

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Fourth Session — Fifteenth Session
26th Day

Monday, March 13, 1967

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.
On the Orders of the Day

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

MR. H.D. LINK (Saskatoon City): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and the Members of this House, a fine group of students from Pleasant Hill School in Saskatoon. They are grade seven students and they are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Luciuk. They are seated in the Speaker's gallery, and I am sure we all wish them a pleasant day in the capital city and in this Legislature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. W.E. SMISHEK (Regina East): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity of introducing to you a group of fine students who are seated in the east gallery. They are from Douglas Park School. Douglas Park School is very close to me, both my youngsters are attending Douglas Park; unfortunately at the moment they are not in the group. I would like to on your behalf and on behalf of the Members of the Legislature extend to them a warm welcome for this afternoon and wish them a happy and an education stay here with us today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: — I would ask the indulgence of the House in order to introduce to you a fine group of students from the Separate School at Stockholm, Saskatchewan. They are under the able direction of Sister Blanda and Sister Ernestine of the Order of Sisters of Social Service. I am sure all Members of the House will wish to join with me in extending to them a very warm welcome to the Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan, and also to wish them a safe journey home. May I also say that we are extremely proud of the fact that at Stockholm we have the original mother house of the Sisters of Social Service.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. G.J. Trapp that Bill No. 28 — **An Act to amend the School Grants Act** be now read the second time.

MR. R.A. WALKER (Hanley): — Your Honor will recall that the Minister very kindly agreed to provide the House with information as to how this Bill would apply. If I may say on a point of order at this time, the information hasn't come yet and I am sure the Minister won't oppose a further standing of the Bill.

HON. G.J. TRAPP (Minister of Education): — I'm sorry but Mr. Les Barrett

has been taken to hospital. I think it will be here tomorrow; in fact it will be here this afternoon sometime I think. But he was taken to hospital and he wasn't able to prepare all the material.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. D.G. Steuart that Bill No. 59 — **An Act to amend the Forest Act** be now read the second time.

MR. I.C. NOLLET (Cutknife): — Mr. Speaker, the reason that I adjourned the debate on this particular Bill was because, when the Bill was amended previously, it was stated in this House that there were some 65 or 75,000,000 board feet of lumber in the Vermette and Cummins Lake area and that it would be necessary to construct a road to this area in order to get this lumber out. I asked a question as to what the expected cost of such a road would be. It was estimated that the road would cost about \$2,000,000 from Canoe Lake to this general area. I wasn't satisfied with the answer I received in view of the information that was given to the House previously. I simply asked the estimated board feet of lumber expected from this area. By this I meant lumber, saw lumber, merchantable lumber that would be, I assume, processed by the Primrose Forest Products Company. Now I was looking over some forest inventories for that same general area and I find that the answer I got which was for the same general area stated that there were 8,000,000,000 board feet of soft woods and hard woods, four inches, diameter breast high, and also an estimated five to six billion board feet, eight inches, again diameter breast high. That isn't the kind of an answer I wanted. Everyone knows that there wasn't that much lumber in that particular area.

HON. D.G. STEUART (Minister of Natural Resources): — On a point of order, could the Hon. Member relate what he's talking about has to do with the Bill that is before this House which is an Act to amend the Forest Act. All we are doing in this Act is to take a few little sections out and put them into agriculture. It has nothing to do with the Primrose or anything else.

MR. NOLLET: — I based my privilege to speak, Mr. Speaker, on the fact that when this Act was opened previously it was for the same general purpose to place land in or out of the forest area. The Minister at that time gave us figures as to the amount of timber that was located in the Vermette and Cummins Lake area and he indicated that there was a tremendous amount of mature rotting timber in that area. That's the reason I am referring to it and I think I'm in order to speak about these matters when The Forestry Act is up for amendment. Certainly the Minister previously spoke in these terms and since I asked a question that I wanted specifically from the Minister: how many board feet of timber are available to the Primrose Product Company in the event that they began to take the timber out of this area. And the other thing, Mr. Speaker, that I want to raise at this moment is that according to the forest inventory taken in 1956, which was the final report, there was only 2.4 per cent of mature timber in that area of which three-quarters of the over-mature was poplar or of low commercial value. I am raising a question as to how much timber was actually in that area that could be of commercial value. I wish the Minister would be more specific instead of peddling a lot of nonsense about 8,000,000,000 or

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some 9,000,000,000 board feet of timber, four inches in diameter, breast high, eight inches in diameter, breast high. This is not lumber timber. I would like to know how much actual commercial timber is available there for lumbering purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: — The mover of the motion is about to close the debate, if anybody wishes to speak he must do so now.

MR. STEUART: — I want to close the debate because I presume what the Member is talking about is either senile or I don't know whether he is talking about some question . . .

MR. NOLLET: — I'm tired of this kind of language; I have had about enough of this from the Minister opposite. I am much more potent than he is in many regards, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STEUART: — I take back that remark, and he probably is. But obviously he asked a question and he didn't like the answer, but I suggest he ask another question. I don't know what it's got to do with the Bill on the amendment before this House. We took some parcels of land, some very small parcels of land out of the forest reserve and turned them over to agriculture, and took some of the agricultural land that has proven not too good for agriculture and put it back into forest land. These are the results of recommendations from the Land Use Committee that has been in operation for many years. There is one other amendment to this; that we take an area of land out of the forest area and set it aside for the location of the pulp mill at Prince Albert. This is all these amendments purport to do. And as for the ramblings of the potent Minister from Cutknife, if he re-asks the question when the estimates come up, certainly we will do our best to answer it. We have nothing to hide about the tremendous industrial development that is taking place in the timber industry in northern Saskatchewan and are pleased to give the Members opposite all the information they want. In connection with this Bill, the Hon. Member from Kelsey (Mr. Brockelbank) asked if we could make some maps available, and as I say the amount we are changing is very minor and we have made two maps, one of which I would like to keep and one which I would like to pass over to the Member for Kelsey. We only have one available. We have gone to quite a bit of work and we could get more. You can have this one; you'll see that there is not a great deal of change contemplated in this Bill. I would hope that the Members would support this Bill.

MR. NOLLET: — Mr. Speaker, may I ask before the Member takes his seat, could we have an up-to-date forest inventory for that particular area made available to us.

MR. STEUART: — I'm not sure what all is involved, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly prepared to give him all the information we have. Now whether we have this up to date or not — I don't want to give a commitment now in case this would mean that we would have to go out and hire a bunch of people to do this — but we will certainly give you all the information we have available.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the second time.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:30 o'clock p.m.