

# LAWS BEING MADE WITHOUT PROPER CONSIDERATION

## Valley Railway Bill Rushed Through in Twenty Minutes---Amendments Moved by Opposition Voted Down---Queer Government Legislation.

The business of the house is being rushed as it never was before, all the important legislation of the session has been crowded into the last few days of the session with the result that there has been no proper consideration of any of the measures. Two railroad charters were voted for in a few minutes and the government backed by its majority in the house passed a bill deciding a question by enacting a law, which properly should have been left to the courts to decide. Many private bills have gone through without any attention being paid to their provisions. As an exhibition of what is possible in legislation within a specified time, the performance of the legislature yesterday and today makes a record but if it is sought to give the house a record for careful well-considered legislation the result will not be found assuring.

### HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

On the House resuming at three o'clock Thursday, Hon. Mr. Flemming moved that the order for the third reading of the bill to make further provisions for permanent bridges and works of a permanent character be rescinded, and the bill be recommitted. His object in doing so, he said, was to give the house all the information possible with regard to the expenditure contemplated. Under the Act of 1907 on which the \$350,000 authorized to be raised for permanent bridges was all spent a number of bridges still remained to be attended to. Since the last meeting of the legislature \$15,679.75 had been spent on certain bridges the particulars of which are given on page A32 auditor general's report, the expenditure having been made prior to the end of the last fiscal year and no legislative provision had been made for it. Since the end of the last fiscal year and the opening of the legislature,

\$9,180.70 had been spent on other bridges which had been classified as permanent ones and for which also no legislative provision had been made. In addition to these bridges there were now under contract certain other permanent bridges which would require an expenditure of \$27,453. The total amount therefore required to be raised to meet these expenditures was \$54,392.95. Under the bill powers were sought to borrow \$200,000 to provide for the liability already incurred and to expend the balance in continuing the construction of the bridges or any of them named in the preamble of the 1907 Act.

Mr. Burchill enquired what was the difference between a permanent bridge and any other.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that permanent bridges were defined by an act of the legislature some years ago and all bridges must be classed by the engineer in accordance with that definition. But a lot of bridges had been constructed out of ordinary revenue which were on a most permanent kind.

Mr. Robinson said he hoped that the provincial secretary at the close of the present fiscal year would not transfer expenditure which had been made out of current account to capital account.

Hon. Mr. Flemming introduced a bill relating to the N.B. Coal and Railway, which he said was to provide for a payment due from the New Brunswick Coal and Railway company to the Intercolonial for rails, fastenings and other materials supplied during the years 1902-3 amounting to \$44,384.11 against which \$4,925 had been paid leaving a balance of \$39,459.11. In addition to that sum a further amount of \$9,459.94 for car service, freight balances, etc., down to the 30th March 1908 was owing. The bill just introduced was to provide for the payment of these sums. In addition to the above mentioned claim,

there was an item for interest amounting to \$12,000 but the premier in Ottawa had taken the matter up with the government officials there and had induced them to abandon the claim for interest. The account had been allowed to run on because of the claim on the government for a double subsidy on the construction of the road from Chipman to Minto which would have amounted to a sufficient sum to wipe out the account, but the department of railways refused to recognize the claim for double subsidy but he (Flemming) thought they would probably be induced to recognize some thirteen miles of sidings which had been constructed and allow a subsidy of \$3,200 in respect of those. He was glad to announce that the amount they expected to receive from this source would almost pay off the sum they were now called upon to borrow and when the amount was received it would be placed in the capital expenditure of the Central railway.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer introduced a bill to amend The Fishery Act, which provided that a tax of five dollars a year should be imposed upon non-resident anglers.

Mr. Burchill asked if the act would apply to non-resident owners of Fishery rights.

Mr. Grimmer replied in the negative.

The House went into Committee, Mr. Sproul in the chair and took up the bill to amend the Game Act.

Mr. Copp inquired whether the term "Resident" would include an owner of property who resided the greater part of his time out of the province to which Mr. Grimmer said no.

Mr. Sweeney said the question of residence was often a source of considerable difficulty and it seemed rather hard lines to some people who owned property in the province but who only occupied it a short period in each year that they should not be able to shoot over their own property. He thought some exception should be made in the case of wealthy men who built and maintained expensive establishments in the province though they only occupied them a short period. These men brought a good deal of money into the province and were a source of considerable profit to the laboring class and others whom they employed and he would regret to see conditions established which would drive them anywhere else. He would like to ask if any progress had been made in the negotiations which had been on foot for some years with the Dominion government on the fishery question and if there was any prospect of the matter being settled.

Mr. Copp said a lot of trouble had arisen in this connection in his neighborhood where people who lived in Amherst had property in New Brunswick and they seemed to take it rather hard that when they came to do a little shooting on their premises, they should be chased by game wardens as strangers.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer said it was a very difficult question to deal with. The Crown land office in the course of a season had very many applications for hunting licenses from young men whose homes were in the province but who had been living in other parts of the Dominion or the United States for some years. When they came back again to spend their vacation and seemed somewhat aggrieved when they were asked to pay a license at non-residence rates.

Mr. Tweeddale agreed with the principle laid down by the surveyor general and said there could be no doubt that visiting sportsmen were of considerable benefit to the province but the fishery regulations were quite arbitrary and discriminated against our own people. It was quite right for the government to sell fishing rights to foreigners if thereby the revenue could be increased but for rivers that are not put up for public sale the people should have some rights. Riparian owners were frequently prevented from exercising the privileges which they ought to have because some person or other happened to own the fishing rights in the river and he knew of many instances where considerable hardships had been occasioned by the arbitrary exercise by the fishery owners of their rights under their leases. All that the crown got for these leases was some fifty dollars a year, a sum which was a mere trifle compared with the amount of inconvenience which the owner of the land adjoining the river was subjected to. Men who had opened up the country and cleared it were often debarred from reaping the results of their labors as far as access to rivers was concerned and while it was a good thing to encourage foreigners to come into the country for the purpose of increasing the revenue, if there was any discrimination it should be in favor of the residents. He would like to see the same principle applied with regard to fishing as was the case with the game laws and he would suggest a tax of two dollars a day on non-residents and fifty cents a day for residents.

Col. Sheridan complained of the restrictions on the shooting of wild geese. These birds could be killed in every other province but New Brunswick and he saw no reason why it should be so.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer said application had been made to the Crown land office by some of the guides for permis-

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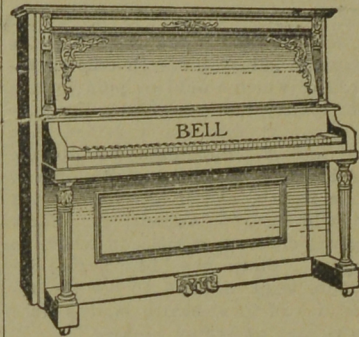
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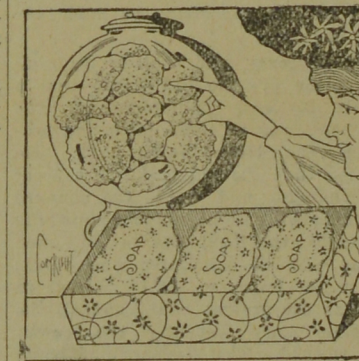


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3 FREDERICTON

sion to erect camps in various districts but he thought there should be no monopoly of territory in this way. The bill was agreed to. The next bill was that to amend section three, Chapter 170 C. S., 1903 respecting rates and taxes which provided that when a man claimed to set

(Continued on page 3.)



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