

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, March 29.—The Speaker this afternoon ruled as out of the order Mr. Hazen's motion for a committee to inquire into the alleged permanent bridge scandals, on the ground that the motion named the members of the committee, while the rules of the House specify that it is the duty of the Speaker to name all committees except the committee which nominates the standing committees. Mr. Hazen expressed the view that the Speaker did not place the right construction on the rule.

At a later stage, Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Shaw, gave notice of a motion for Saturday next with reference to the permanent bridge charges, the same being in identical terms with his former motion, except that it asked that a special committee of five members of the House should be appointed on the nomination of the Speaker.

Replying to Mr. Glasier, Mr. Emmerson said the matter of the erection of a new bridge over the Oromocto river at Oromocto had been pressed upon the government by the honorable members who had formerly represented the county of Sunbury. The matter was now in the hands of the chief engineer of the department.

In answer to Mr. Humphrey's inquiry for particulars with regard to bonuses granted to flour mills, Mr. Labllois said the persons to whom assistance by way of bonus has been granted are: Hon. Pascal Poirier, mill located at Shediac, Westmorland county, \$1,000; Michael McLaughlin, mill located at Buctouche, Kent county, \$1,000; J. M. Frapp, mill located at Woodstock, Carleton county, \$1,000; Sydney Desbrisay, mill located at Petit Rocher, Gloucester county, \$1,000.

Further applications have been made by the following persons, whose applications were approved: S. R. Gaudet, Memramcook, Westmorland county; L. W. Corey, Havelock, Kings county; Henry M. Dugas, Caraquet, Gloucester county; J. W. Galbraith, River Charlo, Restigouche county; John M. Culligan, Armstrong Brook, Restigouche county; W. W. Doherty, Campbellton, Restigouche county; E. C. Fish, Newcastle, Northumberland county; Edmund Clark, Drummond, Victoria county; M. F. Richard, Rogersville, Northumberland county. Further assistance by way of bonus will be paid to the parties whose applications have been approved if they build mills in accordance with the regulations.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Shaw, gave notice of a motion for Saturday next with reference to certain permanent bridges, the same being in identical terms with his former motion, which was ruled out of order by the speaker, except that it asked that a special committee of five members of the house should be appointed on the nomination of the speaker.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the house the 12th annual report of the Provincial Board of Health.

Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill to incorporate the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club.

Mr. O'Brien, (Northumberland), introduced a bill to authorize the municipality of Northumberland to control and regulate peddling in that county.

Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry for Saturday asking what was the cost of the installation of electric plant in the provincial lunatic asylum, with particulars of tenders, etc.

THE UPSALQUITCH BRIDGE.  
Mr. Hazen presented his motion for particulars as to the construction of the Upsalquitch bridge.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said: The Upsalquitch bridge was built in 1898, Mr. Whitman Brewer was the contractor. It was built under contract, the tenders being as follows: Robert L. Duncan, \$4,453; J. E. Simmons, \$4,600; Albert Brewer, \$5,990; W. Brewer, \$3,880; J. B. McManus, \$4,050; John Goulette, \$6,477; Simon McGregor, \$5,900. Mr. Whitman Brewer's tender being the lowest, a contract was entered into with him. The total amount paid during the year ending October 31st was \$3,001.50. Since that date there had been paid the contractor \$1,200. It is not true that the plans were altered after the contract was awarded. No sapling pine was used as far as the department knew where the plans and specifications called for hard pine, nor did he think any sapling pine was used at all.

The government promised to supply information asked for by Mr. Humphrey regarding banking operations and public works.

Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry asking what was the cost of the installation of electric plant in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, with particulars of tenders, etc., and also, has the attention of the government been called to the condition of the bridge near Eoyt Station, Sunbury, and is it the intention of the government to erect a permanent bridge in said locality during the present year?

Hon. Mr. Emmerson presented a petition of the New Brunswick branch of the Women's Franchise Association and 3,883 other parties of the city of St. John praying that a law will be enacted giving full parliamentary suffrage to women on the same terms as those now enjoyed by men.

Mr. Dunn introduced a bill to incorporate the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club; Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) a bill to authorize the municipality of Northumberland to control and regulate peddling in that county.

FREDERICTON, March 30.—In the Local House yesterday Mr. McKeown submitted the first report of the municipalities committee.

entitled "an act for the further encouragement of agriculture," are the following: Hon. Pascal Poirier, mill located at Shediac, Westmorland county, \$1,000; Michael McLaughlin, mill located at Buctouche, Kent county, \$1,000; J. N. Frapp mill located at Woodstock, Carleton County, \$1,000; Sydney Desbrisay, mill located at Petit Rocher, Gloucester county \$1,000.

FURTHER APPLICATIONS.  
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S. R. Gaudet, Memramcook, Westmorland county; L. W. Corey, Havelock, Kings county; Henry M. Dugas, Caraquet, Gloucester County; J. W. Galbraith, River Charlo, Restigouche county; John M. Culligan, Armstrong Brook, Restigouche county; W. W. Doherty, Campbellton, Restigouche county; E. C. Fish, Newcastle, Northumberland county; Edmund Clark, Drummond, Victoria county; M. F. Richard, Rogersville, Northumberland county. Further assistance by way of bonus will be paid to the parties whose applications have been approved if they build mills in accordance with the regulations.

Mr. Melanson, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, made his motion asking for a detailed statement of the banking operations of the government.

Hon. Mr. Eweeie.—The information asked for will be furnished without the formality of an address.

Motion withdrawn.  
Mr. Humphrey made his motion for a statement in detail, showing what public works are under construction or under contract and not appearing in the public accounts for 1898.

Hon. Emmerson.—The information will be furnished without the formality of an address.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Shaw, gave notice of a motion for Saturday next with reference to certain permanent bridges, the same being in identical terms with his former motion, which was ruled out of order by the speaker, except that it asked that a special committee of five members of the house should be appointed on the nomination of the speaker.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the house the 12th annual report of the Provincial Board of Health.

BILLS INTRODUCED.  
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Hon. Mr. Emmerson said: The Upsalquitch bridge was built in 1898, Mr. Whitman Brewer was the contractor. It was built under contract, the tenders being as follows: Robert L. Duncan, \$4,453; J. E. Simmons, \$4,940; Albert Brewer, \$5,990; W. Brewer, \$3,880; J. B. McManus, \$4,950; John Goulette, \$6,477; Simon McGregor, \$5,000. Mr. Whitman Brewer's tender being the lowest a contract was entered into with him. The total amount paid during the year ending October 31st was \$3,001.50 and \$1.50 being for printing notices. Since that date there had been paid the contractor \$1,200, of which \$500 was for ice guard noses and abutments, which were under separate contract.

It is not true that the plans were altered after the contract was awarded. No sapling pine was used as far as the department knew where the plans and specifications called for hard pine, nor did he think any sapling pine was used at all.

THE CONTRACT ADHERED TO.

From his knowledge of the inspector Mr. John Dawson, he did not think the contractor could have evaded the requirements of his contract. The counter braces are reported loose, as is usual before final adjustment, owing to the shrinkage of the green timbers. These counters do not take any stress unless there is a very excessive load. Under contract, all such counter braces and all adjustable members have to be readjusted within three months or in due season after the timber is properly seasoned and all defects from loose counters permanently overcome. Including the amount of \$453.50 paid the inspector, the total outlay upon the bridge was therefore \$4,555.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson presented a petition of the New Brunswick branch of the Women's Franchise Association and 3,883 other parties of the city of St. John praying that a law will be enacted giving full parliamentary suffrage to women on the same terms as those now enjoyed by men.

Adjourned.  
FREDERICTON, March 30.—Mr. Veniot from standing rules committee, and Mr. McKeown, from the municipal committee submitted reports to the house.

Bills were introduced by Mr. Hazen amending the act incorporating the St. John Horticultural Association and to give it further power.

By Mr. Dunn, enabling the commissioners of the General Public hospital,

St. John to make further issue of debentures.

By Mr. Robertson, amending the act relating to the St. John Horticultural Association.

By Mr. Veniot, enabling Gloucester municipality to issue debentures and to consolidate its debt; also by Mr. Veniot amending chapter 34, 51st Victoria, so far as the same relates to Gloucester county; by Mr. Robinson, incorporating the Eurporetore society of the University of Mount Allison; By Mr. Carvel, authorizing the board of school trustees of district No. 3, parish of Brighton, Carleton county, to issue debentures for the erection of a school building; by Mr. White incorporating the New Brunswick Sunday School Association; by M. Russel authorizing Charlotte municipality to grant exemptions in certain cases, also by Mr. Russell, to confirm the road assessment of the town district of the parish of St. Andrews for the year 1898, to abolish labor in lieu of roads and provide for the maintenance of public sewers in said district.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson introduced a bill to aid the erection and maintenance of a bridge over the St. John River at Hartland.

Mr. Hazen asked: Have the government any progress to report concerning the auditor general's report? The house had been told last week that the report would be on the table in a few days, and he had understood the provincial secretary to say that the delay was owing to the printer. If the printer could not get the report ready in five months he (Hazen) thought it would be well for the government to employ another concern. It would be a great convenience, if the house was to adjourn until Monday or a later date, if honorable members could have this report in their hands.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said that the auditor's report was not yet ready. It would be laid before the house at the earliest possible moment. He might say that the auditor was not to blame at all in the matter, but rather he placed the responsibility upon himself (Emmerson) because he had not supplied in due season certain material from the department of public works that goes in the report. He could say that he (Emmerson) had really found his time so taken up with other matters this winter, including the election (laughter) that he had not been able to give this matter the attention it deserved.

Mr. Hazen said he had been informed that the report had been in the hands of the company printing it since December last. If so there was no excuse whatever, why the report was not now in the possession of the house. He was not treating the matter from a party standpoint, but thought that this report should be in the hands of every member of the house, not only early in the session but before the session, as was done in the case of the federal parliament, so that honorable members before entering upon their duties could become familiarized with the financial transactions of the government for the past year.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson explained that the chief reason for delay in publishing the report was the difficulty of receiving returns from the officials throughout the country promptly. Doubtless some of the copy might have been in the printer's hands at the first of the year, but he knew that a good deal of the manuscript was not ready until very lately.

Mr. Hazen.—Of course, some allowance must be made, but it should be remembered that one of the reasons advanced for changing the date of closing the fiscal year from December 31st to October 31st was that these reports might be printed in time to be promptly submitted to the house.

Mr. Glasier gave notice of inquiry.—Has the government caused to be distributed among the schools of the province the book entitled The Life and Times of Sir Leonard Tilley, by James Hannay. If so, how many copies and what was the nature of the distribution.

Mr. Shaw rose to a question of privilege. He noticed in the columns of the St. John Record the following: "The New Brunswick legislature is going to be taken to the lunatic asylum."

He might say that the only symptoms of madness he had seen exhibited in the house had been by some members of the legal profession when they heard the announcement that the office of solicitor general was going to be abolished. (Laughter.) He thought these cases could better be taken care of by the government than by Dr. Hetherington (Laughter.) He would make a motion to that effect, but was afraid the speaker would rule it out of order on the ground of involving expense. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Emmerson.—The government had supposed that my honorable friend wanted company at Fairville. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Emmerson moved that when the house adjourned it stand adjourned until Monday next at 2.30 p. m. While there was a good many members who favored adjournment till a later date, yet he thought this would unduly interfere with the routine business of the house. He desired honorable members, as generally as possible, to attend the inspector which it was proposed to make on Tuesday morning next on arrival at Fairville of the F. J. Dericton morning train, of the asylum and annex. It was in the highest

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Hood's Pills cure liver ill; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

degree desirable that honorable members who were called upon to legislate with regard to this important institution, should become familiar with its magnitude and its requirements.

Mr. Hazen.—It is quite evident that if the house is to adjourn till Monday and then over Tuesday that many honorable members will not return here on Monday. I suppose it is understood that notices of motion and everything on the order paper will stand until Wednesday.

Mr. Emmerson.—Yes.

Mr. Emmerson's motion was carried.  
Hon. Mr. Emmerson said it was evident that the amendment made last session to rule 78 was having a beneficial effect. Whereas last year at this period in the session only nine bills were before the house there were now 21. In view of the practical adjournment of the house until Wednesday next he thought the vacation should not count in regard to the introduction of private bills. He would move, seconded by Mr. Hazen, that the time for the reception of private bills be extended to and including Thursday next.

Carried.  
Hon. Mr. Emmerson, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Tweedie, committed a bill in amendment of act 54 Victoria, chapter 11, so far as the same relates to the Gulf Shore railway. Mr. Wells chairman. Agreed to. Adjourned.

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OUR FISHERIES.

STATISTICS OF THE INDUSTRY FOR THE PAST YEAR

OTTAWA, March 30.—The annual report of the fisheries department shows that the total value of Canadian fisheries last year was \$22,783,549, an increase of \$2,376,122 over the previous year, the best in the history of the country. The yield by provinces was as follows: Nova Scotia, \$8,090,346; British Columbia, \$6,138,856; New Brunswick, \$3,934,136; Quebec, \$737,011; Ontario, \$1,289,822; P. E. Island, \$954,949; Manitoba and N. W. Territories, \$638,416.

The increases are: Nova Scotia, \$2,019,451; British Columbia, \$1,954,866. The other provinces show a decrease. Some 78,959 men were engaged in the fishing industry, using boats, etc., etc., aggregating a capital of \$9,379,794. There is an increase in Nova Scotia, nearly all in Digby county.

Some doubt was felt on the accuracy of the figures, but the fishery officers maintained they were correct.

The falling off in New Brunswick was general all along the sea coast. The total number of modus vivendi licenses issued to American fishing vessels was 79, as against 40 in 1897. The fisheries protection fleet patrolled nearly 90,000 miles of coast, but pending the ratification of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, various concessions have been made to American fishing schooners. On many occasions the Americans took advantage of Canadian generosity.

Capt. Spain complains that Canadian fishing vessels neglect to fly from the main truck a red and white diagonal flag for identification purposes, thereby increasing the work of the fleet.

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