—interest is not due till the man asks for it. As to 4 the public accounts will show. Concerning 5 he could only say that the total balance has not been computed. There is no interest due until the respective accounts are made up. Mr. Mathieson asked if the House was to understand that there was an interest due on the Loans/Accounts until it was asked for. Premier, Peters declined to discuss the matter. He had given his answer.

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Liberal-Conservative Convention.

A Convention of the Liberal-Conservative electors of the Second Electoral District of King's County will be held at Morell Hall on Wednesday, the 29th day of April, inst. at 1 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of SELECTING CANDIDATES to contest the district at the next Provincial Election. A full attendance is requested, and each poll President will see that his poll is represented by TEN DELEGATES. L. P. DOYLE, Convener. Hd. St. Peter's Bay, April 15th, 1903—21

Notice of Application.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Parliament of Canada now in session for an Act empowering the applicants to construct and operate telephone and telegraph lines throughout the Dominion of Canada. Dated at Ottawa, 27th of March, 1903. KIDD & THOMSON, Solicitors for the applicants, April 15, 1903—91

STREAMSHIP LINES FOR CANADA.

Sir Alfred Jones, London, says that the sale of the Beaver Line was not voluntary. They were compelled to dispose of it by the C. P. R. threatening competition. Sir Alfred believes that the C. P. R. will force the Allan of the route. In the House of Commons Hon. Joseph Chamberlain announced that he was prepared to lay representations in regard to the advantages of Holyhead, as a port for the Canadian fast line before the Canadian Government.

PLOT AGAINST A KING'S LIFE.

Bombardment of a plot against the life of King Alexander, of Serbia, have revealed apparent confirmation in private despatches which have been received at Buda Pest, and according to which an attack on the King's life was planned for last Sunday. The plot was discovered, and fifty persons suspected of complicity therein, have been arrested. Other arrests are expected.

FARMERS' DELEGATES RETURN.

Among those who returned to Halifax on the mail steamer Tausan were eighteen of the Canadian farmers' delegates, who were sent by the government to Great Britain to tell the people there of the opportunities for farming in the Dominion and explain to them the advantages of this country in general. The delegates speak enthusiastically of their tour, and they think that it will be productive of good results.

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