

RE-CAST OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Boundaries Straightened Out, and Two New Districts Created.

The Printing Contractor Made a "Blotch" of the Bill—Some Items of Estimates Threshed Out in Committee—Brands and School Law Amendments—The Question of Companies' Untaxable Lands—The Government Promises to Issue the Brand Book—The "Boundaries" Resolution Was Hard Hit—Game Laws Further Amended—No More Spring Duck Shooting.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 14, 1898. A trail from Fort St. John to the Nelson, whether a wagon road was not possible there as well as at Prince Albert.

Mr. Maloney asked: What action, if any, was taken in regard to the building of the bridge across Sturgeon River in Tp. 55, 22, W. 4th M., for which a sum was voted last year?

Mr. Ross said that no action was taken because the engineer reported that unless roads were opened leading to the location the bridge would be useless. As no vote was made for the roads, the department did not build the bridge.

On motion of Mr. Boucher the House ordered a return showing when A. Fisher was appointed local inspector of public works and the instructions issued to him.

BULLETS DISCOVERED.

Mr. Haultain informed the House that he had just received a telegram from Mr. Bulley who had arrived at Vancouver, and who might be expected to arrive at Regina on Friday night. On account of the interest attaching to Mr. Bulley and his report, the Government felt constrained to ask the House to wait over a day to receive the statement regarding his mission and its result. Mr. Bulley had been telegraphed to prepare as complete a report as he could prepare while travelling, so as to be able to give it without delay when he arrived. With the amount of work still on hand, they could not in any event prorogue before Friday, and under the circumstances the House would be held sure ready agree to remain until Saturday. (Applause.)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House then proceeded to consider the items of the Estimates in committee.

On the item of \$1250 additional for well boring and repairs to well augers.

Mr. Maloney and several other members made pleas for their districts. Mr. Maloney said that notwithstanding the fine rivers in the northern country there were yet areas lying back from the rivers where the settlers were unable to get water with the resources at their command.

Mr. Ross said it was true that in probably a majority of the electoral districts in the Territories there were certain sections possessing the difficult water question. He explained much in the same line as he had done last year the work being carried on by the department. They had in all 24 well borers at work. Of these 21 were the smaller borers, and were operated by the settlers themselves, the Government maintaining a measure of supervision and direction and supplying the necessary repairs to the machines. Then they had three larger borers—deep well borers, two being operated by horse power and one by steam. These latter were handled and operated wholly by the department and only upon public property, that was to say, upon road allowances usually. The operation of these machines served the double purpose of testing, and of supplying wells to be utilized by all within reasonable distance from where they were sunk. The test was of course the main object, but when they got water they fitted up the well with piping and pump, and placed it in care of the Surveyor-Labor Overseer. Mr. Ross repeated that the water question was one of the most difficult and unsatisfactory with which the Government had to deal, but this year they had had very fair success in their operations. A return brought down since the opening of the session showed the number of wells in which they had struck water. As for the localities of operation he said that while the need existed in many parts—in Northern Alberta, some districts in Southern Alberta, in Saskatchewan, and various portions of Assiniboin—there were degrees of difficulty in the various portions; and the Government were trying to meet the needs in those localities where the difficulty was most serious.

Item, \$29,088 for Construction and Improvement of Roads.

Mr. Ross made the statement that the question of roads was another very serious and difficult one. Especially in the foothill country, the rigid survey plan did not answer well. It was a matter of great moment to all parts of the Territories that main highways should be properly located with a view to the greatest possible public convenience. It was proposed that the Deputy Commissioner should next year go through the country and decide upon the location of main trails. As he (Mr. Ross) had said yesterday, there was probably no man living who had as comprehensive knowledge of the topography of the Territories as Mr. Denis; but to enable wise selection it would be necessary even for him to go through the country. (Applause.)

Explaining the item of \$12,500, included in the above, for Peace River road, Mr. Ross said that the work had consisted of improving an existing road from Edmonton to Athabasca River, making a new wagon road thence to Slave Lake, from which place there was a good road to Peace River. The part between Athabasca River and Slave Lake was the heavy portion of the work, most of it being through dense forest. Then they were making a pack trail from Fort St. John to the forks of the Nelson River, a distance of about 100 miles. This was the only portion not completed. The pack trail would give access to the Lillard country, known to be gold bearing. The road to Peace River also gave access to the head waters of that river. The Peace was undoubtedly the finest river in the Territories, and by its access was given to the Findlay River country and Omicron country. Hitherto supplies for Omicron were taken from Ashcroft at cost of about 15 cents a pound—by pack trail. Now supplies were taken in from Edmonton without any packing and at cost greatly reduced. In consequence, the opening of the road by this Government gave a vast tract of mining country to be supplied with provisions, etc., from the North-West Territories. In connection with the road they had been enabled to provide ferries without cost to the Government. There was a ferry at the Pembina River, at the Athabasca River, and at the Narrows of Slave Lake, all obtained as provided under the Ferries Ordinance of 1897 by calling tenders, and giving the privilege of the ferry to the party who named the lowest fees to be charged the public. At first they expected to take the road around the end of Slave Lake, but found it better not to do so, but to place a ferry across the Narrows.

Dr. Brett enquired as to the pack trail from Fort St. John to the Nelson, whether a wagon road was not possible there as well as at Prince Albert.

assumed by the towns. Mr. Haultain said he knew that the excursions had resulted, in the way of advertisement, exceedingly well; and he could tell Mr. Agnew that as a direct result of them a party of delegates from one of the States—not Dakota which Mr. Agnew seemed to be afraid of—had already visited Prince Albert district. The Premier said that any disparaging remarks respecting the residents of adjoining States from which we do hope to get large additions to our own population, ought to be deprecated. It should not be forgotten, too, that many of the people who are coming from the States are in reality Canadians, people born in the eastern provinces who removed to the States, who are now finding it possible to come back into Canada, and who are as desirable a class of settlers as can be welcomed.

Mr. McCauley warmly supported the item. All the fault he had to find was that it was too small. Edmonton had entertained one of the parties, and should be assisted as well as the other towns. Mr. McCauley wanted to move to increase the item to \$425 00.

Mr. Haultain pointed out that while the House could reduce an item, it unfortunately could not increase an item. He fully agreed with Mr. McCauley. It had escaped the Government's attention that Edmonton had given entertainment. From the other towns the Government had received requests, and some came from Edmonton. They would try to devise a means—as the item did not then increase—to meet the deficiency.

For 1899—An Estimate of \$60,000, transmitted by the Administrator in a separate Message, was voted to carry on the public service for a term after the end of the present fiscal year; and

The committee rose and reported pro

gress; and

Mr. Haultain submitted a further Mea

sage from His Honor which transmitted a further Estimate, which

The House again resolved into commit

tee to consider.

The Estimate was for \$1,000 to be vot

ed towards alleviating the want and suf

fering caused by the terrible fire at New

Westminster. Mr. Haultain said that

such a vote was well justified by preced

ent. In other notable cases there had

been universal response from towns,

villages and cities. The amount was in one

sense small to go from so large a country

as the North-West Territories, but again

it was a substantial amount which if tendered in a spirit of willing sympathy

would doubtless be appreciated and be

found useful. Again, in a way the Territor

ies could afford it in this year of financial

jubilee, for even after the large supple

mentaries voted, they were carrying for

ward between \$30,000 and \$40,000 to swell

the resources of next year.

Dr. Brett heartily concurred in the

item, and

Mr. Mowat, as a resident in the near

neighborhood of the devastated city,

thanked the House for the unanimous

and substantial vote.

The committee then rose. The resolutions

were reported, read a first and se

cond time and concurred in.

RETURN.

Mr. Haultain brought down the return

relating to the removal of the school

building in the Durham district.

THIRD READINGS.

The bills respecting Villages and to

amend the Municipal Ordinance were

given third reading.

THE BRAND LAW.

In moving second reading of a bill to amend the Brand Ordinance 1897, Mr.

Ross said he proposed to amend no principle of the law passed last year.

In the working a few changes had suggested

themselves to facilitate the carrying out of

the principle of the law. The first change

proposed was an improvement rather than an amendment. In regard to the vent at the instance of the Stock Association

they prescribed last year a second impres

sion of the brand, which meant a double

impression of the brand. It was now

proposed to allow an alternative vent or

new class of vent. The second imp es

on on the same side of the animal would

remain as the vent as far as concerned all

the old brands, and could still be used

with the three character brands, but they

would provide also that the first sign

of any three character brand placed horizontally beneath the brand might be used as the vent. There was an objection to the use of a second impression in the case of

a large brand. They would not do away

with the old vent, but simply provide a

new and smaller vent, which was as

assured would be appreciated by the stock

men as a step in the right direction. The

second change was to extend the time for

applications for re-allocation. The Or

dinance closed the time on 1st July last.

It was not in the interest of a stockman

that he should lose his brand, and neither

the Government nor the Assembly had

any desire to deprive any stockman of his

brand. It was found that some stockmen

did not become aware of the specifications

of the Ordinance in time to avail them

of the opportunity to apply for re

allocation before 1st July. That had

been one effect of the early enforcement

of the new system. The Premier said that

it would have been better had more time

been taken to bring the system into operation.

He proposed now to extend that date to July 1st, 1899. They did not

wish to cancel any brand, and would en

deavor to communicate with the owners

and have all furnished with information

of the law to enable them to profit by the extension. The time for applications for

registration of distinctive marks had been

closed on 1st March. The member for

North Qu'Appelle (Mr. McDonald) had

put a question to the Government and had

urged an extension in respect of this

matter. He was proposing an amend

ment accordingly, but could not hold out

much hope that such applications would

be successful, because out of several hun

dred applied for last spring only a very

small percentage could be recorded; the

great majority conflicted with ones already

registered.

However the department was

willing to take the trouble of looking into

further applications. Another amend

ment proposed to strike out the provision

calling for publication of the brands regis

tered in the official gazette. The gazette

was not thought to be a convenient nor

the most useful way of publication. The Government would consider the issue of a brand book; it might be issued as a

Government publication to be supplied at a certain price, or if they found it could be done more advantageously by private

enterprise it might be issued in that way.

The House wld rec-lect that he (Mr.

Haultain) had gone somewhat extensively

into the general aspects of the matter last

year; and the Government had brought it

very forcibly to the attention of the

Minister of the Interior, and had the sat

isfaction of his promise to deal with it.

In fact the Minister said that steps had

already been taken to enforce the imme

diate location and compel the patenting

of a large acreage in Manitoba, and he

had promised to proceed as fast as he

could find time, and hoped within no