

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. They were almost bashful about their chances of being so honored.

It was a roundabout course which the bill took in reaching the house, and the manner of its arrival almost gave the impression of stealth.

When that veteran legislator, Mr. Pinder, 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. But as the name of the New Brunswick Power Company followed there was a change. Members sat up and listened. They heard the honorable member through to the end, and then a round of applause rippled over the house. Was the applause a welcome to the bill? Was it a tribute to the veteran member who introduced it? Or was it an expression of sympathy to the St. John members, who had been deprived of the honor of this famous measure?

From St. John, past all the members from the city and those from the county, to a Kings county member, who sponsored it with his name but not with his presence; from him to a York county member and thence to the floor of the house, is the record of the bill's travels to date.

Where it goes from there is fixed by the routine of the house, but what its adventures will be and what fate will befall it must be left for another chapter of its history.

Before the legislature adjourned this afternoon for the Easter recess Premier Foster announced that the government had decided to introduce the bill to amend the act relating to the town of Woodstock.

Two St. John bills affecting procedure in the coming civil elections were introduced through the house today and before adjournment his honor, the lieutenant-governor, attended the house to assist in the passing of the bills.

Only a few minutes for taking a plebiscite in the time of civil election on subjects the council may deem necessary, and the other limits the addition of voters' names to the voting lists to a period prior to seven days before the final election.

Applause from both sides of the house greeted an announcement made by Hon. Mr. Veniot in the legislature today. The act of the amendment is that the province will be relieved of the expense of building and maintaining wharves on tidal waters in the province.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that during a recent visit to Ottawa he had secured agreement by which the Federal government will take over the repair and construction of such wharves in the future and also will pay a claim outstanding for some time for half the cost of wharves already constructed. He introduced a bill to provide for the transfer of these wharves to the Federal government.

Must Be Examined.

Recognizing the need for the protection of the public against inexperienced chauffeurs, Hon. Mr. Veniot has introduced a bill providing that applicants for licenses as public chauffeurs must undergo examination by competent persons before the license is granted.

Another amendment to the motor vehicles act will be introduced by Hon. Mr. Veniot. A large number of bills passed the committee stage today and much routine business was cleared up.

In reply to a question, Premier Foster announced that the auditor-general's report had been promised by the printers for today or tomorrow.

Another matter of importance to come up next week is the health act providing among other things for a new government department.

(Official report.)

Assembly Chamber, Fredericton, March 28.—The house met at 3 o'clock.

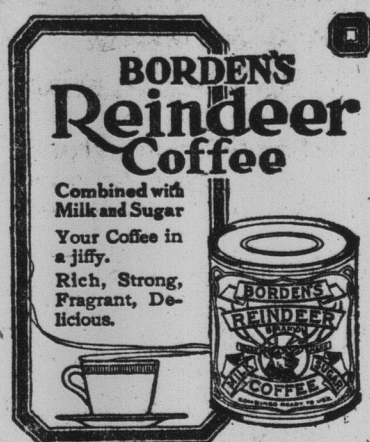
Bills to change the name of Frederick Lloyd Schwartz and William Allen Schwartz; also to enable the warden and vestry clerk of St. Paul's church, Moncton, to sell certain lands; to facilitate the collection of stampage; also an act relating to the North-Western Boom Company; and also an act to incorporate the Women's General Patriotic League of Moncton, were read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Byrne presented the report of the committee on law practice and procedure.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on standing rules, and also that of the corporations committee. Mr. Jones gave notice of inquiry as to the public duties of E. S. Carter.

Mr. Baxter (for Mr. Murray, Kings) introduced a bill to amend an act relating to the incorporation of the town of Sussex.

Mr. Pinder, on behalf of Mr. Dickson, presented the petition of the New Brunswick Power Company.



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 wholesale dealers of St. John declared the product to be unfit for food and were unable to purchase 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.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) Did you ever hear of Ontario 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 as much about cheese and cows, and about the home product he would have said 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 up 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 from honorable gentlemen opposite. They had attended the house in force yesterday, thinking there might be discussions in the ranks of the government with respect to the bill. The honorable members for St. John (Potts) had described the bill as being ridiculous. The house and country had come to the conclusion that the honorable member himself was ridiculous.

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 to amend the act relating to the parish of St. Paul's, St. John city, for ecclesiastical purposes.

The committee also considered a bill to correct an error in lot numbers in a tax sale in the city of St. John. Both bills were agreed to.

The committee also considered a bill to authorize the Moncton city council to sell and convey certain lands.

Hon. Mr. Robinson explained that the city desired to sell to the C. G. R. lands which formerly had been parts of streets, which had been altered for the construction of the subway. There was an idea that the city wished to sell the exhibition property; that was not correct. The bill was agreed to.

Mr. Melanson introduced a bill to amend an act respecting the Richibucto and Beaton electric light district.

The house again went into committee with Mr. Mesereau in the chair, on a bill to incorporate the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. The bill was agreed to.

The house again went into committee with Mr. Potts in the chair on a bill to amend the act relating to the government of the city of St. John by elective commission.

St. John Plebiscite.

Mr. Baxter explained that the civic election in St. John would take place early in April, and it was desirable that a plebiscite on certain questions be held at the same time.

Mr. McGrath suggested that the provisions of the bill be made general for the whole province, and also that the wording be made more definite.

Mr. Tilley said he hardly thought the honorable member from Northumberland

serious in his objection. The bill was important to the city of St. John, and he wished it would be passed so that a plebiscite could be held at the time of the election.

Mr. Burchill said that he wished to remind the house that there were strict rules with regard to bills of this class and that those rules should be observed. He knew that it had been set forth in the present case that it was necessary to suspend the rule only to save time. The house should take care that by such suspension something did not creep into legislation which would work an injury.

Mr. Tilley said he agreed entirely with the honorable member in his remarks concerning the rules of the house. It was only the early date of the civic election in St. John which made it necessary to have this bill passed at once. As a rule St. John was not negligent in the introduction of its bills, and the mayor and commissioners of the city appreciated the courtesy extended by the house in this case.

The bill was agreed to, with amendment, and was passed by the house.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the order paper had been pretty well cleaned up, with the exception of government bills which were being held back because delegations had asked to be heard. He announced that his honor the lieutenant-governor would attend the house in a few minutes and give his assent to two bills in this case.

His honor the lieutenant-governor entered the house at this stage and gave his assent to the bill to further amend the act relating to the government of the city of St. John by elective commission, and also to the bill to amend the act relating to the laws of the city of St. John.

The house adjourned at 5:45 until 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.

CANADIAN HARBORS WOULD BE RUINED

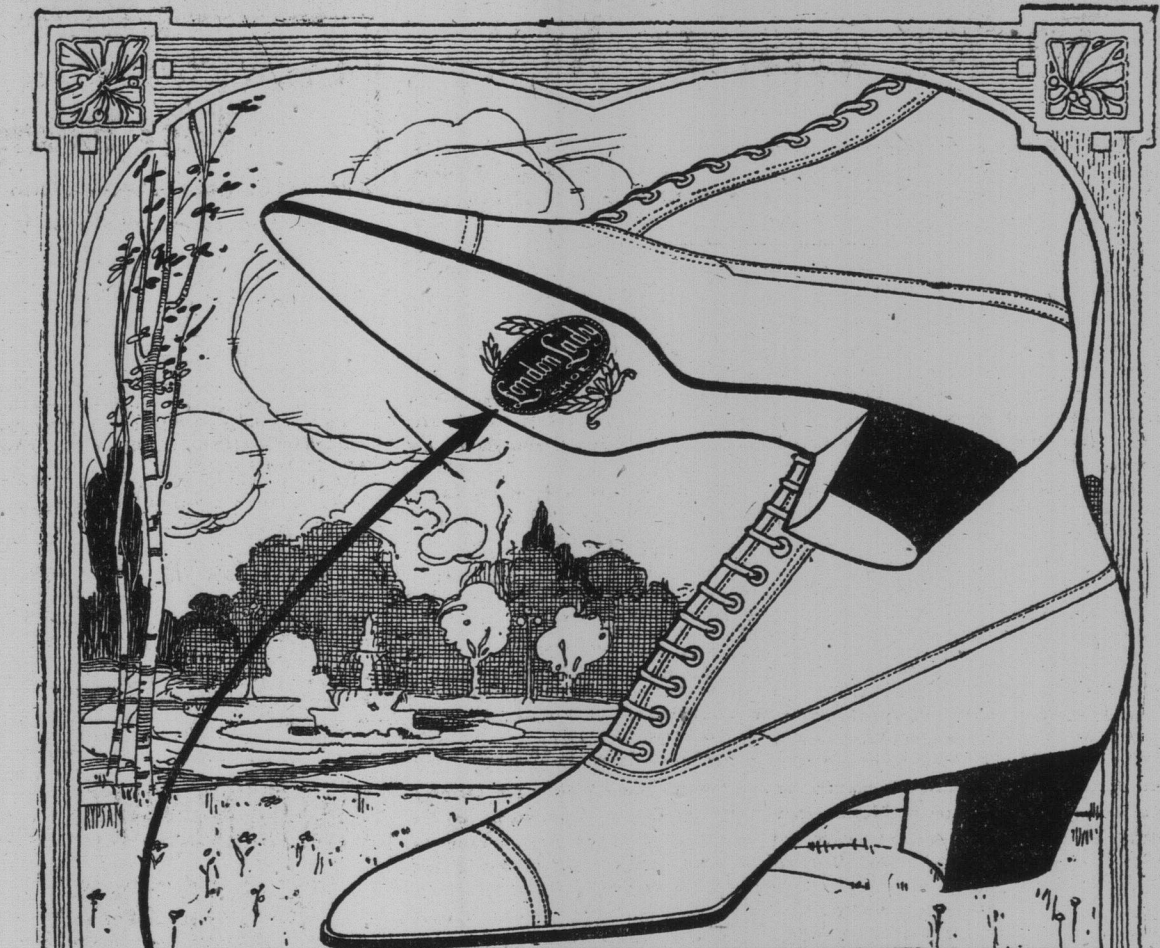
Is Contention Made Against New Plan of Board of Chicago's Drainage Canal

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 4,107 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 80,000,000 to 1,980,000,000 cubic feet. The reason given for the desire for more water primarily is that the sanitary treaty with a 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. Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and Lake Superior, and also would break a



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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 harbor.

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