POOR DOCUMENT

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FREDERICTON SEWAGE BILL KILLED IN HOUSE

Speaker Osman's Casting Vote Prohibited Use of River as Outlet

Two Former Supporters of Measure Absent During Vote---Legislature, by Enormous Majority, Abolishes Obnoxious System of Taxation at the Capital--Supply Passed After Some Criticism of Some Items.

Fredericton, N. B., April 5--The legislature tonight by the casting vote of the speaker threw out the bill authorizing the city of Fredericton to utilize the St. John river as an outflow for its sewerage system.

The first vote was taken in committee after a rather brief but spirited debate, taken part in by Premier Pugsley and Messrs. Hazen and Hill. On the motion to report the bill, the committee divided 16 to 15. Mr. Ryan, of Albert, an opponent of the bill, was in the chair and when the motion was made to adopt the bill, after the speaker had been called in, he voted with the minority, making the vote stand 16 to 16. After briefly explaining his position and stating that he did not want Fredericton to be in a different position than the rest of the province, he voted against acceptance of the committee's report.

The defeat of the bill is accounted for by the fact that Smith, of Carleton, and Clarke, of Charlotte, who voted with the majority on Ald. Whitehead's resolution, absented themselves from the house this evening without pairing. The members who paired were Robinson and Sweeney; King and Copp; Murray and Lowell; Lantalum and Purdy; Hartt and Scovil.

The resolution which called for the legislation which met defeat tonight was carried a short time ago by a majority of only three. Mr. Clair, who voted tonight, and Mr. Purdy, who was paired against the bill, were absent from the house on that occasion, and there is one vacant seat.

The result of the vote is a bitter disappointment to the advocates of sewerage and brings the city face to face with a most serious situation. Upwards of $80,000 has been expended on a sewerage system which is likely to remain absolutely useless for some time to come as it is felt that the cost of the much talked of septic tanks is altogether too great for this city to bear.

The fixed income men of the city scored a notable victory this evening when the legislature by a vote of thirty-one to four, adopted Mr. Hill's resolution affirming the principle of a level rate for the taxation of income and property. Under the terms of the resolution the government will be required to pass legislation on the subject this session. The resolution only applies to the city of Fredericton, which has had a five to one income tax since 1875. Those who voted against the resolution were Messrs. Hazen, Glasier, Flemming and Maxwell.

Provincial Hospital Expenses.

At this afternoon's session Mr. Hazen referred to the increased cost of each patient at the Provincial Hospital, which had risen from $114 in 1902 to $151 in 1906. The report shows that there had been but a slight reduction in the number of patients as a result of the report of the special commission, and that many persons were still in the hospital who should not be there.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—We have found great difficulty in getting persons removed. There are many poor, harmless persons who have no homes or friends, and who would not be desirable inmates for a municipal home. We have been pressed to retain such persons, and a delegation from Kings county recently said they would prefer to pay for them rather than have to take care of them. I do not anticipate, therefore, any great reduction in the number of patients. With regard to the increased per capita expenditure the reason for this was shown on page six. There has been an increase of nearly $5,000 in salaries and wages, also an increase for meat, bread, tea, coffee, sugar and molasses, bedding and other items.

Mr. Gogain asked why it was that some of the municipalities were escaping payment for their insane, while the county of Kent had to pay in full.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—There are disputed cases between the municipalities and the government which remain unsettled, principally arising out of questions of domicile. For instance, there is a case where a young man from the United States who had enlisted in the militia at St. John's (P. Q.), and who came to Fredericton with the force and two or three months afterwards became insane. The militia authorities have sought to throw him on our hands, although he had no domicile here, and the matter is still a question between the two governments.

Mr. Lowell—Since the end of the fiscal year between $4,000 and $5,000 has been paid by the municipality of St. John to the government on account of these disputed cases.

Printing Criticism Unwarranted.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—The member for Charlotte this forenoon took exception to the cost of printing 1,000 game law posters, which cost $20, and said it could be done for $12. Since then inquiry has been made of J. & A. McMillan and the St. John Globe. The former offered to do it for $20, and the latter for $1.50 less.

On the item for the Hartland bridge, $6,161, the Hon. Mr. Pugsley said this would pay the sum in the debt account of the province and give a clean sheet.

On the item for tourist association, the Hon. Mr. Pugsley said that the grant to the St. John Tourist Association would be increased by $500.

The committee then rose and reported the resolutions.

Mr. Burns introduced a bill to incorporate the Caraquet Electric & Water Power Company, and read a first time, and subsequently, on the ground of urgency, it was read a second time.

Mr. Pugsley moved that the time for the introduction of private bills be extended till Monday next.

Fredericton Sewerage.

The house then went into committee to consider the bill with respect to Fredericton sewerage.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said when this bill was last before the committee I took the responsibility of stating that I thought the solution of the difficulty might be found by the government contributing the sum of $2,000 or $3,000, which would be about equal to the sum which would be payable in taxes and on other government buildings in the city, if such buildings were taxable, that amount to go towards the interest on the cost of purification work, and the matter stood over for consideration.

I have since been waited on by the mayor and some of the aldermen and citizens and, to my great regret, they said they could not see their way clear to accept my proposal. They at the same time assured me that they regarded the offer as a generous one, and under other circumstances would be pleased to accept, but owing to the difficulty of establishing tanks, etc., by reason of local conditions and of operating the same, the amount suggested would not be sufficient to pay the interest on the cost. I had hoped that the liberal offer I had made them would be accepted by the citizens. Personally, I have exhausted every resource open to me and I can do nothing further. I am still opposed to the bill, and feel that it ought not to pass.

Hon. Mr. Hill.

Hon. Mr. Hill—In common with the rest of the house I received the news that the city would not accept the proposal of the premier with surprise. I have been informed on reliable authority that the cost of a purification plant would not exceed $35,000 and the sum offered by the premier would pay interest at five per cent on a larger sum than that. In taking the course they have I am doubtful whether it is to the advantage of Fredericton, but at any rate it will be of considerable advantage to Sunbury. If the sewage was allowed to run into the river the inhabitants of Sunbury will be compelled to give up drinking the water. The present state of the water is mainly responsible for the typhoid fever and other epidemics of the past and these epidemics are not caused by Fredericton sewage. If it is desired to prevent recurrences of these epidemics you must take steps to prevent the towns higher up the river, both in this province and in the state of Maine, from using the river as a sewer. In the real interest of the people of Sunbury county the best thing that could happen will be to turn the sewage into the river.

Mr. Currie—No question has ever been before this house that has caused so much thought as this one and as yet I cannot see that I can vote in any other way than I did in the previous occasion. Every town and village in Canada run their sewage into the nearest river. Ottawa, Hull and many other towns up and down the country do so and yet they use the same water for drinking. I cannot see how we can shut out Fredericton from the same privilege unless we begin with all the other towns from the top of the river and prevent them all the way down here.

J. D. Hazen.

Mr. Hazen—I regret extremely that the premier's proposition was not accepted by the city. It was a very reasonable one had a poll of the citizens been taken I believe it would have been accepted, because they realize the number of people who believe that a great injustice is going to be done to the people living in the parishes below the city if sewage is going to be poured into it without being purified. It has been said that no matter how much it is purified it will still be sewage, but the effect of purification will be to render the effuent absolutely innocuous. The members of the board of health are all disinterested men and so are the members of the executive council and both these bodies after very careful consideration of the evidence before them refused the city's request and why should this house, without any evidence whatever before it, take upon itself to reverse their carefully considered decision?

At this stage the lieutenant governor came into the house and assented to a number of bills.

The house then took recess.

On the house reassembling, the speaker said: A few days ago the member for Charlotte rose to a question of privilege as to the right of the lieutenant-governor of this province to be present in the house during the debates. I have very carefully looked up the question in May's Parliamentary Practice, and other authorities, and find that the king or his representative, to be present during the debates of parliament, long ago fell into disuse, and the practice of not doing so has, from long usage, become a custom. I am therefore of opinion that it is not desirable that the lieutenant-governor of this province should be at liberty to attend the debates of this house.

On the house resuming Mr. Hazen continued—The honorable member for Charlotte complains that all means for obtaining water other than from the river have not been exhausted. I may tell him that it has been found utterly impossible to obtain water from wells either because of entire absence of underground springs or in those few cases where water has been found it is totally unfit for drinking purposes on account of the heavy deposits of iron. Neither is there any other source for obtaining ice except from the river. It is argued that the towns higher up the river are draining into it but it is open defiance of the laws.

After some further remarks from the Hon. Mr. Hill and Mr. Hazen the committee divided on the question as to whether the bill should be reported as agreed to—with 16 votes for the report and 15 against it.

Speaker's Casting Vote Killed Bill.

The speaker having resumed the chair the house divided on the question as to whether the house should accept the report when they voted for the acceptance 16 against 16.

Mr. Speaker—A great responsibility has fallen upon my shoulders. I am called on to give a casting vote of very great importance, not only to the city of Fredericton, but also to the other parts of the province and it will be fitting that I should perhaps give my reasons. No member of this house will approach this matter without great consideration. When the matter first came up in the house I voted in favor of the city, but since that time my views have been modified somewhat and I feel that the offer of the government made through the premier, that the government would assist in paying the cost of purification works should have been accepted and the expense in consequence divided. The whole of the province is so interested in Fredericton by reason of our children being sent here to be educated and also by reason of the members of this house having to make our temporary home here. The city should have called an emergency meeting to discuss the question, but nothing of the sort was done. I see no help for it and record my vote against the acceptance of the report.

For Level Tax-rate.

Hon. Mr. Hill in pursuance of notice moved the following resolution:

Whereas, by the general assessment act of 1875, the principle of equality in the rate of assessment imposed upon real and personal property and income, was adopted by this legislature. Therefore

Resolved, that in the opinion of this house the government should introduce legislation during the present session providing that hereafter real and personal property and income should be equally rated throughout the province.

For many years Fredericton people have been paying taxes on income at the rate of about five times as much as on property. This is the only town in the province where it is done. Why should it be? In St. John some years ago income was taxed at three times the rate of property, but it was felt that it was a great injustice, and the rate was made equal. Tax on income is a tax on what does not exist. The assessment is made up for the coming year and the taxpayer is expected to pay his tax before he has earned the income, and in case of his death he has been taxed on what he never lived to receive.

When all other places swept this anomoly away, why did Fredericton retain it? Because it is the capital of the province. There a great many government and other public officials whose occupation necessitates them living in the capital, and whose income is known, and therefore easily reached. Their incomes are not paid by the city, but by the whole province, and the city takes advantage of their residence there to tax them unjustly. All these incomes are spent in Fredericton and the whole city benefits thereby, but for the fact that these officials are easily caught, the city would have adoped the level rate some time ago. I have heard it urged that the government should make one general assessment law applicable to the whole province. The government should not allow such an anomoly as the present law to remain on the statute book. It should protect its employes. Now is the time to remedy it, because the majority of the members of the house realizes the injustice of it.

The house divided and the resolution was carried by a vote of 31 to 4.

The house went into committee of supply. Mr. Hazen asked the chief commissioner if he intended to rebuild or repair the Burton court house wharf.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois—A strong request has been made to repair or rebuild this wharf, and it is on our list. No doubt the house will expect me to make some explanation in regard to the expenditure for roads and bridges. The fact that there has been an overdraft, will not appear strange when it is remembered that there has been an increase both in wages and material of from 20 to 50 per cent during the past five years.

During that period we have expended $735,000 on roads and bridges out of current revenue, and if we assume the increase in cost to be only 25 per cent, that would make a difference of $183,750. This is the great reason why the department has been falling behind. Apart from that we have had to open up a great many new roads, the most of which falls mainly on the public works department. The island of Miscou settled 140 years ago has been without a road until quite recently. I visited that island with the three members for Gloucester a short time ago, and we have had to expend money there. There has also been expenditure for new roads along the I. C. R. in the county of Kent and in Restigouche, Madawaska, Victoria and other counties. We have also had to build some costly bridges.

We have to our credit the fact that out of that money we have built 132 covered spans with a total length of 8,733 feet. All these bridges except one or two, have been charged to ordinary accounts. Mr. Wetmore, the provincial engineer, deserves very great credit for the manner in which he has carried out the policy of the government.

It has been stated that the government has been expending large amounts of money on the roads for the purpose of bolstering up the road act. This is not the case. The grant to the counties is precisely the same as in former years, except in the case of Madawaska.

That large county formerly only had $1,400 to expend on its road so that it became necessary to increase the grant.

All the items of supply being passed the committee rose and reported and asked leave to sit again. Supply will be the order of the day for Monday, but the premier stated it was not likely there would be any supplementary estimates. Whatever increases there are will be dealt with by bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Pugsley Mr Purdy, who has been prevented by serious illness from taking his seat, was granted his full indemnity.

Mr. Hazen expressed his hearty approval of this vote.

The house adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Morning Session.

The house met at 10 o'clock. After routine the house went into committee of supply.

On the item of $1,000 for the forestry convention Mr. Hazen enquired if the government had considered the recommendation of the convention with regard to a chair and a department of forestry in connection with the University.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—The government recognizes the great importance of this matter and are giving it their consideration. In view of the increased revenue which we will receive it may be that the government will be in a position to do something in this direction. Whatever is done will be be by a special bill.

Hon. Mr. Hill—Has the government given any consideration with reference to the recommendation of the convention to prevent lumber cut on crown lands being exported for pulp wood.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—This matter will be seriously considered by the government. The time has been too short to take up a question of such enormous importance.

On the item for hospitals Mr. Robertson enquired if the government had taken into consideration the desirability of establishing a sanitarium for consumptives somewhere in the northern part of the province.

Hon. Mr. Hill—I think the value of these institutions is not as great as has been claimed. The gathering together of so many consumptive persons in one place has been found injurious. I trust that a thorough enquiry will be made as to the cures affected by these institutions before embarking into large expenditures.

Mr. Ryan—There is a wealthy gentleman in Albert county who will be willing to help the government to establish such an institution in that county.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney—Dr. Botsford, of Moncton, has given considerable attention to this matter and has made experiments in outdoor treatment with satisfactory results in the mountains near Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—This matter is one of great interest and importance. Some time ago an influential deputation from the medical profession asked us to establish a sanitarium. We were not able to do so then for reasons which all will understand. Our financial condtion will soon be improved and speaking for myself I think the time has come when the subject might be seriously taken up. I understand that a proper sanitarium would cost about $30,000 and that its maintenance would amount to some $12,000 a year. There would be some paying patients, of course, but if established it would have to be the poor as well as the rich. It had been suggested that the municipalities might bear part of the cost, but I am not sure that they would agree to this. If the wealthy gentlemen, like the one in Albert, would come forward and give an endowment the matter would be made more easy. All I can say is that the matter is under consideration and that the government will approach it in a sympathetic spirit and see what can be done.

Mr. Hazen—I see that the cost of the Nova Scotia institution last year was $8,411, while the receipts were $3,319, leaving about $5,000 to be paid by the government. I think one of the chief benefits of such an institution is their educational effect in teaching people to value fresh air and an outdoor life to combat the disease.

On the item of $12,000 for public printing Mr. Hazen said: I cannot support this item. The government are paying excessive prices for their printing. Take one item the judicature act, a book of 400 pages, cost the government $1,200; this was printed by The Telegraph and I characterize the bill as a downright piece of extortion of the most barefaced description. I think the public printing could be done for 50 per cent less, therefore I move that the grant be reduced to $8,000.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—It is all very well to make charges of the excessive cost of printing in a general way. I remember a charge of that kind made a few years ago by the member for Charlotte. When it was shown that he had sent bills to the government for printing based on the same scale prices of which he complained. We have a scale established by the king's printer with which the government must not interfere. In this case there was a great deal of resetting and correcting.

Mr. Clark—I have always said that the public printing was costing too much. When I sent in the bill to which the premier referred I was simply the paid servant of the St. Croix Printing and Publishing Company.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—Was not the account made out by the honorable gentleman?

Mr. Clark—It was made out under my direction, but that does not justify high prices now when printing can be done by machinery at half the former prices.

Hr. Mr. Pugsley—The king's printer informs me that the arrangement for doing this printing was made by W. H. Trueman. The business manager of The Telegraph, in a letter to the clerk of the executive council, stated that the price was higher than under ordinary circumstances as the job was done when there was a strike on in St. John, and they had to engage men to do the work and pay them double wages and work at night all the time. He adds: "W. H. Trueman had charge of thework and we told him at the time that it was going to cost a great deal more than ordinarily; but he stated the work must be completed in order to bring it before the session, and it was absolutely necessary for us to rush it through regardless of cost." The original itimized bill of The Telegraph was $1,278, and they reduced it to $1,200. With regard to Mr. Clarke's bill, which he sent to the government, if he thought it was too high he ought to have written a letter to the receiver-general expressing that opinion.

Mr. Clarke—The cost of the work done by The Telegraph under ordinary circumstances should not have exceeded $600, but without having all the facts before me I could not say how much the strike would have added to the amount of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—We desire to ascertain the lowest price for printing and if we can fix a lower scale we will do it. I wish to repudiate the statement that printing is given out at exorbitant rates to the newspapers to buy their support. That is an insult to the newspapers. I have never found The Telegraph charging more for government printing than for commercial printing.

On the item of $62,500 for the maintenance of the Provincial Hospital, Mr. Morrison wanted to know how they could carry on the hospital this year for $40,000, there being a balance against it of $22,502 at the end of thelast fiscal year.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—It will be seen by reference to the auditor-general's report that thebalance against the hospital was reduced during the year by upwards of $2,000. There will always be a balance carried over, but we come out at the end of the year just as we did before.

Mr. Morrisey—I regret the unbusinesslike way in which the government is dealing with Dr. Anglin. Instead of paying his household expenses, which is subjected to public criticism, the government should pay him a salary and let him pay his own expenses.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I think there is a great deal in what the honorable gentleman says. It would be better that there should be a fixed salary, but we might pay his rent and his heating and lighting. I have asked Dr. Anglin to submit a statement as to what salary would be proper. All will admit that the province has been fortunate in securing the services of one who is so well qualified.

Hon. Mr. Hill—I am glad that this matter has been brought up, and I would feel like supporting a liberal salary, for we cannot get good service at a cheap rate.

Mr. Flemming—Are some of the counties refusing to pay for their insane? If so, the report should show what counties are in default.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I have had no reason to find fault with the counties with respect to poor patients for which they are liable. Certain questions have arisen between the counties and the government as to what are dangerous lunatics, for which they are not liable. Questions have also risen in regard to patients that ought not to be in the hospital. But with regard to cases in which there is no question the counties have paid promptly.

Mr. Clarke—I am interested in one of the cases in which there are differences between the municipality and the hospital authorities, and I must pay a tribute to the solicitor-general, who is doing everything possible to have these accounts settled in a satisfactory manner.

The corporations committee met this morning and considered the bill to incorporate the La Societe Industrelle De Rogersvlle. This bill was recommended.

The committee then considered the Miramichi lumber bill. The chairman explained that since the committee met yesterday the promoters of the bill had redrafted the same and had handed in the amended bill in substitution for the previous one. Some discussion took place and ultimately the premier prepared the following resolution which he said he thought expressed the views of the committee:

"Resolved, that this committee with the information at present before it is not prepared to recommend the passage of the bill in its present form but would favor the erection of a dam across the Miramichi if such construction would not in any way obstruct the passage of lumber down such river."

"The committee would also favor permitting the company to extend piers from a point in said river on the side into which the Taxis enters, such piers not to be more than such distance from the shore as will leave ample space for the free unobstructed passage of all lumber down the Miramichi river and extending from such dam to the mouth of the Taxis river with authority to construct such sorting works as may be necessary btween such piers and the southern or Taxis shore. The company to pay all expenses of sorting logs. Site and plans to be approved by the lieutenant governor-in-council.

"The committee would recommend that the bill should stand over until the next session when the committee would recommend that the matter be further considered provided plans of the entire site of the dam and proposed works be then submitted to the committee on corporations. Proper provisions for the passage of fish also to be made by means of fishways. The question as to whther the company should be allowed to charge for the water was not considered."

This resolution was then adopted by the committee.

Fredericton, N. B., April 6—The house met at 3 o'clock. Mr. Speaker said: In the performance of my duty as speaker of this house, I last evening recorded my casting vote on the motion to adopt the report of the whole on the Fredericton sewerage bill and voted as I thought in accordance with constitutional custom. But in doing so I lost sight of the resolution of the house recently passed upon the present subject upon which resolution the bill was based, otherwise my vote might have been reversed. I think it is only right that I should make this statement to the house.

Hon. Mr. Robinson—I was not present when the vote on this question was taken last evening, having gone to St. John and paired with the surveyor general. I voted in favor of the resolution referred to by the speaker and as I understand it that resolution was still valid. It has occurred to me that the matter should be reconsided, although I hardly know at present in what form this can be done. It may be that some member of the house who voted against the bill yesterday may move its reconsideration or it may be necessary to introduce a new bill, at all events I give notice that the matter will come up on Monday in some form.

Mr. King introduced a bill relating to the Imperial Dry Dock Company, St. John.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pugsley the fee on the bill relating to the Charles Whittaker estate was ordered to be refunded, the bill having been withdrawn.

Mr. King moved the fee on the bill of the Auto Road Company be refunded in accordance with the recommendation of the committee on corporations.

Hon. Mr. Hill—I have no objection to the payment of this bill but I think that this motion should come from the government because the fee having been paid in to the receiver general is now part of the revenue of the province.

Mr. King—The purpose of the payment of this money is to secure the passage of the bill and until the bill is passed and assented to the fee stands in the hands of the receiver general who acts in the capacity of a trustee. Until the bill is passed the money does not belong to the province.

Mr. Speaker—I will consider this question.

Mr. Murray introduced a bill to vest the title of certain land in the trustees of the Presbyterian church of lower Napan, Northumberland county, and a bill to incorporate the Chatham Hebrew congregation.

The house went into committee on the bill to incorporate La Societe Industrielle DeRogerville and agreed to the same.

Presbyterian Church Bill.

Also resumed the consideration of the bill relating to Presbyterian churches in the province of New Brunswick. Mr. Currie moved that the amendments to section six be withdrawn and the section stand as printed. He said that although it was the moderator's prerogative to preside at all congregational meetings he did not always avail himself of that privilege but that he should do so was part of the constitution of the Presbyterian church of Canada. The bill was before the Presbytery of St. John recently and approved by them.

Mr. Murray—I am strongly in favor of the amendments. As matters are at present the various Presbyteries throughout the province are working under various acts dating from as far back as 1817 and it frequently happens that it becomes necessary to hunt back a long while for instructions on various points which may crop up and the means of obtaining the information is not always immediately available. The reason for the promotion of this act is to obviate the necessity of all research and it has been thought advisable to get a modern act which shall incorporate all the necessary directions and thus save the trouble of so much reference to the old act. The matter was considered by the Presbyteries and they got up a uniform act to apply to all churches alike. Now I say that this is a pastors bill and I want to say that I think that the laymen should have a voice in the matter as well. It is often necessary to discuss matters relating to the minister and his affairs and it is undesirable in those cases that the pastor should be in the chair. There are usually other members present who are capable of occupying that position, at any rate in town congregations. The honorable members for Kings county said this is a permissive bill. The congregation with which I am connected will certainly not consent to come under any such acts or be in anywise controlled by it. I think the act should be modified in such a way as to suit the views of the laity as well as the pastor.

Mr. Currie—The honorable member called this a pastors bill. I would remind him that the resolution approving of it that was passed at the meeting in St. John a day or two ago was moved and seconded by laymen.

The Hon. Mr. Pugsley—It seems to me that we ought to try and find some way out of the difficulty by leaving it in the opinion of such congregation to adopt such method as they shall please in the appointment of chairman, and I therefore move this amendment: "Provided, however, that any congregation may at any annual meeting by bye-law passed by a two thirds vote of the members and adherents present and qualified to vote on the election of trustees, provide that the annual and special meeting shall thereafter be presided over by such person as the meeting may appoint and such bye-laws shall be made in force until rescinded by a two-thirds vote of the members and adherents so qualified at an annual meeting." The debate was continued by Messrs. Morrison, Robertson, Hill, and Copp, and the attorney-general's amendment was then put to the committee and carried by 17 votes to 10. Progress was then reported, with leave to sit again.

Mr. Murray then gave notice that on further consideration of the bill, he would move that the following section be added to the bill: In the event of the congregation of St. Paul's church (Presbyterian) Fredericton, passing a resolution pursuant to section 18 of this act, declaring a desire to become incorporated under and by virtue of this act, and becoming incorporated, then and in that event, and notwithstanding anything contained in sections 4 and 7 of this act or otherwise, the qualifications of trustees and electors of trustees of such congregation shall remain and be as they were at the time of the passing of such resolution, subject always to be changed, altered, added to or amended by by-law as provided for by section 17 of this act.

Mr. Morrison also gave notice that he would at the same time move as an amendment to section 18 the following clause: "Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 4 and 7 of this act, the qualifications of trustees and electors of trustees of churches already incorporated and declaring a desire to become incorporated under this act shall remain as they were at the time of passing the resolution declaring such desire, until the congregation shall have made bye-laws defining or altering the same.

To Buy 50,000 Acres of Land.

The Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill to provide for the purchase of certain lands from the N. B. Railway Company. He stated that an agreement had been entered into to purchase 50,000 acres of land in the northern part of the province for settlement at seventy-five cents an acre. Such lands to be sold to actual settlers at the same price and the cost of survey. The land would be divided into 100 acre lots and none but bona fide settlers would be allowed to purchase. The object of the bill was to give the government a clear title to these lands when bought and paid for.

Mr. Speaker gave his decision on the point raised by the Hon. Mr. Hill that any member might move for the return of the fees paid on a bill, but payment could not be made without the consent of the government.

Mr. Clair gave notice for Monday next of the following resolution: That bill No. 65, entitled a bill to give effect to the resolution of the legislative assembly with regard to the discharge of sewage of the city of Fredericton into the St. John river be placed on the order book for reference to the committee of the whole house forthwith for further consideration.

Mr. Hazen raised the point that there must be two clear days' notice.

Mr. Robinson—This does not require any notice of motion, but is merely for the purpose of giving the house notice that the matter will be brought up on Monday. I take the ground that the bill is still before the house. If the speaker decides that the bill is still the property of the house and the committee and is still alive, the matter can be brought up without notice.

Mr. Hazen—The speaker can give his decision on Monday.

Mr. King, from the committee on corporations, reported against the Miramichi dam bill. The bill may be brought up again next session, provided proper plans are submitted and it is shown that it will not interfere with the driving of logs on the Miramichi river.

The house adjourned till 11 o'clock Monday.

Morning Session.

At the morning session the following bills were agreed to:

Bill to incorporate Fidelis Lodge, No. 157, I. O. G. T. Amended bill to incorporate Church Avenue Baptist church of Sussex. Amended bill to vest property and assets of Fredericton Boom Co. in the St. John River Log Driving Co. Progress was reported on the bill relating to the Bathurst Electric and Water Power Company.

Later in a sitting with Dr. Ruddick in the chair the committee took up the bill relating to the St. John Railway Company. An amendment provides that the chief commissioner on the advice of the governor-in-council may permit the company to lay tracks upon the suspension bridge or any bridge built by the government to replace the structure and to run cars across the bridge on such terms as are deemed to be in the public interests. This amendment was passed. In its amended form the bill was agreed to.

In the course of the discussion Hon. Mr. Pugsley stated that the matter of repairs and improvements to the suspension bridge or the erection of a new bridge has been under careful consideration of the government. For $45,000 the present bridge can be strengthened and made suitable for one line of car tracks. For $75,000 it can be made so as to accommodate two lines of car tracks. A new steel bridge suitable for two lines could be put up at a cost of $150,000. If the company paid to the government one-half cent out of every fare the sum thus secured would be sufficient to meet largely or wholly the interest on the cost of the bridge. It has been suggested, he said, that the car fare between the east and west sides of the harbor be raised to six cents. To adopt this suggestion, however, would practically be to make the bridge a toll bridge, which the premier said would seem to him to be unwise and unfair to the public.

Mr. Hazen raised the point that half a cent on each fare would be a small amount for the company to pay. The amendment was passed and the bill was agreed to.

Before adjournment the premier announced that the bill to increase teachers salaries will be brought in on Monday. A bill in amendment of the liquor license act will also be brought in by the premier on Monday. Effect of one amendment, he said, will be to make easier of application provisions to bring into force local option and of a second amendment the effect will be to restrict further sale of liquor by druggists. An amendment to the workmen's compensation act will be made so as to make a judge of the supreme court arbitrator, his decision to be final; also an amendment to the election act. The judicature act will be read a third time on Monday.

A bill in amendment of the workmen's compensation act will also be introduced. This amendment will provide for arbitration of cases under the act by a supreme court judge, whose decision shall be final.

The judicature act will come up for its third reading on Monday.

When the act to vest the property and assets of the Fredericton Boom Company in the St. John River Log Driving Company was under consideration, Mr. Hazen said that the bill had been fully discussed in committee and all the clauses agreed to by the parties interested on both sides except the power of expropriation. The committee had given the same power with respect to arbitration as in the Coverdale bill. Mr. Fraser Gregory telegraphed him that he wanted a clause added to authorize the payment of directors as some of them would have to devote a great deal of time to the work.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I think it desirable that the power should be given, but as this is a public utility expenses should be kept down and any scale of pay given for the directors should be by-laws, subject to the approval of the lieutenant governor in council.

Mr. Hazen—I think that is quite proper, but I hardly feel like pressing an amendment of this kind so hastily. If it is necessary to grant such power it can be done by another bill which may be introduced later.

During the morning's sitting the bill relating to the Imperial Dry Dock Company was brought in by Mr. King. The purpose of the measure is to provide that when the company enters into a contract approved by the governor in council for the dock's construction first mortgage bonds and the first mortgage of the company shall have a legal standing.

CHOOSE A DEACONESS

Portland Methodist Church Decision to Be Put in Effect Soon.

Some two weeks ago The Telegraph announced exclusively that it had been decided to engage the services of either an assistant pastor or a deaconess in the work of the Portland Methodist church. Since that time it has been definitely decided that the new officer will be a deaconess and steps have been taken to fill the position.

The appointment would probably have been made before this but for the fact that a lady regarded as suitable for the position and to whom it was intended to extend an invitation, has moved away from the city. Before many weeks have elapsed, however, the position will be occupied and great results are looked for from the enlarged work.

The deaconess was chosen in preference to an assistant pastor, for reasons stated in The Telegraph at the time of the first announcement of enlarged work.

Along different lines the church is flourishing. Special services are being held at present and are largely attended. The Bible study union is becoming more a factor for good, while the young men's association is gradually gaining ground. The members of the association have made their mark in athletics by winning the basketball championship of the city and are looking forward to the opening of the base ball season when they expect to put a strong team in the field.

On May 24 an excursion up the river will be conducted under the auspices of the Y. M. A.

DR. WM. H. DRUMMOND SUCCUMBS TO PARALYSIS

Cobalt, Ont., April 7.—William Henry Drummond, M. D., the famous Canadian poet, who has given delight to thousands upon thousands in Canada, the United States and Great Britain, died here Saturday.

The deceased was stricken with paralysis on Monday and while his condition seemed improved, he never actually was out of danger since the first seizure.

Dr. Drummond left Montreal for Cobalt a little less than two weeks ago, having been recalled, as it was reported that smallpox had broken out among the men attached to the mining claim, which he and his brother owned.

Dr. Drummond had been greatly interested in Drummond Mine, Cobalt, of which he was manager and chief owner.

Deceased was a son of an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary and was born at Leitrim, Ireland, in 1854. He was married in 1894 to a daughter of Dr. O. C. Harvey.

William Henry Drummond, M. D., L. L. D., F. R. S., D. C. L., was born in Currawn Hall, County Leitrim (Ire.) He was the son of the late George Drummond at one time an officer in the Royal Irish constabulary, and his wife, Elizabeth Soden Drummond. He received his primary education in his native county and afterwards at the English High School, Montreal. He studied medicine in McGill and Bishop's University in that city, graduating M. D. from Bishop's in 1884. For a time he pursued the practice of his profession in Montreal, holding at the same time the chair of Medical Jurisprudence in Bishop's. He afterwards moved to Toronto.

Dr. Drummond was not only a distinguished literary man, but he was also noted for his fondness for all kinds of outdoor sports. He was at one time a noted athlete and was an ex-Canadian amateur three mile walking champion. Besides that he was an enthusiastic hammer thrower, shot putter, canoeist and snow shoer. He was also interested in fly fishing and fish culture as well as game and its propagation and was prominently identified with a number of clubs which had these ends in view. He was vice president of the Laurentian Club, and president of the St. Maurice Club as well as being a member of such organizations as the Winchester Weymahegan and the Province of Quebec Fish and Game Club, Montreal. It was, however, as a literary man that Dr. Drummond was best known to the general public. He has read and lectured in most of the large cities in the United States, always to large and select audiences. He was in this city two or three years ago when he delighted a very large audience in the Opera House with readings from Johnnie Courteau and others of his works. The list of his poems includes: The Habitant, Phil-o-rum's Canoe, Johnnie Courteau and the Voyageur, and a volume of verse.

In 1894 Dr. Drummond married Miss May Isabel, the only daughter of Octavius Charles Harvey, M. R. C. S., of Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica, West Indies. He is survived by one son and one daughter.

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE DROPS DEAD IN STREET

New York, April 7—Theodore Buhl, president of the Buhl Malleable Iron Works, of Detroit, president of the Detroit National Bank, and also of the firm of Park, Davis & Company, chemical and drug manufacturers, today dropped dead on the street near the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, where he had been a guest. Death was due to apoplexy.

Mr. Buhl was one of a group of steel magnates, a multi-millionaire, and prominent in banking circles in the middle west and in the east. The body will be sent to Detroit for interment. Mr. Buhl was sixty-four years old.

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