

THE HIGHWAY ACT.

Opposition Unmercifully Pounded Some of Its Chief Provisions.

Taxes on the People Doubled and Hundreds of Jobs for Needy Place Seekers.

MR. LOWELL

discussing the new Highway Bill in the legislature Wednesday evening, said the Premier expressed his willingness to give to the County of St. John more control over the highways than they possess at the present time, but instead of doing so, the bill was taking away the rights they had enjoyed for thirty years.

The Premier went to the country pledged to give to the municipalities the sole control of the roads. Instead of doing so, he was creating a board of paid officials who were not wholly appointed by the municipalities. He had always been opposed to any change in the law which should take control of the roads in the County of St. John out of the control of the municipalities and the Hon. Mr. Maxwell had stood on the same platform with him and agreed to the same thing. The additional expense to St. John County alone would exceed six hundred dollars and there was no occasion for anything of the kind.

MR. ROBINSON

agreed with the last speaker that instead of giving the control of the highways to the municipalities, they were giving them nothing at all but simply creating a high way board which would be an independent body. In his election platform the Premier said he would give the power to the municipality to appoint all the officials. The bill gives nothing of the kind. The government made certain pledges to the electors and were elected on them and the highway question was the most important of them all. The people expected the control of the highways to be handed over to the municipalities and if that was not the Premier's intention, then the people did not so understand. He gave a measure of support to the last Act and it was an honest attempt to provide a good road law, and if it had been found to be a failure it was not because it was a bad Act, but because there was not enough money to properly carry it out. And, moreover, the weather conditions had been bad. As soon as he became the leader of the government he realized the condition and admitted the failure and expressed his willingness to amend the law. They all desired to have an Act that would meet with the approval of the people but it must be made workable. Why had the principles laid down during the election campaign been so ruthlessly cast aside? He would admit that it was open to all to change their minds but unless the Acts were made to suit the views of the people, they would consider they were being robbed of their privileges.

HON. MR. HAZEN

repudiated most emphatically that the government were violating their pledges made to the people. The present bill was a complete carrying out of the promises made. The member for St. John said that they had said that all officials would be appointed by the municipalities. He would like to ask that hon. gentleman to point out any official who was not so appointed. The hon. member had expressed his approval of highway boards, but objected that only two of the members were appointed by the municipality. He, the premier, had received letters from all parts of the province approving of the principles of the highway boards, and he had received letters from some persons, urging that instead of having two of the members appointed by county councillors, there should be two members specially selected. The members of the county council would be members of the highway board, and the people when they elected the councillors, would know they were electing the highway board.

HON. MR. MORRISSEY

said the present government had said they were prepared to give the municipalities a large measure of control in handling the monies. The government practically was giving the control of the money to the county councils because the latter appointed the majority on the boards. The government were handing over their contribution to the boards and allowing them to keep the municipal tax. The late government had had the spending of the money and the people had had to put up with bad roads.

HON. DR. LANDRY

said it was a well known principle of the government that there should be no taxation without representation and when they gave the control of the roads to the municipalities they had representation of the people who were taxed. They were going to give to the municipalities the appointment of two out of the three members of the highway board, and if that was not control, what would they have?

On the question being put to the committee the yeas and nays were 12. Sub-sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 were carried.

When the section governing the remuneration of the highway boards was under discussion, Mr. Robinson said the act should state that the members of the highway board should receive no remuneration.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell thought the remuneration of the board might be fixed by the municipal council and payment made out of the general fund that the boards con-

trolled.

Mr. Lowell said a long experience in St. John County led him to believe that good men could be had without remuneration, in fact better men who had the interests of the country at heart would be got than if men were seeking the appointment for the sake of the salary. If the highway boards were paid, it would take about twenty thousand dollars a year for their salary.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said the government wanted a full discussion upon this matter and the opinion of all hon. members, and moved that the sections stand for further consideration.

THE TAXES RAISED

Hon. Mr. Hazen moved that the rate of poll tax be \$2, and that the property tax be 20c. upon the hundred dollars.

Mr. Robinson thought that young men from eighteen years up should pay a poll tax.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey agreed with him.

Mr. Smith thought that the Act should stand as at present, and the young men not taxed until of age. It would be a hardship he said for a farmer with three or four boys at home.

Mr. Labilleis agreed with Mr. Smith as did also Mr. Tweeddale.

Mr. Leger (Westmorland) said the proposed tax was too high. It would be no credit to the government if they gave the country good roads after doubling the taxation. He thought good roads could be had for less money. He knew of districts where there was a surplus last year.

Mr. Smith said while that might be true in some districts in most others it would not and much more money was necessary than was raised under the old act.

HON. MR. FLEMING

said he had found that the people of the country preferred the law of 1896 to that of 1904, largely on account of its statute labor provisions. Under that law, the poll tax was \$1.50 and the rate allowed for labor fifty cents per day. It thus took a man three days to work out his poll tax. Under the proposed law, the poll tax was two dollars but the rate allowed per day, one dollar, therefore, the tax payer got off with two days work instead of three. In regard to the property tax, he said the situation as it existed today must be faced. The people wanted roads on which they could travel and a large expenditure was required. In the last four years the highways had gone from bad to worse rapidly under the management of the late government and if good roads were to be had, there must be a higher tax than 12c. on the hundred dollars. Unless this question was seriously grappled with, there would be no roads at all.

MR. LABILLEIS

defended the act of 1904 claiming that if last year had been a dry one, the roads would have been better today than they ever were before in the history of the province. The proposed act would weigh heavily on the poor people, for under it the rich man could send his man and team on the road and by working out his tax, deprived the poor man of a chance to earn money. The act had been popular in Restigouche County as was shown by the recent election and had given the country good roads.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said he failed to see where this act was hard on the poor man. Under it he could work out his tax with two days work while under the old act it took him three days.

Mr. Labilleis said under the old act the rich man escaped paying his tax and he would do so under this act.

Mr. Copp took exception to the statements that the new act let the poor man off easier because in his experience of the act of 1896 two days and sometimes three were allowed for one day's actual work on the road.

HON. MR. GRIMMER

said so far as Charlotte County was concerned there had been no small mean way of trying to cheat the highways by trying to get allowed for two days by working one. In Charlotte County the work had been honestly done under the act of 1896 and good roads obtained. The rich man could only escape taxation by under assessment or by failure to collect or failure of the road commissioners to do their duty. He could assure the house that under the new act taxes would be collected and the work done. He believed if the people got good roads they would not mind paying slightly increased taxation, and also that if men got a chance to work they would be willing to do so for the sake of good roads.

MR. TWEEDDALE

said it should be perfectly easy to get good roads by putting up the taxes high enough. There was no credit to the government for this course. A dollar and a half for poll tax and fifteen cents for property tax should be enough. Statute labor imposed more work on the poor man than on the rich because the latter could send his team and a small boy to drive it and get allowed for four days, whereas the man without a

team had to work four days at hard labor. He charged that appointments of highway superintendents in Victoria County were made on the recommendation of disreputable men. The appointments were purely partisan and not for special fitness. A man like Norman McCarron would never have displaced a man like James Gallop at Plaster Rock.

DR. SORMANY

thought it was too much of a raise to increase both property and poll tax as proposed. Perfection could not be got in this bill at the first attempt, but he thought the government might try to get it. While, perhaps two dollars poll tax was not too much, it might be better to start with a dollar and a half, and if that was insufficient, increase it at a later date.

MR. LOWELL

said that nothing would justify raising the taxes from \$63,000 to \$120,000, and the government had no right whatever to take away the rights of the municipalities to assess their own taxes, and he wished to place himself on record that he was voting against the motion because it was taking away the rights of the people of the County of St. John.

MR. BYRNE

said that referring to the increasing of the poll tax and property tax, he felt that if it were carried out it would work a very great injustice to the people of the province, particularly the County of Gloucester. It might be said by the Premier that in order to properly maintain the roads it was necessary that these taxes should be increased, but although it was proposed to increase these, the burden of them was placed upon the municipalities, whereas, if the increased sum necessary were taken out of the provincial funds and given over to the municipalities as an additional grant, it would be more likely to meet with the approval of the ratepayers. Any increase in the taxes would be an additional burden to the country people, and he could not support any proposal to increase them because there was nothing to show that such increase would be final. It might be found necessary to increase them yet again, besides, until he knew what stand the government were going to take in regard to the monies derived from the Liquor License Law which now went into the general government funds, he could not support the motion. Some counties were under the C. T. A., and they made no contribution from such a source to the revenues of the province. Gloucester County was a license county which did contribute to the public revenue, and the counties where the C. T. A. acts prevailed, derived the benefit of a portion of the funds contributed by Gloucester, and he could not support any proposal to increase the taxation on that county until the amount contributed by it from the licenses, was returned to it.

The section passed.

The section for the increased poll tax from \$1 to \$2 and for the property rate

SPRING FEVER

The need of a spring medicine seems to be universal. This is due to the fact that during the winter the blood becomes impure on account of the heavy food eaten. This causes that tired weary, all-gone, don't-care-to-work feeling which is so prevalent at this time of the year.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS

USES IT EVERY SPRING

Mr. H. Langley, Hamilton, Ont., writes:—"I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a spring tonic, and I find it the best thing I can take. It builds me right up and I use it every spring. It is excellent for the blood."

THAT TIRED FEELING

Mr. F. H. Leard, Saskatoon, Sask., writes:—"I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a blood builder and think it an excellent remedy. Everyone should take it in the spring to cure that tired feeling that comes to so many at this time of year."

Spring Medicine

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ORANGE JUICE AND HEALTH

For Stomach and Skin.

Few of us realize what an important part the skin plays in keeping us well or making us ill.

The millions of tiny glands, or pores, are intended to rid the system of waste matter, which the blood brings to the skin. It is a well-known medical fact that the healthy skin carries off more Urea or waste matter than the kidneys. Just think how much poison remains in the system when there is any skin trouble.

The skin and stomach are intimately associated. Find a person with a dry, harsh skin and you will find one who suffers with indigestion or constipation, and vice versa, usually.

Both may be relieved by a judicious use of orange juice. Both can be cured by taking the juice of an orange every morning before breakfast, and taking "Fruit-a-tives" at night. "Fruit-a-tives" are fruit juices in tablet form. The fresh juices of oranges, apples, figs and prunes are separated from the pulp, and then combined in such a way that the medicinal action is intensified.

Orange juice alone will not cure skin, stomach or bowel troubles. But when taken in connection with "Fruit-a-tives," a positive cure results. "Fruit-a-tives" may be obtained at all dealers or will be sent on receipt of price—50c a box—6 for \$2.50. "Fruit-a-tives" Limited, Ottawa.

increase from 12 to 20 cents on the \$100 was then passed 23 to 12—the latter including all the opposition but Mr. Sweeney, who was absent. Several government supporters shirked the vote.

Progress was reported on the bill.

EVELYN THAW IN ANOTHER LAWSUIT.

Sues Proprietor of Knickerbocker Hotel for \$25,000 for Ejecting Her From Grill Room.

New York, May 12.—Claiming that she suffered \$25,000 worth of nervous shock and mental anguish as a result of being ordered out of the "grill room" of the Knickerbocker, where she had gone with E. R. Thomas on March 3 last, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw is bringing suit, through Lawyer Daniel O'Reilly, against J. B. Kezan, the manager of the Knickerbocker.

The day after young Mrs. Thaw was practically ejected from the Knickerbocker Hotel, she denied that she had been there in the company of Mr. Thomas. Manager Kezan admitted, however, that the two had been his unwelcome guests. He said he didn't want their patronage, and admitted that he had told Mrs. Thaw not to come to the hotel again, as she wouldn't be served.

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REMOVAL NOTICE

D. J. Shea, Plumber, has removed from Queen Street to his new store on Carleton St.

D. J. SHEA

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NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

The City of Fredericton will apply at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for an Act to authorize the said City annually to present the University of New Brunswick a medal for competition among the students.

(Sgd) J. W. McCREADY, City Clerk.

