

LOCAL LEGISLATURE

FREDERICTON, March 18.—The house met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the house the evidence taken by the factory commissioners and the school report for the past year.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to amend the New Brunswick Elections Act with respect to the parish of Alma, Northumberland. He explained that it was desired to establish an additional polling place in that parish.

Mr. Hazen thought it might be well to make a general bill, as there were other places which required additional polling places. In St. John there were only two polling places in Prince ward, where there were 1,300 votes to be polled.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie thought the absence in such a case could provide additional ballot boxes.

Mr. Hazen said this had not been done in Prince ward. The act had worked excellently at the St. John election, and he thought the house was to be congratulated on having passed the bill.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that members who desired changes might hand him a memorandum of what they wished added to the bill.

Mr. Hazen thought there should be some uniform rule to guide the shorthands with respect to the carrying out of the act.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie quite agreed with the leader of the opposition and thought that no great influence would be done if no names were added after the lists were finally made up.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said it had been suggested that it would be well to have a permanent list of electors, and notices should be published that certain names were to be added and others to be struck off this list.

Hon. Mr. Hill complained that under the act a man might require to be a resident in the place for a year before he could get his name on the list.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved that the bill be referred to a special committee. The committee appointed, consisting of Messrs. Tweedie, Pugsley, Hill, McChesney, Copp, Hazen and Clarke.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved his resolution with reference to representation of which he gave notice yesterday. He said: In moving this resolution it is not my intention to speak to the question at any length.

He said that he was not in any way endeavoring to sustain it. But I feel that we are able to stand any criticism of that kind, for I hold it to be the duty of any government of this province, as well as of all persons, whether in the legislature or out of it, who have the interests of the province at heart, to see that the rights of the province are preserved.

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time has come when the attention of parliament should be drawn seriously to these things by which our rights are diminished. At the time of confederation Quebec had certain well-defined boundaries. According to the census of 1871 it had an area of 138,555 square miles. Quebec is the province by which the representation of the other provinces is regulated. In 1898 an act was passed which extended the boundaries of Quebec so that it contained 381,000 square miles an addition of 242,445 square miles to its territory.

This territory thus added to Quebec is through which the G. T. P. will pass and which we may expect to become populous in the future. The result will be to diminish our representation in a way never contemplated by the B. N. A. Act. It cannot be denied that this very seriously affects the interests of New Brunswick and of the other maritime provinces.

When the imperial act of 1871 authorizing the extension of the area of any province was passed it provided that an enlarging any province regard should be had to the rights of the other provinces. But I may ask what right was given to the rights of the maritime provinces when Quebec, the key province of the dominion, was thus enlarged? It seems to me that this legislature should assert its right to speak out plainly for the interests of New Brunswick. It is our duty as a government and as a legislature to deal with all matters which affect the interests of the province and to see to it that these interests are fully represented.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said: I feel that, having been called upon as one of the law officers of the crown to consider this question, it is not undesirable that I should express my views upon it. Before going into detail I may say that this is a matter of profound regret to me that the supreme court of Canada and the judicial committee should have decided as they have done in this matter. I have never entertained the slightest doubt that the fathers of confederation in framing their scheme of representation intended that it should be confined to the four original provinces of Canada, and that if other provinces were admitted it should be on terms.

In that view I was fortified by the statements of one of the greatest statesmen of Canada, who was himself one of the fathers of confederation and who took a leading part in bringing it about. I refer to the late Sir John A. Macdonald, who in his report of the 23rd December, 1870, on the subject of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, seems to be confined to the three provinces of Canada—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—originally forming the Dominion. That was my own view of the case and notwithstanding adverse decisions it is my view today. I am pleased to know that many eminent lawyers hold the same view. I think it is only necessary for us to look at the words of the B. N. A. Act to become convinced that it was only intended to deal with the representation of the four provinces. In the course of the argument before the privy council one of the law lords admitted that if Newfoundland should have been admitted to the union she would have a right to stipulate with regard to terms and in respect to representation.

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stand up for our rights and try to do away with the injustice we have suffered in the past. I have no jealousy of the province of Quebec. I desire to see it grow and prosper. Because I think that the interests of Quebec are largely allied to our own. Therefore, when we raise the question of representation it is not that we are opposed to Quebec, but because we desire to preserve our rights and to retain some degree of political influence in the east. When New Brunswick joined the confederation, the territory of Quebec was not much more than half what it is today. It was bounded on the north by the height of land which divided it from the territory of the Hudson Bay country. The boundary of Quebec was well recognized and it was laid down in Arrowsmith's map, published in 1815. It is referred to in the work of Bouchette, the surveyor general of Lower Canada, which was published in 1822. This boundary, which is the very highest authority, and it shows that the northern boundary of Quebec was long recognized to be the height of land which divided the waters flowing into the St. Lawrence from those flowing into Hudson Bay. Now it might have made a very great difference in the willingness of the people of New Brunswick to join the confederation if Quebec had then been as large as it is now. I submit that when our people entered into the union they agreed to go into the confederacy with Quebec as it was then, and that the boundaries of that province and our interests are safeguarded. As already stated by the premier, the imperial act of 1871 which extended the area of a province was extended to the rights of the other provinces should be properly guarded. Yet in 1898, without the consent of the people, the late dominion government agreed with Quebec to extend that province to Hudson Bay, thus adding to it a territory which will soon be traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific and which in time will become populous. The bill to carry out this agreement was introduced on the 2nd of June, 1898, by Mr. Sir John. It was introduced in blank and was not read. It was not read on the 8th of June it was read a second time and passed. So far as the records of parliament show, there was no objection to it at the time, and this large area was added to Quebec without the maritime provinces being consulted. It does seem to me that in view of the legislation which has since been passed, and which is affecting our interests, and in view of what is now being done in connection with the legislation for the N. W. T., this government is not doing its duty in allowing the legislature to pass such a bill and to endeavor to undo this great wrong. As I have some other views on the subject to present to the house, I will move the adjournment of the debate.

Debate adjourned until tomorrow. House adjourned at 5:30.

FREDERICTON, March 18.—In connection with their report the factory commission have submitted to the consideration of the legislature a lengthy bill to be known as the New Brunswick Factories Act, 1905.

It is quite doubtful after reading the report whether the house will find it either wise or expedient to pass such legislation. I think it is only necessary for us to look at the words of the B. N. A. Act to become convinced that it was only intended to deal with the representation of the four provinces. In the course of the argument before the privy council one of the law lords admitted that if Newfoundland should have been admitted to the union she would have a right to stipulate with regard to terms and in respect to representation.

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ber of employees. The municipalities committee will take up the bill for consideration on Tuesday next and all who are interested are invited to attend and be heard on the proposed legislation.

The public accounts committee will not meet until Wednesday next, March 22nd.

FREDERICTON, March 17.—The house met at three o'clock. Hon. Mr. Tweedie of the committee to nominate standing committees reported that Mr. Murray had been added to the committees on municipalities, corporations and agriculture.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEED GRAIN. In reply to Mr. Smith's inquiry as to the distribution of seed grain to persons in Carleton county whose crops suffered from a hailstorm, Hon. Mr. Farris said: The recommendation of the agricultural committee was carried out. On 21st of April, 1904, the following order in council was passed: "The commissioner for agriculture reports, for the information and approval of the committee of the executive council, that during the summer of 1904 a hailstorm of unusual violence visited the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester and Carleton, totally destroying the growing crops; that he has received petitions from inhabitants of those areas localities being fourth and several instances the people who lost their crops are unable to procure grain for the present spring's seeding, and asking for assistance; that he has had the matter under consideration, and now recommends that his department be authorized to give assistance by way of a free distribution of seed grain to the persons who have lost their crops, in the case of Restigouche, Gloucester and Carleton, or a total of \$40,000."

That such distribution be made through the department of agriculture, assisted by a committee to be named by the members for Restigouche and Gloucester, and by Mr. Jones for Carleton county, the distribution to be confined to persons who lost their crops by said storm, and who in the opinion of the committee are least able to provide seed for themselves.

AND THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL CONCURRENCE THEREIN, it is accordingly ordered. In accordance therewith a committee for Carleton county was named by Mr. Jones, said committee consisting of Messrs. C. N. W. Raymond, of Simons, Harrison, Ridout, of Mount Pleasant, and Armand Henderson, of Windsor. A warrant of \$500 was sent to the chairman of the committee on 28th April, 1904. Said committee was to purchase seed grain and make the distribution. From information from the chairman a meeting of the sufferers was called at the house of Mr. Jones on 28th April, 1904, and the whole decided not to accept the assistance on the ground that it was not sufficient, and ordered the committee to return the \$500, which they did, and the amount was returned to the receiver general. A statement of the losses by the hail storm from 57 persons in the county of Carleton was received by the department of agriculture.

HARTLAND BRIDGE WILL NOT BE MADE FREE. Hon. Mr. Lablollis, in reply to Mr. Smith's inquiry, said the financial statement of the Hartland Bridge Co. from Jan. 31st, 1904, to Jan. 31st, 1905, shows the following: Total receipts from tolls collected, \$1,275.55; cash on hand Jan. 31st, 1904, \$28.95; cash in bank Jan. 31st, 1904, \$117.48; total, \$1,421.98.

Total expenditure for same period: Amount of expenditure as per itemized statement below, \$287.50; Jan. 31, 1905, remitted to G. N. Babbitt, \$384.02; cash in bank Jan. 31, 1905, \$67.87; cash in toll-keeper's hands Jan. 31, 1905, \$25.50. Total, \$1,274.89.

Hon. Mr. Lablollis stated that it has not been decided by the government to make the Hartland bridge free.

THE N. B. COAL AND RAILWAY LINE. Hon. Mr. Pugsley in reply to Mr. Hazen's questions in regard to the New Brunswick railway stated that some of the questions could not be answered until the report of the president of the company, which he hoped to do early next week. In the meantime he would answer such questions as he had the information in regard to. The N. B. railway line is 69 miles long from Norton to Chipman and 23 miles beyond Chipman, including branches. By the act of the company was authorized to acquire the railway from Norton to Chipman, a distance of 92 miles, and for this sum of \$180,000 a clear title was obtained. As to the amount expended in construction from Chipman to Norton the road is 69 miles long and for this sum of \$180,000 a clear title was obtained. As to the amount expended in construction from Chipman to Norton the road is 69 miles long and for this sum of \$180,000 a clear title was obtained.

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thought better to make arrangements with private parties to establish mining plants on condition that branch lines were built to their mines. Eight miles of branches had been built, seven of which were of the different coal mines and the mining plants established under this arrangement have a capacity of more than five hundred tons a day. The government insisted on the road from Chipman to Fredericton being first class in every particular, and this has increased its cost much beyond the estimates. It has been examined by the chief of the G. T. P. survey and by the chief of the transcontinental commission and highly approved. There is no reason to doubt that this line will be the connecting link between the G. T. P. and St. John. It will be taken over on lease in the same manner as the road from Quebec to Wipinip and will relieve the province of all liability, and is not unlikely that during this session legislation will be asked for to compel the company to make a lease or sale on terms that will relieve the province. The company has intimated its willingness to accept of the G. T. P. I have been an ex-officio director of the company and am aware of the difficulties they have met with.

An arrangement was at first made to finance the undertaking by persons connected with the Barnes Construction Company. Money was advanced by the bank on progress estimates of the work done. Afterwards the contractor declined to proceed with the road and the company had to take it over. But was handed to the bank to cover advances. There came a time when the bank refused to carry the undertaking any further, and the company had to finance elsewhere. Later the bonds have been sold by the company and the loans wiped out. The interest item has been a large one in consequence of the delay in the work, but so far the province has not paid out a dollar. These are all the questions I can answer today; the others will be answered next week.

HIGHWAY ACT IN SUNBURY. Hon. Mr. Lablollis, in reply to an enquiry by Mr. Hazen, said: Eleven divisions have been established in the county of Sunbury under the Highway Act, 1904. The superintendents appointed for such divisions are as follows: No. 1, Mauerville—George F. Banks, all roads in the parish. No. 2, Upper Sheffield—G. L. Day, all roads in the southwestern part of the parish, comprising the St. John River road, the road to Lakeside, Carleton Place, and Freshlake roads, Mill Settlement, and Grub road in Sheffield. No. 3, Sheffield—J. Thos. Fulton, all roads in the northern part of the parish of Sheffield, from southwestern end of Little River roads. No. 4, Northfield—James Powers, all roads in the northern part of the parish from Doherty's Corner to Chipman. No. 5, Northfield—Daniel Doherty, all roads in southwestern part of parish from Doherty's Corner. No. 6, Blissett—David M. Seely, 7, Gladstone—Herbert Price, 8, Burton—Wm. Logue, all roads between St. John and Chipman. No. 9, Burton—Harry Kimball, west of St. John road. No. 10, Lincoln—Wm. Steeves, all roads south of C. P. R. No. 11, Lincoln—L. J. Patterson, all roads north of C. P. R.

The intention of the department is that the superintendents be appointed annually. The department received the resignation of Geo. Seely, who was appointed superintendent for the parish of Blissett, and David M. Seely has been appointed in his place. The superintendents have not yet given bonds. It is the intention that bonds shall be given by all the superintendents before the beginning of the discharge of their summer duties. It has not yet been decided upon what principle the salaries will be paid to superintendents. The superintendents of highways in the county of Sunbury were appointed under the reorganization of J. Peake, M. D., and H. E. Harrison.

AND IN CARLETON CO. Hon. C. H. Lablollis, in reply to enquiry by Mr. Smith, said: The county of Carleton has been divided into 13 divisions under the new highway act. The superintendents appointed to take charge of such divisions are as follows: No. 1, Woodstock, Reginald Dibble; 2, Richmond, Ezra Briggs, all that portion of Richmond north of the Hodgson road, not including the Hodgson road itself. No. 3, Kent, John Fleming, to be superintendent of the south district, being the remaining portion of the parish and including the Hodgson road. No. 4, Wakefield—James Good, 5, Wilmet—Harry B. Carvell, 6, Wickford—Clarence Estey, 7, Simonds—Chas. P. Colwell, 8, Northampton—Fred S. Sharpe, 9, Brighton—Harry Tiedie, 10, Peel—Russell R. Ross, 11, Aberdeen—Thos. Somerville, 12, Kent—Amos DeMerchant, for all that part of Kent lying north of the Monquart road. No. 13, Kent—John Cronin, for the remainder of Kent.

The question of salaries or remuneration for the superintendents has not yet been decided. Each superintendent appointed under the new road act will give a bond before he receives instructions to expend money on summer roads. No reports have yet been received from superintendents in Carleton county respecting the working of the act on winter roads. No authority has been given the superintendents of highway divisions to offer remuneration to roadmasters for their services in keeping winter roads in condition.

PETITIONS PRESENTED. Mr. Hazen presented the petition of the school trustees of the West district of Gladstone for "An act to authorize them to issue debentures."

Mr. Burns presented the petition of the Quebec Railway Co. in favor of their bill.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney presented the petition of A. H. Kearney and others for the incorporation of the Second Advent Church in the parish of St. John.

Mr. Hart presented the petition of the Town Council of St. Andrews and the Charlotte Municipal Council in favor of a bill relating to the town of St. John.

Mr. Maxwell presented the petition of Thos. McAfee and others for the

Federal Life Assurance Company OF CANADA.

23rd Annual Report and Financial Statement. For the Year Ending December 31, 1904.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the head office of the company, in Hamilton, on Tuesday, March 7th, 1905, the president, Mr. David Dexter, in the chair. The following reports and financial statement were submitted.

DIRECTORS' REPORT. Your directors have the honor to present the report and financial statement of the company for the year which closed on the 31st December, 1904, duly vouched for by the auditors.

The new business of the year consisted of two thousand two hundred and fifty applications for insurance aggregating \$1,448,820, of which two thousand one hundred and seventy-seven applications for \$3,010,499.50 were accepted.

As in previous years, the income of the company shows a gratifying increase, and the assets of the company have been increased by \$255,979.52, and have now reached \$2,146,773.37, exclusive of guarantee capital.

The security for policyholders, including guarantee capital, amounted at the close of the year to \$3,010,773.37, and the liabilities for reserves and all outstanding claims, \$1,982,865.86, showing a surplus of \$1,027,907.51. Excess of uncalculated guarantee capital, the surplus to policyholders was \$138,377.81.

Policies on eighty-two lives became claims through death, to the amount of \$157,040.00, of which \$12,686 was re-insured in other companies. Including cash dividends and dividends applied to the reduction of premiums, with annuities, the total payment to policyholders amounted to \$198,911.24.

Careful