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THE HIGHWAY ACT WAS DISCUSSED IN LOCAL HOUSES

On Saturday 17—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy introduced bills relating to the St. John Suspension bridge, to amend the Highway Act and to amend the act authorizing the making of loans for the Normal School extension.

Hon. Mr. Baxter introduced a bill to amend the Bills or Sale Act, which he said was to enable a portion of the goods comprised in a bill of sale to be discharged from its operation.

Hon. Dr. Landry presented the annual report of the provincial board of health, and a statement of the bonded indebtedness of Madawaska.

The house went into committee with Mr. White (Carleton) in the chair, and agreed to the bills to incorporate Richibucto and Rexton for electric light, power and heat purposes, and to the bill to authorize the County of Victoria to sell certain lands. Progress was reported on the former, and the Victoria county bill was agreed to, with certain amendments.

THE HIGHWAY ACT.

The house again went into committee with Col. Black in the chair and took up the consideration of the bill to amend the Highway Act.

Mr. Slipp, on the section requiring the supervisor to pay the taxes to be collected to the county treasurer, wanted to know why this should be. The supervisor had to spend the money and having also collected it, why should he not pay it away again?

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said it was to place the supervisor more under control. It was frequently claimed that the supervisors received money which they did not account for, and this section was intended as an extra precaution against this.

Mr. White (Carleton) asked if the supervisors had to obtain the permission of the county secretary or anybody else before he could spend the money.

Mr. White (Carleton) asked if the supervisor had to obtain permission of the county secretary on anybody else before he could spend the money.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy replied in the negative, and said the supervisor, having collected the money, would know just how much he had to spend and could therefore go ahead with the work.

Mr. Slipp was of the opinion that it was very inconvenient for some of the supervisors to send the money to the treasurer. Many of them lived at a considerable distance from that official, and it often happened that money collected one year was not spent until the next. He thought the supervisor should be trusted to keep the money without handing it in to the treasurer, for if a supervisor was not found trustworthy he wouldn't be retained in office for twenty-four hours.

Hon. Mr. Baxter—"It takes a good deal longer than twenty-four hours sometimes to find out whether anything is wrong to begin with."

Mr. White (Carleton) wanted to know whether the supervisors would get a commission on the money collected.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy replied they would get the same pay when they were out collecting as when they were at work on the road.

Mr. Carter asked why power was given to take money collected from from one division and to spend it on the roads in another.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said that it occasionally arose that such a course was necessary.

Mr. Dickson was strongly opposed to money collected in one part of a division being spent on the road in any other part. That had been done before, and his honorable friends would remember that was one of the troubles they had with the LaBillois Act, which left the whole power in the hands of the supervisor.

Mr. Woods declared that the section as drawn was perfectly correct. In the different parts of a district the roads varied considerably. In some parts where the money people lived the roads were very good, and a little further away here the poorer people lived there were just the reverse, and he believed that the money collected in any district should be spent anywhere in that district where it was most wanted, but if the honorable member for Kings had his way that wouldn't be done.

Mr. White (Carleton) said that principle wouldn't work in Carleton either.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said the object of the section was to make it so that the money collected in the wealthy parts of the district should be spent in the poorer parts where it was most needed, but the money collected in any district must all be spent in that district.

Mr. Slipp wanted to know why it was necessary for supervisors to make a copy of the return furnished to the department for the county secretary. A good many of these supervisors, though first-class men on the

roads, were not particularly good scribes, and he thought it would be simpler to have the department furnish the county secretary with a copy of the return.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said it was another case of providing better protection for the public.

Mr. Perley wanted to know why the county council was expected to be the deciding body when a drain was taken across any property, and damages were claimed.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said it was intended to provide against any hardship being inflicted on the owner of any land. There might be a case of a supervisor having a personal feeling against a man and doing more damage to the land than when taking a drain across it when necessary. It was thought that the members of the council would be impartial men, that was why it was left to them.

Mr. Carter said he noticed that the authority was given to the supervisor only. He thought that the party aggrieved should have just as much right to appeal to the council as the supervisor.

Mr. Mahoney wanted to know if the supervisor of one district could go into another district and take stone or gravel to repair his own roads.

Mr. Carter thought to do this was a mistake, as it might easily be that one supervisor, if that sort of thing was permitted, might very soon take away from another a large quantity of valuable road material. He certainly thought the supervisors should be kept at their own districts.

Hon. Mr. Baxter agreed with the last speaker, but said he did not imagine the difficulty would often occur, because unless a district was a very small one he would surely be able to get his road material somewhere out of it.

Mr. Tilley asked if the action permitted the taking of stone and gravel from the shore was in the old act, if not, what was its object?

Hon. Mr. Baxter said it was a new provision, and its chief object was to enable the Parish of Lancaster to repair the Mahogany road. The rights in the shore below highwater mark did not belong to the riparian owner and the public had a perfect right to make such use of the material of the shore provided no disturbance or detriment was caused to the adjoining property. In many places along the shore gravel was piling up and small quantities could safely be taken away for road-repairing without any danger at all to the riparian owners.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that supervisors taking stone and gravel from the shore would only take it from proper places where, for instance, there was a rock outcrop. Honorable members must expect supervisors to be reasonable men. Owners of the uplands must not think that they own the beach as well, for such was not the case. Lots of them were selling gravel from the beach adjoining their lands at ten cents a load. The sole right to sell stone and gravel from the beach was vested in the crown and not in any private individual.

Mr. Woods thought this should be applicable to all waters. He knew of places where good beach gravel was available on non-tidal waters, but the supervisors were prevented by some greedy persons from obtaining it.

Mr. Slipp said that two years ago several scow loads of gravel were being taken away from the Bay Shore every night and he wondered that something had not been done to prevent it. He also favored the plan to make the section applicable to all waters and strike out the word "tidal."

Mr. Carter said the house might well trust the supervisors to act honestly. They would not take gravel for any other purpose than for the roads.

The bill to amend the act respecting the solemnization of marriages was also agreed to, with amendments. The bill provides for issuing a temporary authority to solemnize marriages to persons who if residents of the province might be authorized.

Hon. Dr. Landry introduced a bill to amend the New Brunswick Factories Act.

Hon. Mr. Clarke moved that when the house adjourn it stand adjourned until Monday at 8.30 p.m.

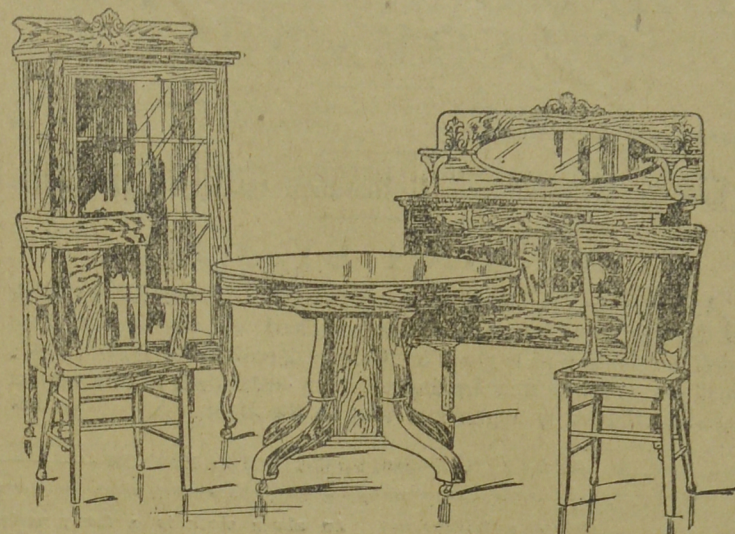
The house adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

MISSING BOY

(Continued from page eight.) Column and the 28th Battery, as well as a couple of hundred civilians, began an organized search for the boy. His Worship the Mayor took a prominent part in this. The searchers extended along the railway lines from Forest Hill Road to Hanwell Road. They went up the hill and about three and a half miles south of the city. Some parties crossed the "bog," but no trace of the boy was found.

Young Johnson attended the Model School, where he was in Miss Harvey's department. He was a regular attendant. His father last autumn sent his wife and some of the children back to England but the remainder of the family stayed here.

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