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CROWN LAND LEGISLATION WAS BEFORE THE HOUSE

Several Important Bills Dealt With at Thursday's Sitting--Many Settlers Occupy Lands in Province to Which They Have no Title--Little Likelihood of Their Being Disturbed.

The Legislature met on Thursday at three o'clock.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of the Standing Rules Committee, and moved that the bill to vest part of the old Miramichi road within the town of Bathurst in the Bathurst Lumber Company and for other purposes; and also the bill relating to the county of St. John, which were reported upon Wednesday to be referred back to the committee for further consideration and report.

Notices of inquiry were given as follows:

By Mr. Murray (Kings) as to the persons from whom the seed grain was purchased in Prince Edward Island, and the names of the agricultural societies to whom such grain and potatoes had been delivered.

By Mr. Sutton (Carleton) as to work needed to be done on the Houlton road.

By Mr. Smith (Carleton) as to the contract for building the bridge at Upper Jemseg, also as to what amounts of money were charged to ordinary roads and bridges from the first of November to the first of April in the years 1900 to 1917 inclusive.

By Mr. Melanson as to the guarantee deposited by the Prudential Trust Company with the Government.

By Mr. Jones as to free ferries.

Mr. Hunter introduced a bill to confirm certain appointments to office of auditor in the county of York.

Hon. Mr. Byrne laid on the table of the house the 13th annual report of the Provincial Board of Health.

Crown Land Bills.

The House then went into committee with Mr. Leger (Westmorland) in the chair, and agreed to the bill to confer upon the engineers now conducting the crown land survey the same right of entry upon private lands for purposes of the survey as are possessed by crown land surveyors.

The bill to create permanent timber reserves was then taken up.

Mr. Burchill inquired if the bill meant that when once land was set apart for the timber reserve it could never be acquired for settlement purposes.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said that the survey of the crown lands was instituted for the express purpose of ascertaining what portions of the crown lands were suitable for the production of lumber and what portion for settlement and lands that were reported upon in each of these classes could not be used under any circumstances for the other.

Mr. McGrath asked what was to become of settlers who were already upon the land if the surveyors should re-

port that such land was not suitable for farming. Would they be disturbed?

Hon. Mr. Smith said that settlers who had acquired a right to their lands under the Labor Act, no matter what class of land it might be they had settled on, would not be affected by the Act.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said that it was found that there were a large number of squatters who had never performed the requirements of the Labor Act but who had squatted on the land and been there for some years and had made considerable improvements. One of the great difficulties the department had to contend with was to keep them from squatting on these lumber lands and cutting the lumber. When the survey was completed and the lumber and settlement lands each well defined, there would be no difficulty as there had been in the past, of saying what land was suitable for settlement or not.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that he thought the last clause of the bill was a little too strong as once an order was made by the Governor-in-Council setting apart land for either purpose it could not be revoked without coming back to the Legislature.

Mr. Murray (Kings) thought it would be better to leave it as it stood as, if the matter were left in the hands of the Governor-in-Council they would find themselves pestered to death by people who might take a fancy to lands situated in forbidden areas.

Mr. Burchill said there were a very large number of settlers all over the province who had been in occupation of their farms for many years but to which they had acquired no title whatever. It would not be fair to disturb these men and some means should be provided for dealing with such cases.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said that if the bill passed it would be out of the power of the Governor-in-Council to interfere with any particulars after classification, and he thought there was something to be said in favor of the views of the honorable member for Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Smith said that settlers who had been farming their lands for a number of years even if they had no title to them, would certainly not be dispossessed. The fact that they had been farming the lands for years would surely be prima facie evidence that such land was suitable for farming purposes.

Mr. Potts favored the Legislature keeping control of the lands rather than leaving it to the discretion of the Governor-in-Council.

Mr. Sweeney thought the bill should not pass as prepared. There were large numbers of men who had been living on farms which they had carved out of the forest for many years, who had thus become morally entitled to a grant and they should get it. Even if they were squatters they had worked the land and improved it. If control over these lands was left in the hands of the Governor-in-Council, these men might get a title, but if the bill passed as it stood they would not. If on investigation it was found that the lands in question were really not suitable for farming purposes, the Government might turn the men out and put them onto other lands which were suitable.

Hon. Mr. Robinson agreed with the last speaker. He would not want to deprive any man who had made himself a home, but it might after all be a good thing if they did have to come to the Legislature to get a title.

Individual Rights.

Hon. Mr. Tweddle said the principle of the bill was all right but the rights of individuals should be respected. He knew of scores of men who had gone upon lands in his own county and made their homes there, who knew absolutely nothing about the conditions they would have to comply with to obtain a proper grant. It was well enough in some respects to be so anxious to get settlers to come to the province, but native born men were infinitely preferable to strangers. If the bill passed as drawn there would be grave danger of injustice being done to the men who were already on the land and he thought the bill should be amended in their interests.

Mr. LeBlanc said there were many similar conditions to be found in the county of Restigouche and he personally knew of many men who had lived for years on the farms to which they had not grants whatever.

Mr. Murray (Kings) said that he did not suppose that any member of the

House desired to be harsh to any settler, but if they were going to leave the decision in the many applications they would get to the Governor-in-Council they would open a door for applications to be made in respect to the reserved areas.

Ultimately progress was reported. The bill to establish the rear line of lots fronting on the Southwest Miramichi was then taken up.

Mr. Burchill asked that it stand over until the parties whose lands might be affected by the location of the proposed line might be heard. He also made a similar application in respect of the bill which amends the act respecting the manufacture of spruce and other pulp wood cut upon crown lands.

Progress was reported on each. The bill to extend the time of the completion of the crown land survey till 1921 was then taken up.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that when the year 1917 was fixed as the date of completing the survey it was done because the existing timber leases expired at the same time and it was thought advisable that the Government should be in possession of the information to be got from the survey before the new leases were granted. Some license holders had a much larger area to cut from than their mills could handle and the idea had been to take away from them some of this land and give it to the smaller operators. He suggested that it might be advisable if they were going to extend the time of the completion of the survey to extend the present leases also.

Mr. McGrath agreed with this view as he desired to see the excess land which some operators over and above the requirements of their mills, handed over to other men.

After some further discussion progress was reported.

The bill to correct an error in Cap. 32, 6 George V. was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill relating to the public streets in the city of St. John.

Question of Privilege.

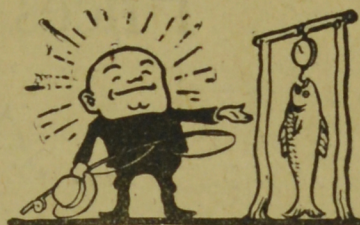
Mr. Magee said he would like to ask for the Speaker's ruling on a matter which had been brought up by the honorable member for Carleton (Smith) who a day or two ago had risen on a question of privilege complaining of something which appeared in the public press prior to a meeting of the Legislature. He would like to have the Speaker's ruling as to whether such a procedure was in order.

Mr. Speaker promised consideration. Hon. Mr. Robinson moved that the House resolve itself in a committee of supply on Tuesday next.

The House adjourned at 5 p. m.

Another Way

"There is no frigate like a book
To bear one far away."
This was the view a poet took
In a forgotten day.
But now when he on fancy's wings
To foreign lands would go,
We simply austerly on our things
And see a movie show.



To make a big catch—first get your tackle!

SOME call it "Luck"—and some "Experience!"

But one point all good fishermen agree on is that our store is *Fishermen's Headquarters*.

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How Brown Learned How.

There is a man who makes shoes for children—and sells them to stores all over Canada But he is only just learning how people buy.

It was this way: His wife—let us call her Mrs. Brown—phoned to him and asked him to buy some underwear for little Brown.

Picture Brown now among the throng of mothers at the "Children's Underwear" counter. He asks for Underwear for a child of six. He looks it over helplessly. What on earth does he know about Children's Underwear? For lack of anything better to say he asks: "Is this good quality?" The answer is short and quite conclusive: "It's Blank's"—naming a well-advertised line. That short word says everything. Brown pays his money and goes home, quite satisfied with his purchase.

Now what bothers Brown—a manufacturer of shoes, is this: How would it affect the purchase of a child's shoes if the salesman said "They're Brown's"?

Nobody knows Brown's shoes. Brown doesn't advertise.

The name Brown signifies nothing when used in connection with children's shoes. The salesman must use all his persuasive wiles to induce people to buy them.

The point is—If the name Brown was as synonymous with Children's Shoes as "Blank's" is with Underwear, wouldn't Brown sell more shoes with less effort?

If you are doing a local business talk over your advertising problems with the Advertising Department of this newspaper. If you are doing a provincial or national business it would be well for you to have the counsel and assistance of a good advertising agency. A list of these will be furnished, without cost or obligation, by the Secretary of Canadian Press Association, Room 503, Lumsden Building, Toronto.

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549-11 Pickard, Chas. V., Res., 480 King St.

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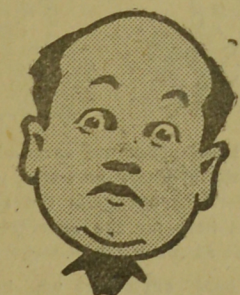
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