

TO PROVIDE FOR SALE OF OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**Bill Introduced in the House Yesterday by Premier Foster—
An Historical Sketch of One of the City's Landmarks—
Federal Government to Pay \$50,000 for It—York County
Roads Were Under Discussion.**

Assembly Chamber,
April 20, 1920.
The House met at 3 o'clock.
MR. BURCHILL presented the report of the Committee on Standing Rules.
HON. MR. BYRNE presented the report of the Law Committee.
Notices of Enquiry were given for Friday next as follows:

By MR. SMITH (Albert): As to returns made by road supervisors in the County of Albert; also as to whether members and employees of the Workmen's Compensation Board are under bonds and as to whether the accounts of the Board were audited.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE presented the petition of Dr. Earle and 500 others praying for the passage of the bill incorporating the Fraser Paper Co., Ltd.

HON. MR. FOSTER introduced a bill to authorize the sale of the property known and described as old government house in the City of Fredericton. In explanation of the measure he said: This bill is to give authority for the sale of what is known as Government House property, and for the disposal of the proceeds of such sale. As expressed in the preamble to the Bill, this property was purchased under Chapter 7 of the Acts of 1916 by the Province of New Brunswick from the Governor and Trustees of the College of New Brunswick, who were original grantees and from Governor Carleton, who had leasehold interests. It was stated in the conveyance as containing 50 acres, but by actual survey it contains somewhat less than 30 acres—to be exact, 28.74 acres. As enacted by section 4 of the Act of 1916, the property was purchased "for the sole purpose of a residence for and the accommodation of the Governor or Commander in Chief of the Province" and further by such section it was enacted that no part of this property should be alienated, granted or disposed of "without an Act of the General Assembly of this Province authorizing the same." At the time of the purchase there was on the property a Government House known as "Mansion House". This was burned in 1825 and shortly afterwards a building was erected by the Province which building is now generally referred to as Old Government House. Under the British North America Act, passed upon the confederation of the Provinces into a Dominion, it was enacted that the public works and property of each province should be the property of Canada except such as the Government of Canada should appropriate for the Provincial Legislatures and Government; and the Government of Canada, by Order-in-Council, made February 11th, 1887, appropriated for the use of the Government and Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick the properties in Fredericton known as the "Government House" property and the "Provincial Buildings" property. In 1893 there was passed by the Legislature of the Province an Act, being Chapter 25 of the Acts of 1895, declaring by section 1, that this Government House property was vested in the Crown as represented by the Government of New Brunswick, and by section 2 of this Act it was provided that in the event of the sale of such property the proceeds should be used in providing a suitable residence for the Lieutenant-Governor, and until so used should be deposited to the credit of a special account. Upon this Act, with the other Acts of New Brunswick for 1893, being forwarded to the Secretary of State, they were considered by the then Minister of Justice, Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, and in his report thereon to the Governor-General, in Council, he stated concerning this Chapter 25 and the other Acts of New Brunswick for 1895 that "he is of opinion that they are unobjectionable, and may be left to their operation."

Since 1892, with what might be considered the consent of the Province the northeastern corner of the property has been in the possession of the

City of Fredericton for its waterworks pumping station, and since 1886, with a like consent, another portion, adjacent to this, has been occupied by the Victoria Hospital. For the past three or four years the remaining portion of this property, comprising 23 1/4 acres, has been occupied by the Dominion of Canada, and it has erected on these lands extensive buildings, for use as a hospital for returned soldiers and in connection with the D. S. C. R. Negotiations have been had between the Government of the Province and the Government at Ottawa for the sale of this property to the Dominion, with the result that a purchase price of \$50,000 has been agreed upon; but when it came to the issuing of a grant, the question arose whether the Province under the Act of 1893, could so sell and convey this Government House property. To remove this doubt this Bill is presented to the House. In addition to the preamble, it consists of two sections. The first section authorizes the sale, with the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, of the property by the Minister of Lands and Mines as representing His Majesty the King. The second section is a re-enactment of section 2 of the Act of 1893, and preserves the proceeds of the sale as a trust fund towards providing a suitable residence for the Lieutenant-Governor in the City of Fredericton.

HON. MR. FOSTER, continuing said that shortly after the present Government took office in 1917 negotiations were open with the Federal authorities for the sale of the property. A valuator was sent from Ottawa and estimated it to be worth \$35,000. The Government felt that that was not enough and the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Mr. Sifton, said that he would recommend that \$50,000 be paid for it. As the Federal Government had possession of the property and the Provincial Government could make no use of it, it was decided to make the sale at the price agreed upon. As the money could only be used for a specific purpose it would be placed on deposit in a chartered bank at interest. He would invite suggestions as to what disposition should be made of the interest as it accumulated.

MR. TILLEY wanted to know if the sale included the entire acreage of land.

HON. MR. FOSTER said it only dealt with the property occupied by the Soldiers Civil Re-establishment. The City of Fredericton was negotiating for the lot now used for a pumping station and it was felt that the other might be handed over for hospital purposes.

The Bill was read a first time.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) gave notice that he would move on Friday, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying for the production of all correspondence between the Provincial and Federal



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Governments with respect to the Act relating to Provincial Railways.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE gave notice that he would move on Friday next, seconded by Mr. Peck, the following resolution:

Resolved, that under the provisions of Part IV. of the Canada Temperance Act as enacted by Chapter Eight of the Statutes passed at the second Session of the Parliament of Canada held in 1919, this Legislative Assembly doth request that the votes of the Electors in all the electoral districts of this Province may be taken for or against the following prohibition, that is to say:

"That the importation and bringing of intoxicating liquor into this Province for beverage purposes may be forbidden."

The House then went into Committee with Mr. Leger (West.) in the chair and took up further consideration of the Bill to provide for the development of New Brunswick water-powers.

HON. MR. FOSTER, on the section which provides for the appointment of a member of the Executive Council to the Commission, submitted an amendment which stipulates that the government shall be represented by a Minister without portfolio. Another amendment provides that the amount to be borrowed shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any one year.

An additional section added to the bill gives the commission authority to regulate the price of the electric power or energy sold by any municipality or the power commission thereof.

MR. TILLEY said that he wished to protest against the appointment of a member of the Government or of the Legislature to the commission as he felt that meant the introduction of politics. The amendment proposed by the Hon. Premier had not improved the bill. It would not be possible to secure a thoroughly independent commission if politics were allowed to creep in.

HON. MR. FOSTER said the Government was simply following the precedent which had been established in the Province of Ontario. Hon. Adam Beck, the head of the Hydro commission in Ontario, had also been a member of the Government. In Nova Scotia the same plan had been followed but he did not know to what extent politics had been introduced. He felt that it was desirable that a member of the Government should be on the commission.

The bill was agreed to.
The committee next went into consideration of a bill to further provide for the funding of motor vehicle fees.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that the bill had previously been before the committee but had been held over to give consideration to some proposed amendments. It had been decided to limit the amount to be funded in one year to \$200,000. The original bill and

fixed \$920,000 as the amount to be borrowed but he wished to reduce the amount to \$800,000. The change had been made possible by a recent arrangement with the Federal authorities with respect to road improvements.

The Bill was agreed to.

The committee next went into consideration of a bill to provide for improvements to highways under Federal aid.

HON. MR. VENIOT explained that Federal aid was to be provided to the extent of forty per cent of the amount expended. In order to meet that it would be necessary in the next five years to expend \$1,800,000. The funding of auto fees in future, would not provide sufficient so it was proposed to empower the Governor in Council to borrow a sum of money extending over a period of five years. The bonds (Continued on Page Five).

FOR SALE—Double tenement on King street, near Smythe, earning \$25 per month, gross. This leasehold conveniently located. If not disposed of by April 30th inst., will be sold at public auction to close an estate. SHAW & HANSON.



MAIL CONTRACT.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, May 21st May 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, 12 and 6 times per week on the route Fredericton, Nashwaaksis and North Devon, commencing at the pleasure of the Postmaster General.

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.

may be empowered by law to deal with. Dated at the City of Fredericton, this 15th day of April, A. D. 1920.

E. C. BARRY,
Provisional President.
G. C. CRAWFORD,
Provisional Secretary-Treasurer.
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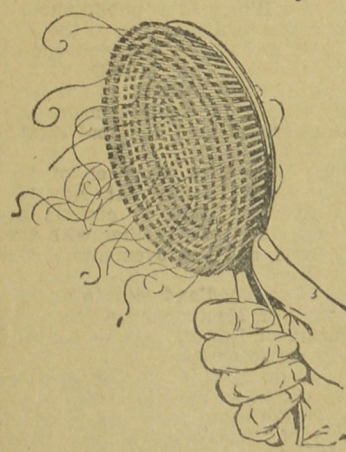
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