

MORRISSEY TELLS OF ST. JOHN ELECTION EXPENDITURES

Could Not Give the Information When First Asked for by Mr. Bentley finds it in the Accounts when Brought to task.

The House proceedings were tame yesterday, but not devoid of interest. Most of the day was taken up with private legislation. Several government measures were put through the committee. The most important of them was the Teachers' Pension bill, which provides a pension for all teachers who have served the province 35 years. An effort was made to cut down the years of service to 30, but it was unavailing and the bill passed the only alteration being to include all teachers who have been employed in teaching 35 years, whether they are teaching now or not. The Registry bill has already been explained. Its chief section is to permit the governor-in-council to fix the salaries of registrars from time to time. The bill constituting a Labor Bureau which will place all labor matters in the hands of some member of the executive and of agents in several sections of the province. No salary is to be paid any of the officials under this act. In this respect it is unique but as Mr. Burchill pointed out such an anomaly could not exist long and the officials would be after pay.

The most important government bill introduced this session was brought down by Mr. Flemming and provides for an increase of \$200,000 for permanent bridge expenditure. Then Mr. Morrissey explained his answer to Mr. Bentley and gave the required information.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The House met on Monday at three o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey in reply to Mr. Robinson's enquiry in reference to the necessity of the construction of a bridge across the south branch of the Oromocto stream in the Parish of Blissville in Mill Settlement, so called, said it had been strongly urged upon the Public Works Department and the government by the members for the county of Sunbury and it was the intention of the department to send an engineer at an early date to the locality for the purpose of making a survey and reporting upon the proposed work with a view of having the same constructed.

Mr. Dickson presented the petition of the General Oil Shales Co. of Canada in favor of the bill to amend the act incorporating the Aluminum Production Co., Ltd.

Mr. Byrne presented the petition of Wallace Steeves and others against the Jacquet River Boom Company's bill.

Mr. Maclellan gave notice of motion with reference to the necessity for having the pulp wood cut from the crown lands manufactured in the province. He also moved the suspension of rule 79 in favor of a bill to make valid a sale under mortgage.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey moved to suspend Rule 79 in favor of a bill to permit the R. C. Bishop of Chatham to sell certain lands in Kent.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

The House went into committee on the whole on the Teacher's Pension Bill.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that since the bill was last before the committee he had had considerable correspondence on the subject and the bill appeared to find general favor. It was recognized that it was impossible to legislate upon every particular case and no good purpose would be served by changing the main provisions of the bill, but it had been decided to alter it so far as to include those who had fulfilled the conditions necessary for a pension before the bill came into force. To show hon. gentlemen that the provisions of the bill were reasonable, he would read some particulars which showed what was being done on similar lines in other places which would show that the proposals under consideration were fairly liberal.

Mr. Hazen then read some extracts from the New York Sun which showed that the average amount of pensions in American cities was on the same scale as under the proposed bill with the addition in many of those places teachers were called upon to contribute a portion of their salaries to a pension fund.

Continuing, Mr. Hazen said in no other province of Canada as far as he could ascertain was any pension scheme in operation so that in this legislation New Brunswick was decidedly a separate branch. The principle of the bill was that a teacher having reached the required age and taught thirty-five years should have a pension equal to half his salary. The salaries of city teachers were higher, as a rule, than that of country teachers and he had been asked to put some provisions in the bill which would permit of a country teacher receiving as large a pension as those in the cities got. After conferring with the chief superintendent it had been thought better not to make any discrimination. The provisions of the bill were fairly liberal and were as

far as the government felt warranted in going at the present time.

Mr. LaBillois said his object in suggesting thirty years instead of thirty-five as a qualifying period was in order to encourage teachers to remain in the profession. With all the inducements there were at the present day to take up other lines of occupation thirty-five years was a very long time to continue teaching before they could get a pension. He referred to the case of a teacher who had taught for thirty years under circumstances of considerable difficulty and finally had to give up teaching on account of becoming deaf. He would like to see something done in a case of that kind.

Mr. Byrne agreed with the previous speaker that thirty-five years was too long a period and the bill was not in accordance with the resolution of the Teachers' Institute which the government before coming into office, had promised to adopt. The bill did not meet with the approval of a great many of his correspondents. The government was to be commended for moving in the matter but their proposals did not go far enough to meet with the approval of teachers generally. The pension should be uniform, and should be sufficient to allow a teacher to live in decency and comfort after retiring from active work.

Mr. Burchill said if the suggestions of the previous speaker were carried out it would cease to be a pension bill and become rather an augmentation of salaries bill. Now that it had been amended to meet the cases of teachers retired before coming into operation it should be perfectly satisfactory. He thought there should be some provision by which a teacher incapacitated before reaching the prescribed limit should be able to secure a proportionate part of the pension according to length of service. As to the remarks of the previous speaker that the pension should be sufficient to provide a decent living, he was not intended for that purpose at all. Persons giving up active work must subsist some way or other and these pensions were only to help them in that way and he would suggest that the payment for pensions be limited to those teachers who needed them and not to all alike, some of whom might have private means.

Mr. Hatheway approved of the bill and was glad that New Brunswick was the pioneer in the movement. He thought there should be an age limit for teachers as in every other case which required the exercise of the physical and mental faculties though in only one instance so far in the province had the age limit for any official been fixed and he would be glad to see the principle extended.

Mr. Woods instanced the case of an old gentleman who had taught for 34 years and ten months and he thought it was hard that a case of that sort should be excluded from the benefits of the bill for want of two more months service.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that most male teachers had completed thirty-five years of service before they were more than sixty years of age. He knew of one man who had been a teacher for forty one years and who was able to continue in the profession and was so fond of his work he would not retire even if he had a pension until absolutely forced to. He could not take the view of the member for Gloucester that teachers after they had served their required length of time and continued in the service should receive a pension as well as their salaries. There were members on the Supreme Court bench at the present time who were old enough and who had served a sufficient number of years to retire on a pension if they so desired but who were well qualified to continue and did so. In answer to his hon. friend from St. John he would say that it was a difficult thing to lay down a rule stating some age at which men should retire. The Prime Minister of Canada was now nearly seventy years old but was still actively identified with public life and in the Senate of Canada some of the older members were more useful and energetic than the younger ones. It would be impossible to name the details for any system that would not have a few instances such as that mentioned by the member for Queens but these could be dealt with by the Board of Education and exceptions made and the circumstances warranted. The object of the bill was not to provide a living for teachers who became old in the service but to give them some assistance in their latter days. The Board of Education show that in the past year the average salary of superior class teachers had been \$689, which would make the average pension for that class of teachers \$344. On the same basis the pensions for first class teachers would be male, \$320, Females \$187; second class male \$171, Female \$144. In entering upon

this scheme the House must be both prudent and careful. In answer to what the hon. member for Gloucester had said he would say that the Government was not fulfilling any pre-election promise. The Teachers' Association had placed that matter before the late Administration and it had been promised consideration. It was creditable that both sides of the House were showing no opposition to the bill. The only communication that he had received in opposition to the bill was one from a farmer in Westmorland who thought that the teachers ought to be as well able as the farmers to provide for themselves in their old age. This bill was of the nature of tentative nature and the province would have an opportunity of seeing how it would work out after which they might make what amendments were deemed advisable.

Mr. Byrne favored a uniform pension and felt that the country school teacher who had a very difficult and hard position should receive the same treatment as those who were in the cities and had an easier time.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell said that the House and the Government must be just and not generous. Making a uniform pension would not act as an incentive for teachers to get along up the ladder and take a better license, which should be considered in every piece of legislation to do with the teaching profession. He had received objections to giving pensions to teachers and it was urged that the teachers were not the only profession who should be given a pension. He recognized however, that the teachers were public servants, more or less, that they worked for small salaries and that the results of their labors had to do with the elevating of public ideas. They deserve something to stimulate them and to have them continue in the profession as their work was not very remunerative. He did not think that thirty-five years was too long service for teachers before they became eligible for pensions. He had heard complaints that men who were receiving pensions from the Dominion Government were engaging in other pursuits and with the assistance of their pensions were able to accept less remuneration than others not aided in this way.

When it was decided to increase the salaries of the school teachers some time ago, the idea was that the teachers should reap the benefit. But instead of this, in some cases the municipalities and the school trustees were grinding down the teachers and were taking the benefit of the increased grant to school teachers themselves, instead of having the teachers' salaries increased as they should have been.

Mr. LaBillois said that the amendment of the attorney general regarding exceptional cases would meet with approval and he felt that exceptional cases which came before the board of education would be dealt with as they deserved.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that in reply to the efforts to give an impression that the bill was not meeting with the approval of the teachers, he would read a letter from R. E. Estabrooks, secretary of the Carleton County Teachers' Association, which he said the bill was in accordance with the unanimous resolution passed by that Association in October, 1907, and that he knew of no change of mind.

Dr. Sormany said that the bill was a step in the right direction, but he favored a uniform pension arrangement for the sake of the country teachers. He realized that the life of the teacher was a hard one.

Mr. Munro said that the bill met with his favor, and he read a letter from a Woodstock teacher, who said that the bill was very desirable and with the limited finances of the country was all that the teachers could expect, and that they would be well cared for under the bill.

The bill, as amended, was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Hazen, regarding the bill to amend the Registry Act, said that it was for the purpose of regulating the salaries of registrars of deeds so that they would be in accordance with the amount of business done by the office and which the duties devolving upon the registrars merited.

He quoted a schedule of returns from the registry offices of the province showing that, for instance, in St. John county the receipts were less than in Westmorland, but the salary of the registrar was one third more. The last readjustment of salaries was made sixteen years ago. In several counties, including Gloucester and Madawaska, the receipts of the registrar's office were greater than they were at the time of the last readjustment of the salaries. The bill allowed the government to readjust the salaries of registrars and provides for the compensation of the registrars for the amount expended in postage.

The bill was agreed to; also that amending the Act relating to trustees, and an Act to legalize certain marriages, the latter being somewhat amended.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill relating to the duties of trustees of Kingston Consolidated School, district No. 1.

Mr. Slipp presented the report of the corporations committee.

Mr. Maclellan presented the petition of W. C. Winslow and others in favor of a bill to make valid certain sales under mortgage.

ST. JOHN BILLS.

The House went into committee again, Mr. Robison in the chair,

and took up the bill to incorporate the Lancaster Loan, Ltd.

This is a bill to incorporate a Real Estate and Loan Co., which seeks power to acquire land and do business in all parts of the country.

Mr. Burchill enquired if the legislature was qualified to give the company any rights and powers which would be operative outside of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said it had none whatever, and the promoters took the powers they asked for at their own risk.

At this stage the committee adjourned till eight o'clock.

Resuming after recess, Hon. Mr. Maxwell said he had communicated with the promoters of the bill, who were willing that the clause referred to should be struck out.

The bill was then agreed to, with some amendments.

The bill to provide for a Bureau of Labor was next taken up.

Mr. Hatheway explained that the Factory Act, passed in 1903, intended to create a Bureau of Labor, but not until 1904 was such bureau created. By that act a commissioner was appointed whose duty it should be to deal with disputes and labor troubles generally and endeavor to settle such matters as strikes and lockouts. The commissioner was intended to be one of the members of the government who would undertake the duty without any increase of salary. He would appoint agents in different parts of the province who would keep him posted up in affairs of interest to the bureau also gratuitously. In St. John, Mr. Wilmot, superintendent of immigration, had agreed to act as agent, and the factory inspector whose duty it was to visit the various industrial centres, would make his report to him. Agents would probably be appointed for other parts of the province, but no one would be appointed unless he was prepared to do the work for the honor and glory of it without any pay.

Mr. Burchill saw no use in the proposal, the benefits of which would be doubtful, to say the least. It might answer in St. John, where the work was somewhat in Mr. Wilmot's line, but in other towns he much doubted if any one would be found willing to work for nothing as the work contemplated would entail a lot of trouble and in case of a strike or lockout, would need a man of considerable experience to deal with it satisfactorily. Any one competent to do the work would want to be paid. If he was willing to work for nothing his work would probably be of little value.

The bill was agreed to, as also was the bill relating to the Bartibogue Boom Company, with certain amendments and an amended title.

The Speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. Wilson moved to suspend Rule 79, to permit of the introduction of a bill relating to Courtenay Bay, St. John.

Mr. Tweeddale presented the petition of the municipality of Victoria in favor of a bill to legalize the valuation of that county.

The House again went into committee on the whole on bills, Dr. Sormany in the chair, and agreed to the following bills:

The bill to incorporate the Sterling Realty, Ltd., after a section had been added requiring that the consent of the city council of St. John or the municipal council of St. John county, before exercising any of their franchise within these districts respectively; the bill relating to the Fredericton street paving; that relating to the levying and assessing rates and taxes in the city of St. John, after an amendment had been inserted, requiring that the sum of \$4,000 should be paid annually to Rockwood Park, and \$250 to River-view Park, Mr. Lowell objecting to the latter on the ground that it was a bad precedent to establish; the Fenton Land and Realty Co., Ltd., after an amendment had been made making the consent of the city council before the operation of the company could be commenced in the city of St. John; and the bill relating to civic elections in St. John, making the time for payment of rates in order to qualify to vote at such elections twenty-one days instead of fourteen, after an amendment to arbitrarily fix the date on the 20th of March, the act was not to come in force until 1911.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said in further answer to Mr. Bentley's enquiry as to what districts were exempt from the highway board, he found he was referring to section 84 of the 1908 act, which had reference to sparsely settled districts. In answering the department referred to that number in the amended act which has to do with bridges and wharves, therefore he had to say that the following roads were exempted from control of the board as per order in council, passed 6th July, 1909. The Highway from Tynemouth Creek to Fairfield, in the parish of St. Martins; the Handrin road from St. Martins to the county line in said parish of St. Martins; the main road from Musquash to Point Lepreaux in the parish of Musquash. In pursuance of that order in council, \$198.71 was laid out in those roads by the department, but it was paid through William Stymest, the secretary treasurer of the Lancaster Highway Board.

Hon. Mr. Flemming introduced a bill to make further provision for permanent bridges and works of a permanent character.

The House adjourned at 11.20.

D. J. SHEA

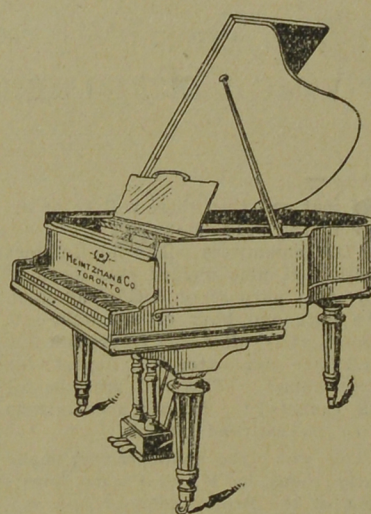
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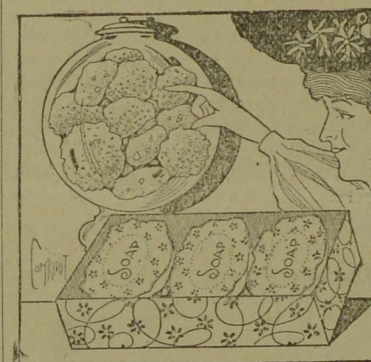
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Dated at Fredericton aforesaid, this twenty fifth day of February, A. D. 1910.

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