

FERRY EXPENDITURES

Continued from page 1—

trust it will be all right. It is a most important thing, and we will assume that it will be done in the proper way. As I said, the cost is so low that I do not know where else it could be undertaken for the same amount, because the magnitude of the work is immense, notwithstanding the fact that it was partially done up to 1891. The statutes have accumulated greatly; there have been some thirty-eight sessions of the Legislature since then, so that the work would be just as great as it was at that time. There would be that much more work to do, besides connecting the Statutes up.

Premier Saunders: I might say, by way of explanation, that in answer to a question on the Order Paper I gave the name of the party who intends to consolidate the Statutes, and in that answer I stated that I was assisting that gentleman myself. There was some suggestion that I wanted this tender myself. I may say that not one single dollar is coming to me. I think my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition knows that there is one thing I do enjoy, and it is the profession I have the honor to be in. I always take a special interest in matters of that kind and I am only too pleased to be able to render any little assistance in having these statutes consolidated; but it is not costing this Province anything, so far as my work is concerned.

Mr. Stewart: I don't think anybody ever suggested that it was. **Premier Saunders:** Oh yes. **Mr. Stewart:** We know quite well that my hon. friend, apart from any other consideration, would not do anything to disqualify him from a seat in this Legislature.

Legislative Library

Dr. MacMillan: May I ask if it is proposed to move the Legislative Library when the new building is erected for a Museum and Library?

Premier Saunders: The Legislative Library along with the Public Library will be moved. I understand that is the intention. There is nothing definite decided. I think perhaps it might be well to retain the library.

Mr. Stewart: I was going to make that suggestion, because I gathered from the Act that all the books would be removed. I do not think that would ever do, because, as my hon. friend knows, ever since we had a Legislature we had a legislative library. There are many books in the legislative library that are absolutely necessary during the session. Of course, the Dodd Library is a recent addition. We have learned now to consider it as one library, but the Dodd and legislative libraries are entirely different. There are some historical works that might be moved over to the new building without any trouble, but a great many of the books in the Legislative Library will have to be left here in connection with the Legislature. The item carried.

Legislative Grants

Mr. Stewart: I notice that you have stopped paying a portion of the salary of Mr. Cornell, Maritime Freight expert. Has he been dropped by the three Maritime Provinces?

Premier Saunders: I must confess that I couldn't say as to that. He is not down here.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Cornell did a great deal of valuable work. He saved us an immense amount of money in freight charges; hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Premier Saunders: Well, there is a last item, Unforeseen Expenditures, \$2,000. That may come in there. That is at the very end of the estimates.

Mr. Stewart: I urge that his services should be retained, if possible. Of course, it could come in under that item generally.

Premier Saunders: It has not been included here, I don't think.

Mr. Stewart: Might I ask what Mr. Burnaby, Maritime Trade Commissioner, is receiving altogether from the three Maritime Provinces?

Premier Saunders: I couldn't say; matter to which I directed the attention. I was informed, but I don't know the exact amount. Our attention was directed to the fact that there is \$1,500.

Mr. Stewart: That would mean that had been put in. My contention was that he was not needed. That the office is costing about \$15,000.

Premier Saunders: I think \$15,000 is the total amount.

Mr. Stewart: We are paying pretty high. Our proportion properly would be about one-eleventh, according to population.

Premier Saunders: I think \$15,000 is the amount and we are paying \$1,500.

Mr. Stewart: That would be one-

Premier Saunders: Yes, there is an increase.

Mr. Stewart: That is where you need the Old Age Pensions.

Premier Saunders: That is right. **Mr. Stewart:** If we could get an adjustment whereby we could get the Old Age Pensions paid to the aged infirm who are in our institutions and those abroad whom we are helping, it would be of great assistance to the revenue of the Province.

Premier Saunders: No doubt about that.

Mr. Stewart: I do not know whether that arrangement could be made. Of course, taking a general pension scheme with this Province contributing fifty per cent, it would put the balance the other way. In other words, we would not have fifty per cent of those people in our institutions at the present time, and consequently it would be a liability. But if by any means we could get that money for those whom we are already supporting, it would relieve the revenues very much in that regard.

(The Items, Postage and Rent of Post Office Boxes, Provincial Auditor's Department, and Provincial Secretary Treasurer's Department, were passed without much discussion.)

Provincial Building

Hon. Mr. Stewart: This was very high last year; the cost of fuel, lights, repairs, etc. to this building was nearly \$8,000.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: I might say that this item is \$1500 less than it was last year. Last year there was a lot of work; extra cleaning, etc.

Mr. Stewart: My hon. friend has an obsession about cleaning. It surely did not cost \$2,000 to clean this building. But I will tell you what did cost money; it was the fancy furnishing that my hon. friend is so fond of. His luxurious tastes run away with him. I could not get that information out of him last year. There is a great deal of ingenuity exercised in answering questions in some departments. Last year we find that \$2,000 was spent for carpets and other things; that accounts for practically the whole amount. As I said, I was not able to get all that information last year, although the expenditure had been made long before. This House was fitted up in apple order before the session began, and yet I could not get the information.

Premier Saunders: Any questions that were put to us were fully answered.

Mr. Stewart: I am exonerating my hon. friend on this occasion; it was not in his department.

Mr. McIntyre: I think I acquainted my hon. friend with all the information. If he wanted any further information he should have put it on the order paper.

Mr. Stewart: It should have been given before. The work was completed a month before and the bills paid.

Mr. McIntyre: The bills were not paid before last session.

Mr. Stewart: That is rather strange. Surely they were put in. In 1926 the upkeep of this building cost \$4,867; last year it was \$7,482; and there is an estimate of \$6,000 this year. There should be quite a shrinkage in that amount this year.

Mr. McIntyre: There was a lot of extra work done on the eaves, and your gutters were in bad shape.

Mr. Stewart: When were they done? I noticed that you had a scaffolding up practically all summer. I was wondering if my hon. friend was going to hang himself on it. He would have to get a big scaffold for that.

Mr. McIntyre: The next scaffold we get; we are going to put you on it.

Mr. Stewart: You will have to get somebody between us. I think you might get the leader of the Government. (Laughter) May I ask if that extra \$2,000 included the furniture—the chair—in my hon. friend's office?

Mr. McIntyre: Part of it.

Mr. Stewart: Only part of the chair?

Mr. McIntyre: Yes.

Mr. Stewart: I thought so!

Registry Office Clerks

Hon. Mr. Stewart: There was a matter to which I directed the attention of the Government last year. In regard to the Registry Office, Charlottetown. Another copying clerk had been put in. My contention was that he was not needed. It was assured last year that he was a temporary assistant, and the item went through on that understanding.

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ec system at present, it is true; but there is no justification for this extra clerk and the additional expenditure that is involved. As I said before, I was assured last year that it was a temporary arrangement, and that it would be done away with.

Premier Saunders: In speaking to the Registrar about the party to whom you refer, he said there was quite enough work to keep him going, that he was a good penman and was doing good service. He is not being paid very much in salary and we believe it is in the interests of the public. As you say, there were two additional clerks there for a time; and surely it couldn't be said that these men were there doing nothing. I know that the entire staff of the Registry Office in Prince County have a petition pointing out the increased volume of work, and suggesting that the amount paid is not a living wage. I don't believe there is one official in the Government service who is properly paid. It is simply a case of getting the work done.

Mr. Stewart: These officials assured me that they would gladly do the work if they got the extra pay, and we made that arrangement with them. The whole system, of course, is antiquated. It could all be done by one Registrar and a stenographer. Instead of the deeds being copied out in longhand they could be done in duplicate and a copy filed. However, that is by the way. This money, I submit, is not properly expended.

Mr. W. C. S. McLure: I must agree with the leader of the Government that the salaries of certain clerks in the Government offices are very low. It is all the more regrettable that in the Registry Office in Charlottetown a returned soldier, Mr. Frank MacDonald, should have had his salary reduced \$200. I do not know why this man was discriminated against to that extent. Perhaps the Premier can explain.

Premier Saunders: The other man had been in the service for very many years, and he was rated as a very excellent official. We have nothing to say against Mr. McDonald; he is a good official too; but it was a case of an injustice done to Mr. Kiggins, who had been an official for many years. We felt it was only right that he should be placed where he should have been before.

Mr. Stewart: He had never been Registrar before.

Premier Saunders: But the Registrar died.

Mr. Stewart: That was in our time, and we appointed another.

Premier Saunders: Well, he is holding the same position he held before.

Prince County Office

Mr. A. F. Arsenault: I feel that the clerks in the Registry Office in Summerside are not getting sufficient salary as compared with the Charlottetown office.

Premier Saunders: We are in accord about the officials not getting enough. We believe they are under paid.

Mr. Arsenault: They are doing the same class of work as in Charlottetown, and it is very unfair.

The items carried.

Ferry Service

(The Estimates for Ferries, Public Works Department, were as follows: Queens County: Cranberry, Hillsboro River, \$2,500; McCannel's, \$5,500; York Point, \$700; Steamer Hillsboro, Charlottetown and Rocky Point, \$13,000; Floats, Charlottetown and Rocky Point, \$1,200; Waiting Rooms, \$200.

Prince County: Summerside and Hurd's Point, \$1,600; Ellis River, \$1,000.

King's County: Poplar Point, \$400; Newport, \$3,500; Georgetown and Lower Montague, \$4450; Annandale, Lot 56, \$500; Murray Harbor North and Murray Harbor South, \$600).

Mr. W. C. S. McLure: We would like to get some information with regard to the Steamer "Hillsboro." Is she on the route yet?

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: No.

Mr. McLure: When will she be in operation?

Mr. McIntyre: We expect to have repairs made shortly and that she will soon be on the route. There is a gasoline boat in her place.

Mr. McLure: What boat is doing the service?

Mr. McIntyre: A gasoline boat owned by Mr. Taylor.

Mr. McLure: Can any definite time be given when the Hillsboro ferry will be ready?

Mr. McIntyre: No.

Mr. McLure: This is one of the most important ferries on the Island. You would think the Department would see that the ferry boat was ready as soon as navigation opened.

Mr. McIntyre: It will be ready just as soon as Bruce Stewart & Co., gets the work completed. I might say that we had to send to Scotland for parts of the furnace of that boat.

Mr. McLure: When did you send for this?

Mr. McIntyre: Last fall.

Mr. McLure: It takes a long time to come.

Mr. Arsenault: I notice an item \$200 for Waiting Rooms, Queen's County ferry service. Don't you think the same provision should be made for Prince County?

Mr. H. D. McLean: The same would apply to King's County.

Mr. McLure: With reference to the ferry service at Bonshaw, I think the question was asked the Minister of Public Works whether he had received a petition from certain people in that district asking for a ferry, and I believe it was included in these items.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: \$500.

Ellis River

Mr. Arsenault: In regard to the Ellis River ferry, I would like to ask if the amount is the same as last year.

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: It is much less than last year owing to the fact that they anticipate building a new scow.

Mr. Arsenault: Has the contract been let?

Mr. McIntyre: Yes.

Mr. Arsenault: Who has the contract?

Mr. McIntyre: Mr. Rankin.

Mr. Arsenault: What time do you expect the service to be put into operation?

Mr. McIntyre: I cannot just tell you that.

Mr. Arsenault: Because there are many people enquiring in that section. Do you intend to fix up the old ferry and put her in operation until the contract is completed?

Mr. McIntyre: No.

Mr. Arsenault: You are going to disrupt the service?

Mr. McIntyre: There are a couple of bridges down below; the South West Bridge and Grand River bridge, they can cross there.

Mr. Arsenault: But in the spring of the year when the roads are bad, it is difficult for them to do that. This ferry should have been built last year.

Mr. McIntyre: My hon. friend must realize that we had to build a new one at Newport and Lower Montague. It is left to the Liberal Government to build all the ferries.

Mr. Arsenault: That is not the question at all. What has that to do with it? I want to give the people some information as to the service they may expect from this Government.

Mr. McIntyre: A new scow; the very best we can give.

Mr. Arsenault: What is the term of the contract? When has it got to be finished?

Mr. McIntyre: Just tell them the very best!

Mr. Arsenault: They will be discouraged if we say "the very best" that you can do! (Laughter) We want something definite.

A Vain Boast

Mr. Stewart: The Minister of Public Works made some remarks a moment ago about Liberal Governments having to build all the ferries. My hon. friend's knowledge does not go far enough back. Let me tell him that it was a Conservative Government that placed the first proper ferry boat at Newport; that a Liberal Government was in power for a quarter of a century and they were satisfied with a miserable gasoline boat that would scarcely carry foot passengers across. I will give my hon. friend credit for putting that new boat there; but he should not make those statements, because it shows that he is not properly informed. Now he says he is going to build one for Lower Montague.

Mr. McIntyre: No I didn't say that.

Mr. Stewart: I suppose he knows that that boat is not owned by the Government? It is owned by the Georgetown Ferry Boat Company. It is true she is getting old, but she has done good service. That boat was put there when the Conservative Government was in power. I would like to know what my hon. friend's plans are in regard to that.

Mr. Arsenault: In regard to the Grand River ferry, has the Government received any petition and has there been any survey made to build a bridge there? I am informed that the matter has been taken up with the Department to build a bridge. I do not know whether the Federal representative has interested himself in the matter, but I understand it has been suggested by somebody—a steel bridge.

Mr. McIntyre: I think my hon. friend is getting mixed up with this Causeway.

Mr. Arsenault: No. That is the one for which my hon. friend says they are going to make a survey.

Premier Saunders: They are going to build a tunnel there!

Mr. Arsenault: This Grand River ferry was also inaugurated by a Conservative Government.

Mr. McIntyre: That is wonderful!

Mr. Arsenault: It is wonderful, and

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