

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

To the Memorial Presented by the Lumbermen

OF THE PROVINCE IN REGARD TO STUMPAGE QUESTION.

Rate Raised to \$1.25.

The following report from the provincial government to the memorial presented by the lumbermen and limit holders association at Chatham on September 29th, has been received:

Messrs. Hilyard, Kilgour Shives, W. B. Snowball, John A. Moore, G. G. King, E. Hutchinson, R. A. Lawlor, committee of the lumbermen and limit holders association.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you that I submitted to the executive council your memorial of the 29th September last, and to say that the matters therein referred to have received my careful consideration.

As you have made recommendations in reference to the administration of the crown lands which are very important, it will perhaps be well to refer to them in detail, and to acquaint you with the views of the government in respect thereto, under the different headings.

1. The question of allowing tops to be removed without payment of stumpage is one involving serious difficulties, and after consultation with the officers of the department, who are fully competent to judge upon these matters, the executive council has reluctantly been forced to the conclusion that it cannot accede to your views. You will remember that this matter was brought up before the department of crown lands some years ago and the surveyor general endeavored to meet the views of the lumbermen in this regard, but, finding that advantage was taken throughout the different sections of the province by certain operators who claimed that a certain percentage of their cut was on tops alone and therefore should not be liable to stumpage, it became necessary to adopt a different policy, and for this and other reasons it is not considered advisable in the public interests that the present policy in this regard should be departed from.

2. While the executive council is impressed with the view put forward in the several paragraphs of your memorial with reference to the increased cost attending the procuring of lumber and getting it to market, yet it should be borne in mind that the province has in recent years expended large amounts of money in the building of railways, which have very considerably lessened the cost of taking the supplies to the head waters of the rivers where lumbering operations are carried on, and this fact, as the reduced cost of supplies, should be taken into consideration in determining what would be a fair rate of stumpage. It must also be borne in mind that since the adoption by the government of the policy of granting the licenses for 25 years, the value of the holdings of licensees has increased enormously. Many licensees who purchased at the upset price of \$8 per square mile, now hold their lands at \$100 and upwards; and while it may be true that the cost of procuring the lumber has increased, owing to the higher rate of wages now prevailing, it is within the knowledge of the executive that the price of lumber in the local markets has very largely increased, and is in many cases nearly fifty per cent. higher than it was ten years ago. These facts cannot be ignored by the government as trustees of the public in determining this question.

3. The question of having different rates of stumpage in different sections of the province is a very important one, and the executive council has felt that a great deal could be said in favor of discriminating in this regard, having reference to the accessibility to markets, the facilities

for procuring lumber, difference in freights and other circumstances, but it has been decided to acquiesce in the views put forward by you in behalf of the lumbermen and continue the uniform rates throughout the province.

4. In respect to recommendation No. 4 contained in your memorial, the executive council feels that it would not be in the interests of the province that a regulation of general effect should be made regarding the reduction of stumpage to operators cutting on burnt districts, but has decided that in cases of this kind application must be made to the surveyor general, and by him referred to the committee of council for decision, and each case will be dealt with upon its merits; but the general opinion is that only in very exceptional cases should any reduction be made.

5. In regard to your recommendation No. 5, the executive council recognizes that there are throughout the province certain areas under license upon which the timber is not likely at any time, when cut, to become what would be termed merchantable; but the same remarks as made in reference to No. 4 must apply to these cases, namely, each case must be the subject of special application and receive the sanction of the executive, upon report of an officer of the crown land department.

6. With regard to the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of the memorial, the executive council has decided that new regulations shall be made for the better protection of the forests from fire and that ample means will be employed to protect the timber lands throughout the province.

7. The recommendation contained in paragraph 7 that all persons going in the woods during the dry season shall first have to secure a license from some person duly authorized for that purpose, would be difficult of enforcement, but the executive council will carefully consider as to what can be done in this particular.

8. The executive council has given full consideration to the comparative statement of the scales and rates of stumpage in the provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario and likewise the amount paid for renewals.

The executive council is, however, of the opinion that the scales and rates of stumpage and renewal charges in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario do not afford a safe guide upon which the government could act in the discharge of its duty to the people of this province. The charges to be made for the public property must be based upon the conditions existing in New Brunswick, and it is the duty of the executive to improve such rates as the state of the lumber business from time to time will reasonably warrant. After the very fullest and most careful consideration the executive council has determined that a fair rate to now improve would be for renewal licenses the sum of \$8 per square mile, and that the stumpage rate should be \$1.25 per thousand upon spruce, pine, fir and cedar, and a proportionate rate on other lumber.

The above rate of stumpage will be exacted upon the cut of the present season, and the increased mileage charge on renewal licenses will be enforced on all future renewals.

Regulations will be made to carry this decision into effect and any legislation which may be deemed necessary by the executive to bring the proposed exchanges into operation will be submitted.

"Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves."

Large things are but an aggregation of small things. If we take care of the small things we are in effect taking care of the large things which the small things combine to make.

Take care of what you eat, when you eat, and how you eat, and your stomach will take care of itself. But who takes care of such trivial things? That is why, someday, the majority of people have to take care of the stomach. When that day comes, there is no aid so effective in undoing the results of past carelessness as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, and restores the organs of digestion, and nutrition to a condition of healthy activity. It cures biliousness, heartburn, flatulence, indigestion, palpitation, dizziness, cold extremities and a score of other ailments which are but the symptoms of disorder in the stomach and its allied organs.

to the legislative assembly for enactment.

9. With reference to the suggestion of your committee contained in paragraph 9 of the memorial, that in case of the intention of the government to raise the stumpage, the term of the present leases should be extended for a period of 25 years from the date of the increased stumpage, the executive council would call your attention to the fact that at the time the policy of granting long leases was determined upon, it was clearly understood by the lumbermen that the right was reserved to the government at any time to increase the stumpage, and also the mileage rate; and in view of this fact, the government does not think it desirable that the question of granting a further extension should form an element in considering the amount of stumpage and mileage rate to be paid.

10. Referring to paragraph 10 of the memorial, while the executive council recognizes, to the fullest extent the great desirability of preserving from encroachment of trespassers the licensed crown timber lands of the province, yet it cannot accede to the proposition which is suggested in the 10th paragraph that the vacant lands of this province should, simply because they are under license, not be opened for settlement. The policy of the government is that whatever suitable lands for settlement are available throughout the province, the fullest opportunity should be given to bona fide applicants to settle upon such lands. The department, however, will be careful in the future, as in the past, to scrutinize all applications, in order to determine that they are bona fide, and will only approve of applications that are made in districts where the land is suitable for agricultural purposes and for settlement.

11. As to the statement in paragraph 11 of your memorial, the government intends to introduce an act relating to the survey and exportation of lumber, so as to meet the difficulties suggested in this paragraph.

12. The suggestion made in paragraph 12 of the memorial merits favorable consideration, and it is the intention of the government, as far as possible, to have base lines run over all the crown lands, so that the evil complained of may be remedied.

13. With regard to the suggestion contained in the 13th paragraph of the memorial, the government is unable to see its way clear to make any general regulation allowing for the cut of logs of a smaller size than that already provided for.

In conclusion, the executive council desires me to say that the preservation and protection of the crown timber lands of the province have been the subject of the very greatest consideration, recognizing as it does, the great importance to the province of preserving and encouraging this great industry. The executive council is fully aware that the policy which was adopted in 1893 of granting long leases has been an important feature in this direction, having given an incentive which did not previously exist to the licensees to take all possible means to protect their holdings. The question of whether or not it is desirable to still further extend the terms of the licenses, thereby ensuring greater permanency of tenure, is one of great importance and will receive the most careful attention. In this connection, it may be proper to observe that the executive council recognizes the equitable claims of those who have invested large amounts of money in the erection of mills, the building of booms, wharves, etc., in connection with the carrying on of lumbering and milling operations, to hold lands for the purpose of supplying their mills. Upon the other hand, your committee will readily recognize the obligations which may be urged and which would naturally have weight with the people of the province against permanently locking up its timber lands without first affording an opportunity to all persons to acquire an interest therein, if they saw fit to do so. In considering this question, it must be approved from the standpoint of the public interest, and also with a view to protecting the larger number of persons throughout the province who are engaged in this industry. The government recognizes the great importance of speedily arriving at a proper conclusion, and your committee may rely upon the subject receiving the fullest consideration.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. T. DUNN,
Surveyor general.
Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 4, 1903.

EDNA HOPPER.

Well Known Actress After Dunsmuir Fortune.

EVIDENCE SHOWS ALEX. DUNSMUIR WAS OF UNSOUND MIND DUE TO DRINK.

Victoria, B. C. Dec. 4.—The will case in which Edna Wallace Hopper seeks to break the will of the late Alexander Dunsmuir who left his property to James Dunsmuir, on the ground of incompetency and undue influence, was commenced yesterday. The evidence consisted of depositions before commissions in New York.

Mrs. Hopper's mother married Alex. Dunsmuir in California in 1899, and was wedded a property at San Leandro worth \$300,000. Alex. Dunsmuir died in New York in 1900, leaving his share in the coal mines, railway, etc., valued at over a million dollars to his brother. Mrs. Dunsmuir, plaintiff's mother, died in 1901, having some months before made an agreement with James Dunsmuir's attorney to abandon all claim to the estate for a consideration of \$25,000 a year and to retain the San Leandro farm.

Plaintiff is asking that Alex. Dunsmuir's will be set aside owing to the testator's mental incapacity. She also asks that the agreement with her mother be set aside on the ground of undue influence, and that James Dunsmuir be restrained from disposing of the property and a receiver appointed.

E. V. Bodwell, for plaintiff, in opening the case, said Alex. Dunsmuir was so addicted to drink that his death was caused by alcoholic dementia, and he was unable to carry on his business.

The evidence taken in New York was then read. Dr. B. Marshall, deposed he knew Alex. Dunsmuir in San Francisco. He was on the verge of delirium tremens. He was subject to hallucination, and believed efforts were being made to poison him. When sick he forced his daughter to take his food or medicine. "You taste this, kid," he said. He called his daughter "kid." Once he wanted his coal mines brought in and placed on his bed. He was devoted to Mrs. Dunsmuir.

Edward Crownenshield, a Wall Street broker, relative of Admiral Crownenshield, told of Mr. Dunsmuir's drunken habits and break down caused by alcoholism.

Dr. Calver, of New York, deposed of having attended Mr. Dunsmuir for alcoholic dementia. He believed him to have been practically of unsound mind for the last few years.

Dr. Drummond deposed to attending Mrs. Dunsmuir at the time of Alex. Dunsmuir's death, and recommended an operation. He advised her not to go to San Francisco, but she did, taking her husband's remains. She went to Victoria a month later, and her disease advanced

during that visit, affecting her mental condition. She had spoken of contesting her husband's will. She did not have a good business head, and was likely to be influenced by James Dunsmuir. He wanted Mrs. Hopper to go to Europe. His attitude toward her and Mrs. Dunsmuir was affectionate.

The reading of the depositions taken by commissions will continue today.

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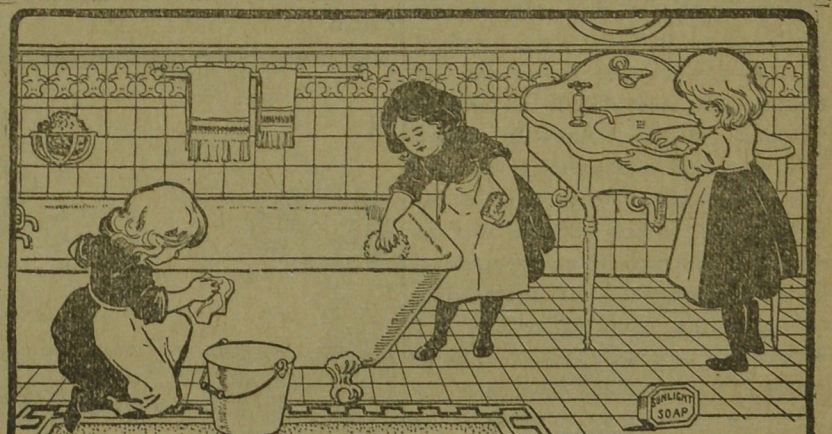
Three Halifax Recruits.

Halifax Chronicle: Not many men go from Halifax to the Fredericton depot, but two were accepted a few days ago, and one a week or two previous. The two accepted were Clarence B. Saunders, of Halifax, and Ed. Dormay, a born Londoner. Saunders was in the 3rd R. C. R. here and had been in the city ever since. Both were likely looking men and, having passed the medical examination here, were forwarded. They were enlisted for three years and the pay is 50 cents per day. The young man enlisted previously was English born and came to Nova Scotia in a batch from a boys' home. He was put with a farmer and ran away. He was sent back again, but ran away once more, saying he was badly treated. He then went to one of the coal mines, but could not stand the hard work. He landed in Halifax without a cent in his pocket and decided to enlist in the Canadian infantry. Being without a dollar to pay for the required medical examination he was in a quandary, but the kind-hearted wife of a well known medical man, an officer in the militia, fed him and saw to it that her husband examined him. He passed the "exam." was handed a dollar by a well known militia officer, given his transport by the department, and with enough food, furnished by the lady referred to, left for Fredericton as happy as could be.

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