

IN THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

John T. Moore, member for Red Deer, moved the reply to the speech from the throne before the Legislature Monday evening, in a speech which was marked by brevity and moderation. His retrospect of the work of the Legislature for the past four years was given in his most eloquent manner, but he refrained from any lengthy discourse on the important legislation which will be before the House this session. Reference was made to the government's railway policy as being the most striking feature of the speech from the Throne, and in this connection, the member for Red Deer emphasized the necessity of railroads and the means by which they might be procured. In every department of the Legislature it was shown how the government was studying the needs of the people, and how effectively those needs were being met.

A. S. Rosenroll, member for Wetaskiwin, in seconding the reply, paid a substantial tribute to the record of the government since its coming into office. He pointed out the fact that the Rutherford government was taking hold of the problem of transportation in the province, with the same determination to solve it they had shown in the administration of other public affairs. When the administration of this province," said he, "has solved this problem they will have served the greatest necessity in the province of Alberta today."

He expressed his confidence that when the first minister of the Legislature had given his word that something would be done, it would undoubtedly be carried into completion. It was proposed that the first session of the Legislature would be known as the railway session.

The debate on the speech from the throne was opened with every seat in the gallery filled, where the speeches were followed with the closest attention. All the members of the House were in their places with the exception of Hon. W. Cross. J. W. Wolfe, member for Cardston; Fletcher Bredin, member for Athabasca; and A. Brick, member for Lesser Slave Lake. J. Robertson, leader of the opposition, moved the adjournment of the debate, which will be resumed this afternoon at three o'clock.

New Member Introduced.

Before the proceedings of the House were entered upon, Donald McNab, member-elect for the electoral district of Lethbridge, was introduced to the Speaker by Premier Rutherford and both sides of the House cheered from both sides of the House.

Premier Rutherford presented a petition from Strathcona City Council asking for an amendment of the charter. A. S. Rosenroll requested that the petition for the amendment be received and given its first reading.

"It is not a quadrennium," said Mr. Moore in his reply, "since a beautiful autumn morning, the 1st of September, 1905, witnessed a brilliant sunrise here in the valley of the North Saskatchewan. It marked a new epoch in the destinies of this western province, and it was the distinguished representative in this Dominion of the British throne, was the start actor in that important drama. It was the stone of provincial autonomy was put on with rejoicing and a lieutenant-governor was made while you wait."

"Then, stepped forth to the front of that parliament the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who loved and honored first minister of the crown in Canada, and he bravely led forth Alberta, a fair debutante, to join the sisterhood of provinces. Laurier fulfilled his promise, and we were trusted to manage our own affairs. "The trust had not been abused. The results bear eloquent tribute to the wisdom, foresight and statesmanship of that great son of Canada who enjoys the respect and admiration of all true Canadians, without regard to party, creed or ancestry."

Not Evolution, But Revolution. "The first Legislature has since passed through not merely an evolution, but a revolution. The members have carefully studied and discharged their duties and the trust devolved upon them. Other agencies have been at work to contribute to the common good. Among these are the Dominion immigration and land policies, industrial and railway enterprises, railways, and the co-operation of a progressive people. There are no antagonisms in our midst, but the people of the province in mutual co-workers for mutual benefit. "It was fitting that the province should show its substantial sympathy with Fernie when the flames swept that southern pass. In connection with this disaster a beautiful incident is related as typical of the spirit of friendship entertained by our neighbors on the south, to which appropriate reference is made in the speech from the Throne."

Spokane's Great Friendship. "When the news reached Spokane that Fernie had passed through a 'baptism of fire,' instant action was taken by Mr. W. O. Findlay, a former citizen of Boston, who knew and esteemed Canada, acting for the Spokane Chamber of Commerce. Within two hours relief supplies, in the form of bread, butter, milk, flour, meat, vegetables, groceries, clothing, bedding, tents, and a great variety of other necessities for the stricken people, were speeding to Fernie. With them went the large number of this Legislature recognized Fernie's plight and the desolation that calamity, ministering to the victims, a veritable incarnation of the Good Samaritan. The honorable gentleman, to whom I have referred to, assured me that he verily believed that the prompt action of Mr. Findlay, the Spokane philanthropist, had certainly saved many valuable lives. Let Canada remember and reciprocate the spirit."

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In the Right Order.

"First things first" was the motto of the government in the promotion of all public utilities. Highways were needed to give means of transportation and to increase the capacity of the farmer to produce, and a great deal had been done, but there was still much to be done. Schools were to be further developed, and there was nothing which gave larger returns for the expenditure than a good educational system.

The whole matter of legislation was a great business proposition, considered in either its industrial, social or commercial aspects. The members were called to be heroes of peace, to contribute, in however humble a degree, to the welfare of their fellow-citizens. The government was to serve the settler on the front, the stockman among his cattle, the farmer in his field, the woman in the home and the children in the school. It had to impart the impulse to highest endeavor, to open the way to prosperity and contentment.

"May the good work go on and prosper of building up all our homes in our province into an intelligent, industrious, truth loving, law abiding, patriotic people who will fear God and honor the King and make Alberta a beauty spot in that great empire of which we are all proud to form a part."

Mr. Rosenroll's Second Reply.

In rising to second the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, the member for Wetaskiwin said that it was unnecessary to add anything to the eloquent exposition of the matter contained in the speech and the reply of the member for Red Deer. He intended his remarks to be more in the nature of a rejoinder to the speech from the Throne.

He began by saying that the speech with which this session of the Legislature was opened was not only one of the most important, but it marked a new order of things in speeches of this kind, which as a rule only the Prime Minister was given to the House by the member for Red Deer. He intended his remarks to be more in the nature of a rejoinder to the speech from the Throne.

Proud to Be a Citizen.

Continuing, Mr. Rosenroll said he was proud to be a citizen of the province of Alberta, the banner province of the Dominion of Canada, which was a colony of the Great British Empire. With them went the large number of this Legislature recognized Fernie's plight and the desolation that calamity, ministering to the victims, a veritable incarnation of the Good Samaritan. The honorable gentleman, to whom I have referred to, assured me that he verily believed that the prompt action of Mr. Findlay, the Spokane philanthropist, had certainly saved many valuable lives. Let Canada remember and reciprocate the spirit."

"Useful legislation," Mr. Moore continued, "had been accomplished of an organizing and constructive nature. Roads and bridges had been established. Agricultural interests had been attended to, as shown by the government's forestry policy. Public buildings had been built. Special emphasis was laid on the Health Act, or a most beneficial piece of legislation. "What of the Future?" The record of the past was very creditable, said Mr. Moore, but what about the future? There were large demands at the door of the present session. Commissioners had been at work on the hog industry of the province and their report must be carefully considered. The Children's Protection Act would require attention. Redistribution and election Acts were on the order book. In these the government must adhere to sound principles. Representation by population must be maintained if there was to be government by the people. It was the foundation of our constitution that government should be by the people be respected and they be permitted to shape their own destinies. "It was a matter of congratulation throughout the length and breadth of the province that the railway facilities would, at this session, receive the earnest consideration and treatment. This was the striking feature of the speech from the throne. In the shaping of the railway policy the members of the House would need all the wisdom of the most astute experts to avoid the breakers. "Do we need railways?" exclaimed Mr. Moore. "Yes, the order of urgency for the settler who has access to any, for competition where only one line exists, and to develop the resources of the province. Railways can be secured by subsidy and guarantee to private companies or by government ownership. No one method can be applied universally, and it remains to be seen which course the government considers it best to adopt."