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DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1909.

A POOR RECORD.

Mr. Hazen is putting everything off till next year. Whenever the government is questioned as to its policy on this or that question, the premier and his colleagues are ready with the reply, "We shall be able to make an announcement next year."

And yet Mr. Hazen came into power on a definite platform. He had the whole situation sized up so concisely and so accurately before the elections that he was able to announce in all parts of the country just what his government (if he had one) was going to do.

But alas, as soon as Mr. Hazen got control he seemed to have entirely forgotten his platform and his pre-election pledges.

(1) He was going to abolish the solicitor generalship and he filled that office.

(2) He was going to cut the price of school books in two, and now he says "Wait till next year."

(3) He was going to give the country an audit act that would ensure honest expenditure of the revenue, and he slides into it a provision for a treasury board composed of three members of the executive council, who will practically control the auditor and the government.

(4) He was going to give the country a highway act that would do away with all abuses, and he has produced a measure that provides for nearly 500 new paid officials whose salaries will come out of the road monies and has nearly doubled the taxes on the people.

(5) He produced amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, which have aroused the fierce hostility of the employees, and the government dare not ask the legislature to pass the bill in its present form.

(6) He was going to reform the agricultural department, and he appointed a doctor to the head of it, and is providing for a paid commission to travel over the country looking for an agricultural policy, which Mr. Hazen declared before the elections was already cut and dried.

(7) He has reduced the appropriation for agriculture nearly \$5,000, abolished institute work, orchard planting and dairy superintendents.

(8) He promised an important immigration and colonization scheme, and it has not yet taken shape, but he has abolished the salary of the New Brunswick agent at London who was doing good work in this line.

(9) He promised to let all public works by tender and he has farmed out the printing to his favorites without inviting competition, and his chief commissioner at this moment is doing expensive repair work on the St. John suspension bridge without having put the job up to tender.

(10) He promised to know no party in the distribution of patronage. Liberals were supporting him and made it possible for him to obtain power, but he has dismissed more than 500 Liberals from office and appointed Tories in their stead.

"Wait till next year," says Mr. Hazen.

We don't have to.

He has already given ample evidence that his pre-election pledges were made but to be broken; that they were as brittle and unreliable as pie crust.

"Wait till next year?"

The past six weeks' record of the government gives no promise that it has serious regard for the public interest and the future will doubtless reveal the further incapacity and irresponsibility of the present outfit holding sway in the legislature and executive headquarters of New Brunswick.

A FALSE CLAIM.

The government and its friends talk as if they had developed something entirely new by introducing Dr. J. W. Robertson into the educational and agricultural arena of New Brunswick.

Bless your innocent souls. Dr. Robertson has been coming to this province for twenty years in the forwarding of those two important interests. He has addressed nearly every farmers' association meeting in that time and assisted the late government in the promotion of dairying, consolidated schools, nature study, manual training, etc.

Mr. Hazen and his associates however, would like to make the people believe that he is the real discoverer of Dr. Robertson, which is a fiction too transparent to do anything more than amuse the New Brunswick people.

We suspect that the real reason for the government securing Dr. Robertson's recent visit and addresses is that he may co-operate with the medical commissioner for agriculture and his colleagues to discover an agricultural policy for the government, which professed in opposition a great desire to help the farmers, but evidently has no idea how to proceed with the work.

The present administration did not discover Dr. Robertson, but it is on a voyage of discovery for an agricultural policy, and to the staff in that connection is to be added a paid commission, but Mr. Hazen would have made a more practical and better start if he had induced a practical farmer to take charge of the agricultural department, instead of hoisting a medical doctor into the position of commissioner.

BILL WITHDRAWN.

Tobique River Dam Measure Ran the Gauntlet of Criticism in Committee but was Finally Called Away.

Mr. Tweeddale Warmly Espoused the Bill.

The bill to incorporate Messrs. J. F. Tweeddale, John E. Stewart, Guy Porter, James Burgess, James McNair and others as the Northern Pulp and Paper company, Ltd., came up before the corporations committee of the legislature on Thursday afternoon, and encountered such stiff opposition that the promoter, Mr. Tweeddale, at the suggestion of Premier Hazen consented to allow it to stand over for a year.

Mr. Tweeddale explained that the bill was an ordinary application of a company for incorporation to manufacture lumber, pulp and paper. He understood there were some objections to the bill, and he would reply to these when they were started.

Mr. R. B. Hanson appeared representing several interests. He claimed this bill was similar to one presented last session in regard to damming the Miramichi, and which was very properly thrown out. An act had been passed by the legislature enjoining the policy that the government should retain the control of all water powers. This was a great public franchise and was liable to in-fact, if carried out as proposed by this bill, incalculable damages upon the lumber and fishing interests of the province, and the act was so drawn that no damages could be collected from the company. The company should be asked for a deposit to show their bona fide. There was no capitalist mentioned in the application and no proof that the enterprise would be started. It was well known that the salmon was our greatest game fish, and that the Tobique was the only spawning grounds left on the whole St. John river. To close it off from the fish would ruin the salmon fishing industry of not only the whole river but also the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Henry Hilyard had never seen this bill advertised and only knew of it by chance. He and other lumber operators in St. John would be greatly damaged if the obstructions contemplated by this bill were placed in the Tobique river. To show the effect of these dams he said that this spring three millions of logs had come down in the ice, which had been held back last fall by the Windy Ledges dam, and it cost their owners from five to six dollars per thousand to recover them. The dam at Plaster Rock was also a serious damage.

Mr. W. T. Whitehead, representing owners of one million acres of lumber land on the Tobique, said that his clients were entirely opposed to the bill.

Mr. Albert J. Gregory, representing Stetson, Cutler & Co., said his clients had lately bought three hundred square miles on the Tobique solely to support their St. John mills. They considered they would be liable to great damage from the passage of this bill. They had tried to get Mr. Stewart to withhold his application until it had been decided that there was water enough on the Tobique to supply a pulp mill, and an engineer was now on the ground making an examination. The bill asked practically for rights of expropriation which the legislature had already ruled, should not be given to a private corporation.

Col. McLean, speaking for some of the proprietors of fishing interests, said they were informed that if the dam was built fish could not get up the river.

Mr. Wilson said he had been asked by the salmon fishermen of St. John to protest against the passage of the bill.

Ald. J. J. F. Winslow, representing the N. B. F. F. and G. P. association, opposed the bill, and read a letter from the department of Marine and Fisheries, to the late premier, stating that the government should not permit the passage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Hazen thought it would be a mistake for the committee to recommend the bill to the House at the present time and without further information. The bill seemed to be opposed by nearly every lumberman connected with the river. If it involved damage to private lands it would also apply to Crown Land. It would be necessary to have plans of dams, etc., before its effect upon fishery interests could be decided. There was also the matter of retaining control of the water powers of the country for the people.

Mr. McKeown thought if this bill meant the opening up of the country and the encouragement of industries without injury to other interests, it should be considered. If we were to prevent the export of pulp wood, pulp mills must be built in the province.

Mr. Thos. F. Allen, speaking on behalf of the Tobique Salmon club, said the effect of pulp mills upon salmon in the rivers of the United States had been to destroy them. It would be impossible to erect a dam at Tobique Narrows high enough for power purposes that would permit the passage of fish. The acid and lime discharged from a pulp mill would kill young salmon and prevent older fish from entering the river.

Mr. Tweeddale said apparently the public had been prejudiced against this bill. The people on the Tobique had more interest in the salmon industry than anyone else and they did not consider that the proposed enterprise would hurt their fishing interests. It was all very well for the Tobique Salmon club, which had a lease of the Tobique river for \$50 a year, to oppose the bill, but the interests of the people of the province should be considered. If the province were to progress, industries must develop. The dam at Plaster Rock had created an industry which had built up a small town, and done more for the Tobique country than all

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the fishing interests had. He considered that the lease to the Tobique Salmon club was a great injustice to the people, that it prohibited them absolutely from exercising the rights which they should enjoy. The river should be controlled by the government and not licenses granted which would bring thousands of fishermen to the province, where only one came now. Members of the Salmon club went up on the Serpentine, the principal spawning ground and pulled out hundreds of fish which they shipped away to the great damage of the country, and without giving any return therefor. He claimed that the works proposed under this bill would not hurt the fish, which must be protected. This bill was for the encouragement and enterprise of the people and the committee should not oppose it.

Mr. Clarke briefly addressed the committee in regard to the bill. He said that a pulp mill had been erected on the St. Croix, and so far as knew had not prevented salmon from going up that stream. If the people had to lose one or the other, they would prefer to retain the pulp mill.

Hon. Mr. Hazen thought that in view of the statements made it would be well to withdraw the bill for a year, so that the whole matter could be looked into. Perhaps next year the applicants would be able to give the committee more information.

Mr. Tweeddale finally consented to withdraw the bill, and the committee adjourned.

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NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That application will be made to the Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick, at the present session thereof, for an Act ratifying and confirming the incorporation of the Stanley Railway and Manufacturing Company, and authorizing the said Company to acquire and take over the whole or any part of the stock, assets and franchises of "The York and Carleton Railway Company," and for such other powers, rights and privileges as may be deemed necessary or requisite in order to enable the Stanley Railway and Manufacturing Company to successfully prosecute its business.

Dated this nineteenth of May, A. D. 1909.
J. H. BARRY,
Solicitor for Applicant.

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