

SECOND SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

Members Gather Again in Old Assembly Hall—
Speech From Throne

Precisely at three o'clock on Thursday last His Honor Lieut.-Gov. Forster entered the historic old assembly hall on Dewdney street and ascended the throne to deliver the King's speech at the opening of the second session of the first provincial legislature. The chamber was crowded with spectators including the normal students. Nearly all the members were in their place.

KING'S SPEECH

The speech from the throne was then read as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the second session of the first legislative assembly of our province, and to congratulate you upon the year of prosperity vouchsafed to us by Divine Providence since we last met together.

I feel assured that you will join with me in an expression of sympathy with the excellencies of the Governor General and the Governor General's Council.

While it is a matter of much regret that my first minister and the leader of your House is not with us today, yet the knowledge that he has been "travelling safely through a long and arduous illness is a matter for much congratulation as well to himself and family as to the country at large. His early return to us from his sojourn in the south, with renewed vigor, may well be wished for earnestly by all.

During the last few months the inadequacy of the transportation facilities available in the province has been startlingly emphasized. The difficulties met with in moving the crop in the early fall were quite overshadowed by the failure of the railway companies to meet the demands from all quarters for fuel. While the rapid development of the country, the unusual severity of the weather and the scarcity of coal were doubtless to some extent responsible for these conditions, still the rapid extension and the proper equipment of our railway systems should be urged in every practical way in order that the movement of population toward our province may not be checked, and that our people may not be hindered in their work by lack of these means of transportation without which no country can be prosperous.

The fact that a large percentage of the crop of last season is still in the hands of the farmers is a condition that cannot be looked upon with equanimity. I trust that the grain commission, appointed by the Dominion government, to inquire into the disabilities under which the grain trade labors, may be able to indicate a solution of the problem.

The experiences of the recent fuel situation in the province should never be allowed to be repeated if it can be avoided. In order to assist our people in their necessary government work prompt and energetic action to secure from every available source supplies of fuel, and it is a matter for congratulation that the combined efforts of all engaged in ameliorating the situation were successful in preventing general distress.

Last year my government was invited to be represented at a conference at Ottawa with the federal government to take into consideration the financial relations of the provinces with the Dominion. The documents relating to the matter will be laid before you and it will be seen that if effect is given to the resolutions agreed to the annual subsidies of our province will be materially increased.

At another conference the views of the several provinces interested in the division of territory adjoining Hudson's Bay on the south and west were presented to the federal authorities. The document setting forth the claims preferred by my government to a considerable portion of the territory will be submitted for your consideration.

Your instructions to inquire into the question of providing adequate measures under which our people can better govern themselves with respect to their own local interests have been complied with. For the purpose of ascertaining the feeling of the country in the matter I have my commission to a number of gentlemen, selected for their experience and knowledge of the various phases of the subject, and who have been engaged in meeting representatives from all the various municipal or-

ganisations created under our laws. This work although not yet completed is being proceeded with as rapidly as circumstances will permit, and when completed it is hoped that the report of the commissioners will be of such a nature as to enable you to provide an inexpensive and comprehensive scheme of local self government suited to the actual conditions and requirements of our province.

Measures will be submitted for your consideration providing for the establishment of a provincial judicial system; the organization and maintenance of a higher and secondary educational institutions; and the taxation of corporations including railway companies.

A number of other important measures will be presented for your consideration including bills relating to life insurance, controlled elections, the devolution of estates, liquor license, mechanics' liens and absconding debtors.

Although your meeting takes place before the close of the fiscal year, the public accounts in so far as they can be prepared will be submitted to you with the least possible delay.

Estimates of the expenditure contemplated for the forthcoming year have been prepared with the regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I now leave you to your deliberations feeling assured that you will under divine guidance, be marked by the earnestness of purpose and by a sincere consideration for the public welfare.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

After the departure of the King's representative the House got down to work for a brief period. Mr. Lamont, leading the House in the absence of the premier, moved that the speech be considered on the following Monday. He moved for the appointment of select standing committees, and laid on the table a memorandum with reference to the claims of the province for the extension of our boundaries and presented the minutes of the conference between the premiers of the representative and the Dominion government at Ottawa.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY

There was a brief sitting of the House on Friday afternoon. Mr. Garry, Yorkton, presented a petition from Mr. Lang and twenty others praying for the incorporation of the Yorkton Club.

Mr. Calder for the special committee appointed to prepare lists of members to compose the select standing committees for the session reported as follows:

Standing orders—Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Stewart, Ens, Gillis, Brown, Wellington, Sutherland, Grant, Bole, and Lamont.

Privileges and elections—Messrs. Lamont, Calder, Ens, Haultain, Ellis, Brown, Neeley, Gillis, Garry, Champagne and Sheppard.

Private bills and railways—Messrs. Sutherland, Motherwell, Neeley, Lamont, Haultain, Ellis, Brown, El-Holt, Stewart, Sheppard and Ens.

Public accounts and printing—Messrs. Motherwell, Langley, Garry, Champagne, Elliott, Calder, Sanderson, Ellis, Haultain, Bole and Gillis.

Agriculture—Messrs. Stewart, Wyllie, Sheppard, Elliott, Sanderson, Ellis, Motherwell, Langley, Garry and Argue.

Law, amendments and municipal law—Messrs. Sutherland, Haultain, Brown, Argue, Lamont, Grant, Bole, Langley, and Champagne.

Education and Library—Messrs. Elliott, Sanderson, Wellington, Lamont, Motherwell, Calder, Argue, Wyllie, Grant and Neeley.

Mr. Lamont gave notice that on Monday he would move for leave to introduce the following bills: To establish a supreme court for the province; to establish district courts; and the practice and procedure therein; respecting the surrogate court; respecting wills.

Mr. Calder gave notice of a bill respecting the treasury department and the auditing of public accounts.

Upon Mr. Lamont moving the adjournment of the House, Mr. Haultain asked if it was the intention of the government to bring down the correspondence with the Dominion government relative to the various subjects upon which the legislature had memorialised the Dominion last session. Mr. Lamont stated that this would be done.

WOULD NOT BE JEALOUS

Vice President McNicholl Says C.P.R. Regards Bay Route With Indifference

Montreal, Feb. 24.—"I haven't much money, but what little I have I would not care to invest in a Hudson's Bay Railway." Thus spoke D. McNicholl, first vice-president of the C.P.R., in answer to the question of what he thought of the proposed line to Fort Churchill, which the premier seemed to have fore-shadowed in his speech in the House on Friday night.

"The C.P.R.," Mr. McNicholl said, "would not be jealous of such an undertaking. We would be only too glad if such an experiment did anything and relieved the pressure."

There would be doubts as to its commercial success. At the same time, I do not feel free to discuss what will likely, according to the remarks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House, be a government measure."

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PROVINCIAL CROP REPORT

Big Yield for Saskatchewan—
Sixty-three Million Bushels

Hon. W. R. Motherwell handed an advance report of the crop bulletin to the government paper and the statement regarding the crop returns for the last year show that:

Saskatchewan last year produced 63,052,310 bushels of grain, as against 49,647,464 bushels in 1905, and 27,525,573 in 1904, or a gain of very considerably over one hundred per cent in the two years.

The grain crop of the province last year consisted of 37,040,098 bushels of wheat; 29,965,528 bushels of oats; 1,316,415 bushels of barley; 710,689 bushels of flax, and 19,480 bushels of speltz.

In 1905 the figures were: Wheat 26,107,286 bushels; oats 59,213,055 bushels; barley 898,396; flax 396,399 bushels, and speltz 35,629 bushels.

Speltz alone show a decrease while all other grains show a tremendous increase. As the average yield per acre was last year not as high as in 1905—although higher than the yearly average for the past nine years during which records have been kept—the figures demonstrate all the more forcibly the tremendous rate at which the fertile virgin prairie lands of the province are being brought under cultivation. The area in wheat last year increased by 800,502 acres; oats by 169,957; barley by 20,619 and flax by 50,690, the latter being an increase of 200 per cent.

Out of a total area of 79,048,960 acres in districts wholly or partially under settlement, only 2,501,247 acres were under crop last year which was an increase of 860,684 acres over 1905. The number of grain farms increased from 18,102 to 30,289. The average area under crop per farm was 82.57 acres as compared to 90.57 in 1905. The number of threshers employed increased from 1194 to 1497.

Of the 21 districts into which the province is divided the Grenfell, Indian Head and Abernethy districts comes first with 5,158,737 bushels of wheat and 2,048,246 bushels of oats.

The Francis, Rouleau, Milestone, and Weburn district is second with 4,108,996 bushels of wheat and 2,501,894 bushels of oats.

Lanenburg, Saltcoats and Yorkton district, while raising less wheat than several other districts, more than makes up the deficiency in its production of oats, and it therefore takes third place with 2,138,807 bushels of wheat and 4,265,331 bushels of oats.

Regina, Balgonie, Pense and Lumsden district stands fourth with 3,798,069 bushels of wheat and 2,568,947 bushels of oats.

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Carleton, Alameda and Estevan district occupies fifth place with 4,213,415 bushels of wheat and 1,769,920 bushels of oats.

Moosomin, Whitewood, Wapella, and Broadview districts, in sixth with 3,444,422 bushels of wheat and 1,799,898 bushels of oats.

The South Moose Mountain district comes next with 2,866,267 bushels of wheat and 1,676,283 bushels of oats, and is closely followed by the Saskatoon, Oiler, Hague district with 2,856,885 bushels of wheat and 1,677,618 bushels of oats.

The other districts, each produced under 4,000,000 bushels of the two leading grains.

The above comparisons are made solely on the oats and wheat crop. If barley and flax were included some districts might change places with other districts.

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MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

At a recent meeting of the Regina L.O.L. it was decided to send the following message to the wife of their departed brother:

"Resolved, that at the first meeting of L.O.L. 1600 held since the lamented decease of Brother C. F. Robinson, W. M., of this lodge, who up to his death had been one of its most distinguished members, the members of L.O.L. 1600 unanimously desire their proceedings should exhibit an expression of their sense of the loss of a brave and worthy brother, and that this lodge has been visited by his removal and of the fact that by reason thereof the deepest sorrow pervades the lodge. The late Bro. Robinson was personally known to and deservedly loved by every member of this lodge, the lodge assures Mrs. Robinson and the family of its sincere sympathy in their sore trial and prays that they may receive the fullest measure of consolation from on High, and that they may be cheered by the reflection that their loved one has only gone before and that in the heavenly Father's good time a blessed re-union will be their reward."

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WOMEN, WINE AND GRAFT

(Continued from page 4.)

creates the situation, and which must compel Sir Wilfrid Laurier to bring the matter up again in the House, and force him to insist on Mr. Fowler making good his charges. No member can say on the floor of the House that he knows of disgraceful conduct and name of a member of the cabinet in connection therewith, without being faced by the rules of parliament and the demands of public opinion to disclose what he knows.

The best informed say that Sir Wilfrid will challenge Mr. Fowler, solely on the basis that he knows of his charges. For, if he does not, and this is still the more serious side of the situation, the public will believe more than ever that a practice has been in existence in parliament of saving off scandal for scandal—that this business has been going on for years.

R. L. Borden was out of the House both yesterday and today owing to indisposition and it is supposed that Sir Wilfrid held back today on that account. Sir Wilfrid can only challenge Mr. Fowler and ask for an investigation by a committee or by a commission.

Mr. Shoop and Mr. Tilly are here right along in connection with the insurance commission. Outside of parliament alliances there seems to be quite a squad of members who would like to see the "lid" lifted and their seniors move out of their path.

It is the most peculiar situation after a long line of strange incidents in parliamentary government in Canada. One keen observer went so far as to say it would result in a great house cleaning. Another equally keen observer said it would end in nothing. But the end of it is with the people not with parliament.

Weak Women

No weak and ailing women, there is at least one way to help. But with that way, two treatments, must be combined. One is local, one is constitutional, but both are important, both essential. Dr. Shoop's Night Cure is the Local.

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