

NORTH-WEST COUNCIL

Sixth Session. A Speech From Throne.

This afternoon at 5 o'clock, the Sixth Council of the North-west Territories was opened. Precisely at 5 o'clock the Lieutenant-Governor, in Windsor uniform with his sidearm, Capt. Neale with an escort of sixteen men, commanded by Major Shurtcliffe, arrived at the Chamber. The day was cloudy with sprinkling rain, nevertheless the chamber's accommodation was exhausted by the visitors. Among those present we noticed Mrs. Dewdney, Mrs. Neale, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jukes, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Fyfe, Mrs. Champness, Mrs. White-Fraser, Mr. Neale, and Misses Fisher, Miss Chi, Mrs. Pettigrew, Mrs. Morant, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Gillespie; Messrs. N. Saunders, Dixie Watson, T. C. Johnston, LeJans, Stobbing, Smith, Major Montgomery, the Registrar of Regina, and many others. Shortly after the proceedings commenced the Mayor, Mr. D. L. Scott, Mr. Sheriff Chapleau and Mr. Davin arrived.

The appearance of the chamber was very brilliant, the ladies were elegantly and fashionably dressed, and the great majority of the ladies were pretty. We have added to the ranks of beauty since last year; yet last year Honor. Bates, accustomed to Montreal, declared he was astonished at the number of beautiful women in Regina. The Governor having taken his seat, Mr. Forde read the return and the newly-elected members were sworn in.

The Members of the Council present, constituted a bare quorum—Col. Richardson, and Messrs. Hamilton, Turfitt, Oliver, Ireland, Reed, White and McDowell. Capt. Neale handed the Governor the roll containing his speech.

His Honor then read the following speech:—(The members of the North-west Council: As I thought the representative members of my Council would be anxious to attend to their own affairs during the most active portion of the business year, I have summoned you to meet me at 11 o'clock on the 15th of the present month, a more convenient season than last year.

Since our last meeting I have received petitions praying for the formation of two more Electoral Districts, one in the Calgary and the other in the Moose Mountain district. Upon inquiry I found they had the requisite number of inhabitants and I lost no time in arranging for Elections to be held in order that those districts might have representatives at the present sitting of the Council.

This addition cannot but be of great assistance to our Council, as one member comes from the stock district in the west, for which legislation is much needed, and the other from probably the most beautiful and thriving district in the Territories. The several ordinances passed by you at our last meeting appear to have been suited to the requirements of the Territories. Many petitions praying for Municipal Incorporation, both for towns and country, have been forwarded to me. Some have been granted others I have laid over, to enable me to con-

sult with you in regard to difficulties which have arisen and which can be rectified by legislation. The numerous applications for the establishment of Herd Districts would indicate the necessity for that ordinance. I shall ask you to consider some amendments which I propose to submit for the consideration of both the Ordinance referred to, as well as the "Civil Justice Ordinance."

The Ordinance respecting Auctioneers; The Ordinance respecting the "licensing of billiard tables." The Ordinance respecting the "licensing of hotels."

The Ordinance respecting "prevention of frauds." A number of new ordinances will be presented to you for consideration: To regulate distress for rent; To define the rights and liabilities of boarding houses and every stable accessory; To regulate the registration of firms, debts and vital statistics; To provide method of recovery of damages for persons killed by accidents; A new registration of titles ordinance.

I am also in hope that, during the present session, we will be able to pass a School Ordinance that will be acceptable to the people. During the session of 1883-4, copies of the bill submitted by Mr. Oliver last session have been distributed; this has led to many suggestions being made by gentlemen taking an interest in education. These will be of value to the Council when the subject is before them for consideration. A statement of our local revenue and expenditure will be laid on the table for your information, as well as all papers of an important nature which have reached me during the recess.

The fee for Liquor Permits, which was imposed after consultation with you last year has not, as was expected, lessened the number of applications to any appreciable extent; but I am glad to be able to inform you that as far as I have been able to gather information, very little abuse has been made of the liquor imported on permits; but I am sorry to say that a large amount of liquor is being constantly smuggled into the country in the face of every enactment made by myself in conjunction with the North-west Mounted Police to prevent it; and I am informed that the inducements are so great and the profits so large that illicit stills are now in operation in several parts of the Territories.

Your resolution recommending the establishment of breweries in the territories has been forwarded to the Federal Government, and I have lately reported on this subject myself, advocating the same in highly settled districts. The I think would be the means of putting a stop to smuggling to a great extent and close up illicit distilling. You are aware that a considerable amount of the liquor imported under permit is used other than for medicinal purposes. It has been suggested that only permits for medicinal purposes be granted and it lies within my power to do so by only granting "a permit" to thoroughly reliable professional men and this to be dispensed in small quantities only. The only result I can foresee, if that was done would be done so increase materially the business of a few medicinal men in the country and give a further stimulus to smuggling and illicit distilling.

As we now have members from at least every district in the Territories who must be thoroughly conversant with the feeling on this most important subject I shall ask you to assist me with your advice and experience in making representations to the Federal Government. I should not have touched on this question, which is one solely within the province of the Dominion Government, had I not felt it was one of paramount importance. Having laid returned from an extended tour in the Northern portion of our Territories, I am glad to be able to inform you that the prospect of a beautiful harvest coupled with a healthy re-action after the malarial depression that followed the very general over-exposure of the Territories, has given the settler fresh heart, and I met with a general feeling of hopefulness which was very gratifying.

The rapidity with which our Territories have progressed, and the short time our settlers have yet had to form a correct opinion of the value or otherwise of the different districts in the North-west naturally caused much anxiety and doubt as to whether the exceptionally dry weather we had for some eighteen months previous to late rains was not usual, and many were much disheartened by the outlook. The refreshing rains which from the best authorities almost invariably visit us early in June rapidly changed this feeling of despondency and now as you are aware good reports of our crops are reaching us from all quarters. Assinibois has obtained a large share of the new immigration this Spring, and in this district some valuable and wealthy settlers have established themselves. From them I have heard that they are perfectly satisfied with the country, and assure me that all the representations made to them by the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway agents in England are fully borne out.

I shall ask your attention during the Session, to the consideration of a measure for the encouragement of tree planting. Experiments already made have demonstrated the rapidity with which certain classes of trees will grow, and there is no reason, why, in a few years the aspect of the settled sections of our rich treeless prairies might not be completely changed. Large portions of the States of Illinois and Iowa some fifteen or twenty years ago were as bare of trees as any portion of these territories and are now fairly well timbered.

Encouragement to agricultural societies is also most desirable. The establishment of these will enable reliable statistics to be made which will be difficult to obtain by any other means. The initiative has already been taken by the Assinibois Agricultural Society and I think we cannot grant assistance to a more worthy object or one which will lead to better results.

The exaggerated reports of Indian difficulties which have lately appeared in some of the newspapers and which must do the country harm, induce me to say a few words to you on that subject. From what I have seen myself during my travels in the spring and from what I gather from the correspondence which reaches me as Indian Commissioner, I can confidently say that our Indians are generally more contented than they have been since the Treaty was made and the progress they are making in agriculture is most gratifying.

It cannot be expected that, with a population of some twenty thousand Indians scattered on reserves, in both all over the territories, two can escape without a little scuffling, and excitement; this is inevitable, when Indians fresh from the plains are first brought on their reserves and come in contact with white settlers. It has been so with those who are now comparatively well off and will be so until the new arrivals recognize the fact that they must be tied down and work and make a living, but that there is any cause for alarm I deny. I am sure the general feeling is one of security and the exaggerated reports which have been given need not be regarded.

You will have learnt that the representations made by you to the Dominion Government have received attention, and many of the requests made acted upon, while others are under consideration. I am quite sure that, should you feel the necessity of making further representations during the present session, they will receive the same consideration at the hands of the Dominion Government.

The subjects requiring your attention this season will be of no less importance than those of last, and I am confident that you will give me the same assistance as then for their mature consideration. Mr. Reed moved that the address be referred to a Special Committee composed of Messrs. Macdowell, White, Ross, and the mover to prepare an address in reply to the speech.

Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. Mr. Oliver moved in amendment that the speech be laid on the table for the information of the members. The address was a very long one and contained a number of statements, and he thought it was desirable to wait until a difficult matter came up. Mr. Reed's motion was then adopted, and on the motion of Col. Richardson the Council adjourned.

FROM THE PEOPLE. SOMEWHAT INACCURATE. To the Editor of The Nor-Wester. Sir: Having seen the letter of Mr. Higginbotham about his trip to the south from this point, I feel it to be my duty to say that in the portion which refers to the drive to Fish Creek he has evidently got mixed. He could not have taken seven hours to drive 6 miles as he states, and I am surprised that after what he says on that trip he should feel justified in saying that Calgary can never amount to anything. Mr. Higginbotham spoils his otherwise well written letter by inaccurate reference to this town, and I can only account for it on the ground that since his arrival at McLeod he has been prejudiced by parties there, who from unjust motives are led to make derogatory statements in regard to the future prospects of our Calgary.

Believe me to be Yours truly, J. D. MOULTON. Calgary July 8.

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