

COMPANIES ACT TO BE AMENDED

COPIES OF A DRAFT ACT TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND PRESENT LAWS SENT OUT FOR EXAMINATION.

Codification and amendment of statutes for the purpose of removing ambiguities and confusion at the same time facilitate the operation of the law will be among the features of the approaching session of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. One of the most important in the latter class is the bill embodying the consolidation of the Ontario Companies' Acts, which will be laid before the Legislature, when convened, by Hon. W. J. Hanna, the Provincial Secretary. Draft copies of the measure have been and are to be placed in circulation at once in order that those interested may have the fullest opportunity for discussing it and suggesting changes which will render it still more perfect. Following is a summary of its provisions:

The bill to be introduced next session contains part of the consolidation and amendment of the Ontario Statutes now in course of revision. It is open to the fullest discussion and comment. Very full returns are required to be made at annual meetings placing the whole affairs of companies in possession of shareholders. The provisions of the Imperial Companies Act relating to share-warrants are adopted. Share-warrants entitle their holders to the shares specified in them, and the shares may be transferred by the holder in general use in Europe. Directors formerly exempted from liability for error in statements based on expert testimony are now held liable for all statements in their prospectuses. A director's vote will be counted in future to vote in favor of the directors.

A fixed minimum share subscription to be fixed by the directors is insisted upon, so that companies may not be floated upon inadequate capital and thus foredoomed to failure. No allotment or share certificate will be permitted until this is completed.

Corporation accounts must be examined annually, and if auditors be not appointed the provincial secretary may appoint them. Companies seeking to operate public utilities are more fully subjected to public control. Many acts dealing with public franchises are consolidated and special provisions are relegated to other acts, as in the Cemeteries Act, where provisions applying to cemeteries are added to other property acts, so as to apply to all cemeteries and not merely incorporated ones.

Any company desiring an act to operate a public utility of any kind, or any municipality submitting a by-law in such connection, must lay the whole scheme before the municipal board for approval. The winding-up act is superseded by sections providing for the economical and voluntary winding up of any company. This will be under the high court, which also administers the Dominion Act. Should any unfairness appear, the high court may apply to the high court for an order. No suit or action can be brought against a corporation after the winding-up proceedings have been instituted.

All companies must be incorporated in the provincial secretary's office, except those of railways, excluded and insurance and loan corporations within the meaning of the Loan Corporations Act. All companies must make returns to the provincial secretary's office, and these returns will be much more extensive than heretofore. Beneficial societies holding real estate will be relieved of some difficulties.

Four different kinds of expropriation proceedings under the old act are exchanged for the method pursued under the new act. The provincial secretary will be enabled to investigate the books of any public utility company, such as the Consumers' Gas Company, if required. The government will probably include a section limiting the capital of companies, or in other words, restraining the watering of stock.

MALFEASANCE CHARGE IN GLAMORGAN
THE JUDGMENT OF HIS HONOR JUDGE HARDING IN THE CASE AGAINST EX-REEVE JOHN MAXWELL.
His Honor Judge Harding has given out the following judgment: To the Municipal Council of the Township of Glamorgan in the Provisional County of Haliburton.

In pursuance of a resolution of the said Council passed on the 18th day of October last in the words and figures following: "Moved by Councillor Kirkpatrick, seconded by Councillor Minty, that the Judge of the County Court of the County of Victoria is hereby requested to investigate the supposed malfeasance breach of trust or other misconduct on the part of John Maxwell, formerly Reeve of the Township of Glamorgan, in relation to the alleged sale of lot number 11, concession 5, Glamorgan, whereby the Corporation of the said Township of Glamorgan has been defrauded of certain tax arrears and also in or concerning any matter connected with the good government of the municipality or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof.—Carried."

I proceeded with the inquiry at Gooderham in the said Township of Glamorgan on the 28th and 29th days of November, 1906, and at the Town of Lindsay in the County of Victoria on the 11th and 12th days of December, 1906, and I find and report as follows:

1 John Maxwell above mentioned was Reeve of the said township for some years including 1901 and 1902.

2 That James C. Johnson appears to have been the owner of lot number 11 in the 5th concession of said township in the year 1901 and absconded from the Province during the same year.

3 That the said John Maxwell in the year 1901 while still Reeve of Glamorgan sold and agreed to convey said lot number 11 in the 5th concession of said township to one John Hancock for the consideration of \$75.

4 The said John Hancock paid the whole sum of \$75 to the said John Maxwell during the year 1901.

5 On the 15th day of January, 1902 on the application of the said John Maxwell, Reeve of the said Township, the said Council agreed to accept the sum of \$25 for taxes then due and in arrears upon lots number 11 and 12, concession 5 in the said Township of Glamorgan up to December 1st, 1901, and passed the resolution following:

"Moved by Councillor Switzer, seconded by Councillor Raby, that this Board will accept \$25 in full of the arrears of taxes due on lots eleven and twelve, concession five, Glamorgan, to date, Dec. 31st, 1901.—Carried."

6 I find the said sum of \$25 was paid to the Treasurer of the said township and appears on record in the books of the said township as having been paid by James Johnson as of date May 31st, 1902.

7 I find that at the time the said sum of \$25 was received in full of taxes on lots number 11 and 12 there was then due and owing for lot number 11 in the 5th concession of said township of Glamorgan the sum of \$40.12 for arrears of taxes.

8 I have not been supplied with evidence showing any amount against lot number 12 in the 5th concession of the township of Glamorgan, nor has evidence been given showing who is the owner of lot number 12 in said township.

9 I find from the evidence that the sum of \$40 was paid to the wife of the said James Johnson by the said John Maxwell.

10 I find a balance of ten dollars remains in the hands of the said John Maxwell still out of the said sum of \$75 and should be paid over to the municipal corporation of the said Township of Glamorgan.

11 As the said John Maxwell was at the time Reeve of the said Township he should not be allowed to make any profits out of the transactions above mentioned.

12 Under the Municipal Act the members of the Council are not allowed to engage in transactions with the corporation where their private interests would conflict with public duty.

Messrs. McDiarmid & Weeks for Ex-Reeve Maxwell, Mr. L. E. Weldon for the township.

Ops Council Proceedings
The closing meeting of Ops Council was held on Saturday, December 15th, with all members present. After the reading and adoption of the minutes of last meeting the members presented their respective accounts for the year, during which the regular and five special meetings have been held. As some of the special meetings were short, they agreed to condense the five into two, making a total of twelve meetings for the year.

On motion of Messrs. Best and Coulter, the accounts were passed and paid so as to appear in the annual financial statement.

COMMUNICATIONS.
A letter from Mr. McNeill, County Clerk, explaining the charges made regarding admission to House of Refuge.

A report from Dr. Brown, M.H.O., for the six months he has been in office, prefaced by his thanks for appointment, and expressing his pleasure in reporting an almost entire absence of epidemics or contagious diseases in the township, there being but one case of diphtheria and eight of typhoid fever. Of the latter all recovered and six of them were members of one family. Although, the diphtheria case proved fatal the disease was promptly stamped out.

Two letters from W. R. Tiffin, Superintendent of the G.T.R., in reference to the piece of road lately built in Ops.

A letter from William McIntyre, of East Luther, requesting that the Legislature be asked to enforce the building of wire fences by a special Act.

A letter from R. J. Grandy, Clerk of Emly, with an account for boundary work, and one from Mariposa, also an account of boundary work.

Applications for appointment as returning officers from J. A. Agnew Geo. Clark and James Greer.

Mr. Best and Roche favored the appointment of Geo. Clark in Division 6, while Mr. Wilson thought Mr. Agnew should be appointed. He said the appointment should be made by the representative of the division.

The following deputy returning officers and poll clerks were then appointed: H. Fitzpatrick and Walter Mitchell in No. 1; Wm. M. Graham, and J. H. Graham in No. 2; James Cunningham and A. Cunningham, in No. 3; Albert Parkin and P. C. Murphy in No. 4; Jas. Greer and A. C. Reid in No. 5; J. A. Agnew and John Giltenane in No. 6. A by-law

authorizing the nomination and election of a Council was then passed. The Reeve then stated that the electors should have an opportunity of expressing their opinions by ballot as to the closing of by-roads, and a ballot including the Omemece road, the Oakwood road and the Downeyville road, grouped together should be tendered to them on which they might mark "Yes" or "No." The Council would not be obliged to act on their decision, but it would be a guide for the new Council.

Mr. Best said it was too late now to advertise a by-law. The Reeve said all the Council wanted was an expression of opinion of the majority of the electors.

Mr. Best thought the people should be allowed to vote on each road separately. The Reeve thought it fairer to vote on the three together.

Mr. Best then moved that the vote be on each road separately. Mr. Roche seconded the motion.

Mr. Wilson moved in amendment that the vote be on the three by-roads together. Mr. Coulter seconded the amendment and the Reeve declared it carried.

A by-law to authorize a vote on the by-roads was then passed. Treasurer Kennedy presented the annual financial statement which was on motion received, and the Clerk was instructed to have 100 copies printed as usual.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mr. Best, that Dr. Brown's health report be received and filed.—Carried.

The following accounts were then examined, passed, and on motion paid: Thos. Deyell, for ditching, \$3.75; John Sluggitt, ditching, \$1.50; Angus Ferguson, ditching, \$11.50; Milligan Bros., gravel, \$7.00; Thos. Walton, gravel, \$4.00; Peter Hickson, gravel, \$3.00; Thos. H. Reavis, gravel, \$32.20; Wilson & Wilson, gravel, \$3.50; Jas. McCausland, caring for Township Hall, \$4.90; John McNevin, refund for survey, 5th con., \$2.04; Treas. Mariposa, 5th con., cost of boundary work, \$0.89; W. F. O'Boyle, Clerk, refund for inks and maulage, \$1.50; James Connolly, B. of H. account, \$2.00; Richard Jackson, B. of H. account, \$2.00; Mrs. Thos. Calvert, B. of H. account, \$2.00; Stewart and O'Connor, law account for 1905, \$91.45.

Mr. Coulter moved, seconded by Mr. Best, that the Reeve and Clerk be authorized to execute a memorial in favor of wire fence enactment, and that the Clerk forward the petition to Toronto.—Carried.

The survey of the 5th concession roadway which had been ordered by the Council in 1904 at the instance of Wm. I. Reid, was referred to, and as the township has not yet been reimbursed for the cost incurred, Mr. Roche moved, seconded by Mr. Coulter that the Clerk notify and request Mr. Reid to pay cost to the Township Treasurer.—Carried.

Mr. McLean, collector, stated that he had been disappointed as some ratepayers promised to pay their taxes during the day, and had not done so, but said if his time were extended a few days he would see that all outstanding taxes would be collected.

Mr. Roche moved, seconded by Mr. Best, that the collector's request be granted, that he collect the balance of the taxes and return his roll to the Treasurer with a statement of rebates for statute labor done and certified, and any other rebate allowed by this Council, and that he be paid his salary on making said return.—Carried.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on motion of Messrs. Wilson and Best, and the meeting closed after the usual vote of thanks to the Reeve for his presiding during the year, in which he presided during the year.

Local Option Vote in Glamorgan
Glamorgan is among the municipalities in which a local option vote will be taken at the municipal elections. There is only one hotel in the township at Gooderham. The contest, it is reported, is likely to be a keen one.

Hymeneals
The home of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Frick, Peterborough, was the scene of an interesting event on the evening of Dec. 12, when their niece, Miss Martha Alberta Brown, of Port Miss Martha Alberta Brown, of Port Granby, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. Wilbert McMillan.

WOOD—JUNKIN.
The following report, which appeared in the Toronto Globe of December 11, will be of interest to many Verulam friends: The marriage of Miss Emma Junkin, daughter of Mr. Frank Porter Wood, Junkin, at the residence of Wood, took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Crescent road, Rosedale, yesterday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Talling, officiating. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a lovely cream satin and wore a lovely bouquet of Carrick-macross, with her bouquet was of lilies of the valley, a small wreath of the same being worn in her hair under the tulle veil. Her sister, Miss Nora Junkin, and Miss Pauline Ivey, of London, Ont., were bridesmaids. In pretty gowns of lace, and carried with garlands of turquoise blue silk with garniture of pink roses. Mr. Wallace Wood, Peterborough, was best man. Mr. and Mrs. Wood left for New York en route to the continent, leaving going away dress being of becoming green cloth, with toque to match.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

The Y.M.C.A. is closing its year in better spirits than it has for some time. The membership is steadily increasing, the financial outlook is brighter, the religious work is taking on new life, and all indications point to a greater and more permanent work being done. The annual calendar exhibition and sale is now on. The list of magazines for sale is now posted and bids are being recorded.

The other day the local secretary received an envelope from Port Hope with the following inscription on it: "\$25,000 for a new up-to-date Y.M.C.A. building for the 1700 young men and boys of Port Hope," and in large type, "We'll never give up till we get it." This shows enterprise, and we hope Lindsay will launch out on a similar campaign in the near future.

Wonderful Capabilities of Canada's Northland near Hudson Bay

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Professor John Macoun, F.L.S., F.R.S.S., before the Agricultural Commission this morning stated that he saw no reason why wheat should not be grown within three miles of Hudson Bay, so far as climate conditions were concerned. Dealing with the section of country from Edmonton to Portage la Prairie, Professor Macoun said that its productive possibilities had not yet been realized.

The Grand Trunk Pacific was going through better country east of Assiniboia than the C. P. R., avoiding the sand-hills which the last named road travelled through. The so-called bad lands, or alkaline plains, had also been found excellent for wheat-growing. Professor Macoun had been accustomed to similar conditions in the United States having been exceptionally successful in overcoming the water difficulty by sinking artesian wells and using thick sods for the building of houses and for fuel.

The reason for the area capable of wheat-raising extending so far north was because of a compensating decrease in altitude, and it was on this account that Professor Macoun made the statement as to wheat-growing practically on the shores of Hudson Bay, "I declare the veterans' botanist," "let me say that I am only trying to arouse your interest in this subject because I am getting to be an old man. When the people of Canada will begin to realize that this northland is to realize what Germany was to the Romans. It was supposed to be a hyperborean climate and unfit for mortal beings to inhabit, yet to-day Germany is one of the strongest nations in the world. And that is regions in the north of Canada.

We have more than half a continent to be raised first-class wheat and first-class men, certainly we ought to raise first-class men."

Obituary
Mr. Andrew Coulter, who left Silver Lake some years ago for Sault Ste. Marie, died there on December 3rd. A large number of friends attended the funeral on the 5th.

THE LATE MRS. ADAMS.
On Thursday evening last, after a protracted and painful illness, borne with Christian fortitude and patience there was called away to the bright hereafter, one of Omemece's best known and most respected citizens, in the person of the late Mrs. Adams. All that medical skill and patient and loving nursing could do to prolong her life proved unavailing, and she gradually grew weaker until the angel of death came and conveyed her to the blessed rest where pain and parting are no more. She survived her husband, the late Wm. Adams, just three months to a day, and was laid to rest beside him in Emily cemetery on Saturday last.

The new and beautiful home erected recently in Omemece, was rapidly nearing completion, and in which the aged couple had hoped to spend a few remaining years in the Providence of Divine wisdom to be exchanged for the "home of no man's land," and it remains for those left behind, who are mourning for the "loved and lost," to say "Thy will be done." Thus do our cherished plans meet and adapt themselves to the purposes of God. But when we meditate upon the apostle's words, "To depart and to be with Christ, which is far better," when we think of that state of blessedness which "eye hath not seen," of the good things "which God hath prepared for those that love him," who could desire the return of departed loved ones to this "vale of tears." 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