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## MANY ITEMS OF SUPPLY PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page four)

but would draw his attention to a movement in the United States to destroy the tariff wall against the Canadian potatoes. Had the Department taken any action with the Dominion in that matter?

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE said that those interested in the potato trade evidently did not take the matter very seriously as his attention had not been called to it, but he was ready to act at any time it was necessary.

MR. SUTTON said the hon. Minister had intimated that he had not allowed politics to enter into the matters upon which he had touched. As a matter of fact there was no member of the Government who brought politics in any more. The hon. Minister could not go to prayer-meeting without bringing in politics.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE—Apologize for your statement.

MR. SUTTON said he would make his apology later. Every kind of item had been charged up to Greater Production. The funniest item that he ever had seen was that of \$124 paid to Alfred LeBrun for thirty-one days services inspecting Maple trees. As far as seed grain was concerned he still claimed that it would have been more economical to have let the dealers handle it. As far as selling fertilizer was concerned the hon. Minister had made a statement and he would accept the statement. However he would not withdraw what he had said with regard to distributing the fertilizer among political friends. The Department when it employed dealers in that way should have set a price and prevented overcharging. There had been reference to one Charles Shaw and he presumed he was the man who had bought the famous \$25 horse and sleigh.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE—That was a relic of the old government.

MR. SWEENEY—A part of the wreck.

MR. SUTTON continuing, said that in spite of the statement of the hon. Minister concerning the Alberta wheat he had been credibly informed that the results from it had been most unsatisfactory.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE—It was the best wheat we had.

MR. MERSEREAU said he had assisted in the distribution of fertilizer and seed in Sunbury County and better seed had never been brought into the County. For the first time in fifteen years some districts of that County had produced their own seed. As far as the wheat was concerned all the results had not been good, he believed because the country was not well adapted to wheat growing. Cash had been paid for the seed and he did not believe the farmers needed long credits. What they wanted was dependable seed.

MR. SWEENEY said his objection to the Minister of Agriculture was that he was too partial to the other side. The hon. Minister knew his views in that matter for he had gone to the Agricultural office and protested and had been told that politics was not being played in that Department.

MR. SMITH (Carleton)—You always say something laughable.

MR. SWEENEY said that this was a fact. The Minister was the most stubborn who ever held office. There was a reason however, for his Grandmother had been Irish. As far as the Department's seed was concerned he could say that Westmorland had used much of it and it had proven good.

MR. SUTTON asked if the Department of Agriculture had taken any action with regard to the mustard plant which had become a very dangerous weed.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE said that the mustard was a hard weed to fight against. It was believed it had been introduced with grain importations. Scientists said that it could be exterminated with vitriol and some of the farmers pulled the plants out after they blossomed.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) asked for what the \$25,000 for purchase of sheep had been expended.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE replied that the sheep had been purchased to strengthen the meat and wool supply of the province. It had not been expected to put pure-bred stock into the country for pure-bred ewes were too expensive for the average farmer to buy. A marked increase in the number of sheep had taken place and by next year they could be exported by the train-load. As far as rams were concerned a good arrangement had been made with the Dominion Livestock Division. The object was not to raise the standard of the stock but to increase numbers. Sheep-raising in New Brunswick was capable of indefinite expansion.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) asked which had proven the better, provincial or imported stock.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE replied that provincial stock was the better for importations did not stand transportation. In connection with sheep there was an excellent credit system for the farmers had been arranged through the chartered banks.

HON. MR. MURRAY said he was glad to hear the hon. Minister say that quantity not quality had been the object of the sheep importations. Notwithstanding the wonderful efficiency of his Department mentioned by the hon. Minister, he (Murray) had been informed by farmers many of them supporters of the government that the importations would cause nothing but deterioration of flocks and that the sheep purchased by the Department composed the worst lot of culls and scrubs ever brought in. Some of that efficiency should be devoted to the prevention of the importation of inferior stock. There was such a thing as getting too much quantity at the expense of quality. The hon. Minister

probably would deny that but when he saw some of the results during the summer he would realize the truth of the statement.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE said that the pure-bred rams would raise the standard of the stock, but the price of pure-bred ewes had been excessive and they could not be imported.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) quoted from the Woodstock Press to the effect that of a lot of five hundred sheep two had died and one had been returned to the Department.

HON. MR. VENIOT remarked that there had been a worse case under the former government for Mr. Melanson had told of a case in Kent County where a government sheep had been killed to save its life.

HON. MR. SMITH said he could speak of personal experience about the sheep importation. He had bought eight sheep and one ram. Finer stock never had been brought in. The sheep had averaged five pounds of wool and the ram had produced seven pounds. Five lambs already had resulted and the number probably was increased.

MR. SMITH (Albert) said that if he were correctly informed the hon. Minister of Lands and Mines had raised one lamb last year.

HON. MR. SMITH said that was not correct.

MR. SMITH (Albert) said there had been much complaint concerning the class of ewes imported. In time the rams would raise the standard but he believed better ewes should have been brought in.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE said they could not be imported economically.

MR. POTTS speaking to an item of \$3,600 for Amusement Tax Expenses said the item should not go through. The tax had been introduced as a war measure and should be abolished. He had the word of the Premier that the tax would not be imposed after the signing of the Armistice. It was a small piece of business to raise money in this way for the tax properly belonged to the Municipalities. In the first place it was deception to call it a war tax and in the second it was breaking faith with the people to retain it.

HON. MR. FOSTER said his hon. friend from St. John was one of the most inconsistent members of the House. He wanted increased expenditure on every item but was against raising revenue by taxation. An amusement tax was a legitimate way of raising revenue and had been adopted all over the world. Had his hon. friend's opposite remained in power they would have adopted it. It was a fair tax and easily borne. He must deny that he had promised that the tax would be removed after the war. He had said that if his hon. friend (Potts) would not oppose the tax on the five-cent picture houses he would reconsider the matter at the next session. But his friend had opposed the tax and had cancelled any agreement. He would be frank and say he could see no hope of removing the tax. It was lower in New Brunswick than it was in either Nova Scotia or Ontario.

MR. MCGRATH speaking to the item of \$2,000 for colonization roads said that the item should be larger. More should be taken from Crown Land revenue to assist new settlements.

MR. TILLEY asked the hon. Minister of Public Works where the expenditure was to be made.

HON. MR. VENIOT replied that it was not in his Department, but under Crown Lands.

HON. MR. SMITH agreed that the vote was not large enough. Money did not go more than half as far as it did a few years ago. The Hazen and Grimmer settlements had been opened eight years ago yet there were 5000 people in them and money must be spent there as well as elsewhere. It was hard to give satisfaction with so small a vote.

MR. TILLEY wanted to know when a road ceased to be a colonization road and came under the Public Works Department.

HON. MR. VENIOT replied that some of the roads in Hazen and Grimmer settlements already were under the Department of Public Works. Colonization roads were merely for the opening of the country. There were 11 miles of the road under his Department in the settlements named. There were expenditures for colonization roads in Restigouche, Kent, Northumberland, Madawaska, and Victoria Counties.

The chairman left the chair at six o'clock to resume at 8 P. M.



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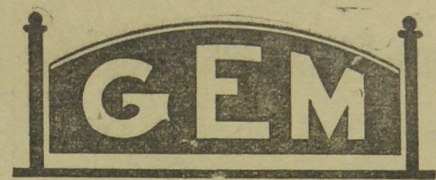
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