

CROWN LAND LEGISLATION PASSES THE LEGISLATURE

Important Bills for the Protection and the Conservation of Our Greatest Asset Put Through by the Government---An Advisory Board to Assist in Administering the Crown Lands---Stringent Forest fire Law Enacted.

Two important bills having for their object the protection and conservation of our public domain were put through the committee stage of the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The bill to provide for the appointment of an advisory board for the crown land department provoked some discussion and was put through with some slight amendments. The second bill inaugurates a system of forest protection for the province on a par with that in vogue in Quebec and British Columbia.

Following is the official report:

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Bills to authorize the City of Fredericton to grant further exemptions to the Hartt Boot & Shoe Company; also an Act respecting taxation of wild lands; and also a bill to amend the Intoxicating Liquors Act were read a third time and passed.

MR. BURCHILL presented the report of the Committee on Corporations.

HON. MR. BYRNE presented the report of the Committee on Law Practice and Procedure.

The following notices of inquiry were given:

By MR. MURRAY (Kings) as to the amount of subsidy paid to the Gloucester Navigation Company; also as to what amount of fertilizer purchased by the government had been delivered; and also as to the amount of subsidy paid for a ferry service to Shippagan Island.

By MR. SUTTON as to the disposition made of a horse and sleigh once owned in Carleton county by the Agricultural Department.

By MR. GUPTILL as to when work on the sea wall at Campobello Island is to be completed.

By MR. SMITH (Carleton) as to certain road expenditures in the parish of Dalhousie.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) presented the petition of the Town of Sussex for the passage of an act to amend an act relating to said town.

MR. SUTTON presented petitions from the Town of Woodstock for the passage of two acts to amend the act of incorporation of said town.

MR. LeBLANC presented the petition of the Town of Dalhousie for the passage of an act to authorize an issue of debentures; also a petition for the passage of a bill to amend an act relating to the Town of Dalhousie.

To Change Name.

MR. LeBLANC presented the petition of Oswald Joseph Larzen and Edith Evelyn Larzen for the passage of a bill to change the names of Oswald Joseph Larzen, Edith Evelyn Larzen and of George Ferguson Larzen and Harold Oswald Larzen to Oswald Joseph Lawson, Edith Evelyn Lawson, George Ferguson Lawson and Harold Oswald Lawson; also the petition of Francois Xavier St. Laurent for the passage of a bill to authorize the Minister of Lands and Mines to grant certain lands to the petitioner.

MR. GUPTILL presented the petition of the provisional directors of the Port Canada Docks Railways Company for the passage of an act relating to the said company.

HON. MR. FOSTER laid on the table of the House the report of the chief engineer and directors of the St. John & Quebec Railway Company, covering the period from May 10th, 1917 to March 7th, 1918.

HON. MR. SMITH submitted the 57th annual report of the Crown Land Department.

The Crown Land Bill.

The House went into Committee with Mr. Legere (West.) in the chair with Mr. Leger (West.) in the chair and took up consideration of the bill to establish a Provincial Forestry Advisory Commission.

MR. BURCHILL asked what was meant by a lumber man, a practical man or a license holder.

HON. MR. SMITH said it would mean a holder of lumber lands.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) said that he doubted if a commission of five members including two from outside the department could accomplish what the hon. minister desired. The hon. minister would find it difficult to find the two outside members who would be willing to attend meetings which might be called practically at any time. The commission would really be composed of three members. Personally he was opposed to government by commission. The crown lands should be administered directly. He believed his hon. friend the minister had the welfare of the department at heart but he was not yet conversant with its affairs. By the commission suggested conservation would not be helped and the degree of reform expected would not be obtained. That was his firm opinion. If mistaken he would the first to admit his error.

Will Be Satisfactory.

HON. MR. SMITH expressed the belief that a commission would be satisfactory. He was not attempting to shift responsibility and would perform his whole duty. The commission was similar to one which had existed in British Columbia for several years. Ontario was forming such a body and

in Nova Scotia although the area of crown land was small there was talk of establishing just such a commission. One important thing under the commission would be the administration of a Fire Protection Act. Licensees were to be taxed 1/2 cent per acre bringing in thirty thousand dollars and for that reason should be represented on the commission. Wilderness land owners also were taxed and should be represented. He could see no harm but rather good in the presence of two lumbermen on the commission.

MR. CROCKET asked why it was necessary to appoint advisors to the advisors of Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Baxter Critical.

Mr. Baxter said he was in accord with anything that would produce better administration of the crown lands, but like his hon. friend from York believed there was much in the constitutional phase of the matter. He was pleased to hear the Minister say that he was to remain responsible. All the information which could be secured from the Commission was available for the Minister. The Deputy Minister and the Provincial Forester who were to be members of the Commission were now in office. Who were the other members? They were a prominent lumberman to represent the licensees and another lumberman to be appointed. Were the duties of the prominent lumberman to advise the government how far they should accede to the wishes of the licensees or to be a go-between. If any difference of opinion should arise in the commission the minister must override the other members. The commissioners would not be elected and would not be representative of the people. Was the minister to act on their advice, or was there to be inaugurated in his department a policy which had been introduced into another, for by the appointing of a deputy, a crutch had been placed under the right arm of the attorney general and there were evidences that another crutch had been placed under his left arm. It evidently was the turn of the Minister of Lands and Mines to have assistance thrust upon him. It was a most cruel cut to doubt his capacity. The Minister of Public Works needed no such aid. He stood up like a man at the head of his department. In the Department of Agriculture the building was being stuffed full to provide the capacity lacking in the head of the department. As he had said before it was a remarkable performance for a business man's government.

A Neat Thrust.

HON. MR. FOSTER said the commission would be advisory rather than administrative and in having lumbermen as two of its members possessed an excellent feature. Advice always was good and particularly so in connection with the crown lands and would it not be better to have such advice given around a table in the crown land office than in a hotel up street as it had happened in the past. The Minister of Lands and Mines would remain responsible for all of his acts and would have the advantage of some very valuable advice.

No Go-Between.

MR. LeBLANC said that in the past both House and Government had

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TAKING OVER RAILROADS.

My young son had heard us talking about the government taking over the railroads as a war measure, and was much interested. He disappeared from the breakfast table. After a long time he came back, looking guilty. But he didn't say a word. "Where have you been?" he was asked. "I have been hiding my Railroad," he replied. "I've only had it since Christmas, and I don't want the government to get it—just yet." He wouldn't tell where he had hidden it. That night I stepped out of the bath and on something that skidded and began to buzz. I thought it was some sort of live animal and I jumped so suddenly that I landed in the bathtub on my elbows and shoulder blades. Then I tried it again and fell over the little tin train and skinned my nose on the towel rack. The Government or somebody else, possibly the garbage man, is going to take over another Railroad very soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Early Byrd visited his brother in Kalamazoo last week. — American Exchange.

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Dr. J. W. Robertson

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mination to do his best notwithstanding the greater difficulties he has to face in respect to seeds, fertilizers and labor because of the war. War means hardship and service by all and sacrifice to the uttermost by some. Otherwise we cannot win.

These departments earnestly request every farmer to co-operate heartily in the means adopted and with the local Greater Production or other Committees that may be organized for the purpose of promoting agricultural production and to do his part to increase his acreage of cultivated crops by not less than one acre and, in the case of the better equipped farms, by from five to ten or more acres.

A Week Dedicated to Preparation

The Lieutenant-Governor will be advised to proclaim the second week in April a Week Dedicated to Preparation for Increased Production. During that week the people of the Province will be asked to consider and again consider how each one can help. The farmers will be requested to reconsider the areas for crops in 1918 in order that as many additional acres as possible may be sown or planted. Seeds will be got ready. Machinery tools and harness will be put in order. Spare parts will be provided to avoid delays in the busy season. A lost half day may affect the harvest.

A committee for greater production will be organized in every parish or in as many parishes as it may be practicable to undertake this spring. The members of these committees will be practical farmers who have the confidence of the communities. It is expected that some member of the committee will personally visit every farmer in the parish to explain to him the gravity of the situation, to leave with him a card such as I have described, and to enlist his earnest determination to do his very best this year.

The plans for greater production provide for giving the farmers all the help which is practicable under war conditions. Further action is being taken to ensure that every farmer will be able to purchase suitable seeds; and to purchase as large supplies of fertilizers as can be procured for use in the province. Merchants who do their business in such a way as to enable the farmers to purchase these essentials at the lowest possible price are thereby doing real patriotic service. Such service has values far exceeding the amounts represented by a few dollars more or less of profits.

Assistance will be given in organization of means to secure and place on farms all available supplementary labor for hoeing, haying and harvesting. This will include the enrolment, placing and supervision of boys in their teens from the schools and colleges as Soldiers of the Soil. Each will receive a Dominion National Service badge.

Illustrations will be made of economical ways of feeding hogs during the summer. Provision has been made for the further extension and supervision of the cultivation of vacant lots and gardens in the cities and towns. By these and other means the farmers will be assisted to do all that can be done this year and coming years to help to avert the calamity of famine which threatens our Allies and the neutral nations in Europe.

Farmers Will Do Their Part.

No one has the right to stand apart, or stand aloof, and merely urge a duty upon farmers. They are willing to do their best, even to the very uttermost. What they need, what they want and what they are entitled to receive, are information and guidance and assistance towards the formation of their own greater production committees in every municipality. They also need assistance which will enable them to obtain seeds, fertilizers as far as these are obtainable and supplementary labor for hoeing, haying and harvesting seasons. Everything that can be done is being undertaken to meet these needs. When the farmers understand the gravity of the situation they will meet it so far as flesh and blood and unflinching spirit can do so.

All this is war service, and because it is war service it must be done with diligence, intelligence and determination. It is not romantic or dramatic; it does not appeal to the emotions, but, because it is necessary war work it requires all the more intensity and continuity of determination on the part of those doing it. By the blessing of God a sustaining army of 400,000 farmers in eastern Canada can save the situation. I pray that the Almighty may give the farmers and their families health and strength of body, mind and soul for their heavy tasks and that He may crown their labors by the blessing of a saving harvest.

A hearty vote of thanks moved by Hon. J. P. Burchill and seconded by Hon. J. A. Murray, was presented to the speaker for his admirable address.

WOULDN'T THAT RATTLE YOU?

A man who bought a second hand automobile described some of its symptoms to a friend.

"I take it then, that she rattles a good deal when you run her?" remarked the friend.

"Rattles!" exclaimed the owner of the car. "She sounds like a skeleton having a shaking fit on a tin roof!"

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