

TENDERS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

No Decision Yet on Transcontinental Railway Contracts,

MR. FIELDING OUT AGAIN

Mr. Oliver's Amendments to the Immigration Act.

Designed to Exclude Undesirable For- eigners—Opposition Went the Wrong Way to Obtain Information—Ottawa News

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, April 8.—The Cabinet had an all-day meeting yesterday and discussed tenders for the National Transcontinental Railway, but no decision was reported. At least that was the statement made by several Ministers. In view of the difference of opinion among the Transcontinental Commissioners the Government have to look very carefully into the matter themselves, and as the information is voluminous this takes time. Present opinion is that the lowest tenders will succeed. The three commissioners who reported in favor of the lowest tenders were emphatically of opinion that this was the only course open to them. They were convinced that Mr. J. D. MacArthur, in one case, and Messrs. Hogan & Macdonald, in the other, were men of substance, well able to carry out their obligations. What these are can readily be seen when it is stated that the total cost of the two contracts will be in the neighborhood of twenty million dollars. So large and costly a plant will be required that no ordinary contractor could undertake the work. Naturally there will be a good deal of subletting, more especially as owing to the limited time the contracts will have to be rushed. It is thought the next section for which tenders will be called will be east and west of the point to the north of Lake Nepigon. A company has already been chartered to build northward from Lake Superior, paralleling Lake Nepigon, and this will form a valuable feeder to the Transcontinental. The distance between Lake Superior and Lake Nepigon is about forty miles, and if this were built supplies for the construction of the Transcontinental could be transported northward for the remainder of the journey across the latter stretch of water. It is likely that an application for aid for the Nepigon Railway will be made during the present session of Parliament. The aid sought for will be a guarantee of bonds.

Hon. W. S. Fielding Out Again.

Hon. W. S. Fielding made his first appearance at the Council yesterday since his accident of some weeks ago. The Finance Minister has to use crutches, but was in excellent spirits. He looked a little pale, as the result of his confinement to the house. His colleagues greeted him very cordially, and one and all expressed their delight at seeing him out again.

Immigration Act Amendment.

Hon. Frank Oliver's bill to amend the immigration act, of which notice has been given, provides for many important changes, most of which are designed to render it more difficult for undesirable immigrants to locate in Canada. An arrangement has been come to with the immigration authorities of the United States in accordance with which citizens of either country of the vagrant or criminal classes who cross the border will be taken back when conducted to the international boundary line. This reciprocity holds good for twelve months from the time that the undesirables arrive in Canada. The following new clause makes provision for the maintenance of persons deported but refused entrance into the country from which they came: "Whenever an immigrant or other person is found in Canada contrary to the provisions of this act, and on deportation is refused entry into the country from which he came, on the ground of his not being a subject or citizen of that country, he shall on his return to Canada, if a criminal, be subject to detention in any jail named by the Minister, or otherwise in some hospital or other institution with which arrangements for his detention exist, at the expense of the municipality in Canada of which he was last a regular resident, or if he be a vagrant or tramp, or if there be no such municipality, then at the expense of the Department of the Interior until his case be finally disposed of by the Minister."

Railway Companies Also.

Railway and transportation companies are brought, under the provisions of the act to the same extent as steamship companies, the clause with respect to them reading as follows:—"All railway or transportation companies bringing emigrants from any foreign country into Canada shall be subject, mutatis mutandis, to all the provisions and conditions set forth in this act, or in any order in Council, proclamation or regulation made thereunder with respect to emigrants brought to Canada by vessel in like manner and to the same extent as are the owners of such vessel, and all persons employing immigrants brought into Canada by such companies shall similarly be liable to the penalties for the violation of this act, or any order in Council or regulation made under it, as if such immigrants had been brought in by vessel."

Deportation Provided For.

The deportation of destitute or criminal immigrants is thus provided for: "Whenever in Canada an immigrant has

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within one year of his landing in Canada committed a crime involving moral turpitude or become an inmate of a jail or hospital or other charitable institution, it shall be the duty of the clerk or secretary of the municipality forthwith to notify the Minister thereof with full particulars. On the receipt of such information the Minister may, on investigating the facts, order the deportation of such immigrant, at his own cost and charges if he be able to pay, and, if not, then at the cost of the municipality wherein he has last been a regular resident, when so ordered by the Minister, and if he be a vagrant or tramp, or if there be no such municipality, then at the cost of the Department of the Interior. Every such immigrant shall be carried to the port from which he came to Canada at the cost of the owner of the vessel which brought him to Canada. In case he were brought in to Canada by a railway company, such company shall similarly convey him from the municipality or locality whence he is to be deported to the country whence he was brought."

Definitions Made Plain.

Other sections of the bill make the word "passenger" more definite and the words "ship" or "vessel" more comprehensive, defines what is a port of entry, and confers general powers upon the Minister for the appointment of various officers. Provision is made for the appointment of a Board of Inquiry to deal with appeals against deportation. The old law is made more strict with respect to interference with female immigrants by officers or members of the crew of a vessel. The period of delay on board a vessel after arriving at port is reduced from 48 to 24 hours. The landing of passengers and baggage is made subject to the orders of the immigration agent, who is to fix reasonable hours for the same. The need for the new act is urgent, the present law having been framed thirty years ago and being wholly unsuited to present conditions.

Opposition Made Wrong Move.

The Opposition are trying to make it appear that they have been deliberately thwarted in the effort to get information as to the composition of the North Atlantic Trading Company. The trouble is that they went the wrong way about the business, and after two days' talk did, on the suggestion of their Liberal colleagues, what they should have done at first. Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner, is probably fully aware who the steamship agents are that compose the company and receive bonuses from the Government. What more easy, when the matter first came up, than to have asked authority from either the Agricultural Committee or the Committee on Public Accounts to cable the High Commissioner to send any information in his possession about the company? Doubtless full details would have been received in the course of a couple of hours. Instead of taking this course, however, two days were wasted in trying to obtain from the Superintendent of Immigration information which he said he did not possess.

Notes.

The Minister of Agriculture has appointed Mr. Wolverton of Brandon to be Superintendent of the Experimental Farm there. His qualifications are exceptional, and the choice is regarded as excellent in every way. The former superintendent was Mr. Bedford, who resigned to go farming.

A close season has been established in Lake Winnipegosis and its tributaries and Lake Dauphin from 1st April to 30th November each year inclusive.

Incorporation by letters patent has been granted to H. J. Wright, H. L. Hughes, R. Credicott, W. J. Gilchrist, H. Toyne and C. G. Loeki, Toronto, as the Central Realty Company. The capital stock is \$150,000.

When the Railway Commission visit Toronto on the 17th inst., they will consider a complaint by the Board of Trade regarding discrimination in railway rates.

C. S. Taggart, a well-known Ottawan, died last night.