

Last Week in Alberta Legislature

The past week has been a quiet one in the Alberta Legislature and has seen no announcement of policy and very little legislation accomplished although one or two bills have been introduced. Proceedings opened on Monday with the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne. Mr. Stewart, M.P.P. for Sedgewick, moved the reply. He was pleased to note that agriculture was the first item mentioned in His Honor's address and realizing that when agricultural pursuits are not in a flourishing condition all business and industry must suffer in consequence, that the party to which he belonged would give it reasonable financial assistance and would deal with it even more generously in the future.

Mr. McArthur, the new member for Gleichen, seconded the reply, and stated that the foundation of this province rests upon its agriculture. As the farmer succeeds the province will progress, as he fails it will decline. The government should make the foundation sure. He believed that now and for years to come the government would act wisely in spending much of the money at its disposal in making the condition of the farmer easier and better and he advised that where the building of large and costly public institutions may be postponed, let it be done until agriculture, our foundation, is on a solid basis.

Mr. Michener, M.P.P. for Red Deer, the new leader of the opposition, then took the floor. He had hoped to find some instance of constructive legislation forecasted in the speech from the throne, but he had found nothing. Referring to some remarks of the previous speakers he stated he did not place much stress on the names Liberal or Conservative as far as provincial politics went. There were no great distinguishing features between the two parties. They were here as a government in power and an opposition.

Premier Replies

Premier Sifton replied to Mr. Michener in a short speech. R. B. Bennett, M.P.P. for Calgary, was the next speaker. Attorney General Mitchell then spoke for the government, and he was followed by the socialist member, C. M. O'Brien, of Rocky Mountain constituency, who dwelt at length upon the economic problems from a socialistic standpoint and contended that the adoption of the principles of that party would remedy such conditions as outlined by the speaker of the previous day.

Robert Patterson, M.P.P. for Macleod, was the next speaker and explained the manner of his election as Independent Farmers' representative in the recent contest in his district. He reviewed the speeches which had been given. When Mr. Patterson retired the premier moved a vote of thanks to the lieutenant-governor for his message and the debate on the address from the throne was over.

The routine work of the week has been along general lines only. The standing orders committee have met regularly and the only other committee which has yet got down to work is the agricultural. This committee held a meeting on Wednesday and considered several proposed amendments to the Game Act, which will be reported on later.

Among other business taken up during the week, Hon. Duncan Marshall has introduced his "Act respecting charges upon land contained in certain instruments," and this has received its first and second reading and is in charge of the committee of the house as a whole. This Act was prepared last session and it is a very necessary one. In many lien notes, etc., prepared by machine companies and signed by farmers when purchasing machinery on time certain clauses are printed in the agreement in such fine type that they are very seldom read. These clauses generally mean that the maker has given the machine companies a mortgage on his land and they take advantage of it by filing caveats against the property. This Act, which is finding favor all over the country, makes such clauses illegal and gives the signer the privilege of taking the case to the supreme court for relief. There is every prospect that this bill will become law at an early date.

Hon. C. R. Mitchell, attorney general and minister of education, has introduced

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the widest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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an act respecting truancy and compulsory school attendance; an act to prevent priority among creditors; an act respecting witnesses and evidence; an act respecting the University of Alberta; and acts to amend the school ordinance, the school assessment ordinance and the school grants ordinance. Premier Sifton has introduced an act respecting the raising of loans authorized by the legislature.

University Act

The new University Act, which is a redraft of the old act, and which provides for an entire reconstruction of the governing body of the university is of interest. The chief feature of this act is that it provides for the appointment by the provincial government of a board of governors in which will be vested all the powers of control of the university, including its finances. The board is to consist of the chancellor and president of the university and nine or twelve members appointed by the government. The chairman of the board is to be appointed by the government and of the first appointed members three shall hold office for two years, three for four years and three for six years. The senate of the university shall comprise the chancellor of the university, the chairman of the board, the president or head of every affiliated college or institute, the deans of the faculties of the universities, all persons who have at any time occupied the office of chancellor or vice-chancellor, the principal of the normal school, the superintendent of education for the province, or until he is appointed the deputy minister of education, shall be ex-officio members.

The faculties shall be represented by the deans of the faculties and one member elected by the faculty council. One member appointed by the law society. Ten members elected by the convocation. The election of the first senate shall take place not less than three months after the date of expiration of the term of the present chancellor and senate. That term has already expired and it is likely that an election of the senate may be called shortly after the new act has been passed.

Public Accounts

The statement of public accounts covering the final five months of the old administration ending on May 31 last, has been laid on the table by the premier. This shows a deposit on general revenue account of \$150,866.82. This is accounted for, however, by the fact that in this statement no charge whatever has been made to public account. It is expected that there was a surplus but the exact amount will not be known till the end of the financial year.

The statement shows that the receipts for the five months totalled \$2,151,863.40, made up as follows—

Balance, December 31	.....	\$4,850.41
Dominion subsidy, etc.	.....	457,727.06
Provincial treasury, receipts	.....	18,090.81
Public works department, receipts	.....	14,294.54
Provincial secretary department, receipts	.....	24,196.31
Attorney general department, receipts	.....	116,532.40
Agricultural department, receipts	.....	11,980.95
Dairy commissioner	.....	17,654.69
Clerk legislative assembly	.....	2,075.00
Government printer	.....	1,985.78
Miscellaneous, including loan from Imperial Bank \$1,460,000.00 and \$2,495.45, otherwise	.....	1,462,495.45
Balance May 31, 1910	.....	150,866.82

The expenditure for the five months is as follows—

Loan, overdraft, capital account expenditure	.....	1,050,504.25
Civil government	.....	78,976.80
Legislation	.....	18,008.61
Administration of justice	.....	171,404.24
Public works	.....	455,791.80
Education	.....	156,865.08
Agriculture, etc.	.....	113,658.28
Hospitals, charities, etc.	.....	35,705.07
Miscellaneous	.....	25,331.11
Remissions, rebates, etc.	.....	15,470.23
Special warrants	.....	161,047.37

Total \$2,892,550.22 leaving a debit balance of \$150,866.82 In the telephone account there was an unexpended balance on December 31, 1909, of \$148,926.74, the receipts for the five months were \$100,902.84. The expenditure for the five months was \$298,160.32.

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