

Power Bill Into House By Round-About Way; Proceedings In Legislature

Fredericton, March 28.—The petition for leave to introduce the New Brunswick Power Company bill providing for increased rates has reached the legislature. Its arrival has been awaited with interest and as the period of waiting was extended the interest increased.

The question as to the identity of the member, who would have the honor of introducing had been the matter of speculation. None of the St. John members admitted any knowledge of it, and none seemed anxious to claim the honor.

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When that veteran legislator, Mr. Plender, of York, arose from his chair, there was nothing to indicate that he had such an important measure concealed about his person.

Neither did his opening words convey any intimation of what was coming. "In the absence of Mr. Dickson, of Kings, and in his behalf," he began, and the words made little impression on the members.

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In a position to make the necessary explanation.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said he felt himself competent to conduct the affairs of his department at least as efficiently as it had been conducted in the past.

His administration of the department had been strongly endorsed in a resolution adopted by the farmers and dairymen of the province.

In regard to cheese and butter factories, if they were not conducted better than had been the case in the past it would be a most unfortunate thing for the province.

The industry had run down so greatly that wholesalers of St. John declared the product farmers of New Brunswick and were not purchasing it at any price.

Being unable to obtain cheese of the right quality in this province, they were now importing it from Ontario.

The department was now seeking to bring about a needed improvement. It would encourage the establishment of factories in suitable localities and had the assurance of St. John merchants that they would take the output if it could be made equally as good as that imported from Ontario.

Only recently a large quantity of New Brunswick cheese which had been sent to Newfoundland, had been found unfit for use and was returned.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) Did you ever hear of Ontario cheese being returned?

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said he did not know of a case of the kind referred to but he had heard of cheese being returned from St. John to the makers in Sussex.

It was the intention of his department to do everything possible to improve the quality and it was now working out plans for organization.

Mr. Potts said he regretted to hear the honorable minister knocking the farmers of New Brunswick and declaring that they did not know how to make cheese.

If the honorable minister knew much about cheese and cows, but his comment about the home product he would have to say about it. He thought a minister in charge of the most important department of the government should not stand up in his place and cast reflections on the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"The farmers do not make cheese."

Mr. Potts said he did not believe the honorable minister had been brought in the occupation of a farmer and therefore had considerable to learn about it.

That was the reason he had withdrawn the bill and amended it.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said he expected to encounter some criticism with regard to the bill as being ridiculous. The members and country had come to the conclusion that the honorable member himself was ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said he did not agree with the honorable member for St. John that the bill was ridiculous, but it had been handled in a ridiculous manner. The honorable minister had told the house about cheese and cows, but his performance in regard to the bill savored more of a bull. The bill was agreed to and reported.

The house then went into committee with Mr. Allain in the chair and agreed to the bill relating to the paving of streets in the city of St. John, to provide for a children's shelter and to amend an act relating to the General Public Hospital, St. John.

CANADIAN HARBORS WOULD BE RUINED

Is Contention Made Against New Plan of Board of Chicago's Drainage Canal

Charles F. Clynne, United States district attorney, in Chicago, has been called upon to bring suit to stop the sanitary drainage canal board from what is called a plan to "steal the water out of the lake."

Under the law the board now can take 4,167 cubic feet a second. Government officials state that in reality it is taking 8,000 cubic feet. A bill recently presented at Washington by Congressman Gallagher of Chicago would permit the taking of 12,000 cubic feet.

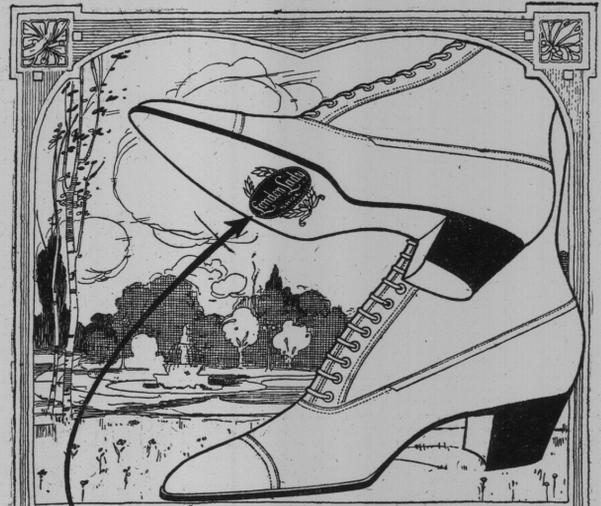
This would mean that the legal amount of water allowed to be taken from the lake every twenty-four hours through the drainage canal would be raised from 800,000,000 to 1,980,800,000 cubic feet. The reason given for the desire for more water primarily is that the sanitary board wants to develop more water power to make more electricity.

Opposition has been raised on the ground that it would materially lower the lake. Experts say that to lower Lake Michigan would at the same time lower Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and Lake Superior, and also would break a treaty with Canada which regulates the amount of water that either nation may divert.

Under the present treaty Canada can now take 86,000 cubic feet and the United States 20,000 cubic feet a second for the power works at Niagara. Some experts claim that to increase the flow in the drainage canal would affect the supply at Niagara.

The worst estimates have it that the new law ultimately would lower the lake level five feet. This, it is claimed, would affect every harbor on the three upper lakes and Georgian Bay, practically ruining the present Canadian harbors. War board engineers say that at the most the lakes would not be lowered more than six inches.

The Aero Club of America wants the immediate appropriation of three billion dollars to accelerate the U. S. aircraft programme.



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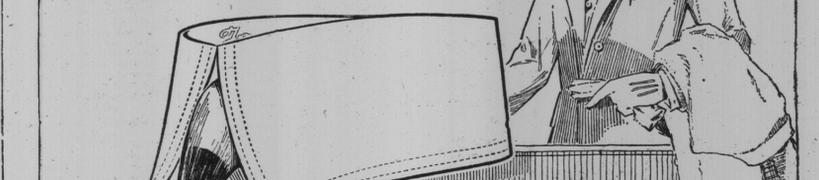
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