

REGARDING THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BILL

BILLS introduced into the legislature are of three kinds, and though all of them are apt to pass through a somewhat checkered career before finally, if ever, receiving the Royal assent, still their initial vicissitudes vary somewhat. They may be classified as public bills, private bills and money bills.

The first, whether in the hands of the government or a private member, are introduced in the same way. The honorable member in charge of the measure asks leave of the House to introduce it. This is a matter of form and is invariably granted, for, so far, not even the Socialists have commenced obstruction so early in the proceedings. Next the bill is read a first time, also a formal proceeding. The next step is the second reading, and here the trouble begins and the bill often ends. On second reading, the House passes upon the principle supposed to underlie the would-be statute, the details being left for committee stage.

Once the second reading is reached, the career of the different kinds of bills are very similar, so the troubles of the private bills in their earlier history may now be enquired into. Private bills are introduced by petition presented by some member, and are, as a matter of course, referred to the committee on standing orders and private bills. It is not as easy as it sounds to introduce a private bill. There are many formalities to be complied with. Such bills are nearly all applications for some sort of charter on the part of corporations, and they have to advertise their intentions for a stipulated time in the Gazette, and also in the paper published in the district where the enterprise is to be carried on. This advertisement has to be put in by a stated date, and is supposed to correspond with the petition, and both are intended to state concisely the intent of the legislation asked for. There is quite an art in drawing up these

advertisements and petitions, and most of them are very concise indeed. The science of this kind of drafting consists in so wording the advertisement that the ordinary person on reading it will not have the faintest idea what is wanted, and yet to so draw it that when the committee compare it with the bill before them, they will be obliged to admit that the objects of the bill are set forth. Thus the bill acts as a key to the riddle, and there are several individuals in British Columbia quite adept at this art.

The first interview with the committee on standing orders is often a serious one for the bill, or rather for its promoters. This stage is at the beginning of the session when the committee is fresh and zealous. The least departure from the standing orders is eagerly seized upon, and the promoters promptly mulcted in double fees. A bill is hardly ever rejected at this stage, but those in charge of it often have to pay handsomely for mistakes in advertising and generally.

Finally the bill is reported back to the House, and when the fees have been paid to the clerk, it gets a first reading, and is referred back to the appropriate committee. This is either the private bills committee or the railway committee, the last named considering the merits of all applications for railroad charters. This is where most of the bills have trouble, and where the real work of legislating is done. Those promoting the bill, or their parliamentary agent, usually a lawyer chosen for his astuteness and for being politically on the side of the dominant party, in the House, appear before the committee in support of the bill. Here also appear the objectors to the bill. They have similarly to file a petition against the bill and are then allowed to appear either personally or by counsel.

Frequently the sessions before the private bills or the railway committee are quite interesting, and noteworthy and candid explanations of the motives of the other side are freely laid before the members by the opposing

counsel. It sometimes happens that the most innocent looking bill comes to an untimely end in this way. Occasionally the committee takes sides, but as a general rule the bills are discussed and considered both carefully and impartially, without reference to party lines. Every once in a while a member will evince an unusual interest in a bill and almost openly work to get it through. This is rare, and when it happens the honorable member on the next occasion is generally found loud in support of the rights of the "dear people," and so squares himself with his constituents. The press is admitted while arguments before the committee are going on, and sometimes full reports are published. Generally speaking, much less space is given to committee work than to the proceedings of the House, with the result that it has been noticed that some members prefer to reserve their objections until the bill reaches the House. On such occasions people have been known to be unkind enough to suggest that eloquent arguments on the floor of the House attract more attention, and so are better electioneering material than representations more quietly made in committee.

Once the bill has got through committee, it, or what is left of it, is reported to the House, and comes on for second reading in due course. Sometimes this is perfunctory, as the House takes it for granted that the matter has gone thoroughly into the matter and eliminated any provisions dangerous to the public weal. It is not infrequently happens, however, that the opponents of the bill, defeated in committee, transfer their efforts to the floor of the House, and then a battle royal is in order. A report from a committee rejecting a bill on principle—"That the preamble is not proved" is the recognized formula—is nearly always adopted, and the bill is almost always dropped for the session.

In public and private bills alike, the main principle of the bill is discussed on the second reading with the Speaker in the chair.

The next stage, that of committee of the House, sees the Speaker retire, preceded by the sergeant-at-arms bearing the mace, and the proceedings are presided over by the chairman of the committee. The chairmen are chosen by arrangement between the two chief parties alternately from either side of the House, and their business is to read the bill through clause by clause, which is thus discussed seriatim. On second reading honorable members are only allowed to speak once, but they can talk as often and as long as they please in committee, with the result that this stage is frequently a very loquacious proceeding.

The committee over, the bill is nearly through its troubles. The committee reports the bill to the House as amended, and the report is usually accepted without a division. But in the case of highly contentious bills, when every expedient is used to delay its progress and compass its defeat, there may be another debate on the acceptance of the report. Similarly on the third reading, debates are in order, though little opposition is manifested, except in exceptional circumstances, as if a bill reaches third reading it is under all ordinary circumstances bound to pass.

The third reading over, the Speaker cries, "Shall the preamble pass?" and next, "Shall the bill pass?" This ends the bill so far as the House is concerned. All that remains is the assent of the Crown given by the Lieutenant-Governor. This is only withheld in rare cases, though it sometimes happens. If the Royal assent is given, the bill becomes law, though even then there is still one more chance of a slip between cup and lip. The Dominion government can disallow the legislation any time within a year of the act becoming law. This is done by Dominion order-in-council, a recent example of which was the disallowance of the Natal Act of the last session.

A money bill differs from the foregoing in

that it has to be sent down to the House by special message from the Lieutenant-Governor, and can only be introduced by a member of the government of the day. Apart from that its career is nowise differs from that of any other public bill. Also there is Supply, but, as Kipling says, that is another story.

In order to ensure the proper and orderly despatch of business it has been found necessary to pass many rules, which may be obtained at the parliament buildings in a neatly bound book, and, like the parliamentary procedure generally, they are largely based on the English practice. The member for Delta is currently reported to know them all by heart, backwards, with a number of additional ones for use in emergencies. All are not so expert, but a fair working knowledge of the rules is necessary for those who would take an active part in legislative work.

Generally speaking, a bill can only be advanced one stage at each sitting of the House, but it can be put through all the stages provided no one objects. This rule recalls an incident which occurred a few years ago on the last day of the session. The then member for Grand Forks, now a Victoria business man, had charge of an important private bill which had been presented very late in the game, so late that on the last day of the session it had not advanced beyond the second reading. He wished to put it through the last day, and a canvass of the members of the House seemed to show that there was no objection. Unfortunately he reckoned without the member for Ymir, since promoted to be a government agent. The last named legislator rose in his place to make his first and last speech of the session.

"I object." That was all that was necessary. The bill could not be further proceeded with that day, and that evening the House was prorogued. The bill died and has been forgotten, but the incident is still spoken of by the oldtimers in the press gallery.

The Fish and Game Are Our Undeveloped Assets

THE following speech by Dr. Breck before the Tourist Committee of the Board of Trade of Halifax, Nova Scotia, should be read and the lesson appreciated by every business man, politician and sportsman in the province.

Dr. Breck said: It is very difficult to talk about hunting and fishing from the standpoint of pure business. So many look at it as a pastime only, and one that can be indulged in only by the rich or those living near the woods. What expression is more common than, "O, I don't care anything about sport; never had a fishing rod in my hand," etc. But how many mine-owners ever had a pick in their hands, or how many deep-sea fish operators ever handled a line or trimmed a sail? It is hard to forget the sentimental side of sport. But this is just what I want you to do now. Nobody on earth appreciates the other side better than I—the beauty of the woods, the excitement, the health-giving outing, and all that. I could, if I were speaking before an anglers' or hunters' club, indulge in ecstasies as dithyrambic as any poet's, but here and now I want you to regard me solely as you would the agent for any new industry that I feel will help enrich our province. If there is anything that has been dimmed into my ears since I came to Nova Scotia, and it is the burden of every speaker from Earl Grey down, it is that this province is a really rich but undeveloped country.

Now I stand here to call your attention to an industry which has never been developed to any extent, but in which I am convinced there are riches for us, if taken up and managed purely as a business proposition. I mean the exploitation of our game and inland fisheries, which is, of course, mainly a part of the tourist industry. It is no new idea, but one that has certainly not been appraised at anything near its proper value.

We are met here by the first objection, which comes mostly from a certain class of short-sighted sportsmen, who say "Our game and fish for ourselves!"

This would be a legitimate cry if by selling our goods to foreigners we lessened the supply of our own people. But I shall try to show you that this is far from being the case. The truth is the exact opposite. This old cry is as silly as if a cloth manufacturer or an apple grower should say, "Our products for ourselves!" That would be a fine business man indeed! On the contrary, a modern nation's commercial status is pretty nearly measured by the amount of its exports.

On this side of the Atlantic we nearly all believe in protection. Well, we protect our game and fish by a tariff just as our other products, only instead of a tax we impose a license. But this is the best of all taxes for us, for the reason that the foreigner pays not only it, but comes among us and spends many times as much while he is here.

The appreciation of the commercial side has been a gradual development with me. Residing at South Milford for some years past, I saw the great sporting advent. I long noted the splendid climate, but wondered at the impossibility of using such vast tracts of country that only the lumberman and the

sheep-raiser could ever hope to make anything of. The growth of summer hotels in the Adirondacks, etc., has solved that problem. Then for the reasons for the importance of the sporting side of the tourist question: "Trade follows the sportsman." The sportsman pays for the protection of the game. The manager of the Bangor and Aroostook railway wrote: "I do not think it an exaggeration to say that half the passenger train mileage a good part of each year in the state of Maine is made possible only by the patronage of the visiting sportsmen and pleasure-seekers."

Just a glance backward at the story of game protection, a look at the actual situation now, and a hint at our future policy.

It is an axiom that, without enforced law, game speedily disappears, and also fish, though less quickly, being more numerous. For many years the carrying out of the provisions of the Game Act was in the hands of the old Game Society, to which we must ever be very grateful, for it stood between our game and its extermination. If it had not stopped the hounding of moose there would not now be any left. For a time the moose increased, so that they are fairly plentiful in districts where they were not known before. But other elements were at work. In the old days hunting was mostly confined to those who had good hounds and to Indian callers, but the number of hunters increased largely, the arts of still-hunting and calling were learned from the Indians, and the deadly repeating rifle made its appearance.

The apparatus of the Game Society for the protection of the game did not increase with the growth of sport, and the game again began to disappear. Serious complaints were heard from many parts of the province, and a couple of years ago the government took the execution of the Game Act out of the hands of the Game Society, and placed it in those of a Game Commission. This was largely the work of the new People's G. & F. P. Association, a flourishing organization with branches all over the province, which has no administrative power, but a good deal of influence.

Now for the actual present situation, in other words, our stock in trade. Moose are hardly holding their own. The balance of the testimony is on the other side. Commissioner Knight does all he can, but simply has no money to pay men to patrol the woods, which, as any woodman knows, is the only method to prevent violation of the act. Stories of moose killed out of season by poachers, lumberjacks and others, and of snaring, come from all directions. As for our once famous salmon streams, the situation is scandalous. Trout? God has stocked our streams, but we have taken no steps to preserve our heritage.

We have played fast and loose with the wealth that the Almighty has bestowed upon us in such prodigality, and we are still doing so; but in spite of all our trout fishing is about the best in the world, we still have plenty of salmon, and nearly every non-resident who goes out with a good guide gets his moose. But I ask you to contemplate for a moment the value of this province as a sporting asset if we should treat this whole important question as a cold business proposition.

We are in the position of a couple of brothers who own a fine orchard, run by one of them with next to no care. He neither understands growing apples nor does he hire experts to teach him. The small boys of the neighborhood plunder him to their hearts' content, and while he has still a lot of fine apples to sell, and there are thousands aching to buy them, he takes little or no trouble to seek out these would-be customers and exchange his apples for a lot of their good money. But the other brother comes along, sees how badly the orchard is being run, and expostulates. But his brother objects that he has no money to go to any such expense, and he wants his apples for his own use. He is made to see that putting some capital into the business by selling at a high price he will have all the money he need to improve and increase his stock, and that he will also have more and better apples for himself. Do you see the analogy?

When a new business is started the owners, if they are wise, study the methods of some similar institution that has notoriously made a great success in the same line. Such an institution for our purposes is the state of Maine, which is only about one-third larger than Nova Scotia, and by no means more favored by Nature so far as fish and game are concerned, and we have moose where she has deer plus a very few moose. But do you know how much it is estimated that Maine receives every year as indirect revenue from non-resident sportsmen? Anywhere from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000! Let us split the difference and say \$20,000,000. Maine charges a big-game fee of \$15, half as much as we do, and nothing for fishing; but her direct income from licenses alone is nevertheless over \$30,000 a year. As for the indirect income, many short-sighted people, whose grounding in the laws of economy is shaky, will say, "Oh, that's all very nice for guides, but it doesn't help us!"

But what is the fact? From the very moment a man in Boston puts his hand into his pocket to buy his ticket for Yarmouth or Halifax he begins to add to the revenues of Nova Scotia, and he continues to contribute to our coffers at every step he takes on our soil. Now does all this money go to the guide? Of course not.

Warden Jenner, now departed, but still helping us by his magnificent example, said that, at a conservative estimate, every sportsman who came here spent at least \$200 on an average, but this is too small; it will be nearer three hundred. Maine has been at this job in a businesslike way for many years, and this year's report of her Game and Fish Commission says, speaking of money expended on trout hatcheries: "For every dollar spent on trout hatcheries, the state has received three hundred!" That seems a pretty good proposition. And nobody ever heard a state of Maine man complain that catering to non-residents has spoiled his own fishing or hunting, for he knows better.

Now, how is it in our sister province, New Brunswick? Just the same, though in a less degree, for they have been a shorter time at the game. Ten years ago the appropriation for game protection was the same as ours;

now it is \$35,000, or \$15,000 outside of direct income. She receives directly from licenses about \$33,000 a year, and from this you may make a guess at her indirect revenue from sport. In 1905 it was \$20,000; in 1908, \$35,000. This increase was the result of advertising.

On our area, as compared with these two States, we should now be enjoying at least ten or twelve millions of revenue, besides having better sport for ourselves. Now, why is this unfortunately by no means the case? And why have our neighbors so prospered?

Simply because of lack of appreciation, and the failure to see that our sporting asset must be treated as any big business enterprise is.

What does Maine do? In the first place, she grants no monopolies of fishing or hunting rights on uncultivated lands.

She employs over 100 wardens, many of them salaried and some receiving as high as \$1,400 a year. There are over 2,000 guides, paying \$1 a year for registration. She maintains eight first-class fish-hatcheries, under trained superintendents, and has just appropriated the money for still another. She has a Game, Fish and Forest Commission of three gentlemen, all experts, one to look after game, one fish, and the third forests, and these men are highly salaried, for they give all their time to their tasks, and do not regard them as side-issues, as with us.

Maine this year has voted \$47,500 out of the public treasury for fish and game interests, besides \$2,000 for an additional hatchery. Deducting the \$30,000 received for licenses, we have over \$17,000, put into the business to keep up the plant, as it were, and Maine considers this a pretty good proposition, inasmuch as she receives in return so many millions of indirect revenue. Can there be any question that she is right?

And now for Nova Scotia. What do we do in this line? We spend yearly on game protection something like \$2,500, nearly \$2,000 of which comes as licenses and fines, so that we actually put our hands in our own pockets for about \$500 or \$600. This means that every man, woman and child in this fair province sacrifices for this great national enterprise the enormous sum of 1,200 of one cent apiece!

Gentlemen, such prodigality is appalling! Now, gentlemen, one final consideration. It is not enough to have a fine plant and to turn out even the best of goods. We must bring them to the notice of the buyers.

Maine, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec and other states and provinces are alive to the efficacy of advertising. It is certainly one of the commonplaces of business today that advertising is a prime necessity. These other places never fail to be well represented at every sportsmen's show; they have their sporting advantages worked up in the newspapers and magazines; their chief railways and steamship lines get out fine pamphlets devoted to sport alone.

What do we want in this important line? The I.C.R. has issued a really beautiful "Forest, Stream and Seashore" booklet, part of which treats of Nova Scotia. All honor to its enterprise. The D.A.R. devotes only a

chapter to sport in its pretty "Vacation Days." The Canadian Northern publishes a meagre pamphlet the "Road to Sport," part of which is devoted to sport on our S. W. shore.

Sport is barely touched upon in the many local summer resort pamphlets and folders. We have never been represented at any sportsmen's show. Truly it may be said that we have hidden our light under a bushel. And it is a thousand pities, for we have the goods and there are thousands eager to buy them if we but place them in sight. All this is very, very little.

We must advertise. And here it may, perhaps, be forgiven me if I mention the forthcoming "Sporting Guide" authorized by the Maritime Board of Trade, which will appear in a few weeks, and which I trust will be supported by all good Nova Scotians, and prove a source of revenue to our province. It is not a very elegant publication, and not by any means perfect, but its facts are true and as a first edition, I hope not so bad.

In conclusion I feel that I have been playing rather the part of the "kicker," of the iconoclast who pulls down, and you will perhaps ask me what should be done to remedy matters.

The obvious answer is that we should imitate whatever has been proved successful by our neighbors in other provinces. Our provincial government should administer this magnificent enterprise as a business proposition, and the results will justify us a thousand-fold. The railway and steamship and hotel services must needs expand and improve, and the whole province will enormously benefit. We sportsmen are open to this suspicion of prejudice—It is to you business men we look to convince our legislators.

Whenever any steps are taken to have change made in the Game Act, the legislators are disposed to treat the matter as a joke more than anything else. "Oh let us alone" is the frequent cry when amendments to it are sought, but the fact must be impressed on them that the Game Laws are in a state of flux like the budget and need revising every year. When the legislators are educated to that view the cause of game protection will be much advanced.

ON AN UNSUCCESSFUL HUNT

Yes, it was a luckless morning, if you chose to call it so: But, believe me, boys, I really do not care: I have lived, and breathed, and labored, and been happy just to know What the wilderness vouchsafed me unaware.

I have journeyed near to Nature through her Temples of the Woods, And have heartened what her children have to say: I have tried into her secrets, have observed her many moods, And am wiser for the lessons of the day.

We have often marked an angler coming home with empty creel, Yet he was not made a butt of mock-delight; Why, then, should we be so blatant of the "sympathy" we feel For a hunter coming gameless home at night?

Though you fellows have me teased, I am careless of your jeers, For it is not all of sportsmanship to slay; I can think of him as thriving for the sport of other years, And am glad I did not kill my buck today, Frank C. Rish, in Outdoor Life.

Best
PROMOTE THUSIAM
25c
50c
1.00
1.50
2.00
2.50
3.00
3.50
4.00
4.50
5.00
5.50
6.00
6.50
7.00
7.50
8.00
8.50
9.00
9.50
10.00
10.50
11.00
11.50
12.00
12.50
13.00
13.50
14.00
14.50
15.00

Separator
easily and quickly washed,
our milk into—see picture,
keeping out dirt and pro-
ducing excellent advantages.

Hardware Co. Ltd
St. Phone 59

DS
Lower and Lawn Grass
Age..... 5¢
S, per package... 5¢
Package..... 5¢

25 PER 100 LBS
e Spray—We have it

Wynne
ONLY GENUINE
Cures and cures
FEVER, GROUP, AGUE,
The Best Remedy known for
COLIC, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS,
The only Palliative in
MALARIA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM,
and all other ailments.

ITY STORE
RIES

you money. Mail Or-
attention.
YOUNG
VICTORIA, B. C.

ESON'S TAR HISKEY
LIMITED, DUBLIN.
e King.

or of B. C.
America or Inginea Camps
outfits and provisions at my
of navigation on the Skeena
above points.
ZELTON, B. C.