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THE HERALD.
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THE LUMBER QUESTION.
The very concise and convincing address on the report of the lumber commission, given in the house on Thursday, a report of which will be found in another column, must have shown that the policy of the government with respect to the lumber lands of the province has been highly beneficial. The idea of appointing a commission, composed of men who were lumber dealers or had been much interested in lumber lands, was ridiculed by the opposition. That party said it would be a bill of expense and no good could come of it, but when the surveyor general told the house that the commission gave their valuable labors without the smallest compensation, Dr. Stockton and his party had to admit that they had unjustly criticised the commission in this respect.

THE EXODUS.
Without in any way endeavoring to make political capital we have devoted some space to a few items respecting the exodus. It may be said and is, that the federal policy must bear the blame for such a state of affairs; others say that it is only a natural consequence; that the people of this province are more or less inclined to roam, and that the golden shadows thrown across the line are more than the younger portion of our community can resist. One thing is apparent, however, and it is exceedingly painful to consider, that our farming villages are being depopulated. The census returns, while showing that the population did not increase during the last decade, failed to show that only the very old and very young have remained with us, the men and women of the years of eighteen to thirty have sought a home across the border. It is almost impossible to enumerate the draft that has been made on this city, but there is hardly a family of thirty years' standing but has added one, two or three to the population of the republic. It is time more thought was given to this matter outside of making politics of it. In our rural communities the old men find that since the boys have gone they are unable to work the farm, and field after field is turned into pasture and allowed to grow up in bushes, until finally the old folks give up farming in disgust and remove to the town to live the rest of their days on the little board they have saved, or on the money that the "boys" from time to time send them to supply their needs.

The French-Canadian treaty is proving a serious matter in the dominion house. Whether Sir Charles Tupper has resigned his commission or not, he and Mr. Foster have quarrelled, and the breach is hourly growing wider. It is plain that as a leader Mr. Foster is a failure, and that Sir John Thompson, whatever his faults, is the bone and sinew of the Ottawa cabinet. Every question that comes before the house on which there is a division sees large defections from the government ranks, and the election of a liberal during the week, almost with speaking distance of the houses of parliament, by a large majority, is evidence that the conservatives are losing their grip on the long suffering public.

Whether Dr. Stockton imagines that some other bank is going to collapse and wants to be prepared for it or not, his motion in the house on Friday looks like it. It is surely unfortunate for the doctor that he had not moved this resolution some years ago and had it passed; then his trip to England to work against the people of the province might not have been in vain. As it is his action in this matter is like locking the door after the steed is stolen, but is of a piece with his general legislation. He began the session with some ancient history, and appears to keep himself and his resolutions as much out of date as possible.

In the dominion house on Thursday, the Caron charges were brought to a division. There was a majority of fifty for maintaining Caron in his seat. Four conservatives, Messrs. McCarthy, O'Brien, Calvin and Weldon, of Albert, N. B., refused to vote with their party. The other New Brunswick representatives appear to think that Caron is not totally an uncle Thomas would say, "decomposed yet," or that he is no worse than the others.

The Connelly-McGreavy trial has been adjourned till September owing to the absence of Robert McGreavy, who jumped from the train on which he journeyed from Quebec to the capital. A bench warrant has been issued for his arrest. The court gave orders to have Henry F. Peley's evidence taken by commission should ill health prevent his appearance on the stand.

Sunday afternoon two children of Aylesford Ayles of Coveville, near Salisbury, went out into a field near their father's house and set fire to the stable. In trying to extinguish the blaze the clothing of the younger child aged three years, caught on fire, and in a short time he was enveloped in flames. His burns were so severe that he lived only for a few hours.

PARLIAMENT.
Hon. Surveyor General Discusses the Lumber Business.

Mr. Seivewright's Motion Respecting the Public Schools.

Dr. Stockton Legislating Out of Date.

Wednesday.
Mr. Diblee rose to a matter of privilege. The St. John Sun had reported him as refusing to present a petition from the parish of Simonds, Carleton county, relating to the Bathurst school matter. The fact was that Mr. Pitts had brought the petition to him and asked him if he knew the name of the petitioner. He had told him that he did; they were farmers in the parish of Simonds. Mr. Pitts asked him if he would present the petition, and he (Diblee) had stated that, as the petition had not been sent to him, he did not feel that it was his duty to present it. Had the petition been sent to him he would have had much pleasure in presenting it. He did not think it fair that a statement should have been made. Mr. Pitts said that the report referred to had in no way emanated from him. The remarks of the hon. member were in accordance with what he stated to him. Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to further amend the general mining act, also a bill amending the act authorizing municipality of Northumberland to lease by public auction the Chatham public wharf.

Hon. Mr. Blair presented a bill to provide for the maintenance of the boy's industrial home. Mr. Pitts gave notice respecting a petition in connection with the public schools. Mr. Alward presented a bill in addition to an act authorizing an assessment in the city of St. John, in aid of the Free public library; also a bill relating to the consolidated Electric Company (Ltd.).

On motion of Hon. Mr. Blair, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mitchell, the report of the lumber commission was referred to the committee on ways and means. Hon. Mr. Emmerson committed a bill, Mr. Fieveling in the chair, in amendment of the act relating to the education of the blind, explaining that it was to provide for the education of pupils over 21 years of age who had not hitherto attended the institution. The bill was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie committed a bill to facilitate the transmission of timber down rivers, lakes and streams; Mr. Wells chairman. Mr. Tweedie explained that this was the bill recommended by the lumber commission in their report last year. The bill provided that combines might be incorporated for the purpose of clearing out streams to facilitate the driving of lumber, charging such tolls subject to the consent of the government in council. The rights of all parties were carefully guarded. The usual arbitration clauses were provided for cases of enactment upon private lands. Thirty sections of the bill were passed.

After recess the bill was agreed to with amendments. Hon. Mr. Emmerson introduced a bill to change the time of holding the sittings of the county courts. Mr. Killam introduced a bill to provide for supplying the city of Moncton with water. Mr. Powell introduced a bill relating to the sitting of Circuit and County courts of Westmorland.

Mr. Wells introduced a bill for establishing and maintaining a police force for the city of Moncton; also a bill amending the act incorporating or relating to the town of Moncton. **Adjourned.**

The Schools.
On Thursday in the local legislature Mr. Seivewright gave notice of motion for Saturday: "An address for copies of any report in council or order or regulations of the board of education made and passed at any time since the going into operation of the common schools act of 1871, for the purpose of considering or permitting members of religious orders of any church to be qualified as teachers under the school law, or relating to the employment of members of religious orders connected with any church as teachers in the public schools, etc., etc., or any other order, or regulations of the board of education or any instructions or authority issued by the department in any way contravening the non-sectarian principle of the school law."

The house went into committee on further consideration of ways and means. Mr. Killam in the chair. Hon. Mr. Tweedie, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mitchell, moved that the committee proceed to the consideration of the report of the lumber commission submitted to the house last session.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that in July, 1890, the commission had been appointed to consider the question of education governing the timber lands of the province. At the time the opposition claimed that it was unnecessary, and that the government should themselves do this work. Last session the report of the commission was submitted and hon. gentlemen opposite claimed that it really censured the policy of the government. It was also claimed that it would cost the government a great deal of money. The result, however, was that the gentlemen comprising the commission, whose eminent qualifications no man had or would venture to dispute, had charged the province nothing whatever for their valuable services, and that the entire expenses of the commission had only amounted to about \$1,200. The hon. gentlemen opposite had attached very great importance to the fact that the commission criticized the government because of its mode of appointing scalars, and said that the scalars were not doing their duty, and that 20 per cent. of the stumpage was lost to the province thereby. It would be seen, however, that the present method of employing scalars was about the best that could be desired. The report showed clearly that the present mode was the only feasible one of collecting the stumpage. It was no doubt true that some of these officials fell short in the performance, but that did not justify an attack on the system. Sometimes the lumber was under scaled but this was a matter that was not looked after very closely by the department. Absolutely correct returns were very difficult to come at. One dollar a thousand is charged as a stumpage on merchantable, and a certain allowance is made for lumber that may turn out unmerchantable. The general complaint made by the operators is that the scalars are too strict, and cases are not infrequent where over scaling is proved. Mill owners invariably claim that they can never get 1,000 feet of lumber out of 1,000 feet of logs, as measured by the scaler, but the government had never allowed this claim. The commission had dealt with the question

whether long or short leases would be the better policy; whether the lands should be up to competition every year or otherwise, and in respect of that the commission decided that the tenure should be as permanent as possible. They had declared that parties should be prevented from holding land for speculative purposes in other words that men who have honestly invested their capital in the business should have some guarantee that their property would not be subject to the action of the combines or syndicates.

Entitled to Weight.
The conclusion of the commission was that the lands should be leased by public auction, and that they should be annually renewable on condition of compliance with all regulations made, or hereafter to be made by the government in council; that was the recommendation of the commission and it was entitled to weight. The commission had said that the subject of stumpage, and had decided that in the present state of the trade the rate should not be more than \$1. They had expressed the opinion too, that if the lumber were hauled in, in a few years double that rate of stumpage could be secured. That might be a practical question if the province were not dependent upon the lumber lands for its revenue, and if they could be locked up without ruinous effects upon those engaged in the business. The commission had dealt with the subject of cutting of unmerchantable lumber. He (Tweedie) since he had assumed the administration of his office had devoted special attention to the matter, and had insisted that no unmerchantable lumber should be cut at all, even for pulp purposes. This was a matter entirely worthy of the attention of the committee. The subject of clearing out streams to aid in the driving of lumber had received much attention from the government. Lumbermen frequently applied for assistance in clearing out unmerchantable streams, but so far very little had been done in that direction. The bill passed yesterday had been prepared by the lumber commission in accordance with the terms of their report. It appeared to be the view of many that if leases were short and should be given in respect of the lands, especially those long held by the lumbermen, it would certainly be an expense himself. It was certainly unreasonable to expect a man to expend thousands of dollars in building dams and clearing out streams, to get his lumber out when, at the very next annual sale, some other party might outbid him and take advantage of all his improvements. The commission had also referred to the protection of the timber lands from fire. It was a fact, and he thought a significant one, that there were far more fires before the present time, if date, which many attributed to the circumstance that leases holding lands for long periods protected them much more carefully and efficiently than under the former system.

Hon. Mr. Blair said the commission had recommended the permanent employment of scalars and the desirability of separating the same from political influence. It was thrown out that probably a more efficient body of scalars might be secured, if they were employed by the government during the summer as well as the winter months. The scalars now get paid \$100 a year, but if employed under the system proposed by the commission the additional expense would be at least \$15,000 or \$20,000. He did not believe the additional revenue would at all compensate for this increase.

Increased Out.
The government therefore was in no position to set upon the recommendation of the commission. The view had been presented to the government, however, that they might very well make it a condition of the lease that the lessees should pay for the employment of officers during the summer months for the proper protection of the forest. No doubt it was quite true that the appointments of these scalars were made as the result of political influence. That simply meant that the government, while they see to it that the men were properly qualified, were impressed by the wishes of the people's representatives who were friendly to them. He would like to know in what other manner such appointments could be made than in accordance with the wishes of the people's representatives. Since the crown land administration had come into the hands of the present government, and since the present surveyor general had taken charge, many additional safeguards had been introduced in respect to this matter of scaling. A law had been passed for a thorough examination of all applicants for the position, and no person was appointed who had not passed such examination. A feeling existed among the representatives in the different counties that none but residents of the respective counties should be appointed. All these things influenced this government as well as influence any government; yet he believed that with all the drawbacks necessarily incident to our democratic system it would be found that these officials had done their work very efficiently. He had been very hopeful that the gentlemen opposite would have discussed the report so that the government would be in a position to meet any criticism that they had to make upon this branch of the administration.

Mr. Stockton said the subject before the house was a most important one and that the cut last year had increased by twelve per cent. Hon. Mr. Tweedie - The increase of revenue is accounted for by the increased cut and by the employment of Mr. Smith on the Bay Shore during the summer. Mr. Stockton ventured to assert that the conclusion of the commission was not founded merely upon the guess work of a single witness. The gentlemen composing the commission were practical lumbermen.

The motion for the consideration of the report was then carried. It was moved by hon. Mr. Tweedie, seconded by hon. Mr. Mitchell: Resolved, That it is expedient that the leases to be granted for the timber crown lands after the expiration of existing leases certain covenants and conditions as will protect the crown against such lands being held for speculative purposes by a stipulation that a certain average cut should be made in respect to all lands held by the lessees or in such other manner as the government in council may deem advisable.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie held that some such action was necessary to prevent a combine, which would interfere with the revenue and other interests of the country. It was necessary that parties holding licenses should be required to cut a certain percentage on the number of miles held by them. The resolution was carried without division.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mitchell: Resolved, That it is expedient that the leases to be granted for the timber crown lands after the expiration of existing leases certain covenants and conditions as will protect the crown against such lands being held for speculative purposes by a stipulation that a certain average cut should be made in respect to all lands held by the lessees or in such other manner as the government in council may deem advisable.

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under lease at any time or from time to time during the continuance thereof. The resolution was carried without division. It was moved by hon. Mr. Tweedie, seconded by hon. Mr. Mitchell: Resolved, That after the expiration of the present leases of timber crown lands the leases be offered to public competition upon the condition that the same shall be renewed annually at the pleasure of the lieutenant governor in council, and for a term not exceeding twenty-five years. There followed some discussion as to the term of the lease, which was taken part in by hon. Messrs. Blair and Tweedie, and Messrs. Hill, Smith, Baird, Alward, Goggin, Stockton, Powell and Robinson. Mr. Stockton moved, seconded by Mr. Powell, that the term be made not to exceed ten years. Mr. Stockton's motion was lost on the division, eleven to twenty-five. The original motion was then carried on a reverse vote. **Adjourned.**

Friday.
Hon. Mr. Emmerson was granted leave of absence until Monday. Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) introduced a bill to amend chapter 106 Consolidated Statutes - non-resident pedlars. Mr. Stockton moved, seconded by Mr. Phinney, a bill respecting crown debtors. Hon. Mr. Blair wished to hear some reason suggested why it would be in the public interest that the resolution should be adopted. The only reason he had heard given was that such a law had been adopted in Ontario and worked well. He did not feel that it was necessary in all cases that this province should follow the example of the legislature of Ontario, unless some good and substantial reasons were urged for doing so. The hon. member had already proposed legislation on this question and thereby assumed the responsibility that belonged to the advisers of the crown. The conditions in this province were not identical with those of the province of Ontario where the legislation spoken of was adopted. 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