

HOUSE PASSES ADDRESS WITHOUT A DIVISION

(Continued from page 3.)
 en to understand that the Food Controller expected New Brunswick to produce her own wheat for 1918. Hon. members were aware of the fact that for a number of years past New Brunswick had not produced a large quantity of wheat but has been an importer of flour, and, why? For the reason that the farmers could raise other crops with better profit and could import flour at less cost. The problem today is to grow sufficient wheat for home consumption and thereby release what the province would otherwise consume, in order that the surplus may go towards feeding those whom starvation stares in the face. He was informed that the normal consumption of wheat in New Brunswick was 1,500,000 bushels, or 300,000 barrels of flour. Last year the province produced in the vicinity of 300,000 bushels, so it will need to produce five times as much if it is going to feed its own population with that commodity. The Department of Agriculture alive to the situation, had purchased about 20,000 bushels of seed wheat and 60,000 of seed oats, which will be distributed through County Councils and sold at cost. That will provide for considerable increase, but people cannot be forced to produce food stuffs—the Government can only point out the conditions and afford the best facilities possible to bring about greater acreage. He was fully aware of the difficulties that confront the farmers today. In some cases his crop will be limited by lack of capital, but he (the Premier), was hopeful, that in con-

junction with the Federal Government, some means would be found whereby aid in such case would be forthcoming. The labor problem is also a serious one with the farmers and compelled long and late hours. To obtain labor for munitions and other industries is difficult indeed and the grave conditions demand extraordinary effort, and every man, every boy and every woman who could produce anything, should do so. All should give assistance to the farmer. There is a national duty to perform and his (the Premier's) duty would not be complete unless he appealed to the producers of the Province to make the great effort of increased production. He had heard during the year echoes of abandoning the boys in the trenches, but the war will be won only if the necessary supplies are forthcoming. Like the Victory Loan, New Brunswick would, he believed, do its part, as it had not failed yet. His Hon. friend (Murray) seemed deeply concerned regarding the welfare of the returned soldier, and one would almost be lead to believe from his remarks that the Government had actually followed the line adopted by its predecessors and had done nothing in that regard; but when one is mindful of the fact that for almost three years after the war broke out the Hon. member had the opportunity of performing deeds and acts that would add to the comfort and aid of those for whom all considered proper to provide and when he looked upon the empty and barren efforts of the Government, led by his Hon. friend, he could only come to one conclusion, viz., that the sole desire now is not his zeal for the cause of the Returned Soldier, but an endeavour to make political capital, stir up political strife and discontent, and if possible use the Returned Soldier for a most unworthy object. Scripture says: "By your works you shall be judged," and so his Hon. friend has been judged by the people of the Province. Much had been made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition of the fact that when in office he had passed a Bill providing for the settlement of

the soldiers upon the land, and that on the occasion of his visit to England it had been approved of as one of the best ideas advanced up to that time for accomplishing the purpose for which it was required. Yet, in the humble judgment of some of the hard-headed farmers of the Province, the act of the Hon. friend was not only useless but impractical. Even admitting that it could be carried out, why did he not bring it into force and effect. One of the provisions of the Act he was referring to was that it be administered by a commission to be appointed, and while the Act was passed in March, 1916, and the Government remained in office for nearly a year thereafter, not one move was made to bring it into force, nor as far as he (the Premier) could find out, no effort was made to appoint a commission to administer it.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) said that a commission had been appointed to act with the Farm Settlement Board.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that he could find no record of it.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) said that the appointments were made by Order-in-Council.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that he had asked what his Hon. friend had accomplished.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) said that the he referred the verdict of the hard-headed farmers of New Brunswick with respect to the Act. It would be necessary he said to supply the Returned men with land at a reasonable cost, or in the case of Government land, it should be given to them. At the present time there was a Dominion Statute authorizing a loan of \$2,500 to returned soldiers who desired to go upon the land, but he had been informed recently when in Ottawa, that no definite policy had been formulated for the administration of the Act. In fact no decision had been arrived at as to the mode of settlement. He had been informed, however, that within two months definite conclusions will be reached, and until then no further

The Returned Soldiers

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THE FLAVOUR LASTS

progress can be made with the plan to settle soldiers upon the land.

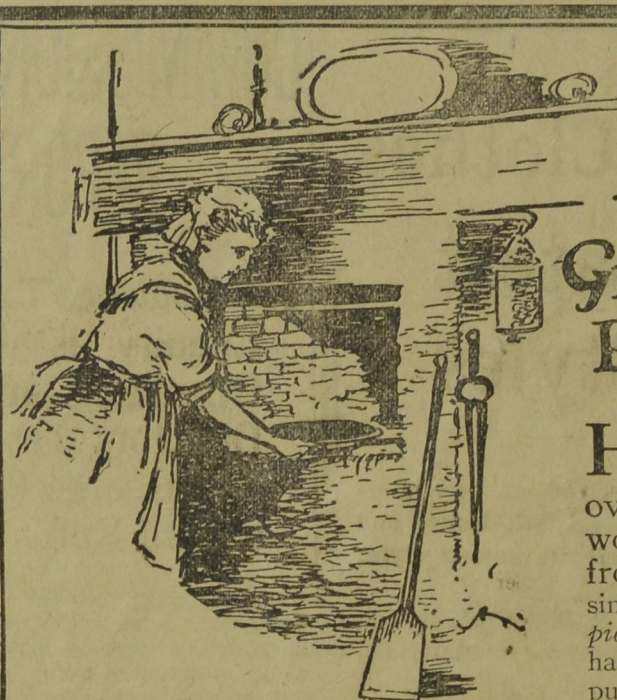
Workmen's Compensation.

He wished to direct the attention of Hon. members to that part of the speech relating to the report of the Workmen's Compensation Act Commission, in connection with which an Act will be submitted to the House, called the Workmen's Compensation Act. As the result of representation made to the former Government, for more modern legislation, safeguarding the interests of the working men, there was a commission appointed whose duties briefly stated, were to enquire into the workings of similar acts in force in Nova Scotia, Ontario and other provinces, and further to take evidence in the Province of employers of labor, employees and others in order to determine whether or not it would be advisable to enact similar legislation in this Province. The personnel of the commission was all that could be desired, and they were fortunate in obtaining the services of a chairman who had made a careful study of the situation. The cost of the commission was small in comparison with other provinces and considering the results attained. It must not be assumed that New Brunswick in the past had no laws for the safeguarding of the workmen. There was an Act known as the Employers Liability Act, which provides that if a man is injured, while at work, he has recourse under process of law if unable to effect a settlement with his employer. The amount of damages, however, was limited to \$2,500. Representations were made to the Government that that legislation should be replaced by an act similar to that in effect in Nova Scotia and Ontario, which acts provided for administration by commission, and the payments for compensation made by the board without the intervention of any insurance company or agent, the funds for settling such claims being provided for by way of assessment upon the industries according to the volume of their pay rolls, the rate to vary according to the hazard involved. He was hopeful that the Act to be passed by the House would be fair to both employers and employees, in order that the best of feeling shall exist between labor and leaders of industry.

The Public Health.

The Speech from the Throne mentioned the fact that based upon the report of Mr. John Hall, an eminent authority on health conditions, legislation will be enacted amending the health laws of the Province. He was glad that his Hon. friends opposite could find no fault with the principle of the proposal. He wished to say that it was essentially a war measure pure and simple. In view of the wastage caused by the war, the high death rate among infants, and the ravages of disease, it was essential that the man power of every country, especially this Province, should be conserved to the greatest possible degree. He had no fault to find with the work carried on by the various Boards of Health, considering the means at their disposal and the assistance and the organization behind them, but they have outlived their usefulness and are not now suited to the time. The Government and the majority of the people are decidedly of the opinion that this important matter should be grappled with at once in the most practical, efficient and scientific manner. If a department of that kind can alone better con-

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trol the smallpox situation as it has existed in the past, the cost will be more than made up within a short time. The fact was people devoted their time and money to the care and proper bringing up of domestic animals and plant life, but very little attention has been paid towards laying a good foundation for healthy man and womanhood in which after all is the thing most essential to a prosperous condition. The chief complaint of his Hon. friend was that it would add an other portfolio to the Government. He (Foster) was free to admit that if a radical change in the nature of a reform could be brought about without such a course, it would be to advantage, but by reason of the system of executive government in vogue in this Province, it is not practical to add such legislation to a portfolio already existing. The system under which they had been working in New Brunswick for some years was in his opinion radically wrong. Ministers of the Crown had been paid too small amounts, with the result that they were compelled to devote considerable of their time to their private interests in order that they might live and pay their bills. He hoped to see the day when the people of the Province would realize that it would be necessary to pay largely increased salaries to members of the Executive Government, and that the Government shall be composed of three, and not more than four Ministers, who will devote their entire time to public affairs and reside at the seat of Government. If the proposed Act were to be placed under existing portfolio, it would be necessary to obtain the services of a commissioner to organize and carry out its provisions. In that event the salary would far exceed the salary of the Minister.

When the legislation is brought down, information will be furnished that will show it was necessary. It was legislation that will tend to the advancement and uplifting of the community.

The Bond Issue.

His Hon. friends opposite were deeply concerned over the fact that the Government, taking advantage of an opportune moment, had borrowed one million dollars without asking for tenders for the same, and he had been asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to answer a question on the subject. The question was a frank one and would receive a frank answer—an answer such as the Government was prepared to give touching each and every one of its financial operations. He had no hesitation in stating, with respect to the recent bond issue, that friendship, favoritism or anything outside of mere business had not entered into the transaction. All regretted the necessity of going into the money markets at a time when almost prohibitive rates of interest were being asked.

Yet it must be remembered that notwithstanding the fact that the war had raged for nearly three years, before the Hon. friends were relieved of their power, they had made no attempt to curtail the capital expenditure with the result, as would be seen by the statement issued to the end of October last, there was paid out a very large sum almost wholly for work undertaken since the war began. The fact was that the bills incurred for expenditure upon public works had to be met and the money borrowed. The Government had naturally discussed the matter with the leading financial men of Canada. They had interviewed the General Manager of the Bank of Montreal and it was needless to say that his advice had not been ignored. They had tried the New York market and consulted such eminent bankers as Brown Bros. and others, and having been informed that the Province of Alberta had borrowed a million dollars for five years, they had consulted the

Finance Minister, who, while willing to assist, as in the case of Alberta, it was essential that he should do so, would only loan the money at 6½ interest for five years but strongly advised the flotation of a loan in the open market if possible. The Government was advised that there would soon be large issues placed on the market for financing the Winnipeg water supply, the City of Montreal and other Provinces and Municipalities. The best advice they could get was that they should place their bonds at the earliest possible moment. His Hon. friends opposite would realize that money was a scarce commodity, and when the Government found it could borrow one million dollars from a syndicate composed of Messrs. A. E. Ames and Co., of Toronto, and J. M. Robinson & Sons, of St. John, jointly, and at a price of 96 for 6 per cent. 10 year bonds, the money costing the Province 6½ per cent., which was one-eighth of one per cent. per annum more than the Province of Ontario was paying, it was certainly justified in accepting the offer. The Ontario loan is costing that Province 6½ per annum. He would further inform his Hon. friends that the Ontario loan was placed with the brokers without liability on their part, they being required to pay over the proceeds of whatever portion they could sell, while in the case of New Brunswick, the Government insisted that at least a portion of the issue would be underwritten, which would insure the Province obtaining at least a portion of the money whether the bonds were sold rapidly or not. Why did not his Hon. friend come out and name the wonderful wizard of finance whom he said was willing to pay more for the issue? His wizard is evidently one of that kind who usually appears upon the scene after one has disposed of a piece of property and expresses regret that he did not know of the transaction before as he would have paid a higher price. The wise one who furnished his Hon. friend with so much information was the same gentleman who had telephoned him (the Premier) the day after the loan was placed and complained that the Government was adopting the tactics of the old administration. These tactics he claimed were the placing of \$700,000 with the same syndicate without tender and in normal times. The Financial Post of March 2nd, had made the following statement:

"The Hon. Edward Brown stated that the Province had sold its recent two million dollar bond issue at 91½ for the 6 per cent. bond due 1928."
 HON. MR. FOSTER, continuing, said that the bonds referred to were of the same denomination as those of New Brunswick's and for the same length of time, ten years. The Province of Manitoba sold its bonds at 91½, while New Brunswick procured 96. The New Brunswick transaction was the next best piece of financing to the Province
 (Continued on page 7.)

