

THIS IS BUSINESS.

Premier Tweedie Introduces Bill Into Legislature Embodiment of the Government's Crown Land Policy.

AND EXPLAINS FULLY WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES DOING TO CONSERVE AND INCREASE VALUE ON OUR FOREST DOMAIN.

In the legislature Friday afternoon Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill in reference to certain Consolidated School Districts. He explained that its object was to extend the time to three years from the opening of the school instead of three years from the passing of the Act.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill for the better reserving and protection of the public domain. He said: This is the bill which I promised in the budget speech and it is one which I think will meet with the approval of this House. It proposes a better way of taking care of our forests and ascertaining the value of land. Also for the laying out of land for settlement. As this is a very important measure I will read it.

Whereas the Crown Timber Lands of the province consist of about (10,000) ten thousand square miles and are of very great and increasing value, and it is desirable in the public interest that all possible measures should be taken for the protection of such lands, and to render them of the greatest value to the province;

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislature Assembly as follows:

1. The Lieutenant Governor in Council is hereby authorized to appoint a sub-committee of the Executive Council to act with the Surveyor General in respect to and for the purpose of carrying out the matters hereinafter provided for, and it shall be the duty of the sub-committee of Council with the Surveyor General, and they are hereby authorized to employ the necessary number of competent men, who will be charged with the following duties:

(a) To make a complete survey of the crown timber lands of the Province to divide the same into districts and wherever necessary to run base lines and such other lines as may be necessary to distinguish such districts.

Everyone who knows anything of crown lands will recognize the great necessity of having the lines properly run. In old times when the lands were leased yearly on a conventional generally agreed on a conventional line and this process had to go on from year to year as disputes were continually arising. When I became Surveyor General I began having base lines run and I was only restrained by the cost from having all these lines run out. From time to time since then we have been running base lines until a good deal has been accomplished. My idea is to have base lines run ten miles apart. In Restigouche, where these lines were run we found that we possessed many more square miles of land than had been estimated, so that the increase of revenue far more than paid the expenses of the survey. Since the twenty-five year leases came into force the lines have been much better run.

Hon. Mr. Hazen—How much do you estimate the cost of this survey?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—I think it will cost from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars, but if done properly, the province will be more than compensated. It is only within the last five or six years that our people began to realize what a valuable asset we possess in our forest. I think it will be best to have these lines run as soon as possible. I will now read the remaining sub-sections of section one.

(b) To classify such lands and make a thorough and exhaustive report on the same.

(c) To describe as minutely as possible the character and quality of the lumber, to estimate the quality of each description of lumber in the various sections wherein each of such parties shall perform their work, to report as to the relative growing capabilities of the timber on and in the vicinity of each river and stream, likewise the accessibility of the timber in each section, and what requirements are necessary, in the way of improvements to the streams or otherwise, for making such lumber either accessible or more readily accessible, and for improving the driving facilities of such streams.

(d) To report as to the various streams in the respective sections, and also the necessity of, and facilities for the storage or impounding of water in order to give suitable flow during the dry seasons, and for the proper driving of logs.

(e) To describe the location and character of the lands deemed fit for agricultural purposes, distinguishing them from those which may properly be regarded as only or specially suitable for the growing of timber, and, if required by the sub-committee and the Surveyor General, to survey and divide off the said lands into one hundred acre lots.

(f) To report as to all or any lands in each of such sections containing timber of undersized or scrubby growth, and which will not be likely to produce merchantable lumber by the existing regulations, giving particulars as to the area over which such undersized or scrubby

growth extends and the probable quantity of lumber per square mile suitable for pulp wood or other purposes which can be obtained therefrom.

(g) To carefully consider and to report on the relative values of the crown timber lands in each such section held under license at the present time.

It will be seen that these are very important objects, classifying the lands, ascertaining the nature of the lumber whether spruce, pine or hardwood, and its accessibility of things that it is very necessary for us to know. In some districts the quality of the lumber may be good, and the conditions favorable to rapid growth but so difficult of access that its value is greatly impaired. With regard to driving, I think that with proper arrangements driving ought not to be made a certainty. This may be possible all over the Province, but it ought to be on the principal streams. When we see the difficulty and loss that are caused by lumber being hung up, it seems to be the duty of the government to take notice of this fact and endeavour to amend it. If I have anything to do with the administration of this law, I will take care to have competent men to make this survey, men whose reports will be of some value. When coming to a district suitable for settlement, they will mark it off in 100 acre lots, as it is most desirable where land is being settled that as many families should be got together as possible. This survey will do away with the necessity of another survey when settlers have to be provided for. The section with reference to undersized and scrubby timber is a very necessary one. We are constantly receiving letters from licensees complaining that parts of their lines are of this character. It is therefore necessary for us to know where such land is situated. I have always felt that it was an absurdity to put up lands at the same upset price, some being worth ten times as much as others. The second section of the act provides for the making of proper plans and maps of the crown timber lands of the province. The third section provides that the Governor-in-Council may make such regulations as may be necessary to properly protect the lumber industry subject to the approval of the legislature, and for the extension of existing licenses for such as are reasonable and necessary for the permanent carrying on of existing lumber manufacturing industries. This is an important matter which was referred to in my budget speech, that where an operator had made a large outlay in building a mill, he should not have come into competition with a stranger, but should be assigned such an area as would be necessary to supply his mill, provided he paid what the government considered a fair price. If he does not choose to accept these conditions he can go on until the expiry of his lease, and then will come into competition with others. If he accepts the terms he will have permanency of tenure.

The fourth section authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations requiring the removal from the forest of hemlock trees which have been cut down for their bark. Such trees are a menace to the forest.

Mr. Hazen—I have a letter from an operator in Sunbury County who has been reading your budget speech in which it is stated that the tops of hemlock trees must be removed. He says that it would cost more to remove the tops than it would be to haul the logs.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—There is a misunderstanding here. It is not the intention to require the top of the trees to be removed but only that portion of it which is available and useful. We are not asking lumbermen to do anything that is unreasonable. The Company that bought the Richards property is taking out everything that can be made useful and giving quite an object lesson to some of our people. The policy we propose is one that will meet the views of all practical men. This, however, is merely an outline for nothing will be fixed until we have the report.

Mr. Hazen—Where do you expect to find experts fit for this work?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—I am hardly in a position to answer that question now. If they can be had in the province we shall of course prefer our own men.

The fifth section authorizes making a regulation where the timber is of spruce or stunted growth. The sixth section relates to a forestry convention which we propose to have in this city during the summer. This will be attended we hope by all the members of the legislature and by others interested in the preservation of our forests. The seventh section gives the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to make additional regulations against forest fires.

The eighth section authorizes us to confer with the authorities of Maine and Quebec with the view to facilitating the driving of lumber on the river St. John any arrangement that is made being subject to the ratification of the legislature. The ninth section is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council is also hereby authorized to make regulations in respect to Boom Companies and all Companies having for their object the driving of logs, either by the erection of booms and piers, the storage of water, improvement of streams, or otherwise. Such regulations shall provide, among other things, that all operators upon any such streams shall have the privilege of having an interest in such Boom Companies, Log Driving or Stream Improvement Companies. And the Lieutenant Governor in Council may also in any case order and direct that only such tolls shall be charged as will give reasonable compensation for the driving, rafting and boomage of logs after charging reasonable expenses; and for the purpose of enabling such just and equitable regulations to be made from time to time in respect to any such companies the Lieutenant Governor in Council is hereby empowered from time to time in respect to any arise or complaints may be made, to inquire into the management of all Boom Companies, Log Driving or Stream Improvement Companies, or other Companies, having like objects and if necessary to appoint commissioners from time to time who shall have power to take evidence under oath, and to summon all necessary witnesses. One of the essential objects and intentions of the regulations so to be made shall be the protection of the small operators as well as those of the larger operators upon such streams.

This is a matter we feel must be taken hold of by the government. All persons having interests in getting lumber down a stream should participate in the benefits as well as the costs. The smallest operator should be given an equal chance with the largest.

The 10th section authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to reserve from settlement or from license Crown Timber Lands at or near the head waters of rivers to such an extent as may be deemed advisable to preserve and protect the water supply.

The 11th section authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations for the protection and preservation of clam beds which are the property of the province under recent decisions of the privy council, while the 12th section authorizes the surveying and leasing of such clam beds.

That is the bill which we have prepared for the purpose of preserving and protecting the public domain. It has been carefully considered by the government, but it will not be hurried through the House. We will have it printed so that Hon. gentlemen will have a chance to fully consider its provisions. I trust that it may meet the views of the members of this legislature and of the people of the province. It has been prepared with a single desire to benefit the province and to guard the interests of the people. On the ground of urgency, the bill was read a second time.

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Among the passengers on the Sardinian at Halifax are four ex-members of the Gordon Highlanders, who are sent to Toronto to Chief of Police Grasset by Mr. Bruce Walker, the Canadian Government agent at Glasgow. The tallest man is 6 feet 5½ inches and the shortest 6 feet 4 inches.

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A BIG CONCERN.

Maritime Power and Tramway Company Seeking Incorporation.

Mr. J. Layton Ralston, barrister of Amherst, N. S., and partner of H. J. Logan, M. P., is in the city on business in connection with a bill to come before the legislature this week to incorporate the Maritime Power and Tramway Company. The applicants are Senator Mitchell, of Montreal, David Mitchell, Dr. C. A. McQueen, of Amherst and Henry Hunter of Westchester. The object is to construct an electric tramway from Moncton to Amherst to connect with the system to be constructed in Cumberland county, under charter granted by the Nova Scotia Legislature. The proposed capital stock is to be \$450,000.

The company is incorporated in Nova Scotia under the name of the Maritime Coal and Railway Company with a capital stock of two million dollars. In addition to operating the tramway the company propose to

generate and sell electric power, mine eight miles from Amherst and the coal, which no commercial value is to be utilized in supplying the power for the tramway system. The Messrs. Mitchell whose names are mentioned above are brothers of Mr. James Mitchell who lately visited this city and endeavored to interest the citizens in a street railway project.

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