

Purchase and Sale Of Sheep By Government

Measure To Increase Food and Wool Supply in Province—The Theatre Tax and Mr. Potts

Fredericton, April 24.—A practical measure to increase the food supply of the province, and to make it easy for the farmer to take up a highly profitable pursuit, passed the committee stage this afternoon. The bill was that to provide for the purchase and sale of sheep and when its purpose was explained by the minister of agriculture, it received hearty support from both sides of the house. The bill enables the government to import sheep in large numbers and sell them to the farmers through the banks, which will advance to the purchasers two-thirds of the purchase price. An act passed last year gave municipalities the right to put into effect stringent measures to combat the dog nuisance, the greatest menace to the sheep raising industry. The new measure will give the farmers of the province an opportunity to purchase sheep on reasonable terms and to engage in an industry for which the province is exceptionally well suited and for the products of which there is an urgent demand.

With more enthusiasm than judgment, F. L. Potts, of St. John, set out single-handedly to defeat a government measure today. He did not succeed. The occasion was the consideration in committee of the bill to provide for a tax on all patrons of places of amusement. The scale fixes a tax of one cent on all tickets up to twenty-five cents, two cents for fifty-cent tickets and so on up to two dollars and more, when the tax shall be ten per cent. Mr. Potts took the stand that it was unfair to tax a patron as much when he went to a five-cent show as when he went to one charging twenty-five cents admission, and moved an amendment that no tax be placed on tickets costing ten cents or less. When there seemed to be no intention to adopt his amendment he started out to achieve an endurance record for oratory. The house took recess after he had been talking for twenty minutes and he continued for more than an hour in the evening.

A courteously worded offer by the premier to avoid the need for further debate was disregarded and the whispered suggestions of his colleagues received no attention as Mr. Potts wandered on. Several times he was called to order for disregarding the rules of the house, and finally he was caught with his gavel down and the question was put to the house.

Mr. Potts insisted upon a count and the vote was recorded sixteen to twenty-three against the amendment. Not satisfied with this Mr. Potts tried further dilatory tactics, but to no avail. Making little progress and, finally, after the acting leader of the opposition had addressed a few words of fatherly advice to him the member consented to take his seat and the bill was recommended.

Mr. Potts can be debited with two hours of valuable time near the close of a prolonged session, with nothing to show for the time lost. Consideration of the Workmen's Compensation act in committee occupied the house until adjournment at 11:30, when the bill was recommended with amendments. The most important amendment was that excluding logging and stream-driving operations from the scope of the act.

Afternoon Session. Mr. McGrath gave notice of inquiry for Saturday next as to whether it was the intention of the government to prohibit the exportation of pulpwood from crown lands; also as to whether the government was aware that the Miramichi Lumber Company and the Dalhousie Lumber Company were cutting timber on crown lands, and also as to whether the above named companies use different marks to distinguish pulpwood cut on crown lands, and also as to what holders of crown timber lands have transferred their licenses since 1908.

The house then went into committee with Mr. Peck in the chair and took up the consideration of a bill relating to marshlands in the parish of Dorchester. Hon. Mr. Robinson said that the bill had been carefully considered by the law committee and was satisfactory to all parties concerned. He had incorporated with it another bill on the same subject.

The bill was agreed to. The committee next took up consideration of a bill to amend the consolidated statutes respecting bastardy. Mr. Tilley said that the legislation was brought forward at the instance of the commission of St. John Municipal Home. He said that it increased the penalty from \$100 to \$200 and the amount of the bond from \$250 to \$400, and provided for payment to the secretary-treasurer of the municipal home. Hon. Mr. Byrnes said that one section of the bill was applicable to the whole province and the remainder to St. John county alone. The bill was agreed to. On the bill relating to marshlands in the parish of Hopewell, Albert county, Hon. Mr. Robinson said that the bill had been amended in committee and all differences with respect to it had been adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties. The bill was agreed to. The committee next took up a bill to amend the act relating to the town of Woodstock. Mr. Sutton explained that the object of the bill was to give the town council power to regulate street traffic and the speed of automobiles. There was nothing in the measure of a contentious nature. Agreed to with amendments. The bill to amend an act respecting the protection of game was read a third time and passed.

N. B. Companies' Act. The house again went into committee, with Mr. Leblanc in the chair, and took up consideration of a bill to amend the N. B. Companies' act. Hon. Mr. Byrnes said that the bill had been carefully considered by the law committee, which had agreed to the same, with some amendments. Since then he had been handed some amendments which had to do with the surrendering of charters, and he would submit them to the committee for an expression of opinion. The amendments provided that a corporation should give notice of its intention to surrender its charter by publication of a notice in the Royal Gazette and in one newspaper, and the provincial secretary, on being satisfied that there were no debts or obligations, could accept the surrender of said charter and fix a date on which the company could be dissolved. He said the amendment had been copied from the Ontario act, and he thought it was a step in the direction of uniformity with Ontario. He remembered a case in his own experience where the Adams Burns Company had been desirous of surrendering its charter, but had found no provision in the act to enable it to do so.

The committee adopted the amendment and agreed to the bill. Bills to amend the consolidated statute, relating to municipalities, and to amend the act for the registration of stallions were also agreed to. Mr. Murray (Kings) on the bill to provide for the purchase and sale of sheep, asked whether sheep were being brought into the province, and if the full amount of \$500,000 mentioned in the bill was to be spent during the current year.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale explained that this was not a bill to improve the grade of sheep, but was intended to aid in supplying a deficiency. Owing to war conditions, meat and wool were both scarce and high and would continue so for some time after the war. The province once exported lambs from its large and numerous flocks, but now the flocks had disappeared and sheep raising had been reduced to the vanishing point; the ravages of dogs being the reason given by the farmers for abandoning this once flourishing industry.

The people were being urged to increase the production of pork, but climatic conditions would make it difficult to accede to this suggestion. It had been found that sheep could be raised more easily in this province. They were easily wintered, little for winter feed, fed in summer on waste lands, added to the fertility of the land, and multiplied rapidly. They had proved a profitable investment, but had frequently repaid the investment in two years. They provided better food than much

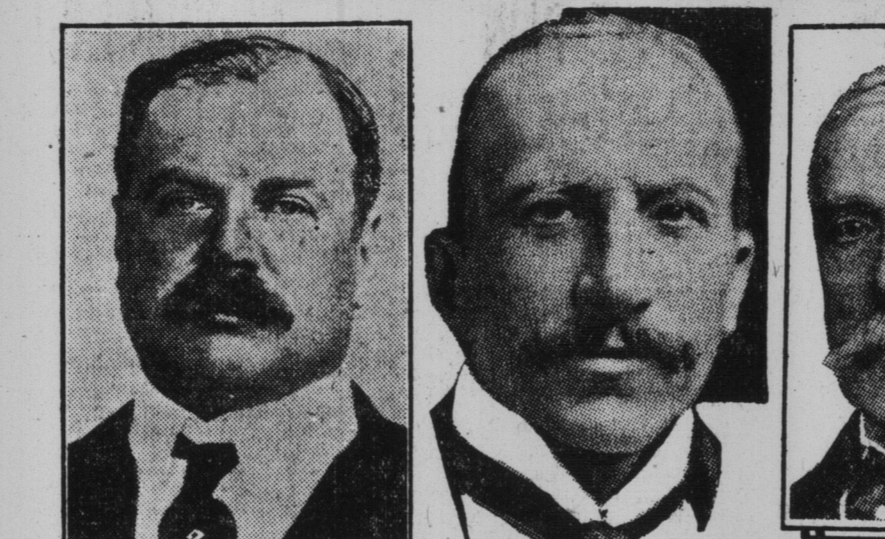
of the beef which is now offered for sale, some of the best being unfit for human consumption. The bill provided the first opportunity ever offered the farmers of the province to buy sheep on credit. The farmers could not buy them in the province on any terms, and it would be necessary to bring them in from outside places in carload lots. The amount of \$500,000 would be used as working capital. A farmer who wished to secure sheep would make his application to a bank paying one-third of the cost, and the banks would advance the balance repayable by the government. The expenditure of the government would be \$300,000. The sheep would be sold in lots of twenty ewes with one ram—or in smaller numbers down to five ewes.

The purpose of the act was to build up the sheep industry, furnish much needed food and wool and to aid in developing an export trade. Hon. Mr. Tweeddale explained the method of making application for the purchase of the sheep through the banks. There would be no appointment according to the counties. He added that the down grades were the best for New Brunswick and efforts would be made to secure those varieties. The bill was recommended. Hon. Mr. Potts said that conditions of taxation and it had been adopted. Hon. Mr. Potts said that the bill was a tax on theatres and cinematographs, said this was the recognized form of taxation and it had been adopted. Hon. Mr. Potts said that the bill was a tax on theatres and cinematographs, said this was the recognized form of taxation and it had been adopted.

Harbors and Dry Docks. At a late hour the votes for harbor improvements were under discussion. Hon. F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, replying to a plea by Mr. D. D. Mackenzie for a drydock at Sydney, said that in the past there had been a great willingness on the part of the business men to contribute to the harbor improvements. He would now like to see them come forward with real proposals for the construction of docks at points where they are needed. Any bona fide proposals would receive encouragement from the government under the act. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux praised Canadian shipyards for the work they have done in connection with the construction of the Canadian navy. He said that the government had been very generous in its aid to the shipyards, and that the government had been very generous in its aid to the shipyards.

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CHANGES IN THE BRITISH CABINET



Viscount Milner, secretary, who has been appointed to succeed the Earl of Derby, as Secretary of War. Left: Lord Derby, Secretary of War, who will succeed Lord Bertie, British ambassador at Paris, who is retiring. Right: Lord Derby.

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Good Words For Municipal Home

Evidence given yesterday afternoon at the adjourned meeting of the investigation of the charges against the management of the St. John Municipal Home tended to show that the charges made against the institution were absolutely groundless. Several prominent citizens, including three members of the city clergy, were present to give evidence voluntarily. Councillor John T. O'Brien occupied the chair. Rev. John V. Young was requested by the commissioners to appear and be sworn in connection with the charges which he had made verbally on a previous occasion. H. A. Powell, K. C., decided that Rev. Mr. Young be not sworn. Mr. Powell had a number of suggestions to make for the betterment of the institution, including a scheme for the segregation of the inmates into three classes, and a separate building where the gentler poor might be cared for by the municipality and partially by private subscription. The separation of the children from the adults and the separation of the vicious from the mentally incapable, also a scheme for the removal of the people who become insane to the provincial hospital. He also stated that the intervention of the legislature was desirable to recast the board and place an equal number of women and men on the board. He pointed out that the municipal council had made several applications to the legislature for home rule which had been unsuccessful.

He had not made an estimate of the cost of the bringing into effect of these new proposals. A. M. Rowan, commissioner, stated he believed that such a programme would mean the immediate expenditure of at least \$100,000 for new buildings, and an annual expenditure of \$100,000 to keep the institution running. He said he did not believe that the finance committee was in a position to adopt such a programme until the citizens had been educated up to the idea of larger expenditure.

Scheme Too Wide. That this scheme was so wide that it was entirely beyond the scope of the county to carry out was the opinion of W. E. Scully, who said that if such an elaborate scheme were to be put into operation it was clearly a matter for the provincial government. Members of the finance committee present replied to Mr. Powell that they were in a position to come to a decision in the matter on such short notice, without a further meeting to consider it. Mr. Powell, at this point, left the meeting, but the chairman said that whether Mr. Powell was present or absent he intended to go on with the investigation and take evidence of the witnesses who had appeared.

Rev. A. J. O'Neill. Rev. A. J. O'Neill, in his evidence, said that he had been the Catholic chaplain of the institution for sixteen years, and in all that time he had never heard a serious complaint by an inmate. Mrs. Wood had invariably attended to the religious needs of the inmates and an inmate of the Catholic faith becoming ill he was always called for. During his period of service not a single Catholic inmate had died, with the exception of sudden deaths caused by heart failure or illness of a similar nature, without having received the last rites of the church. He said Mrs. Wood was an exemplary woman and particularly attentive to the religious needs of the inmates. The institution was a model of cleanliness and good management.

As to the method of punishment, he said that he was not prepared to advise what should be adopted. He did not think that with some classes of patients solitary confinement was desirable, but that the method of administering discipline must be largely left in the hands of the superintendent. He had never heard a complaint about severe discipline. Having visited the home on several occasions and having conversed with the inmates, he had found that the institution was admirably managed, was the state made by Rev. J. A. McKelvey when giving his evidence. His one comment in the institution was sent out to communion regularly by Mrs. Wood.

Rev. W. R. Robinson said that he had taken a special course in sociology and he pointed out that the patients in the home were of a very varied mental class. He found the institution well managed and the patients cared for in a splendid manner. He could not conceive of better management and he would not accept the duties and responsibilities of Mrs. Woods for a very large salary. Favoring the idea of segregation of the inmates he pointed out that on the other hand it meant a very large expenditure, and he felt that the community should be educated up to such a large expenditure before it was made. Solitary confinement, he held, should be a matter left to the discretion of the superintendent.

With a broad knowledge of such institutions, W. R. Sadler held that the institution at East St. John was a marvel of good management. He knew of no place in Canada where an institution was better managed. He was in favor of solitary confinement and looked upon Mr. Powell's suggestion that refractory inmates be provided with a couch, a well lighted and well ventilated room as an encouragement to shirkers. In all well regulated institutions the mail arriving for the inmates was always censored. He felt that the community owed a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Woods for the splendid management of the institution. M. W. Galley, a well known local painter, who had observed the methods of management of the home very closely added his evidence that the place was well handled by the present superintendent. Ex-Alderman John McKelvey and James Collins, both of whom knew something of the home, said that it was well managed and a credit to the community.

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Lee McIntyre, a colored man who was stabbed in a fracas in Woodstock on Monday, died in the Fisher Hospital yesterday. Pneumonia developed. Mulhern is under arrest.

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