

GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENTS ARE VERY NUMEROUS

Figures compiled by the operating department of the Canadian National Railways show that during 1925 on the lines of the system there were 65 grade crossing accidents to vehicles, in which 40 people lost their lives and 51 were seriously or slightly injured. In only nine cases were there no fatalities or injuries. All but twelve of the accidents happened to automobiles or motor trucks.

While it is difficult to place the blame in all cases, subsequent investigations rigorously pursued showed the railway company was not at fault, every precaution having been taken by it to prevent these occurrences.

In two cases three complete families were wiped out and in one accident two whole families lost their lives. It is also a matter of undisputed fact that good fortune rather than any other circumstances was alone responsible for the comparatively low mortality figure among such a large number of crossing accidents. The automobile has yet to be made that can try conclusions with a swiftly moving train, and win.

Investigations proved that in a large number of cases the accidents were due solely to carelessness on the part of the drivers of the automobiles. Listed among the accidents are two where autoists drove their cars into the tender of the engines; three where the automobile hit the second or third car back of the engine and one where the driver actually crashed into the twentieth car back of the engine and did it with sufficient force to bruise and somewhat injure the occupants of the automobile as well as to damage his machine.

No one month was free from crossing accidents, but October led, which might indicate that towards the end of the motoring season, drivers became more careless in approaching railway crossings.

The accidents by months were: January, 1; February, 2; March, 4; April, 3; May, 7; June, 4; July, 9; August, 6; September, 7; October, 10; November, 8; December, 4.

No sizzling summer can defer a woman's wish for still more fur.

The Grand Falls Bills are Now Before the Legislature

Legislation of Great Importance Introduced by Premier Baxter Yesterday Afternoon—Sharply Criticized by Hon. Mr. Veniot Who Reterates His Stand for Government Ownership—A Spirited Reply by Hon. Mr. Baxter, Who Declares That the Government's Policy Will Bring About Great Industrial Expansion.

The bills relating to the development of the great water powers at Grand Falls, probably the most important legislation in the history of the Province were introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier Baxter and on the ground of urgency there given a second reading. Hon. Mr. Veniot the opposition leader spoke in criticism of the bill, his speech lasting a little more than an hour. He was in good voice and as was to be expected declared strongly in favor of government ownership of the water powers of the province. He said that the salvation of the province depended on the forests and water powers and with a view of protecting them he felt that it was his duty to do all he could to prevent the passage of the bill.

The Premier's Reply.

Hon. Mr. Baxter replied to the opposition leader in a masterly speech, which was vigorously applauded. He ably defended the government's proposals for Grand Falls development, on economical grounds, and appealed to the House to consider the question from a business and not from a political standpoint. In the course of his remarks he spoke highly of the business acumen of Mr. Archibald Fraser, president of the Fraser Companies Limited and declared that he would rather stand on his business judgment than on a host of reports on the business development. In closing he expressed confidence that the proposed development would bring about great industrial expansion.

The Official Report.

Assembly Chamber, April 22nd, 1926. The House met at three o'clock. The following bills were read a third time and passed: An Act respecting the distribution of estates of intestates, An Act respecting permanent sidewalks and highways in Lancaster.

Bills given a second reading: An Act to amend the New Brunswick Electric Power Act 1920, an Act respecting Divorce Courts and Matrimonial causes.

HON. MR. REILLY submitted the report of the Standing Rules Committee. MR. DICKSON submitted the report from the Committee on Agriculture.

HON. MR. RICHARDS asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Game Act, 1921. He explained that the amendment related for the most part to matters of administration.

The bill was read a first time. HON. MR. BAXTER asked leave to introduce a bill respecting fire alarms in the county of Saint John.

The Power Bill.

The bill was read a first time.

HON. MR. BAXTER asked leave to introduce a bill to incorporate the St. John River Power Company, which was read a first time.

HON. MR. BAXTER introduced a bill to incorporate the New Brunswick International Paper Company, which was read a first time.

HON. MR. SMITH introduced a bill respecting the Dairy Act. He explained that it was introduced at the request of the Farmers' & Dairymen's Association. The bill was read a first time.

HON. MR. BAXTER introduced a bill relating to Fraser Companies, Limited, which was read a first time.

HON. MR. BAXTER moved that a second reading be given the following bills on the ground of urgency: An Act relating to Fraser Companies Limited, which was read a first time. Brunswick International Paper Com-

pany, an Act incorporating the St. John Power Company.

Mr. Veniot's Criticism.

On the second reading of the St. John River Power Company bill Mr. Veniot said that before the motion was put he would crave the indulgence of the House to discuss what was perhaps the most important bill ever submitted to the Legislature from a purely provincial standpoint. The bill did away with the policy of the former Government of public ownership and government control. For some reason unknown to him, he said, this bill had been brought down at a late hour in the session. He considered that a bill of this importance should have been in the hands of the members the moment it was introduced. Through the courtesy of the Premier he had received a copy of the bill at the close of Wednesday's session, and he had endeavored to digest it the best he could. He detected in this bill a ghost of former times—a phantom of the old Grand Falls Water Power Company. In it he detected the same tactics as had been previously practiced by that Company and he saw nothing in the bill that guaranteed the development of Grand Falls. If there was any agreement to bind the company to develop Grand Falls the House should have the information before they discussed the bill.

Says Not Satisfactory.

As he further read the bill he was forced to the conclusion that the development of Grand Falls was not in any more satisfactory condition than it was ten or twelve years ago. It was not in any more satisfactory condition than it was in 1917, when the same company referred to above applied for an extension of lease, nor in 1923 when the Government of the day had cancelled that lease. The bill brought them no nearer to the development of Grand Falls than had been in the years he had mentioned. Under the bill, as he saw it, the company were the sole arbiters in the matter of delay. The government were not given the privilege under this bill to say whether or not the reasons given for delay were valid. Instead of a guarantee of the work beginning in May, as had been intimated to the House, the bill allowed six months in which this company could elect to go on or not with the work. If agreements had been completed for the starting of the work he would ask why there should be a delay of six months? He found further under the forfeiture clause, not that the work should terminate in two years as promised on the floors of the House but that the company must within two years expend an amount not less than \$1,000,000. If the company failed to expend that \$1,000,000 they forfeited \$50,000.

Reserve Power.

Section 25 of the bill set forth that contract for sale of power to the Fraser Companies should not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission. Was this province, he asked, to give up complete jurisdiction over its valuable assets? He noticed that the company should reserve for sale to the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission only twenty-two million eight hundred thousand kilowatt hours of electrical power. This was in contrast with the statement made by the Chairman of the Hydro Commission recently when he stated that twenty-eight million was to be reserved.

In Section 24 of the bill he said there was again a master hand working in the interests of the company. While one of the most outrageous clauses was found in Section 22. Under that section if the province wished to develop power below Grand Falls it had to pay tribute to the company. He hoped that the legislature would never let a clause like that go through. There were valuable sites below Grand Falls for the development of water power, but he found in this bill something that would cripple for all time possible development below Grand Falls. He hoped that the Premier would look more closely into this section.

Rights of Province.

He wished to say that since the government had seen fit to depart from the policy of public ownership, a policy which he claimed to be in the best interests of the province, and hand over an asset of this kind to private interests, he was not going to put any obstacles in their way except to protect the rights of the province better than they were protected in this bill. He stood for public ownership and he believed public development of Grand Falls was in the best interests of the province. He had listened attentively to what the Premier had said respecting the development of Grand Falls and able lawyer as he was he had used every argument to make a good case out of a bad one.

The Old Commission.

The Premier in his speech had referred to the old Commission as preparing plans for storage dams in Maine, but he would say that they had never planned for storage dams except for future Rankine Falls with the intention of developing them. They had simply secured Rankine Falls to prevent others going above Grand Falls and utilizing the water powers. Giving his findings in connection with this agreement and quoting from the opinion of W. N. Tilley, of Toronto, in reference to the agreement made by the former Hydro Commission with the International Paper Company, Mr. Veniot said it was never the policy of the old Commission to do other than sell Hydro for general industrial purposes. Under that agreement they could sell up to 5000 h. p. before the International Paper Company was entitled to any. He contended that in the opinion given by W. N. Tilley

there was nothing to say they could not sell power for general industrial purposes. The Commission of which he had been Chairman had reserved for the International Paper Company for the general purpose of industry a maximum of 14,000 horse power and the Paper Company had nothing whatever to do with any part of the 36,000 that was to be available.

Mr. Tilley's Opinion.

The province had paid a large sum for the legal opinion of W. N. Tilley, and yet he (Veniot) would have accepted just as quickly the Premier's own opinion in reference to this matter. Shortly after coming into office the Government had begun negotiations along the lines of private development of Grand Falls, but strange to say the legal opinion of Mr. Tilley with respect to the agreement entered into by the former Commission with the International Paper Company was dated a few days before the legislature met on March 11th, months after the government had decided upon their policy.

The Premier had gone to Ontario, the home of public ownership, for an opinion, but the man whose opinion he got was employed by the C. P. R., so there was no need to hint to him that he wanted an opinion adverse to public ownership. Musquash had been the target of attack to discredit public ownership, and the Chairman of the Hydro Commission had claimed great credit for reducing his staff by sixty-four employees and saving \$8,500 a month. What was the fact? He discharged 69 employees instead of 64, but they were engineers and temporary men employed on the survey of transmission lines whose work was about finished. But why did he keep on high-paid officials like Acres, Lowry and Blanchard? He said Acres got \$23,000, but was not fair enough to explain that his salary was only \$600 per month and the rest of his bill was for assistance with plans, etc and numerous trips to Washington and elsewhere to fight for the rights of New Brunswick against the powerful influence arrayed against the province. Mr. Lowry also only got \$300 a month and he had to pay for all his expenses and staff, which he took into the woods in making his topographical survey. Then why when the Chairman of the Hydro Commission was using Musquash as a battering ram to destroy public ownership was he not fair enough to tell of the improved conditions there for which the old Commission were responsible. The agreement with the N. B. Power Company was most advantageous, and would enable the extension of the transmission lines to Albert county and east of Moncton. He did not say that for one month last year Musquash had furnished power at the rate of 28 million k. w. h. per year. Musquash, he said, could meet its requirements, could pay its way, and there had been no need of that special audit costing four or five hundred dollars, for, notwithstanding what the hon. gentleman had said, there were outstanding discrepancies between that audit and the annual audit at the end of the year. He would repeat that special audit was for the purpose and the purpose only of creating an argument for handing Grand Falls over to the Big Interests.

Alleged Misstatement.

The Hon. Chairman had also made a misstatement in regard to the reservation of power in the old agreement for the State of Maine. As a matter of fact that question had never been settled and there was absolutely no grounds for saying that 14,000 horse power was to be reserved for Maine.

The Hon. Chairman had claimed that the new Commission was making a great saving compared to the old one, which cost \$9,000 per year, but as in five months the bills of the new Commission had run to \$4,585 he could not see where the saving was effected. In fact he would say they had practiced extravagance in the highest degree and not economy. The hon. Chairman had also said that power from Musquash at the high tension switch board cost 2 cents per k. w. h., while if he would look at his own report he would see that it cost only 1.3829 cents. Why not, he said, give the figures as they existed? If his signed report was not right he should correct it, and not make two figures of the one thing.

Mr. Acres' Letter.

He quoted from letter of Mr. Acres to Mr. E. A. Scofield, claiming that this letter had been misquoted when previously used in the House, and he claimed that Mr. Acres had contradicted himself in some respects. At any rate Mr. Acres was not a lawyer and he had not been consulted on the legal aspects of the agreement by the old Commission.

He found fault with the bill before the House for only providing for the development of two industries in the northern part of the province. The old Commission did not want all the industries concentrated at or near Grand Falls, but wanted to give a chance to them in different parts of the province. The new arrangement was very little use to small industries, consequently the central part of the province could get but little benefit and the southern sections would never be reached at all. Under the previous government's arrangement it was intended to serve Frasers and the Bathurst Company in the north and the International Paper Company at St. John.

Grand Falls Capacity.

He then referred to the capacity of Grand Falls, quoting eminent engineers, among them Mr. John McCrea, now employed by the Bathurst Company at their new development on the Nepisiguit. Mr. McCrea's report showed that there was a minimum of 90,000 h. p. with an ultimate of 90,000, and on this minimum development it was claimed that there would be a net earning power of \$185,500 per year less 2 percent sinking fund and if additional power was sold a nine percent dividend could be earned on a capital investment of \$5,000,000. This new agreement provided for a price of \$20 per horse power. This was a most

(Continued)

CARTWRIGHT'S JOKE ON THE LATE SIR JOHN A

(London Free Press.)

Browsing through the London Public Library lately I came across a history of Sir John A. Macdonald, written by John Collins, in the '80's. It was this history which was the occasion for a famous parliamentary bon mot by Sir Richard Cartwright. There was a debate in the Commons in regard to some payments to Mr. Collins. Sir Richard seized upon the occasion to make a thrust at Sir John A. Referring to the history of Mr. Collins, he remarked:

"The work is couched in chaste and elegant language, and no doubt it will be very satisfactory to the honorable gentleman's friends, because I observe from it that in all the acts of the honorable gentleman's career which evil-minded persons have misinterpreted he has been actuated by the purest and most patriotic motives and has even sometimes allowed his reputation to be tarnished for the general welfare of the country. It is a happy association of ideas and what a lamented friend of mine called the eternal fitness of things, that a gentleman who in his life has done justice to so many John Collinses should at last find a John Collins to do justice to him."

No man enjoyed the joke on himself more than Sir John A.

A French aviator holds the world's altitude record. But at that he didn't fly much higher than the French cabinet seems to go at times.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CHANGE IN TRAIN SCHEDULES

Effective May 2nd, 1926

For Further Particulars
Apply To
Ticket Agent

PUBLIC AUCTION

There will be sold at Public Auction in front of the City Hall at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 28th, 1926, the tolls and fees arising from the public wharves and anchorages, and also the tolls and fees arising from the Phoenix Square weigh scales, from May 1st, 1926, to April 30th, 1927.

Terms and conditions made known at the time of sale.

The highest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.
City Hall, April 21, 1926.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

General Change of Time
Sunday May 2nd, 1926

For particulars apply local agent.

G. Bruce Burpee

PUBLIC NOTICE

On and after Monday, April 19th, the Motor Vehicle Branch, Department of Public Works, will remain open during the noon hour from one to two o'clock, until further notice, for the convenience of the public in obtaining licenses for their cars.

GEORGE L. INGRAM,
Provincial Tax Inspector.

CITY OF FREDERICTON

CITY ENGINEER

Applications for the position of City Engineer, marked to that effect and addressed to the undersigned, will be received up to twelve o'clock noon on Monday, the 26th instant. Applicants should state salary expected and past experience.

C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.
City Hall, April 15, 1926.

Where An American Hangs His Hat

Once a hat was not just a hat; it was also a badge of sectionalism. That was when the broad-brimmed Stetson and the nobby derby seldom met. When South, East, North, West lived differently, dressed differently, and thought differently. When a traveling American could feel like a stranger in his own land.

Before advertising—

But now Mrs. Green of Boston and Mrs. Brown of El Paso use the same vacuum cleaner, face powder, soap; Adams of Boston and Sims of Seattle are alike in the cut of their clothes. And where an American hangs his hat, within the borders of these United States, he feels at home. Advertising did that.

Advertising is still at work helping to make these states united. Here is a better bed, a handsomer shoe, a more delicious food. Let it be known from Maine to California, from Washington State to Florida! Here's a healthier way to live, another safeguard for your family, a new service of self-improvement. Spread the news everywhere!

Advertisements.

Read them. They are Couriers of Progress and Unity. Without them you'd lack half the comforts you now have. Ignore them and you'll miss many a good thing to come.

TO KEEP PACE WITH THE TIMES, READ THE
ADVERTISEMENTS EVERY DAY