

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION; FOREST PROTECTION

HON. DR. SMITH INTRODUCES FORESTRY PROTECTION BILL

Minister of Lands and Mines Outlines Proposed Measure in Interest of Conserving Lumber Supply—Danger of Over-Lumbering and Fires—Fish and Game Protection—Workmen's Compensation Bill Explained by Hon. Mr. Byrne.

(From Official Report.)
 Fredericton, Mar. 15.—The House met at 9 o'clock.
 Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on standing rules.
 The following notices of inquiry were given:
 By Mr. Murray ((Kings) as to the quantity of wheat, oats and fertilizer purchased by the government for the season 1918 and the disposition made of same.
 By Mr. Sutton, as to the vacancy in the representation of the county of Carleton—also as to the quantity and price of gasoline purchased during 1917—and also as to the dismissal of H. B. Durston.
 By Mr. Smith (Carleton) as to the number of autos purchased for the different departments of the government and the cost of the same—also as to work on the sub-structure of the highway bridge at East Florenceville.
 By Mr. Tilley as to the number of persons recommended for the position of Chief Game Warden.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

Hon. Mr. Murray laid on the table of the House the report of the commission on the Workmen's Compensation Act, also a statement of consolidated revenue from October 31 down to March 7.

Mr. Crockett introduced a bill to authorize the city of Fredericton to grant further assistance to the Hart and Shoe Company, Limited—also a bill to fix the valuation for assessment on the properties of the Fraser Companies, Limited.

Mr. Campbell presented a petition for the passage of an act relating to St. Paul's church, St. John.

Hon. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill to further amend the St. John City Assessment Act of 1909—also a bill to amend an act relating to certain short term debentures of the city of St. John.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to provide for compensation to workmen for injuries sustained and industrial diseases contracted in the course of their employment. He explained that the bill was brought down in compliance with the promise made in the speech from the throne at the opening of the session. The hon. leader of the opposition had referred to it and had expressed the hope that it would be free from political motives. (Byrne) heartily agreed with the sentiments expressed and hoped the measure would be dealt with by the House in a manner free from partisanship. This bill was based largely on the report made by a commission appointed to inquire.

Injuries to Workmen.

He thought it advisable that the public should understand some of the changes the proposed legislation was to bring about. In the past, if a workman is injured accidentally he could bring an action against his employer, but would be subject to a defence of contributory negligence. It was shown that there had been contributory negligence or that the accident was due to negligence of a fellow workman the claimant was not entitled to recover damages. Under the proposed legislation the liability would be placed on the industry and not upon the employer. One of the arguments sometimes used against the workmen's compensation act was that it cost more to administer than it cost more to administer than it cost more to administer. While this was true it was better for the employe and relieved the employer of any personal liability.

The act proposed to limit by way of weekly or monthly payments the amount payable to any one person or his or her dependents to \$3,500. He pointed out that the act would apply to employes and workmen connected with the industries of lumbering, mining, boring, manufacturing, building construction, engineering, operation of any railway, tramway, telegraph, telephone, electric light or power line, waterworks, gas works or sewerage plant or system or other public utility, operation of refrigeration, storage or terminal warehouse, elevator or plant, operation of any passenger or freight elevator, or of any theatre or place of public amusement, scavenging or street cleaning, horse-drawing, operation of any number of fuel yards, stevedoring or navigation and employment incidental thereto. The act will not apply to persons engaged as travelling salesmen or in clerical work or to those whom employment is of a casual nature. Neither will it apply to persons employed by a city or municipality, as members of a police force or fire department.

Compensation.

In regard to compensation, the speaker quoted from the Bill to show that where personal injury or death is caused by accident arising out of employment in any industry, compensation shall be paid to the workman or his dependents, unless such injury was in the board's opinion intentionally caused by such workman or was wholly or partly due to intoxication of serious willful misconduct on the part of the workman, or to a fortuitous event connected with the industry. As he had pointed out, the compensation to be paid is limited to \$3,500 in any

By applying these figures to the total crown land areas of approximately 7,250,000 acres it will be found that 23 per cent. or 1,667,500 acres does not support merchantable timber.

Average Annual Growth.

For the various reasons offered, the average annual growth would apply to not more than five million acres. Investigations into the annual growth were not yet complete, and it was expected that the conservation commission would co-operate to continue this important work during the summer.

Mr. Caverhill, former chief of the forest survey, found from examination of some 2,600 trees in various parts of the province that the annual growth per acre was in the vicinity of 50 board feet.

On the same basis an annual increment of twenty-five million feet was looked for. From the figures given it would appear that the annual cut had exceeded the annual growth, but he must state further.

Mr. Prince, present head of the forest survey, from investigation had learned that instead of the average cut of 278,500,000 feet of which the province had record, there had been a wastage of millions of feet in lumber left in the woods to rot through carelessness in logging operations.

The minister stated further that if there had been an indifferent scaling it would form an additional loss to the province. Much of the timber of the public to the serious peril of the loss of this great source of revenue, and it was patent that immediate measures must be taken to save and protect the present and future forest growth.

Speaking of the forestry branch of his department, the minister of lands and mines said, that in his opinion, the establishment of this branch was a step in the right direction and the late government deserves much credit for adding so important a division to the department. The work done by this branch, under the able direction of G. H. Prince and begun in 1916 by P. Z. Caverhill who, during the last year resigned to take up duties of similar character in British

Columbia, would be of the greatest benefit to the province in arriving at the extent, condition and value of the growth upon the crown lands as well as in determining where agricultural lands are located. In the past little attention had been paid to the condition of soil. Under the Labor Act settlers had been allowed to take up lands which were unfit and unsuited for farming purposes.

Abandoned Farm.

The unfortunate result was that hundreds of the abandoned farms existed throughout the province. These should have remained in the crown for tree growing, for which purpose they were suited.

By the Forest Act, a forestry advisory commission would be created to act as an advisory board. The function of the commission would be to advise in regard to all matters relating to the administration of the act, and to supervise all permanent appointments to the service.

The forest service would administer all matters including:—
 1. The enforcement of all statutes, rules and regulations relative to forestry, hunting and fishing, and the protection of the forests, game and fish.
 2. The enforcement of the forest fires act.
 3. The construction and maintenance of such permanent improvements as forest telephone lines, lookout stations, ranger cabins and trails, as are deemed necessary for the proper carrying out of the act.
 4. Re-forestation.

The speaker said he trusted that it would be years before New Brunswick would have to resort to the very expensive operation of re-forestation to any great extent. Mr. Prince had informed him that in his opinion with supervision over logging operations, whereby all under-sized trees would be left standing, the forest would reseed their kind. However, re-forestation might be necessary on some of the most

(Continued on Page 4.)

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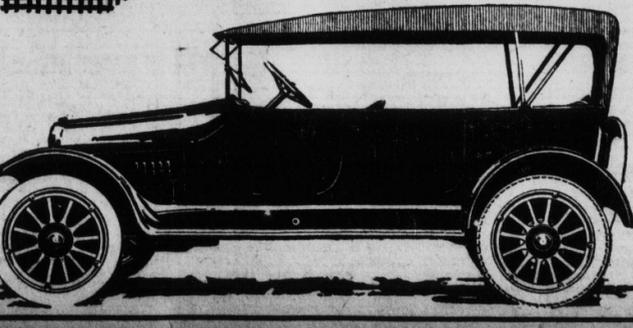
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 WEATHER.
 Mar. 15.—The disturbed over the Great is tonight centered in as a severe storm now fair, through out heavy gales are maritime provinces. rearing northwesterly winds; fine and cold temperature.
 Mar. 16.—New England and Sunday; warmer west winds becoming

ALMANAC.
 RISE OF THE MOON.
 Mar. 15. 8h. 44m. p.m.
 Mar. 16. 7h. 52m. p.m.
 Mar. 17. 7h. 30m. a.m.
 Mar. 18. 11h. 33m. a.m.

ATHS.
 Duxbury, Mass., on Elizabeth, widow of Butt.
 Union Depot on the arrival train on Friday at invited to attend.
 her residence, 241 e., on the 12th instant, Abeth Williams, widow of Joseph L. Williams, in leaving one son, and to mourn.

March 17, at 2 Central Hampstead

city on March 15, Illinois, Louisa, wife of leaving her husband, four daughters, three two sisters to mourn.

CHY SKIN
 you have looked into wished that your skin were like that of other people that you are a "blemish." This is the lot of healing pimples or blotches to get up in the morning

VE CATARRHAL AND HEAD NOISES.
 ave catarrhal Deafness go to your get 1 ounce of Par strength), and add ter some just a little in each bottle in the morning 1 tablespoonful four

REPEATED CHATHAM.
 game of hockey was at Thursday night team defeated Chats of 7 to 5.

FOR OTTAWA.
 Wignore will leave night to take his place one of the representatives-Albert in the House