

REPORT ON THE ROAD ENQUIRY TABLED IN THE LEGISLATURE BY HON. MR. STEWART

(Continued from Page Two)

penditure was being held down during the present year. He would admit that last year there was an over expenditure in the department by special warrants but this year the appropriation was being reduced.

MR. MICHAUD wanted to know the reason for the over expenditure of last year.

HON. MR. TILLEY said that his hon. friend would examine the public accounts he would find a list of items.

MR. MICHAUD:—"Why was it necessary to over expend?"

HON. MR. TILLEY said that the question was a difficult one for him to answer. He would point out, however, that there had been certain contingencies which had to be met. There had been a number of forest fires and had not prompt action been taken, there might have been losses as serious as was the case in 1930.

MR. MICHAUD said that according to the report of the department there were no serious fires last year.

HON. MR. TILLEY said that there were in all seventy five fires and he would find in the report full information concerning them. Perhaps the most serious it had occurred in the vicinity of Tabusintac. Speaking of hand he thought the damage had been about \$8,000.

An Explanation

HON. MR. RICHARDS said that having been in charge of the department for the first seven months of last year, he was responsible for the over expenditure that had been complained of. He had felt that the appropriation last year of \$25,000 for fire prevention and look-out service was so small as to make it almost impossible to carry on the service. The department had to maintain a certain standard of service and a certain staff and because of the economic conditions and not wishing to turn them out and accentuate the difficulties of unemployment, the men had been retained in the service, for a longer period than business economy would have justified. But like all governments the point had been reached where a change was called for unpleasant as it was, it had to be dealt with. During the first part of the year the standard had been maintained with the hope that conditions would improve. That was the explanation that he took to himself the responsibility of the over expenditure.

Mr. Gill Heard

MR. GILL said as a member of a family which had been connected with lumbering for fifty years, he thought he should say a few words. The Department of Lands and Mines had an interesting history and before long the present minister or his successor would have occasion to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the passing of their control to the government. That had happened in the year 1837, during the regime of Lord Glenelg, whose portrait adorned the walls of the Assembly Chamber. With regard to the Miramichi district, all were aware that the sawmills had been lost and the people were wondering what was to take their place in the future. Two large corporations now controlled three thousand miles of Crown Land, which in former years had kept many sawmills in operation. If the Miramichi was not to get a pulp mill the large corporations should be asked to divide up their lands so that others could engage in the lumbering industry. He thought that surely some amicable arrangement could be arrived at. The present leases would expire in 1933 and should soon come under review by the government. He could tell the Committee that the people of Miramichi were vitally interested in the future plans of the department with respect to those leases.

MR. ANDERSON thought that in future leases consideration should be given to the matter of keeping separate the hardwoods and the soft woods. The matter was one of great importance and should have the consideration of the Hon. Minister.

HON. MR. TILLEY said that the matter had been given consideration. He wished to say that he would welcome any suggestions from hon. members on both sides of the House in the interests of the province the Department over which he presided and the lumber industry. Such suggestions would always be welcome and should be helpful to the lumbering industry.

In Gloucester

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) said that the County of Gloucester was deeply interested in the lumbering situation. The town of Bathurst was now a one industry town and he would like to see hardwood manufactured there as a sideline. He agreed with his hon. friend from Northumberland that when the leases were renewed they should not favor large corporations which required only one quality of wood. In future leases there should be greater safeguards and steps should be taken to insure the use of wood which was not now utilized. The timber limits should not be controlled by large corporations. There must be definite assurance that ample material would be available before hardwood industries could be prevailed upon to locate on the North Shore.

Premier Explains

HON. MR. RICHARDS said that the pulp and paper leases contained a special provision under which those who wanted to carry on hardwood operations were given an opportunity by which it could be done. In a measure, control was placed in the hands of the Minister, but lessees had primarily control of all classes of lumber on the areas under lease. That had been the policy in the department for

a great many years. They could hardly expect the lessees to invest money in the leases, pay taxes, bonuses and so forth and establish industries without control. Much had been said by hon. members of the apparent difficulty of securing leases, but owing to the situation which now existed, there were some holding leases who were not able to operate at all. He knew of several cases of this kind in the county of Northumberland. Most of the operations were being carried on by large corporations who have the capital and could stand the losses. Only recently a lumberman who had occupied a seat on the other side of the House had told him that lumber purchased from the New Brunswick Railway Company had cost him \$17 per thousand, whereas the best price he would obtain for it was \$13. He had added that he would have been better off, had he not operated at all.

MR. GILL said he thought the Hon. Premier was in error concerning operations in Northumberland County as practically all the work carried on during the past winter had been by small operators.

MR. ANDERSON said that conditions along the Miramichi River were fairly satisfactory, but outside of that area the situation was different. He would point out that the terms given to small operators by the large corporations were much more difficult than those obtained from the Department of Lands and Mines. He wanted to know why it was necessary for a man to be compelled to pay double stumpage before putting an axe into a tree. He thought that the department should have more control over the big corporations. Those corporations were responsible to the department for stumpage and wanted to make sure of getting it from a small operator.

Hon. Mr. Stewart

HON. MR. STEWART said he would like to know if there was any difficulty experienced by his hon. friends from Northumberland in getting permission from the large lumbermen to cut hardwood. He had always heard it said by large lease holders that in order to pay mileage, taxes, etc., they had to charge a stumpage rate equal to that collected by the New Brunswick Railway Company, and those who wished to cut any quantity of lumber apart from spruce and fir could easily make reasonable arrangements. Of course, the cutting had to be done under supervision as no leaseholder would stand for indiscriminate cutting on his land.

MR. ANDERSON said that small operators, before starting work had to guarantee the stumpage to the banks and the amount was charged up to them.

No Change Made

HON. MR. STEWART said that the Crown Lands leases had been in existence for twenty five years and the system had not been changed during that time. He was sure that satisfactory arrangements under a reduced rate of stumpage could be made through the Frasers and the International Paper Company by those wishing to carry on operations. He was sure that that was true of Restigouche County. Double stumpage would have to be paid, but that was only sufficient to recoup the holders for their investment.

MR. GILL said that nobody objected to the payment of double stumpage, but a certified check or bond had to be put up before operations could start. He would repeat that in Northumberland County the most employment had been given by small operators cutting on the lands of large corporations.

MR. ANDERSON said that for two years there had been a regulation calling for the payment of stumpage in advance.

HON. MR. STEWART:—"It is not done in Restigouche."

Wants Suggestions

HON. MR. TILLEY said he wished to assure the Committee that the department was sympathetic with the small operators and was anxious to help them in every way. In proof of that statement he would read to the House a letter sent out by his deputy minister to a concern in Northumberland County asking why a small operator had been refused permission to cut one hundred thousand feet of white ash. The concern referred to was the A. & R. Loggie Company and in their reply they stated that they were willing to allow the man to cut the lumber provided he could make the necessary financial arrangements. He would repeat to the Committee that the department was doing everything to assist the small operator, but there were some who had been refused permission to operate because of their not being in a financial position to carry on. The question was one which should be considered from every standpoint.

Mr. Dysart's Views

MR. DYSART said that his hon. friend from Northumberland had asked for information regarding the government's policy for the cutting of hardwood and that information should be furnished the Committee. He (Dysart) saw no reason why some satisfactory arrangement could not be made with the leaseholder to enable hardwood operators to carry on. As he had previously pointed out the stumpage net revenue of the department amounted last year to only about \$46,000 which was considerably below par. There was no reason in his opinion why, when the license were re-issued two years hence, something should not be done to give those who wished to cut hardwood a chance to operate. The government, as the trustees of the Crown Lands, while

A PERMANENT ADVISORY ON CURRICULA AND TEXT IS ADVOCATED BY COMMISSION

Establishment of a permanent Provincial Advisory Board on Curricula and Texts is recommended for New Brunswick by the Commission on Education, in its report tabled in the legislature last week.

The Commission sets forth that this Advisory Board be empowered to receive suggestions as to changes in the curricula and texts and to make recommendations in accordance with their findings to the Board of Education. Further it is stated that no changes or alternations in texts or curricula be made until such have been reviewed and approved by such Advisory Board.

How Constituted

The Advisory Board shall be constituted as follows:

"It shall consist of nine members including the Chief Superintendent of Education as ex officio member and Chairman of the Board. Three members representing High, Graded and Rural Schools shall be appointed

recognizing vested rights should consider seriously to what extent those lands should be tied up. He thought that the present was the time to take the necessary steps to give the hardwood operator every facility for carrying on. The department should study the whole question and formulate a policy. They should have sections of hardwood land surveyed and divided into lots. He had heard it stated by the Hon. Minister that the hardwood lands were an average distance of ten miles from a line of railway. That he considered, added considerable to their value.

Mr. Scott

MR. SCOTT said he would like to have heard something more about the ask business. Both last year and the year before he had cut some ash, and he had tried all over this province, Nova Scotia, part of Quebec, and the State of Maine, to sell it for \$12.00 per thousand loaded on cars. He couldn't get an offer of \$1.00 for it, and anybody could tell him where he could get \$10.00 for it, he would sell it quick.

HON. MR. RICHARDS said the government would not concede that any mistake had been made in the pulp licenses which had been sold. It was a good bargain, and today they were bringing in a revenue to the province that would not have otherwise been possible. No pulp licenses had been sold on the Miramichi. All the leases there were due in 1933, had the ten year option, and they would be considered before they fell due.

MR. DYSART asked who were the holders of the old Snowball and Ritchie limits.

Not A Secret

HON. MR. RICHARDS said there was not secret about it—the names were published. Part of the lands mentioned by his hon. friend as well as those held by the Buckley's, Sinclair and others, had been taken up partly by the Fraser's and part by the International Paper Company. The idea was, when those lands were so taken, that there would be a pulp and paper development on the Miramichi, at least one mill, perhaps two, but since then the pulp and paper business had been in chaos. It was this, and general conditions, that prevented the establishment of the Miramichi mills. This province, however, despite the non-development there, was in a much better position than Quebec. Many of the companies in the sister province were almost in collapse. It had been very unfortunate that the general depression occurred just at the time that the pulp and paper business became demoralized. At to conditions on the Miramichi, he would say that that was not the only part of the province, where the lumber business had gone down. The Saint John Valley below Fredericton had been just as hard hit and the fact that the large mill almost within stone's throw of the Legislative Building was making no cut whatever this winter, was a cause of great concern. During the present year, the Fraser's were cutting ten millions on the Miramichi, more than last year, not because there was any profit in their doing so, they actually figured at a loss, but as a recognition of their responsibility to the community. The International had no pulp mills nor saw mills but they agreed to take pulpwood from Mill bank to enable operations there. He had every hope that when conditions became more normal that a thriving lumber business would be resumed on the Miramichi.

HON. MR. TILLEY:—"On the item of Colonization Roads, \$5,000 by law, and \$3,000 to be voted, said that only \$3,600 was spent last year. The government had been, and was trying to keep down expenditure where no hardship occurred."

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) on the item Expense, Sale of Angling Leases, \$1,500, asked if Bass River was to be sold.

HON. MR. TILLEY said, Yes, Bass River in Gloucester County, upset price, \$100.

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester):—"I hope you get \$100 for it."

The Committee rose and reported progress. The House adopted the report with leave to sit again.

Supply was made the order of the day for tomorrow.
Adjourned at 1.05 a.m.

by the Executive of the Provincial Teachers' Institute. Three members representing the School Inspectors, Vocational Schools and Acadian Teachers shall be appointed by the Board of Education. One member shall be the nominee of the New Brunswick Medical Council and one shall be the nominee of the Executive of the Federation of Labour.

"That the said Advisory Board be empowered to select and appoint any Committees it may deem advisable for the purpose of assisting the Board. Such selections may be from the membership of the Board or otherwise as the Board may think best.

"That the meetings of the Board be held at different centres so as to serve the best interests of all sections of the province."

Recommendation is also made that the Grammar School Course be maintained at its present standard for those desiring a matriculation course. In addition to the regular course School Boards are to be authorized to provide for teaching of the subjects of the present course in a modified form for those who desire a sound secondary education but who do not wish to matriculate. Further it is suggested that the regular course be designated an honor course and a modified course, a pass course. The Commission also recommends the local school boards be empowered to admit pupils desiring to take only some of the subjects that are taught in the regular classes of the school.

High School Work

Discussing the High School Curriculum the report says—

"It seems to be the opinion of many parents that the present High School course is too heavy and too long. In view of this fact the Commission devoted much time and thought to this subject. After careful study of the present curriculum and comparison with the curricula of the other Provinces of Canada the Commission concluded that the standard now required is not too high for those desiring to take University courses."

In connection with the Common School Curriculum the Commission suggests that "special attention be given by the Advisory Board at as early a date as possible to the following subjects as now prescribed and taught in Grades one to eight; Spell-

ing, Physiology, Nature Study, History and Geography, including more and better maps, with the idea of eliminating the many grounds for objections raised by individuals and societies, and at the same time making a decided improvement either by recommending new texts or materially revising those now in use."

Dealing with the Curricula and French Children the Commission on its report points out that "it is difficult under present conditions for French speaking children who heard very little English outside of the school room to obtain the knowledge of both English and French, which they desired, and which it is felt is necessary if the English and the French races, by improved means of communication, and by a more sympathetic understanding of each other, are to unite in the task of building the future of this province."

Recommendations

The following recommendations are therefore contained in the report:—

"That in the first two grades book teaching be exclusively in the language the children can speak; that for children whose native language is French the instruction in these two grades be given exclusively in French and that whatever English is given in these grades be practical, such as naming common objects, actions and words.

"That special editions of text-books on such subjects as History, Geography, Nature Study and Health up to and including grade eight be made available with the two languages, English and French on opposite pages.

"That wherever it is possible to make satisfactory local arrangements, pupils writing the High School Entrance Examinations be given the privilege of answering the questions in either English or French, the question paper to be set as at present in English only.

"That an optional examination on French Grammar, and Composition be given as part of the High School Entrance Examination; that those who elect to write this paper on French Grammar and Composition be required to write in English a paper on English Grammar and Composition; that these two papers be considered the equivalent of the two separate papers which are given and will continue to be given on English Grammar and Composition.

Fortunately, Utopia is beyond reach. If we could have everything we want there would be nothing left for which to live.

VERBAL DUEL IN LEGISLATURE RECALLED

(Continued from page three)

municipality of York on account of his manifest inability to distinguish between the money entrusted to his keeping by the people of York and that which belonged to himself.

Mr. Wilson—"That is not so."

Hon. Mr. Blair—"That is not so."

Dr. Atkinson—"Well, Mr. Chairman, he was once secretary of York. He is not now secretary-treasurer, and since his dismissal he has been compelled to disgorge money to the municipality to the tune of several hundreds of dollars, and that being so I have only to add, that whatever my shortcomings may be, I have never been in the position of having to depend upon the pity of my fellow-citizens for freedom from arrest and criminal prosecution for embezzlement and speculation and the just punishment which usually follows the perpetration of those crimes. And with reference to the remark of the Attorney-General that he would not accept my statement unsupported by other testimony on any subject, I am not aware that my conduct in this House or my reputation in general has been such to give the slightest warrant to the Attorney-General to offer this insult. At all events, Mr. Chairman, I have not been charged, as Mr. Blair has been upon the floors of this House, with bribing members of the Legislature and unable to give the accusation a denial. I have not had charged upon me the duty and responsibility of the chief law officer of the Crown to see that the laws are respected and enforced and at the same time been guilty of standing openly at the Canterbury polling booth, as the Attorney-General did not so many years ago, with his hands full of bills, bribing the electors of York, and I have not yet reached such an unenviable position of notorious untruthfulness long since attained by the leader of the Government, as that the cold judgment of the judiciary of New Brunswick has taken official cognizance of my mendacity. Mr. Wilson was but the echo of the Government."

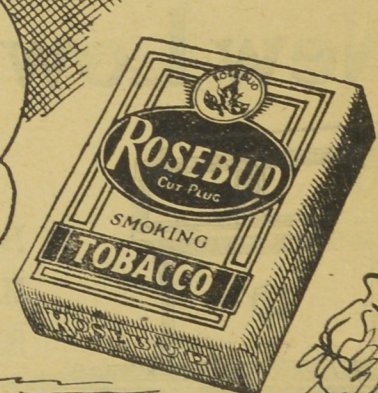
At this point somebody raised a point of order; Chairman Palmer decided to leave the solution to the honorable Speaker and after he had taken the chair the discussion continued until the House took recess.

Often the hot mince pie looks so much better than it tastes that you don't call for another slice for a month. To worry about that which has happened is futile; to worry about what possibly may happen is foolish.

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A HUNTING
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