PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

A BILL IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTION LISTS REVISORS.

FREDERICTON, April 27—Mr. McKeown from the committee on the municipalities submitted a report.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie committed a bill in amendment of the New Brunswick elections act of 1890 and certain acts in amendment thereof. Wells chairman.

Mr. Hazen asked if the provincial secretary proposed to explain the bill.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the bill did not require very much explanation. It was in amendment of the New Brunswick elections act. of 1889. The principal amendment is that the governor-in-council is given the power to appoint the third revisor in each parish. At present the two councillors are revisors themselves and appoint the third revisor. It might be urged that no great necessity existed for the change. The attention of the government had been called to the fact that in many counties the revision of the lists were very unsatisfactory. The third revisor would be outside of local influence altogether, and there would be greater likelihood that all persons entitled to a vote would be placed on the list. The municipalities, of course, were not interested in the election in any way, and a good deal of carelessness had arisen with regard to the revision of the voters list. In many places the duty was performed in a mere perfunctory way.

There was also an amendment in regard to applications for getting names on that had been left off. The act of 60th Victoria provided for an appeal to the county court judge. Under this bill the application is made directly to the sheriff. Some members of the house suggested that additional polling places should be provided for, but he thought, unless pressing necessity was shown for the change, this matter had better stand over till next session for careful consideration.

HAZEN PROTESTS.

Mr. Hazen said he wished to place himself on record as entirely opposed to this bill. Hitherto the revising has been done by the two councillors and the third is appointed by the county council. This bill put the apyointment of the third revisor in the hands of the lieutenant-governor. No good reason had been shown for the change to the effect that the revising was not properly done. No complaint has been made. Names no doubt were occasionally omitted, but this would occur under the most perfect system that could be devised. He thought the county councils were much better judges as to who were suitable men to appoint as revisors than the governor in council possibly could be. No county council had asked for the change. The government were taking away a right the county councils had always had without giving any good reasons for the change.

Hon. Mr. White said the honorable members should not regard the bill as a party measure. Surely it was desirable to have the lists so prepared that there would be very reasonable assurance that no injustice would be done. It was to accomplish that end that the bill was framed.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said it had always seemed to him that there was a necessity for this change. If the appointment of the third revisor was made by the whole council there might not be the same objection as there was to the present mode. Under the present law the revising was practically placed altogether in the hands of the two councillors for the parish as they would be certain to appoint a revisor of their own way of thinking. He thought the power of appeal left to the sheriff was a very wise provision. He knew the system of appealing to the county court has not worked satisfactorily, and had been too expensive. If a voter in Botsford parish wished to appeal he had to travel many miles only perhaps to find the judge engaged. The sheriff by virtue of his office had a wide knowledge of the affairs of the people generally in the county, and was well fitted to officiate as provided in the act. While the present system had worked fairly well, yet much injustice had been done in many instances. He thought the honorable member (Hazen) was needlessly alarmed as to the political aspect of the bill. The appointment proposed was really a judical one and would inspire great confidence, and from that standpoint alone the bill was in the public interest.

Mr. Robinson thought the bill should contain some provision prohibiting members of the dominion house or of this legislature from acting as county secretary, because the latter official had practically control of all the voting lists in the county.

After further discussion progress reported, with leave.

Mr. Osman presented the petition of Messrs. John W. Gaskin, James T. Ryan, Sanfory Ryan and 89 others praying that a bridge be constructed across the Petitcodiac River at a point about seven miles west of the Moncton bridge.

Mr. Speaker said the petition was not in order and could not be received because it asked that an expense be incurred by the province.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE BILL.

FREDERICTON, April 27.—Reports from the agricultural committee and the bridge charges committee, in terms already described, were presented to the Legislature this afternoon.

Bills to continue the act incorporating the St. Louis, Richibucto and Buctouche Railway Co., to incorporate the Shediac and Coast Railway Co.; to aid in the collection of rates in the city of St. John; to authorize the municipal council of Kent to lease the public wharf at Richibucto; to amend a by-law of the city of St. John passed on the 15th day of December, 1896, respecting business licenses; to authorzie the town of St. Stephen to aid the Imperial Manufacturing Co.; to amend chapter 115 Consolidated Statutes, sewers and marsh lands, were agreed to.

Mr. White said with reference to the bill passed the other day to declare and explain the meaning of the covenant for renewal in leases for renewable terms that he had thought at the time that the legislation was objectionable, but the committee thought there were some cases of hardship in the city of St. John that required legislative remedy, and therefore passed the bill. He desired to say that it was a matter of some question whether the Lieutenant Governor would feel that he ought to give his assent to the bill, not by reason of its application to the particular cases in question, but because it was dangerous legislation. He would therefore move a reconsideration of the bill. He thought perhaps the fact that it was the feeling of the House that cases of injustice existed which should be remedied would have a deterrent effect upon the parties concerned, in view of the fact that if abuses arose remedial legislation would be very apt to be adopted. On motion of Mr. White the order for the the third reading of the bill was discharged.

The bill to abolish priority among execution creditors stands over until next session.

Mr. Carvell introduced a bill to provide for anchorage and wires for ferry purposes.

The bill respecting Sunday observance introduced by Mr. White caused a long discussion during which it appeared the law committee had reported against it. Mr. White said the provisions of the bill were designed to prevent trading, noisy games and bathing on Sunday, and generally to bring about a quiet and orderly observance of the day. They were also designed to prevent large excursions. From a religious standpoint the bill was very liberal. It did not interfere with Sunday travel or the running of street cars and railway trains. The idea was to a Christain Sabbath such as should obtain in civilized countries.

Messrs. Emmerson, Shaw, Robertson, Russel and Purdy spoke in favor of the bill, while Messrs. Venoit, Osman, Pugsley and Todd criticized it adversely. A motion by Mr. Venoit to report progress was lost by a vote of 15 to 21.

Mr. Pugsely moved an amendment to section one: "To strike out sub-section 3. section 1, and insert in lieu thereof: Works of necessity mentioned in this subsection shall mean and include such work as is reasonably necessary in order to prevent serious public and private loss, injury or inconvenience."

The amendment was lost on the following division:

Yeas—Tweedie, Dunn, Mott, Whitehead, Fish, O'Brien (Charlotte), Porter, McLeod, Venoit, Pugsley, Todd, Humphrey, Glasier, Laforest, Johnson, Barnes, Gagnon, Legere—18.

Nays—Mr. Speaker, Emmerson, White, Labillois, Farris, Thompson, Wells, Osman, Robinson, Barnes, Robertson, Hazen, Shaw, McKeown, Carvell, Smith, Rusiell, Purdy, McCain—19.

Mr. Pugsley moved his previous amendment to sub-section 3 of section 1, leaving out the words "or convenience," which was lost by the same vote.

Mr. Robertson moved as an addition to section 1: "Provided, however, that nothing in this act contained shall operate to prevent the loading or unloading or other work necessary to be done in order to enable any steamer to prepare for sailing in case any said steamship is under contract with the Canadian government to sail at any time stated, and it is necessary to fulfil the said contract that said work should be done."

Mr. White said he would accept this amendment as a reasonable one, and it was carried without division.

Mr. Mott moved in amendment that nothing in this act contained shall apply to the loading or unloading of fishing smacks or boats. This amendment was adopted without division.

Mr. Robinson moved in amendment: "Nothing in this act shall apply to the moving of through freight trains in the province." This was carried without division.

Section 6, prohibiting Sunday excursions by train or boat, was adopted on a division of 20 to 17.

After numerous other amendments the bill was agreed to.

WINDING UP BUSINESS.

FREDERICTON, April 27—By the amendments to the St. John police bill passed last night, the chief is to act with the safety board in making appointments of men and regulations in connection with the force, such regulations to be confirmed by the common council. The appointment of the chief of police is to remain as at present.

A delegation from Woodstock who were here promoting a bill in connection with the Woodstock pulp mill returned home this morning having had the bill passed. The delegates were Mayor Murphy, A. Henderson, president of board of trade, H. Paxton, Baird and Hugh Hay.

The corporations committee met last evening and continued the discussion on the bill relating to the incorporation of the New Brunswick Pulp and Paper Company. The following were the chief amendments made to the bill: That the company should be liable to pay damages to parties whose property shall be damaged by them; that in case the company and the party whose property is damaged shall not agree one arbitrator shall be appointed by each, and those two shall appoint a third. If they cannot agree as to the third, he shall be appointed by the judge in equity; that all plans of mills, sites for dams to be erected, etc., shall be submitted to the Lieut. Governor in Council and one month's notice shall be filed in the Royal Gazette previous to being submitted to the Governor in council; in case any raft belonging to parties other than the company shall be damaged in passing through any dams erected by them they shall make good the damage to the parties owning such raft; that dams shall be erected at or within 300 yards of foot of Narrows; that company are to commence operations within one year and to spend $150.000 in two years, or forfeit franchise; they are not allowed to mortgage their property or to issue bonds, but have right to issue common and preference stock. The bill was recommended to the House with those amendments.

The contingencies committee this morning took up the question of paying usual extras to officials and servants of the House. When the question of a grant of $50 extra to Assistant Clerk Dibblee came up Messrs. Veniot and Carvell objected to the Grant. Mr. Carvell said that he was strongly opposed to officials and servants of the House being paid any extras for their services. He was opposed to the system, and if the gentlemen did not wish to accept the position without a bonus they should not take it. He thought in Dibblee's case $500 a year was ample pay for about five weeks' work. He said Dibblee also received $20 for two hours' work on the bridge investigation committee, and he (Carvell) would oppose all such extra grants. Mr. Barnes thought as it was a customary thing to give bonuses to different officials and servants it would be better to give this year, but to make a resolution not to give in future. Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) agreed with Mr. Barnes. Mr. Robinson said he found Dibblee a good officer in the House and in committees, but thought $500 sufficient for him without extras. Mr. Skaw said that the late clerk assistant Richards, always received this $5 and he believed the committee should continue the principle this year at least. Mr. Dibblee claimed that he had done more work as clerk since taking office than was ever done before, and was often at work until three o'clock in the morning and neglected much of his private business in order to attend to House work. On motion of Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) the clerk assistant will receive $50 extra sarvices this year, Messrs. Carvell and Robinson voting nay. Mr. Veniot moved that in future no extra be voted to officials of the House having stated salaries. Carried.

Mr. Veniot said in consequence of the abolition of the law clerkship more work was thrown on the engrossing clerks, and it was moved by Mr. Veniot, seconded by Mr. Whitehead, that N. A. Landry and J. H. Hawthorne, engrossing clerks, each be paid $50, and these increased amounts be made permanent. Carried.

The committee adjourned with leave to sit again.

The agricultural committee this morning drew up the following resolutions: Approval of the government's policy in promoting and encouraging butter and cheese factories by the employment of competent lecturers and instructors, by establishing a dairy school, by encouragement of flour mills. The committee are of the opinion that the money expended in grants would be better used in paying lecturers on dairying than in holding exhibitions. They also urged the advisability of establishing a pork packing industry in the province and the importation of swine best adapted for bacon purposes; also that the number of agricultural reports printed be increased from three to five thousand copies a year.

Mr. Johnson thought the agricultural report should be printed in French, as many French farmers could not read English. He said that such a resolution had passed the House year after year. Still there was no report in French. Mr. Legere agreed with Mr. Johnson, and added that it would encourage French farmers if the reports were printed in that language. He thought all reports should be in French, as at Ottawa, but for this year would only ask for an agricultural report in that language. He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, that one thousand copies of the agricultural report be printed in French and three thousand in English. This was carried and the committee adjourned.

The public accounts committee held a short session this morning and completed the examination of the public accounts for the session. Mr. Emmerson was present and gave an explanation regarding permanent bridge expenditure and the cost of installing the lunatic asylum electric plant. The item of $7,888.43 for repairs to the asylum building during the year was also explained by Mr. Emmerson. Permanent bridge expenditure, $66,101.31, was next passed upon. Mr. Emmerson gave weights of superstructures and stated to the committee that with one or two exceptions all had cost six and one-half cents per pound delivered and erected on site and with what is known as a shop coat of paint. In the case of Nepisiquit bridge the cost of the hardwood floor put down had been extra. The weights had cost of the superstructures for the principal bridges on which the above sum was expended are as follows: Nepisiquit bridge, 219,487 pounds, cost $14,266.66; Lefebvre bridge, weight 237,944 pounds, cost $15,466.36; Blackbridge, steel span, weight 118,872 pounds, cost $7,733.18, the short span in this bridge weighed 54,00 pounds; Tabor bridge, weight 73,200 pounds, cost $4-758; Trueman Pond bridge superstructure Mr. Emmerson said, was built by Ruddock and cost six and one-half cents a pound at Chatham. Ruddock also supplied the superstructure over the Hammond river, Kings county, weight 753,-715 pounds, cost $10,121.47.

This concluded the investigation and the committee adjourned to meet this evening, when they will make report.

The bill introduced by Mr. McKeown last night is to give power to any constable to arrest parties in any part of the city of St. John and to effect entrance into the cabin or hold of any vessel or schooner in the harbor for the purpose of making such arrest; also to provide that no damages can be had against such constables for making such entrance to vessels when persons they are searching after are supposed to be concealed there.

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(Hamilton Times.)

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