

# The Colonist.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
THE INTERESTS OF MANITOBA  
AND THE TERRITORIES.

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## OPENING OF THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The first session of the Eighth Legislature of Manitoba was opened on Thursday, February 2nd by Lieut.-Governor Schultz. Nearly all the members of the House were present, and a goodly array of soldiers and citizens to lend dignity to the ceremony.

There is no very momentous business to come before the House this session, so the speech from the throne did not excite very much interest. Some of our readers might like to see it, however, so we give it herewith:

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.*

I have very great pleasure in meeting you at this the first session of the Eighth Legislature of Manitoba.

It is a cause of thankfulness that the harvest of last season was an abundant one, at the same time I cannot but regret that the unprecedentedly low prices have greatly reduced the profits of the husbandman. I venture to hope that in the near future the condition of our farmers may be so altered and improved that they will apply themselves with renewed energy, and with the best prospects of success, to the development of this province, and achieve that measure of prosperity which the great natural resources of the country are so well calculated to insure.

The near approach during the past year of that dread disease, the Asiatic cholera, will necessitate the adoption of the most stringent sanitary regulations. With this view you will be asked to consider a more efficient measure respecting public health.

The increasing financial responsibilities of my Government make it imperative that the province should avail itself of every possible source of revenue, and to that end you will be asked to consider a measure for the imposition of duties upon properties passing by succession, with the object of raising revenue for provincial purposes.

I congratulate you upon the extension of the railway system of the province, notably the completion of the line to the coal fields, thus placing within the reach of the people a supply of fuel at a reasonable price. With the further construction of one or two branch lines, Manitoba will be exceedingly well served with local lines of railway.

The vigorous policy adopted by my Government has resulted, I am pleased to state, in directing increased attention to the advantages offered here to the intending emigrants from the older provinces of the Dominion, as well as from other countries. The result has been that a largely increased number have settled in Manitoba during the past year. I look forward with confidence to the results that will be achieved during the present year in consequence of the increased efforts which are now being made in that direction.

You will also be asked to provide a further sum to make provision for the proper representation of the products of the province at Chicago during the progress of the World's Columbian Exposition, so that people from all parts of the world may have an opportunity of securing the fullest information regarding Manitoba as an agricultural country.

The Public Accounts for the year 1892, will be laid before you at an early date, and the Estimates for the current year will shortly be submitted to you for consideration. It will be found that they have been framed with a view to the strictest economy possible, having regard to the efficiency of the public service.

You will be asked to consider an act to amend the Public Schools act, the Legacy act, the County Courts act, the Liquor License act, the Surrogate Courts act, the Municipal Boundaries act, the Bill of Sale Act, and an act respecting the registration of Lien Notes, Hire Receipts and orders for Chattels in Registry and Land Titles offices.

These and other measures which may come before you I leave to your consideration in the fullest confidence that they will be dealt with in such a manner, as to promote the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

### WINNIPEG PARKS.

The time is at hand when Winnipeg must begin to plan for the provision of park sites and public play-grounds, or breathing places, as they have been aptly called. These are an absolute essential of the well arranged modern city. As yet Winnipeg does not possess a park system, or even one park which she can call her own; and the want of such places is beginning to be felt. The growing density of the population, and increasing distance to the outskirts of the city, making it difficult for the inhabitants to get away from the crowded thoroughfares. Even now this matter is receiving the attention of a considerable number of the citizens, and the interest is growing rapidly. The civic authorities are also moving in sympathy with the wishes of the people. It is felt that the sooner the necessary property is secured and plans laid the better, as land in the city is steadily rising in value—plots that can now be bought for a few thousand dollars will in a short time be worth tens of thousands.

It used to be in Winnipeg that there were lots of large open spaces in various parts of the city which could be used as recreation grounds, and where the young men gathered nightly to play games and engage in athletic sports, and the older people look on. That is all changed or changing now; the vacant lots are being built upon or occupied; and the only place where a summer evening can be spent is at Elm Park, some two or three miles from the city, which is the property of the Street Railway Company.

What the city wants is one or more public parks in central locations, with lots of trees, fountains, and promenades, where the genial Winnipegger can take his wife and children on a summer evening, or the young man his sweetheart, and enjoy a well-earned rest.

### Editorial Notes.

By far the most important mining deal of recent years in Canada, was that by which an American syndicate has just secured control of several of the most valuable coal mines in Nova Scotia. Before the transaction could be com-

pleted the local legislation had to be called together, and special acts passed removing some legal difficulties.

The speech from the throne, delivered at the opening of the Dominion House of Parliament, was a very mild and inoffensive affair. The time has come when this seemingly necessary adjunct of the opening ceremony should either be done away with, or made something more than it is. The speech this time is not so much remarkable for what it said as for what it left unsaid.

There were more fires and fire alarms in Winnipeg during the month of January just passed than in any previous month in the history of the city. The total number of alarms for the month was 35, but, of course, the greater portion of these were false or needless alarms. Some of the fires, though, proved to be extensive and hard to manage. The severe cold weather made it difficult for the firemen to work to advantage, but very creditable work was nevertheless done.

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The *B.C. Business Exchange* is the name of a new paper which is coming out in Victoria to represent the land, corporate and mining interests of that province. In their prospectus the publishers state that it will be their object to bring to the notice of investors in Canada and England details and full particulars of the numerous opportunities offering for the investment of capital in property, building land, &c., in British Columbia. General reading matter relating to the progress of the province will also be given.

The Manitoba Government sent last week, in accordance with a request from the promoters an exhibit of Manitoba hard wheat flour to the British Guiana exhibition. The flour was purchased from the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, the company generously adding five barrels to the exhibit on its own account. The flour is said to be as fine as any ever sent out of the province, and will no doubt help to spread the fame of Manitoba as a wheat producing country. It is probable that a trade will before long spring up between Canada and British Guiana in this and other products.

BULLETIN No. 35 of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, dealing with "Weeds and Modes of destroying them" which was issued a short time ago contains some valuable information for farmers on this subject. The question of weeds is one which Manitoba farmers will have to seriously deal with in the near future and no doubt if they were to adopt some of the methods which are being found so efficacious in Ontario they would soon get rid of the pests. This bulletin sets forth the nature and habits of the most troublesome varieties such as Canadian thistle, burdock, Ox-eye daisy, wild mustard &c., and gives what have been found at the Government farm as the best methods of destroying them.

CONSIDERABLE interest was awakened last month by the report that the C.P.R. had ac-