

EXPORTATION OF SAW LOGS.

The Enquiry by Special Committee of Legislature.

MADAWASKA LUMBERMEN AND PULP MEN OPPOSE PROPOSITION

On the Ground that U. S. Will Retaliate.

MESSRS. J. F. GREGORY AND HENRY HILYARD FAVOR THE RESOLUTION.

The special committee appointed by the Legislature a short time ago to make enquiries in regard to the advisability of prohibiting the exportation of round logs cut on the crown lands of New Brunswick, met on Tuesday afternoon and heard the testimony of John M. Stevens, J. Fraser Gregory, Henry Hilyard, Ernest Vickery and A. H. Hanington, K. C.

Premier Tweedie occupied the chair, the other members being Hon. Dr. Pugsley, Hon. George F. Hill, J. K. Flemming, W. C. H. Grimmer, John Morrissey and James Burgess.

Premier Tweedie read a copy of the resolution moved in the legislature by Mr. Flemming, and explained that the committee had decided to summon witnesses from those interested in the lumbering industry in order that the fullest information might be obtained. He read over a list of the witnesses summoned and explained that a number had not yet arrived in the city but would be here on Tuesday next. It was agreed not to swear the witnesses, Messrs. Isabell Mowatt, of St. John, was sworn to take a verbatim report of the evidence.

Mr. John M. Stevens

of Edmundston, who was first called, said he thought it would be very unwise to pass the resolution. He was familiar with conditions above Grand Falls and knew that prior to the present year there was not a New Brunswick spruce log manufactured in the American mills and less than half a million of cedar. If the bill was passed he thought the Americans would retaliate and prevent American logs from coming down the river, which would result in a serious loss to the province. He was interested in a company that held a number of crown timber licenses in the upper section of the province. They had expended a hundred thousand dollars in Madawaska, and fully 95 per cent of the amount expended in labor was expended in this province, only five per cent being expended in Maine. They owned a mill in the state of Maine where the logs were manufactured. Thirty per cent of the employees were from the county of Madawaska and turn home each night. They never experienced any difficulty on account of alien labor laws. Fully 50 per cent of the men who worked in the Maine lumber woods were Canadians. He thought if the resolution was passed it would result in a form of retaliation that would do great harm in New Brunswick. He did not think that the lumber cut on crown lands in Madawaska by his firm and sent to Maine exceeded 1,500,000 this year. The greatest expenditure was made in getting the logs out, the manufacturing of them being of less importance. He thought the lumber cut by his concern on private lands in this province and taken to Maine would be in the vicinity of fourteen million a year. If the American territory was cut off, only the St. John market would be left to the up river lumbermen, and this would mean a reduction in the price.

In answer to Mr. Flemming, Mr. Stevens said he thought if the lumber now cut in this province and sent to

Maine was manufactured in New Brunswick that it would result in little benefit to the province. He did not think a corporal's guard of the people in Madawaska were in favor of the proposed change. The VanBuren Lumber Company hired a great many of their men in New Brunswick, and the rate of wages on the Canadian side was the same as prevailed in Maine.

Premier Tweedie said that according to the records the crown owned 500 square miles of land in the counties of Madawaska and Victoria, three hundred in the former and two hundred in the latter county.

Mr. Stevens thought the proposed regulation would make trouble for the St. John lumbermen, and would certainly result in the exclusion of American lumber from New Brunswick by the adoption of an export duty. He did not think that St. John was now the only outlet for American lumber cut on the St. John river, though it was prior to the construction of the Bangor and Aroostook railway. He advocated leaving well enough alone. There was nothing to gain, in his opinion, by agitating this question at the present time. The men interested in the American mills were influential, and could work harm to New Brunswick if they were so minded. If the change was made it would not effect the lumber cut on granted lands in New Brunswick, and the mills would still be able to get sufficient lumber on the Canadian side of the line. The VanBuren Lumber Company held timber limits in New Brunswick and paid a high price for them. They would certainly not have bought them had they known that there was a possibility of their being prevented from cutting the lumber from them.

In reply to Mr. Gregory Mr. Stevens said he knew nothing about the operations of the St. John Lumber Company lately established at VanBuren.

Mr. J. Fraser Gregory

complained that several of the witnesses summoned, notably Mr. Cushing, Mr. Warner and Mr. Cochrane, were American citizens, and he did not think the New Brunswick legislature should legislate in their interests. The leases held by his firm in Quebec were taken subject to orders in council, and after the Temiscouata Railway was constructed they were compelled to have their cedar manufactured in Quebec. He thought the regulation most unfair at the time and had strongly objected to it. His firm alone sent over five hundred thousand of cedar into the state of Maine from their operations on the St. Francis. He admitted that cedar brought a better price when sawn on the American side, but our people lost the benefit of the labor. In reply to the attorney general, Mr. Gregory said he did not think it was economy to have unnecessary labor performed, nor did he think it was in the interests of New Brunswick to assist in building up American railroads, such as the Bangor and Aroostook. It was true the Restigouche and western railroad did not pass through the extensive Crown lumber lands in Madawaska County, but it certainly will in the County of Restigouche and it is then that the real sapping of our Crown lands will commence. The St. John lumber company at VanBuren now have twenty million feet of lumber for shipment and it was not all cut in American territory.

This company he believed contemplated erecting a large pulp mill in the near future, and expected to draw their stock from both sides of the river. He believed it would be in the interests of the country to prohibit the exportation of unmanufactured lumber. If the government set the example it would have a good moral effect on the owners of private lands, and possibly the New Brunswick Railway Company might be induced to follow the example.

Mr. Gregory was asked if he thought the American government would repeal the statute which allows American lumber to be manufactured in St. John and forwarded to the States free of duty. In reply he said he hardly thought the Americans would retaliate, as the local government would be doing nothing at which they could take offence. Anyway he thought the Ashburton treaty would guard against the Americans making the change. The amount of lumber to be affected was so small that they would take no notice of it. He

thought that a person erecting a mill on the upper St. John would be foolish, if under present conditions he did not build it on American territory, as he would then have both sides of the river to draw upon. It cost from \$150 to \$200 to manufacture lumber and about \$8 to get logs out of the woods to mill. He believed as good prices could be obtained by sending the logs to St. John as by disposing of them in VanBuren. The market was dull at present, but two months from now they would be able to outbid the VanBuren Co. Messrs. Cunliffe, who were his firm's largest operators in Maine, had, up to the present, not been able to dispose of their last season's cut. The establishment of the St. John Lumber Co.'s mill at VanBuren had as yet no apparent effect on the New Brunswick lumber market other than to advance the price of cedar. If that concern was allowed to obstruct the river and harass St. John operators, it would not be long before the latter would be compelled to go out of business. In regard to the Winding-Ledges dam scheme Mr. Gregory thought it had only been chloroformed and would be heard from again. The attorney general was inclined to dissent from this view.

In reply to Mr. Flemming, Mr. Gregory said it would undoubtedly be to the advantage of New Brunswick to have all the lumber manufactured within the province. There was no doubt that the American market was the best for shingles and laths. He was not in the position to say that if the export of round logs was prohibited, that our millmen would be compelled to pay the 30 cents a thousand American duty on shingles. In all probability the duty would be paid by the consumer. The number of shingle mills had decreased in the province because more shingles were now manufactured at VanBuren than formerly. It was also true that the supply had somewhat decreased.

Mr. Hilyard's Views.

Mr. Henry Hilyard thought the logs taken on the New Brunswick side should, where possible, be conserved for our New Brunswick mill men. With the competition at VanBuren the local operator obtained larger price for his lumber and was no doubt benefited by the present system. He endorsed what Mr. Gregory said about the falling off in the supply of cedar for New Brunswick mills because of the competition they had to meet at VanBuren. The Americans can come into our market and buy logs, and they have both the American and English markets open to them, which puts our millmen at a disadvantage. When our lumbermen are short of logs we cannot get them from United States. He considered that cedar cut on Tobique waters was quite the equal of American cedar. The reason that there was such a brisk demand in Maine for New Brunswick cedar was that the stampage was less on this side of the line.

In answer to Mr. Flemming the witness said he thought it would be in the interests of New Brunswick to have the cedar logs manufactured here. He did not know what quantity of logs cut on crown lands was sent into the United States.

Mr. Ernest Vickery, of the Chatham pulp mill, was the first witness called at the evening session. He expressed himself as being strongly opposed to prohibiting the exportation of round logs, on the ground that it would lead to retaliation on the part of the United States. The imposition of a duty on pulp wood entering the United States would be ruinous to the pulp industry in New Brunswick, as the United States supplied the principal market for the product.

Mr. A. H. Hanington, K. C., representing the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company of St. John, opposed the resolution on the same grounds as did Mr. Vickery.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hanington's testimony the committee adjourned till Tuesday morning when Mr. Cushing of St. John, and George A. Marchie of Calais, will present their views.

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A BUSY DAY.

Members had on their Working Clothes

AND PUT THROUGH A LOT OF MEASURES.

Premier Tweedie Denounced Opposition Newspaper's Fiction.

GOVERNMENT GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED ON THE TEMPERANCE DELEGATION INTERVIEW.

On Wednesday afternoon Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the House copies of the correspondence between the Royal Trusts Company and the Crown Land Department with reference to the lands leased by the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company.

Question of Privilege.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said in rise to a question of privilege. I am not in the habit of objecting to newspaper criticism because I recognize the fact that such criticism may be proper when based on the truth. But I wish to draw attention to an article which appears in the Sun today headed "A hopeless Mission." The article begins as follows: "The temperance delegation which waited upon Premier Tweedie yesterday was turned down and that with more bluntness than diplomacy. Though the delegates may feel resentment at the treatment accorded them they can hardly be disappointed at the result of their mission, for unless they are very forgetful and possessed of an unusual amount of faith it is impossible that they expected the government to which they made their request to grant them any concessions. The record of the government shows it to be decidedly opposed to temperance reform, etc."

I pronounce the statements contained in this article to be absolutely and unqualifiedly false. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Everett, who interviewed the government, will not state that they were "turned down" in any way.

The facts are that early in February the Rev. Mr. Hamilton called on me at the Royal Hotel, in St. John, and asked me to name a day when he and other representatives of temperance could be heard in regard to amendments to the liquor license act. I said the government would meet him at four o'clock the next afternoon, and in the meantime I notified the other members of the government to be present. While on my way down to the government building next afternoon, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton handed me a letter in which he said that the temper-

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ance men were not quite ready to present their case but would meet the government later on.

This meeting did not take place until Monday at one o'clock when the Rev. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Everett appeared before us. The meeting lasted for about an hour. Mr. Hamilton expressed himself as very much pleased with the results of the interview. I pointed out to them that it was unfortunate that they had not met us earlier. I told them that the session had been on for about four weeks, that every one was pressing his bill forward, and that it was difficult to get new legislation prepared at a time when everyone was so busy. They admitted the difficulty of the situation, and said they would not expect the government to act hastily, but they asked us to take the matter up at the earliest possible moment, and we have promised to do so. I am sure that the Rev. Mr. Hamilton will not say that he was not treated otherwise than fairly. I do not object to fair criticism, but I think it is a contemptible thing for a newspaper to resort to falsehood.

Mr. Hazen asked when the consolidated statutes would be ready for distribution and what their price would be.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—Schedule B is now complete and I have the two volumes of the statutes with it attached. The index is very nearly ready and Mr. White thinks that both volumes with the index will be ready the first of May. The amount of the fee of the statutes has not been decided upon. The last volume of consolidated statutes cost \$2, and as there are two large volumes in this consolidation with a full index, I think that \$4 or even \$5 would not be unreasonable.

The House went into committee, Mr. McLatchey in the chair, and the following bills were agreed to:

An act to amend the acts incorporating and relating to the town of Wood's dock.

To authorize the town council of the town of Saint Stephen and to provide a system of water works for the said town.

An act relating to the town of Newcastle. To authorize the town council of Gloucester county to effect temporary loans in certain cases.

To incorporate the Andover Masonic Hall corporation.

To authorize the county council of the municipality of York to assess in aid of the Victoria hospital.

An act to authorize the cancellation of a certain grant.

An act to amend an act providing for the division of the province into counties, towns and parishes.

An act to amend an act for the purpose of establishing the parish line between the parishes of Botsford and Shediac in the county of Westmorland, and added as sec. 2 of the foregoing bill.

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