

LUMBER MART CONTROL PLAN OF HEENAN BILL

Penalties for Companies Wrongly Using Crown Concessions

A clause which will give the Ontario Government an indefinite measure of control over the newsprint and lumber markets was attached to Hon. Peter Heenan's "reallocation-of-timber-limits" bill when that law was introduced in the Legislature yesterday.

The added clause provides that pulp, paper and timber companies using the Crown's Northern timber concessions may be penalized for operations which are deemed detrimental to the public interest.

"The stability of the forest products industries" is the second item in the list of matters of public interest coming under the protection of the proposed penalties.

The bill provides that these penalties will be an increase, by as much as five times, in the stumpage charges paid to the Crown by the great pulp and timber companies. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is empowered to levy these increases against companies which are acting against the public interest in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Yesterday's announcement of a blanket penalty—"in respect to the stability of the forest products industries"—followed eighteen months of newsprint negotiations at Queen's Park. During that time there have been veiled hints of some form of Government control of the price of newsprint, and definite statements that the Government was fighting alleged price-cutting raids on the newsprint market.

The clause added to the reallocation bill yesterday was considered the probable Government weapon for the future implementing of its newsprint policy. The penalties also lie against companies operating "in a manner detrimental to the public interest" in respect to Crown revenues and the maintenance of fair wage and labor conditions.

It was predicted last night that the blanket penalty provisions plus the already announced clauses which give the Government power to revamp the Northern timber limits, will mean a Legislature fight on the bill. Another clause puts a stiff penalty of \$1,000 a day on companies violating the bill or the regulations under the bill. The bill also provides machinery which will give the Minister all information about the pulp and paper companies operating in the North on Crown limits.

The reallocation clauses of the bill are along the lines announced by Mr. Heenan at the beginning of the Legislature. They will pretty well permit the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to revamp the present concessions in the North in the interest of general economy. A clause says the Government may control the quantities and kinds of timber to be cut from any area or used in any mill and may limit the cutting to that consistent with approved forestry methods.

CROLL SPEAKS FOR VETERANS

Government Remembers Debt, He Declares

"I speak for a Government that does something for the returned soldier."

Ontario's youngest Cabinet Minister, Hon. David Croll, made this simple statement last night when he wound up an all-day Legislature fight over the alleged dismissal of veterans from the Civil Service.

The Welfare-Labor Minister, admitting he was only 14 when the war broke out, was speaking in answer to charges that the Government had dismissed and neglected World War veterans. The charges had been made by former Attorney-General W. H. Price.

"I have never lost sight of the fact that I owe a debt of gratitude to the returned soldier," said Mr. Croll. "When we entered office we found that under the Government of which the ex-Attorney-General was a member the returned man was getting less relief than the civilian. Now, under this Government, the returned soldier, for the first time in the history of the Province, is placed on the same footing as the civilian."

Mr. Croll stated that since the making of the Hunter report, the Government had reinstated 110 returned soldiers and the remaining 198 on the list could have every hope of re-employment.

He was answering charges by Colonel Price that the Administration had fired veterans after the making of last year's Hunter report. In Marmora, T. McQuigge, Marmora; William McCoy, Madoc, and a Mr. Wellman of Marmora—all veterans with families—had been dismissed, Colonel Price charged, and the Marmora Legion Post had reported the men were replaced by Mr. Bruce McInroy—"who is reported to have hidden in the swamps during the war so that he need not fight."

ROBERTS REBUKED OVER DISMISSAL

Dr. A. D. Roberts, Liberal M.P.P. for the Sault, dismissed a boy who was clerking in the Northern Development offices because he had promised a lot of jobs and had to fulfil his promises, former Attorney-General W. H. Price charged in yesterday's Legislature.

The former Attorney-General backed his charges with an affidavit from the boy, who pleaded he had not been old enough to vote and could not have voted Conservative. Dr. Roberts had advanced the excuse, said the affidavit, that he must take care of a lot of promises of jobs.

The dismissal was a sample of the Heenan patronage system in Northern Ontario, the former Attorney-General charged.

PAYROLL FRAUD CHARGES FOUND WITHOUT BASIS

'Rowlandson Report' Sees No Relief Discrimination in South Cochrane

No grounds for charges of payroll padding and relief discrimination in South Cochrane, but one instance of improper expenditure of public money on a dam, are contained in the text of the long-awaited "Rowlandson report," which was tabled in the Ontario Legislature yesterday.

A Commission headed by W. B. Common, K.C., investigated charges against the administration of the Department of Northern Development, uttered last year by John Rowlandson, Liberal member of the Legislature for Cochrane South.

Mr. Common found no grounds for charges of payroll padding and relief discrimination in that Northern Ontario area. The Frederickhouse Lake dam at Timmins, he said, was the only matter that justified the investigation.

The Commissioner found there was considerable quicksand where the dam was built, necessitating patching the construction, and that evidence of engineers showed the dam should never have been built at that place. Had there been efficient inspection, the report said, completion of the dam would have been abandoned. The sole purpose of the dam, it was claimed, was to provide duck-hunting facilities for a small section of the community.

The Sporting Club of Timmins was promised the dam by the Northern Development Department in March, 1934, at a proposed cost of \$700.

At the time of the Commission's inquiry, last June, \$24,000 had been expended and there was still \$8,000 in accounts outstanding.

The report found A. T. Hamer, acting district engineer, failed to make periodical inspections of the dam, and should have "consistently opposed" further expenditure of public money on the project.

Because many people in the sparsely settled area were on relief, having "great difficulty in eking out a mere existence," said Mr. Common, complaints and friction had arisen.

Mr. Rowlandson was rebuked in the report for having said last June 7, according to a newspaper report, that the Commission was "trying to misconstrue the evidence of witnesses" and that its work was a "washout." The member for Cochrane South should have "exercised discretion in his public utterances," with the matters under investigation still sub-judice, said the report. Mr. Rowlandson was complimented, however, for his earnestness and sincerity regarding well-being of his constituents.

The Commissioner observed that two of Mr. Rowlandson's daughters had been employed by the department. One was let out because of insubordination; the other quit when work fell off.