

THE BOOM COMPANY SCORED.

Prominent Lumbermen Strenuously Object to Any Further Increase in Rates.

There was a lively time at the meeting of the corporations committee of the Legislature this morning, when the Fredericton Boom Company's bill to provide for an increase of tolls was under consideration. The measure was strongly attacked by a delegation of lumbermen, and the company was accused of following unbusinesslike methods and extravagance.

The meeting convened in the committee room, but so great was the crowd in attendance that an adjournment had to be made to the assembly chamber.

Messrs. A. H. F. Randolph, President of the Boom Company, Hon. C. N. Skinner, K. C., J. W. McCreedy and E. L. Jewett appeared in support of the bill, and Messrs. J. F. Gregory, Charles Miller, F. S. Beatty, John E. Moore, Henry Hilyard, John Kilburn, all prominent lumbermen, were on hand to oppose it.

The list of spectators included Senator King, W. J. Scott, George McAvity, John A. Morrison, James M. Scott, Thomas McAvity, W. H. Farnaby and many members of the Legislature.

The bill, which was introduced by Mr. Whitehead, provides for an increase of the tolls for securing and rafting logs and lumber as follows: Pine Timber, from thirty-five cents to fifty cents per ton; Hemlock Timber from sixty cents to seventy-five cents per ton; Spruce and pine logs and other lumber, excepting Cedar, from eighty-five cents to one dollar per thousand superficial feet; Cedar of all kinds \$1.30 to \$1.40 per thousand superficial feet; Spruce and Pine logs belonging to any one owner averaging less than seventy feet, seven cents each.

Mr. McCreedy was first called upon and explained the provisions of the bill. He said that its object was to enable the company to increase their tolls for rafting logs on timber on the St. John river. He went on to say that the logs were much smaller than they were ten years ago, that wages had increased and on this account it had become impossible for the company to carry on business at a profit. He quoted from the company's petition, showing the quantity of logs rafted during the past three years, and the amount paid in wages and made comparisons with former years.

At the suggestion of Premier Tweedie the committee adjourned to the assembly chamber.

Mr. McCreedy, continuing, said that the labor of rafting a small log was just the same as in the case of a large log. The boom company territory extended from the mouth of the Macnaquac, a distance of nineteen miles. In the first ten miles there were numerous islands, which made the work of the company more difficult, as it meant a greater amount of shore space to keep clear. It had been charged that the company had been guilty of extravagance, but he held that this was not so. In 1895 it took 65,566 days to handle 1,705,000 pieces, the total amount paid in wages being \$52,816. In 1897 it took 53,258 days to handle the same number of pieces. In 1904 it took 52,950 days to handle 1,857,000 pieces.

Chairman King thought the company should furnish a statement showing the amount handled every year.

Mr. McCreedy said the figures quoted by him amply proved that the company had not been extravagant.

Mr. Osman wanted to know if the company had made any money.

Mr. Skinner said that Mr. Randolph or Mr. Jewett should be heard on this point.

Mr. Randolph said that the company was in bad shape financially at the present time. They went behind hand \$22,000 last year and had an indebtedness of \$55,000. The expenditure for 1905 was \$83,102.94 the items being as follows:

Shore rents	\$3,413.77
Pins and wedges	1,068.00
Boom poles	9,075.64
Wages at Douglas Boom	15,798.63
Wages at Mitchell Boom	12,648.29
Wages of upper sacking crew	9,415.55
Wages of lower sacking crew	7,150.50
General expenses	21,761.13

Mr. Randolph said that when the company found themselves losing money last year, they called a meeting of lumbermen to talk over matters. It was then pointed out that an increase of tolls was the only salvation. Some of the lumbermen had talked of extravagance but the company had offered to sell their stock at fifty cents on the dollar. This offer had not been accepted.

In reply to Mr. Hazen, Mr. Randolph said that the company paid a dividend of six per cent. in 1900, but nothing had been paid since. The company had not lost money each year since 1900. In 1904 there was a surplus of \$5000. Mr. Randolph said he did not have the figures for the other years since 1900.

The attorney general thought that the promoters of the bill should produce a detailed statement showing receipts and expenditures for the past twenty years. The company were asking authority to increase the tolls, and could not expect the committee to be satisfied with an incomplete statement.

Recorder Skinner said he thought that the information would be available.

Premier Tweedie agreed with the attorney general that the company

should furnish more information in regard to their financial affairs. He thought \$1.00 per thousand was a pretty high rate to pay for rafting lumber.

Mr. Gregory said that if the company's request was granted the rate would be equal to \$1.40 per thousand on logs under seventy feet.

It was decided to hear the opponents of the bill, and have the company's secretary procure the additional information at a later stage.

STRONG OPPOSITION.

Mr. F. J. Gregory, said that the statement submitted by the company was misleading. Already the company had twice increased their rates, the total increase since 1885 being about 33 1-3 per cent. but they still claimed to be losing money. The lumbermen did not propose to stand for any further increase. The year 1903, he said, was a year of forest fires, and on that account smaller logs had been cut by limit holders than would have otherwise been the case. These logs were rafted by the company in 1904, and the company took good care to refer to them for purpose of comparison. They did not give the size of the logs rafted during the year 1905, although during that year the company rafted thirty-five million feet of logs, which had been wintered in the Douglas boom. The proposed change would mean \$1 on the basis of seventy foot logs. As many of the logs cut by Mr. John Kilburn in Quebec, averaged sixty feet in length the rate would be more than \$1.40 per thousand on these.

Mr. John E. Moore, said that the log owners were willing to pay the Boom Company three per cent. interest on their indebtedness. They did not want the Boom Company to lose money, but believed that the rate was already high enough, and should not be increased. They were willing to take over the company's business and also half of the capital stock for a period of five years and manage the business.

Mr. Skinner said that he would scarcely advise the company to accept Mr. Moore's offer. He said if accepted it would leave the company with a large indebtedness and no way of paying it. He thought the company should also be paid a small percentage on every thousand feet of logs rafted.

The attorney general said that the offer of the lumbermen meant three per cent on one-half of the company's capital stock and all their indebtedness.

Mr. Moore said the lumbermen would be prepared to return the company's property at the end of five years. They merely wanted to show that with proper management it could be made to pay.

The attorney general was inclined to favor the proposition put forward by Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore said that about half of the company's plant, was no good, and would not be used by the lumbermen. He held that the company did not now do business in a business like way. In 1904, they retained twenty million feet of logs in the booms, for the winter, while the mills down river were compelled to shut down for want of logs.

Mr. Randolph maintained that the reason the logs were held over in 1904, was not the fault of the Boom Company, but the St. John River Log Driving Company were to blame for not getting the logs down earlier in the season.

Mr. Moore denied that such was the case.

Mr. Jewett claimed that the logs were held over in 1904 at the suggestion of the late Mr. W. H. Murray. He said that Mr. Kilburn had always been a kicker but could not accomplish anything by talk.

Mr. Kilburn said that the Fredericton Boom Company were always asking for an increase of rates. The whole trouble, he held, was due to bad management. The Restigouche Boom Company had been able to make money at a rate of fifty cents per thousand, while the Fredericton Boom Company claimed to be losing money at 85 cents. The facilities on the Restigouche, he held, were not nearly so good as they were on the St. John river as the tides had to be contended with. His logs averaged less than seventy feet and that meant if the rate was increased he would have to pay \$1.40 per thousand. He could not stand that and would have to go out of business. When the company allowed the logs to pile up in the Douglas boom like nails in a keg it certainly cost more to raft them, but was certainly not the fault of the log owners. Mr. Kilburn contended that many of the men employed by the Boom Company did not understand their business. He added that residents of York and Carleton Counties were ready to raft logs and deliver them at Springhill for seventy cents per thousand. The Boom Company claimed that this interfered with their business.

Mr. Randolph replied briefly to the statements made by Mr. Kilburn. He contended that conditions for rafting on the Restigouche were much more favorable than on the St. John.

Mr. Gregory spoke of the rafting system employed by farmers living along the river between Fredericton and Woodstock. These men had no special facilities but were able to raft the logs in a manner satisfactory to the lumbermen. The country residents can deliver the logs at Springhill for seventy cents, while the Boom Company with all their

paraphernalia, want \$1.00. He contended that the expenditures made for plant had crippled the company without cheapening the cost of rafting. They built an expensive tug called the Latona, which if put on the market today would not bring one half her cost. It was also a fact that the men only worked a half day on Saturday at the booms. The weekly rafting returns proved this. The fact of the matter is the company have too many fossils, barnacles and mossbacks among their employees and should get rid of them. These men had been hangers on for a good many years.

Mr. Randolph—You don't appear to be willing to invest in the company's stock.

Mr. Gregory—I have not got any money, I am as poor as a church mouse. We have to fight our way down the St. John river, and don't want any more obstacles.

Mr. Miller said that the lumbermen had asked Mr. Jewett if he would hand over the business and accept an offer of ten cents per thousand on the lumber rafted. Mr. Jewett had declined to entertain the proposal.

Mr. Jewett claimed that Mr. Miller had made no offer that he considered worth while to forward to President Randolph.

Dr. Pugsley suggested that a basis of settlement might be arrived at between the parties.

Mr. Randolph, in reply to Mr. Gregory said that the outlook for the company making money this year, was not very bright.

Mr. Gregory felt that considering the largely increased lumber cut, the company was not likely to lose money this year, if the present rate is maintained.

Premier Tweedie heartily agreed with the suggestion of the attorney general that the parties get together and arrive at a basis of settlement. The attorney general thought that it might be possible to associate a small committee of lumbermen with the management of the company for one year.

Premier Tweedie said he would like to see a settlement arrived at that would be permanent.

Chairman King said the dual managers might not be able to agree, which would mean constant friction. The committee then separated until 2.30 o'clock to give the company time to submit a complete statement covering a period of twenty years.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

Fredericton Chapter Installed Officers Last Evening.

At the regular meeting of Fredericton Royal Arch Chapter No. 2, F. & A. M., held last evening in Masonic hall, Past Grand High Priest Street installed the following officers for the ensuing year:

Alex. Burchill, H. P.
S. L. Morrison, K.
Austin Duffhy, S.
W. E. Smith, treasurer.
R. S. Hooper, secretary.
R. S. Barker, C. of H.
M. Tennant, P. S.
J. H. Hawthorn, R. A. C.
J. F. McMurray, M. 3 V.
Whitman Brewer, M. 2 V.
A. B. Brown, M. 1 E.
Win. Lockhart, Tyler.

After the ceremonies were closed an invitation of Past Grand High Priest Burchill, the Chapter repaired to Lindsay's restaurant and partook of oysters.

A YOUNG MAN'S DEATH.

The death occurred at his home in Queensbury last night after a lingering illness, from acute rheumatism and heart trouble, of Frank, son of Coun. and Mrs. M. B. McNally. He was twenty-six years of age and unmarried. The deceased was a bright and popular young man, and his untimely death will be deplored by a large number of friends. Besides his parents he is survived by two brothers, G. Fred McNally of the Moncton High School staff, and Percy studying dentistry in Philadelphia, and, one sister, Miss Jennie McNally at home. The funeral will take place tomorrow at three o'clock, with R. B. Adams in charge of the arrangements.

THE SEWERAGE PROTEST.

The Provincial Board of Health is to meet here this evening to hear the city answer to the complaint of the Sunbury County authorities in regard to Fredericton's proposed sewerage system.

TO WED ON TUESDAY.

The marriage of Lieut. E. Dudo-maine, of the R. C. R., Halifax, and Miss Marguerite Winslow, daughter of the late Mr. E. B. Winslow, will be solemnized at the Cathedral on Tuesday of next week.

HURLEY--MCMAHON.

Well Known Young Frederictonian Secured Bride at St. Stephen.

St. Stephen, Feb. 21.—The Church of the Holy Rosary was thronged this morning at nine o'clock, with friends of two happy young people gathered to witness their marriage ceremony. The principals were Edward Hurley, a prominent young business man of Fredericton, and Miss Jennie C. McMahon, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John McMahon, and one of our most deservedly esteemed young ladies.

The bride's dress was of grey silk crepe de chene, with white hat with white plume.

Her bridesmaid was Miss Genevieve Hogan, who wore champagne voile over pinn silk, and wore a white hat with light blue plume.

The groom was supported by Chas. Ramsey of St. John, and the group at the altar was a handsome one.

Rev. Father Lavery officiated and the nuptial mass was celebrated. Miss Mary Short presided at the organ.

A reception was held in the afternoon at the bride's home on Watson street, and was largely attended.

A beautiful and valuable array of gifts gave evidence of the esteem in which the bride is universally held by all classes in the border town.

The groom's gift to the bride was a gold brooch set with diamonds, to the bridesmaid a gold cross, and to his groomsmen a gold stickpin, each set with pearls.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurley left by the evening train for a wedding tour, at the conclusion of which they will reside in Fredericton.

The sincere wishes of many friends on the border accompany them for a happy journey through life.

NOT A CANDIDATE.

Mr. P. Farrell authorizes the statement that he has no intention of entering the contest for the mayoralty this year, as has been reported.

HOUSEMAID WANTED.

Apply at Judge Gregory's residence to Miss Gregory.
Feb. 22—dtf.

For Sale

Desirable city residence, comparatively new and well located. Client is moving from the city and will sell at moderate terms.
Money to loan on real estate. Apply to
SLIPP & HANSON.
Feb. 13, dtf.

For Sale.

The brick building situated on the corner of Queen and St. John streets at present occupied by the undersigned. House contains modern improvements. It can be inspected at any time by intending purchasers.
MRS. F. S. HILYARD.
Feb. 13—dtf.

To Let TO RENT

One flat recently remodeled on Saunders Street, just above Westmorland.

One flat in new house now being completed on George Street, nearly opposite St. Ann's Church.

T. A. NILES.
At F'ton Steam Laundry.
Feb. 20, dtf.

For Sale or To Let

For sale or to let—House on King Street at present occupied by Dr. Crockett. Possession given May 1st. Enquire at office of
A. J. GREGORY
Solicitor.
Feb. 16.—dtf.

TO LET.

From the first of May next, the store in the Wilmot block, Queen Street, Fredericton, at present occupied by Samuel Owen, Esq. For terms, etc., apply to
J. H. BARRY,
Solicitor.

89 CENTS. Slippers or Oxfords FOR WOMEN

Is the Latest Bargain at

McManus & Co.,

Directly Opp. Normal School.

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Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of

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Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

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Pumpkin Seed -
Aloes -
Castor Oil -
Syrup -
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Cloves -
Nutmeg -
Mint -
Peppermint -
Sage -
Thyme -
Vinegar -
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Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.

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Chas. H. Fitcher
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At 6 months' old
35 DROPS - 35 CENTS

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The Kind You Have Always Bought

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In Use For Over Thirty Years

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THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Properly Fitted Eye Glasses

Mean comfort to the wearer. They reinforce the function of the eyes without any undue strain, and this is one tax that cannot be levied without peril, the tax on the eyesight. In eight years of practical experience the Optician in charge of our Optical Department has fitted over 12,000 cases of defective eyesight. If your eyes cause you any trouble call in and have them examined.

SHUTE & CO., Four doors above Barker House

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IS THE PLACE TO BUY Goods Right

FAMILY SHOE STORE

SPECIAL FOR Friday and Saturday.

200 Soft Front Shirts that we secured at a great bargain, such goods as you pay 75c. for.

SALE PRICE 42c. Size 14 to 17.

Don't wait until they are all picked up.

PETER FARRELL & CO.

The Best place to buy Dry Goods.

50,000 BOUQUET CIGARETTES wholesale at Factory Prices at JAS. H. HAWTHORN'S