

The Union Advocate

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DOINGS IN THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE

Important Bills Become Law.—Resolution Re Better Education.—Estimates for 1912.

Fredericton, March 18.—W. E. Hatheway's motion in favor of increased agricultural and technical education, largely along lines suggested in 1910 and 1911 by the Northumberland County Teachers' Institute, was seconded by D. W. McLaughlin, and after discussion chiefly by Mr. Hatheway, who pointed out that there was two and a half times as much illiteracy in N. B. and N. S. in proportion to the population than in Ontario, and that the time was coming when the House would have to think of the person first and property afterward, passed unanimously.

March 19.—The St. John Commission bill passed, with few amendments.

Hon. H. F. McLeod's budget speech showed the following:

ESTIMATED INCOME 1912	
Dominion Subsidies	
Balance due 1st July on census of 1911	\$ 8,307 20
Accounts due for 1912, on census of 1911	657,975 30
	\$946,282 50
Territorial revenue	500,000 00
Rees, Provincial Secretary's office	22,500 00
Taxes, incorporated companies	47,000 00
Private and local bills	2,500 00
Succession duties	35,000 00
King's printer	2,400 00
School books	17,500 00
Probate Court fund	15,000 00
Supreme Court fund	2,000 00
Provincial Hospital	25,000 00
Jordan Memorial Sanatorium	1,000 00
Liquor licenses	42,000 00
Motor vehicles	5,000 00
Sales of Agricultural Live Stock	2,500 00
H. If cost of wharves from Dominion Government	6,000 00
Utilities Commission	1,500 00
Factory Inspector	2,500 00
Miscellaneous receipts	4,000 00
Memo:	
Estimated Receipts	1,870,682 50

Estimated Expenditure 1,361,286 72	
Unappropriated	9,395 84
ABSTRACT OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1912.	
Ad. of Justice	\$ 21,250 00
Agriculture	61,315 00
Auditor General and Dept.	3,100 00
Boys' Industrial Home	1,500 00
Colonization Roads	1,000 00
Campbellton Relief	5,000 00
Education	278,350 00
School Books	17,700 00
Elections	508 47
Executive Government	47,750 00
Factory Inspection, etc.	2,300 00
Free Grants Act	1,000 00
Pub. Forest and Game Protection	32,000 00
Guarantee Bonds—Government officials	950 00
Immigration	10,000 00
Inte est	257,000 00
Jordan Memorial Sanatorium	7,500 00
Legislation	38,803 00
Liquor Licenses	28,000 00
Mining and Mineral development	2,000 00
Natural History society	650 00
New Brunswick Historical Society	125 00
New Brunswick Rifle Association	300 00
Public Health	7,700 00
Public Hospitals	10,000 00
Provincial Hospitals (In-sane)	84,000 00
Probate Courts	13,200 00
Printing	15,000 00
Public Works	344,908 30
Refunds	1,500 00
Roads and Surveys, Settlements Lands Victoria County	1,100 00
Revisors	1,850 00
Sinking Fund	25,285 00
Surveys and Inspections	4,750 00
Stampage Collections	30,000 00
Successions Duties Collection	1,750 00
Superannuation and Pensions	2,250 00
Tourists' Associations	2,500 00
Utilities Commission	600 00
Unforeseen Expenses	2,000 00
	1,361,286 72

LAST REGULAR MEETING TOWN COUNCIL

Refuses to Move in Question of Taxation or Countenance New Valuation.—Only Two Scott Act Cases in February.—Mayor Pedolin Announces His Retirement.

The present Newcastle Town Council held its last regular session on the 21st inst. Mayor Pedolin presiding. Aldermen present: John Clark, J. G. Kethro, C. M. Dickson, S. A. Russell, Charles Sargeant and H. H. Stuart. The following bills were passed:

PUBLIC WORKS

W. J. Hogan	\$18.55
E. Dalton	11.40
	\$29 95

LIGHT & WATER

Colonial Lubricating Co	\$130.23
Miller's Foundry	3.12
Can. Gen. Electric Co	18.63
T. McAvity & Son	9.60
I. C. Coal Mining Co.	49.20
	\$219.78

PARK & FIRE

Edward Dalton	\$10
J. H. Sargeant	26
	\$36

The following officers were appointed for the civic election on April 16th proximo:—

Returning officers—Wm. Irving, Edward Hickey.

Poll clerks—Fred Daiton, H. B. Cassidy.

Constables—John Jardine, John Fallon.

SCOTT ACT REPORT

The Scott Act Inspector reported two complaints and two convictions for first offence during February.

SALARIES RAISED

The petition of Adam Dickson and T. C. Hill, policemen and Scott Act Inspectors, for an increase in salary, which they declared necessary on account of the increased cost of living, was read.

Ald. Clark and Kethro thought it better to leave the matter over for next Council.

Ald. Sargeant and Stuart thought it better to deal with it now.

Ald. Stuart proposed that the increase be from \$1.60 to \$2.00 per day. He thought that \$2.00 a day was little enough upon which to support a family and no civic employee should be paid less.

Ald. Dickson agreed that \$2.00 should be the minimum wages per day, and, seconded by Ald. Russell, moved, That the salaries of the Police officers be increased \$2.00 per day from and after the first April next.

Carried.

John Creighton, night engineer at the Power House, having resigned his position, Robert Beckwith, who had applied for the vacancy, was unanimously appointed at \$2 a day.

ALD. STUART

Ald. Stuart brought up the matter of applying to the Legislature for permission to change the system of taxation upon a majority vote of the ratepayers, in accordance with the motion passed by Newcastle Council last September and adopted the next month by the Union of N. B. Municipalities, and moved:

That this Council prepare a Bill for the Legislature to carry out the intention of the resolution unanimously passed by the Council on Sept. 28th 1911.

The motion was seconded by Ald. Dickson but merely to bring it before the meeting.

Ald. Stuart pressed for the passage of the motion, on the ground that such a bill if passed would enable the town to greatly improve its methods of dealing with vacant land and collecting taxes. He showed that Tax Reform was a live question in B. C. where a Royal Commission had lately recommended abolition of poll tax and taxes on personal property and improvements and the Liberal Opposition had adopted that report in their political platform; that the Ontario Opposition had made it an issue there; that many western cities had adopted the idea of the land tax; that it was an issue in N. S.; and that St. John, Campbellton and Moncton were applying to the Legislature for permission to increase the rate of taxation on land and lower on improvements and that St. John was seeking to lower the poll tax to two dollars. He thought that, as the Council, with the approval of the Mayor, had unanimously passed in September last the motion to prepare a bill to ask the Legislature to increase the powers of municipalities to deal with taxation, and as St. John, Campbellton and Moncton were moving on the matter, it was the duty of the Council to direct the Town Clerk to immediately prepare a bill to obtain for Newcastle the same other as was seen in other towns and should be dealt with without delay.

MOVED TO OPPOSE.

Ald. Kethro and Clark seconded the motion because of expense to be repaid because of the fact that the Town Council had not taken the initiative of taxing from income, and public works was the proper

MOVED TO OPPOSE.

Ald. Kethro had charge of the bill. He thought that the land tax would be a good thing. The question of methods of taxation for other new

PEDOLIN said that Ald. Stuart had looked out, on fact and more care had been taken to shift taxation from owners on to the

CLARK said that taxes had to be raised in any way, and he did not see the benefit of the changes proposed. He was inclined to think that the system of taxation would be acceptable to the people if they knew it.

Ald. Sargeant and Stuart thought it better to leave the matter to the next Council meeting.

DICKSON thought that the town should have a new valuation. It needed more than any

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FARMERS AND DAIRYMEN MEET

35th Annual Gathering Held in Fredericton Last Week.—Farmers Wanted in Legislature.—Suggestive Tax Re-comment

The 35th meeting of the F. & D. Association was held in Fredericton March 19—22.

Delegates were present from all parts of the province.

The vice presidents of Charlottetown, Kings, Queens, St. John and Sunbury presented reports.

C. N. Brown of the N. B. Fruit Growers' Association said that 40,000 fruit trees had been set out last year and that 60,000 would be planted this year. The McIntosh Red was the highest priced apple.

W. W. Hubbard said that N. B. last year raised 3,000,000 bbls. of potatoes.

R. G. Murray, of St. John was called upon for his views of the fertilizer question. Mr. Murray said that according to figures published in the agricultural report of 1909, the retail price of chemical fertilizer could be reduced by about one half, were a farmer to procure the necessary ingredients and mix them on his own premises.

At the present price, said the speaker, it is practically impossible for the small farmer to realize profit from the use of fertilizer.

In conclusion, Mr. Murray proposed the following resolution, which he pointed out had been endorsed by various agricultural societies of the province:

"Resolved, That it is of the utmost importance to the farmers of the province to be able to get at a minimum price the constituents of chemical fertilizer, and this association accordingly strongly urges the government to obtain and furnish to the farmers of the province the constituents of fertilizer as nearly as possible at manufacturers' prices."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Legere and referred to the resolutions committee.

W. W. Hubbard explained that the department of agriculture had some time ago submitted just such a proposition to the government undertaking in six months' time either to have fertilizer or its equivalent in many, but on further investigation had learned that many of the farmers would be unwilling to expend the necessary amount in this way. He also showed that when freight charges and mixing expenses were considered a small profit only was left for the manufacturer and dealer, and that the farmer was merely paying for the convenience of obtaining the ingredients ready mixed.

Chas. A. Fawcett of Sackville said that Agriculture was steadily declining.

He recommended a complete system of organization and co-operation of the farmers not only to elect men and parties, that are pledged to produce reforms while in opposition, but to make sure that after these men and parties are elected, these reforms are carried out to the letter. Direct legislation through the initiative, the referendum and the recall is an important subject and worthy of the attention of this convention.

This form of government has been in operation in whole or in part in Switzerland for more than fifty years, and that country is noted for having equalized its wealth among all classes of its people; while, in this country the interests are growing richer and

the masses of the people are getting poorer. The initiative and the referendum have also been introduced lately into several of the American States. He could assure the farmers that if the unimproved wilderness lands and lumber lands of New Brunswick were taxed at the same rate as our improved farm lands, we then would be called upon for a small portion of the taxes which we now pay.

He would suggest for discussion the great increase in the price of produce from the farmers' price to the sum the consumer pays. It is estimated by men who have studied the conditions that of the agricultural wealth produced only thirty five per cent. finds its way back to the farmer, while sixty-five per cent. is claimed by the transportation companies and the middle-men. This also would be a good subject for our boards of trade to discuss, as they seem to be inclined to blame the farmers for the high cost of living, and while they are calling on the government for relief by bringing in a class of farmers that would supply the goods at a less cost. The merchants who constitute the greater portion of our boards of trade might note that one of the proposed means to lessen the cost of living, namely, the co-operative store bill, was killed by numerous delegations of our merchants, who were sent to Ottawa to fight the measure in committee. The loaning of money to the farmers by the government might also be interesting to those who are laboring under a heavy debt and have found that the profits or returns from ordinary agriculture are not sufficient to pay the interest charged by loan companies and banks. However, the work of reform is difficult, and it will only be by the untiring efforts of some of our bright young farmers backed by a strong agricultural organization that success can be obtained. You will find a lack of interest in many of the farmers, themselves, owing to the paucity of education which has been carried on for years in the interest of the protected and subsidized classes. And you may expect to meet a determined and continuous fight from the great organizations of wealth, such as transportation companies, the millers, the pork packers and the best trusts, the telegraph and the telephone companies. One of the greatest drawbacks of the small industries is the high rates charged by the express companies. David Lloyd George says: "The way of the transgressor is hard. But the way of the reformer is harder."

Resolutions requesting the provincial government to support a number of short-term bills to be introduced in the province to ask the government to improve the horse raising industry by legislation for compulsory inspection by a veterinary surgeon of all horses and prohibition of the use of sound animals, asking the government to aid the construction of a railway line from Tracadie to Newcastle and guaranteeing the incorporation of a new bank with that name, that both political parties should nominate a farmer as a candidate in each constituency in the provincial elections, urging the government to furnish the

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SALE OF FISHING LEASES

The sale of fishing leases at Fredericton Wednesday realized \$15,785. The Northumberland items were as follows:—

- Tabusintac river and branch—Howard Willets, New York—\$175
- Bartibog river and branches—John Hare, Bartibog—\$100.
- Big Sevogle river and part of N. W. Miramichi from mouth of Big Sevogle down to the mouth of Little S. W. Miramichi—Henry Coasar, New York—\$150.
- N. W. Miramichi river from Big Sevogle to mouth of Little River—W. A. Park, Newcastle—\$25.
- N. W. Miramichi river from mouth of Little River to head of river, including all branches—Miramichi Fish and Game Club—\$425 (four leases)
- Little S. W. Miramichi and all its branches—Moses Williams, New York—\$200.
- Cain's river and branches—W. H. Allen, Pennise—\$235.

If in need of a pair of hose for any member of the family, see Russell & Morrison's prices, range from 9c to 38c per pair, Russell & Morrison

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