

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WANT MORE INDEMNITY

Strong Arguments Advanced in Favor of an Increase—Present Allowance Falls Short of Paying Expenses—Cabinet Ministers Receive Less Salary Than Their Deputies—Discussion Over the Labor Bureaux.

Following is the continuation of the synopsis report of the proceedings of the House for Friday afternoon and evening:

MR. TILLEY speaking to the item of the Jordan Memorial Sanitarium, said that he was pleased that hon. members appreciated the work done in connection with this institution. The expense there had been \$50,000 in one year, but was now down to \$13,000. One free bed for each county in the Province had been established.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said that the D. S. C. R. now had a lease of this institution. The Provincial Government paid \$2.00 per day per patient. The net cost last had been \$5,000, of which \$1200 was for the installation of a fishway in a dam on the property. The cost would be more this year because of the free beds established. The actual cost per patient was \$4.00 per day. Economy was difficult, but as long as the lease to the D. S. C. R. continued the cost to the province would not be heavy. There was a five year lease, which might be extended. It was his opinion that when the province should take over the institution it should be under the Department of Health.

MR. LABLANC, speaking to the item of \$4700 for extra sessional indemnity to the members of \$100 each said that last year the House had ascertained that something would be done towards increasing the sessional allowance of \$500. He was not afraid and not ashamed to put himself on record. In Ontario the allowance was \$2500 and in Quebec \$2000. Nova Scotia paid \$1000. The government should take this into consideration.

MR. MICHAUD said that the sessional indemnity in New Brunswick bore no comparison with that in other provinces, and yet the House passed more bills and received more delegations than in other provinces. His constituents were willing that indemnity be increased and had told him so. The salaries of heads of departments also should be increased. There were instances of their deputies getting more than did the ministers. One feature in New Brunswick which did not hold in other provinces was the work which a member had to do during recess in connection with the highways. That was deserving of increased indemnity alone. The revenue could be increased. There were the Crown Lands as well as other resources. Heads of Departments should not get less than \$3500, and the leader of the Opposition ex-officio should receive more than he did. He would advocate a sessional indemnity of \$1000.

MR. TILLEY said that with nine members in the Cabinet the increased salaries would prove expensive. He would suggest amalgamation of some of the departments. Some ministers earned their salaries, others had their work done by deputies. The man who attended to his job should be paid a reasonably good salary. Ministers were entitled to more than \$2100. He would suggest three ministers. An active man could handle two departments, and could stay in Fredericton all the time. As far as sessional indemnity was concerned he would suggest \$800 as not being out of the way. Last year it had been intimated that such would be the amount and this year it was expected.

Premier Foster.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that many people of the province would agree with him when he said that the indemnity and ministers' salaries were wholly inadequate. He did not know when the indemnity was last increased, but since that time there had been a tremendous increase in expense borne by each member. The suggestion of the hon. member for St. John (Tilley) to amalgamate departments was splendid in theory, but difficult

to put into practice. It was not so easy as his hon. friend seemed to think. If he should consult with hon. members of the opposition who had been in former administrations he would find that their opinion was the same. He had given considerable thought to the problem of the reduction of Cabinet Ministers, but could not yet solve it. In spite of statements which had been made he would say that no government had ever been in office in New Brunswick which contained the members which devoted more time to the business of the province. By saying that he did not intend to reflect upon previous ministers, but merely to state a fact. Although the population of the province had not increased as rapidly as desired, public business had grown enormously. It was the old story of demands for money in every direction, and it was difficult to comply with such requests. He had every sympathy with the desire of hon. members that the sessional indemnity should be increased, and had given the matter consideration. He would place the matter before the government within a few days.

MR. YOUNG asked concerning the item of Mining.

HON. MR. SMITH said the investigation of the coal areas would be continued and the diamond tipped drill probably operated.

MR. YOUNG said he had been told that the diamond drill had never struck coal.

HON. MR. SMITH said that was not correct, but coal had never been struck in paying quantities.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that in St. Isidore, Gloucester County, six years ago the diamond drill had gone through thirteen inches of coal.

MR. YOUNG said that he was one of a number who had lost \$500 each some years ago working the drill near Taymouth. They had found traces of coal and he believed a good vein was near there but hard to locate.

HON. MR. SMITH said that the drill was let out on fee. Two applications were in for it, one of them at Lake George.

MR. YOUNG said the mining laws were not fair. Private persons took all risk in search for minerals and the government imposed a royalty. The government should take some risk.

The Labor Bureau.

MR. TILLEY speaking to the item of Labor Bureaux, said that he judged from the amount of \$1000 to be voted that it was not the intention of the government to meet the Dominion half way in the proposition of maintaining the Labor Bureau on a basis of equal sharing of the expense. The Bureaux were of general benefit to the country and the offer was a generous one on the part of the Dominion.

MR. KING said that he did not recognize any great advantage in the Labor Bureaux. In connection with his coal mining operations at Minto he had had occasion to correspond with the Moncton Bureaux. Twice in February he had communicated with that bureau in an attempt to get miners and did not even get a reply.

HON. MR. MURRAY said he wanted to know what the Department of Labor at Ottawa was for. The Dominion had made this offer merely for the purpose of getting the provinces to assume the burden. The Federal authorities should not try to shoulder off responsibility.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said he had received requests from the City Council, Labor Organizations and the Board of Trade at Moncton, to the effect that at least the Moncton Bureau be continued. He was sorry to hear the hon. member for Queens (King) say what he had, as the Moncton Bureau

was generally recognized as having competent officials and being of value. All C. N. R. employees were obtained through that Bureau, the patronage system having been dispensed with.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) asked if the hon. member was willing that the province should bear half the cost.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said that he was. If the Department of Labor was considered, it must be united with some other Department. As in Ontario Agriculture might be the Department. He would like to see another member for Moncton city and that member a Labor man.

MR. SMITH (Albert) endorsed what had been said with regard to the Moncton Bureau. It would be a mistake for the province not to maintain these Bureaux. If the hon. member for Moncton (Robinson) were in earnest he should use his influence to preserve the Moncton Bureau.

HON. MR. ROBINSON said that he did not like the sound of one remark made by the hon. member for Albert (Smith) and he wanted him to know that he was in earnest and that he did not put forward ideas of this kind except in earnest. He regretted that his influence was not greater than it was.

The Premiers' View

HON. MR. FOSTER said that the establishment of these Labor Bureaux had resulted from a conference of Premiers held in Ottawa some two years before. At that time the premiers of the three Maritime Provinces had said that they could not guarantee that their provinces would continue the Bureaux. The cost in New Brunswick was \$24,000 per year. Half of that amount would be \$12,000, which would be a considerable item if provided. The cost would increase for the municipalities were paying the office rent at present, and the provinces supplying the furniture. It was probable that the municipalities would refuse to continue and before long the annual cost would go up to \$30,000. The expense was too rich for the blood of this province. He believed that they could be re-organized but he would not be willing to take them over and assume all responsibility of reorganization and reduction in expenses. If it should be possible to run these Bureaux without the lavish expenditure indulged in at present he would not be unwilling to make the attempt. In that connection he had communicated with the government of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island with a view toward having a Maritime conference held upon this subject.

The Committee reported progress. The Committee reported progress and Supply was made the order of the day for tomorrow at three o'clock.

The House again went into Committee with Mr. Leger (West.) in the Chair and took up consideration of a bill to amend the New Brunswick Elections Act.

HON. MR. BYRNE explained that the object of the bill was to provide for the addition of names which had been left off by the revisors. Persons who were British subjects and properly qualified could make affidavit to the Secretary-Treasurer who would furnish them with a certificate, which would authorize the Sheriff to add their names to the list. In case the lists had been forwarded to a Deputy Returning Officer he would also have authority to add names on the presentation of a certificate.

MR. BAXTER pointed out that under the old Act, when names were to be added to the list, the law required that public notice be given. He considered the change proposed by the bill as loose and capable of abuse. He did not think it was the intention of the government to take an unfair advantage of its opponents, but the bill was certainly unfair and opened the way to fraudulent work at election time.

MR. MERSEREAU said he was to agree with the Ex-Attorney General. He thought that men who were entitled to vote should have every reasonable chance to have their names on the list, but there should be a time limit set, so that names should not be rushed in at the last moment.

MR. LEBLANC thought the time should be stated for the addition of names to Voters' Lists. Both sides should see to it that their lists were prepared impartially and that neither was given an unfair advantage. Those who opposed Union Government in 1917 knew the meaning of unfair lists and he hoped that such a condition of affairs would never be repeated.

MR. BAXTER would not say that the government was doing wrong by bringing in the bill, but it was opening the way for fraudulent transaction in connection with the Voters' Lists.

HON. MR. BYRNE said a provision in the old Act which allowed names to be added to the Voters' List had been omitted from the Act of 1916 or to that it was always the law that names omitted by the revisors could be restored. He defended the bill at considerable length, claiming that those qualified to vote should have the privilege of doing so, even though their names did not appear on the list. The franchise had lately been extended to women and the first that many of their names had been added to the list was after the revisors had completed the lists. Should also have some consideration. That seemed to him to be a just and fair principle. There was no intention whatever on the part of the government to take advantage of its political opponents. He was willing that any reasonable safeguard should be thrown around the bill and he felt that if the Ex-Attorney General was not satisfied with it he could suggest some amendments. He did not claim that one party was any better than another, but thought they should try to reach a proper basis for preparing the voters' lists.

When it came to a question of fair play, he had every confidence in hon. members on both sides of the House. No one could say there had been any underhand proceedings in dealing with the Election Act under the present administration. It had been the custom in former times to hold back the election in Gloucester County until after the people of the other counties had voted. One of his first acts was to eliminate that provision from the Election Law, and thus place both parties on the same footing, so far as Gloucester was concerned.

MR. BAXTER said that the Hon. Attorney General had not attempted to meet his objection to the bill. He was not opposed to adding to the voters' lists the names of young men coming of age, or those of any other persons entitled to the franchise. The hon. Attorney General was inclined to accept any suggestions which he (Baxter) made to him in private, but a suggestion offered on the floor of the House seemed to be repellant to him. He would acquit the government of any attempt to defraud, but the bill certainly would open the door to wrong-doing, no matter how capable and honest the chairman of the revisors' board might be. In preparing voters' lists publicity was the only safe-guard as it gave the other side a means of knowing what was going on.

HON. MR. BYRNE said that the hon. member had not consulted him in regard to the bill.

MR. BAXTER said he was astonished that the bill had been brought before the Committee without some amendments which would meet his objections.

HON. MR. BYRNE replied that any hon. member had the right to offer suggestions or to move an amendment to the bill, after it had been brought before the House in a constitutional way.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that the Ex-Attorney General had spoken to him in regard to the bill, and as he had been very busy during the week he had forgotten to mention the matter to the hon. Attorney General. Progress was reported.

Woodman's Lien Act

The Committee next took up consideration of a bill to amend the Woodmen's Lien Act.

MR. LEBLANC thought that railway ties, cedar poles and telegraph poles should be included within the scope of the bill.

MR. DYSART said he had been requested by certain people in his county to have railway ties included.

MR. MICHAUD said he was also in favor of having cedar poles and railway ties brought within the scope of the bill.

HON. MR. BYRNE said he had no objection to amending the bill if hon. members deemed it necessary.

HON. MR. MURRAY said that he had heard Judge McLatchey deliver a judgment in Newcastle touching upon this matter. He contended that pulp wood cut into 4 ft. lengths was cord wood. The act should be definite.

MR. TILLEY said he could not see why all the varieties of lumber mentioned should not be included.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) took objection to shingle bolts being included.

MR. BURCHILL said that railway ties should be included as well as pulpwood but shingle bolts and staves should not, as they were merely in a process of manufacture in the mill. All manufactured lumber was in a different class from logs.

MR. YOUNG said his attention had been directed to manufactured lumber by an incident which he had heard of during the day. A small portable mill operating in York County had had no regular pay day, and it had wages to employees.

HON. MR. BYRNE said he did not object to including railway ties. Cordwood was different.

The bill was amended to include the classes of lumber mentioned.

The Committees agreed to a bill to amend the New Brunswick Companies Act and a bill to authorize the Minister of Lands and Mines to purchase land from the New Brunswick Railway Company.

MR. YOUNG speaking to the latter bill, said there was a tract of land of some three thousand acres near Green Hill, Parish of Stanley, which was entirely agricultural land, and which had a main highway and the National Transcontinental railway running through it. There was an excellent chance to locate settlers. Some years ago it had been proposed to trade Crown Lands further up the Nashwaak or this tract then owned by the Alex. Gibson Company.

The present owner, was the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Company. He might offer this suggestion to the hon. minister of lands and mines.

The bill was reported.

The House went into Committee with Mr. Mersereau in the Chair, and agreed to bills relating to the Town of Campbellton, to debentures of the Town of Campbellton, to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor of the Town of Campbellton.

The Bills were reported.

The House adjourned at 12.35 a. m.

Great waste of jam—when the jar ran out.

Never tasted anything better than
POST TOASTIES
—says Bobby
and don't think I ever will!



NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT AND MEETING OF CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that Harry Leslie Norrad, of Bloomfield Ridge, in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, Merchant, on the 14th day of April, A. D. 1920, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick, 1903, intitled Respecting Assignments and Preferences of Insolvent Persons, and amending Acts, did make a general assignment of all his personal property which may be seized and sold under execution, and of all his real estate, credits and effects for the benefit of his creditors, to the undersigned John B. Hawthorne, Sheriff of the County of York, and also that a meeting of the creditors of the said Harry Leslie Norrad will be held in the office (County Court House here) of the said Sheriff, on Friday, the 30th day of April inst., at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of appointing inspectors and the giving of directions with reference to the disposal of the said estate and the transaction of such other matters as may properly come before said meeting.

And notice is further given, that the creditors of the said Harry Leslie Norrad are required to file their claims, properly proven, with the undersigned assignee, within three months of the date of this notice, unless further time be allowed by a Judge of the Supreme or County Court, and all claims not so filed within the time limited, or such further time (if any) as may be allowed by such Judge, shall be wholly barred from any right to share in the proceeds of such estate as if no such claims existed, but without prejudice to the liability of the debtor therefore.

Dated at the City of Fredericton this 14th day of April, A. D. 1920.

JOHN B. HAWTHORNE,
Assignee.

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3 Cars dry split 16-inch hard stove wood. Also furnace wood.
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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Fredericton and North Devon, and at the Office of the Post Office Inspector:

St. John, N. B., April 7th, 1920.
Post Office Inspector's Office,
H. W. WOODS,
Post Office Inspector.

claims existed, but without prejudice to the liability of the debtor therefore.

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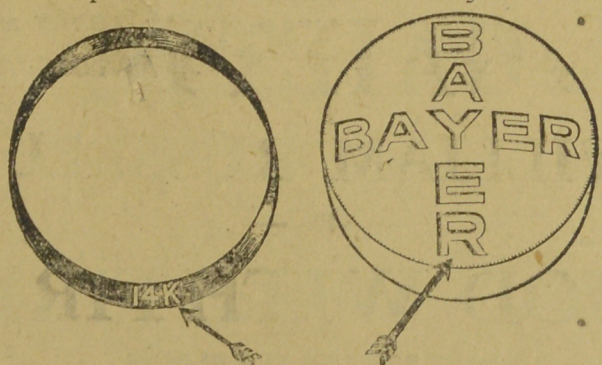
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