

PROPOSED A HOIST.

Mr. Copp Moved it on the St. John Bank Tax Bill.

CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND PROGRESS REPORTED.

In the legislature Thursday afternoon, the bill in further amendment of the law relating to the levying and assessing of rates and taxes in St. John was taken up. This bill alters the method of taxing banks, imposing a license fee of \$500 on banks not having their head office in St. John and a tax of one fifteenth of one per cent. on the average amounts of loans and deposits. It also alters the mode of taxing the bank of New Brunswick by relieving it of any assessment on its capital stock and requiring it to pay a license fee of \$2,500 and also fore fifteenth of one per cent. on its average loans and deposits.

Mr. Purdy said that the bill as amended had been agreed to by the common council of the city of St. John and the three members for St. John were also in favor of it, so he thought it ought to pass.

Mr. Copp opposed the bill and moved the three months' hoist. The common council of St. John are not unanimous with regard to this bill. He was opposed to the taxation of branch banks by a license fee, because it is an unjust class of legislation and because if we do this for St. John every city and town in the province will be asking authority to impose a similar license fee on branch banks.

Mr. Grimmer seconded Mr. Copp's resolution, saying the effect of this legislation if passed would not end here. Only two or three years ago application was made by the St. Stephen bank to tax the branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia in that town, and if it had been granted the Bank of Nova Scotia would have been driven out of business in St. Stephen. The same thing was done in Caisis at the instance of the National Bank there and the Bank of Nova Scotia was driven out.

Mr. Robertson.—After much labour and discussion the bill has been prepared and has been accepted by the common council for the city of St. John. There is no reason why great corporations such as banks, should not pay a fair rate of taxation. The question of civic assessment is a most difficult one and this is one of the efforts of the city of St. John to solve it.

Mr. Osman—I listened with much surprise to the motion of the hon. member from Westmorland. It seems to me to be a lack of courtesy since the three members from St. John are unanimous in favor of the bill and since the matter has been fully thrashed out in the committee and is favorable to all parties concerned.

Mr. Loggie—I am strongly opposed to the passing of the bill with the amendment which to my mind does not pertain to the act as presented. The Bank of New Brunswick it seems to be taxed on an entirely different basis from the other banks, and if this is to be so, separate legislation should be sought.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I must express a considerable degree of surprise when after the bill had received a thorough investigation in committee, after delegations of bankers and the common council of St. John had been heard, after the bill had received the unanimous approval of the three members from the city of St. John that a member from another county should move that it be given the three months' hoist. The bill has been approved of by the three members and also by a resolution from the city council of St. John. I think the arrangement proposed in the bill is most equitable. It has been agreed that other cities and towns might also wish to increase the tax on local banks. I think this will be a sufficient indication that the people think the banks should pay more, and they are in a position to know. Since the bill has been thrashed out in committee and is satisfactory to the members from St. John, it is very desirable that it should be adopted.

Mr. Hazen.—I am strongly opposed to any tinkering with the system of assessment in the city in regard to banks. It is a decided mistake to go to work piecemeal and seek legislation to tax certain banks instead of attempting to devise a general act which will cover all cases. I dispute the statement that the city council of St. John is in favor of the bill, since at the recent meeting only seven out of nine were in favor, there being 16 members in the council, and the other seven accepted a compromise because they were afraid the House was against them. The system of assessment in St. John is antiquated and bad, and a system

should be provided more in keeping with the advancement and progress of the time.

Progress was reported.

INDIANS IN COURT

Created Somewhat of a Sensation at Toronto.

Toronto News: For the first time in the history of the Toronto police court, Police Magistrate Denison was called upon to try a case of alleged sale of liquor to an Indian. Under the Dominion Indian Act this is an offence punishable by at least one month's imprisonment, without the option of a fine. James Comford, bartender at the Little Union Hotel, was charged with selling brandy to George Rufus Smith, a half breed of Mississauga extraction.

Peter Sault, George's father, was the complainant, and the first witness.

"Are you a full-blooded Indian?" said Mr. Curry.

"No, sir, I am sorry to say we have been whitewashed," was the reply.

To Mr. Haverson, who appeared for Comford, Sault said he never used the title "doctor," although he was a duly qualified Indian medicine man and ex-Councillor in his own country.

Sault, the younger, who was alleged to have secured the intoxicants contrary to law, said he had bed and breakfast at the Little Union on the day in question. He stated that the liquor was supplied to him without demur when he told the bartender he was not feeling well.

This man might easily be mistaken for an Italian or a Frenchman," said Colonel Denison as he scrutinized the dark features of the witness.

"Does your worship suggest that every Indian should be labelled when he goes into a bar-room?" said Mr. Curry.

The magistrate observed that Indians were not seen very often on the streets of Toronto. The citizens were not so well acquainted with the distinguishing physical characteristics of the red skin, as the citizens of Brantford, for instance, which is close to an Indian reserve.

The defendant Comford denied that he supplied Sault with liquor. His evidence was corroborated by George Walker, an intelligent half-breed from Shanoville, who was with Sault at the time. The case was dismissed.

ORILLA'S DAM BROKE.

And the Town's Electric Lights Were Extinguished.

(Special to the Daily Herald).

Orilla, Ont., April 8.—The concrete dam of Orilla's municipal electric light plant at Ragged Rapids on the Severn River gave way yesterday and, as a consequence the city was without lights or power last night.

The dam is about 180 feet wide, with a head of 30 feet, but at one point there is a pool in the river extending the dam's length to about 50 feet, and at this place the break occurred.

When this portion of the dam was constructed, it was undermined two or three times by quicksand and it is probable the present break was due to this cause.

WORSE THAN OURS.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Paris, April 8.—Despatches received here state that an earthquake occurred in the villages of Kossovo and Salonica, Macedonia, in which twenty-five persons were killed, and forty injured. Fifteen hundred houses were destroyed.

TREATY SIGNED.

(Special to the Daily Herald.)

Paris, April 8.—It is learned through private advices from London, that the Anglo-French Colonial treaty, including the agreements relating to Morocco, Egypt and Newfoundland, has been signed.

A Rainy Day Hint.

"Ever notice how many men hang on to their morning papers on a rainy day?" inquired a Harlemitte.

"No? Well, they keep them to dry their shoes. There are nearly a score of clerks in our office, and on fair days they leave their newspapers in their trains or boats, but when the streets are wet they keep them.

"Every one except the old fashioned fellows who wear overshoes puts his morning paper under his desk and plants his wet boots on it. Remarkable thing how the paper, being more absorbent than the leather, extracts the dampness from a pair of shoes. In half an hour the wet papers are kicked aside, and the clerks have avoided the discomfort of working all day in wet shoes."

Bridal Customs In Spain.

In Spain a bride has no girl attendants to stand at the altar with her, but instead a "madrina," or godmother; neither does she have a wedding cake or any festive going away after the ceremony. The wedding pair depart quietly to their new home, where they remain until the following day, when they start on their honeymoon. Before departing they pay a formal visit to their respective relatives.

His Trouble.

"Have any buzzing in your ears?" asked the doctor, who was trying to diagnose the case.

"No," replied Mr. Henpeck, "not except when I have to stay in the house."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Family Diplomacy.

"I turn all my bills over to my wife." "Does she have the money?" "No, the nerve."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Funeral Collections.

In the course of a trial at Carnarvon it was stated that in north Wales the custom prevails of making a collection from those present at funerals, the money being handed to the clergy or ministers instead of burial fees.

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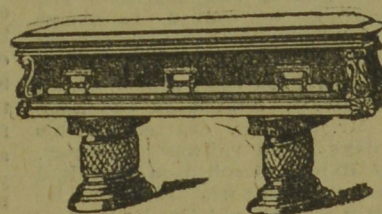
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