

# DR. L. M. CURREN MOVES REPLY TO THE ADDRESS

Fredericton, March 17.—More than usual interest was shown in the ceremony attending the opening of the first session of the eighth legislature of New Brunswick here this afternoon. The capital of the province was in winter attire, with good sleighing, but the atmosphere was tempered to an agreeable crispness. During the early part of the day there were snow flurries, but the sun broke clear soon after noon.

Careful interest was given the points brought out by Dr. L. M. Curren, the mover of the reply to the address from the throne, and A. A. Boudage, the seconder.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Dr. Curren of St. John county, and seconded by Mr. Boudage of Kent county, and was as follows:

To His Honor William Pugsley, D.C.L., L.L.D., P.C., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick:

May it please Your Honor: We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to humbly thank your honor for the gracious speech which your honor has addressed to us, and we assure your honor that we will give our most careful attention to the matters referred to in your honor's speech and to all other matters which may be submitted to us.

Mr. Curren in moving the address, tendered his congratulations to Hon. Mr. Speaker on the high office to which he had been called so early in life, and felt sure that it was on account of his ability as a legislator that the house had reposed such confidence in him. He wished at the same time to tender his congratulations to the premier on the renewed expression of public confidence which he had lately received. He also wished to express his thanks to the government for the honor which had been conferred on the county of St. John by inviting him to move the address.

He was pleased with the reference made in His Honor's speech to the claims of the maritime province against the federal government. This province had interests arising out of the western school lands and also in connection with railway conditions. He believed that the question should be discussed in an amicable mood and with a feeling of unity as a family affair. Canada at the time of Confederation was composed of four provinces. In 1870 a large tract of land was purchased from the Hudson Bay Company, at a cost of \$300,000. The province of Manitoba entered Confederation in that year, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia came in three years later and in 1904 the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta joined the union. The two western provinces were given a large cash subsidy in lieu of natural resources and today are able to obtain control of those lands. As partners in the original confederation, he held that the maritime provinces had an interest in those lands, and as a matter of justice should be paid an equivalent in subsidy. In addition there was a certain railway discrimination against the maritime provinces which was deserving of attention. Although rates had lately been increased, the national railway was rolling up a deficit of over a million dollars a week. He believed the lines in the maritime provinces were practically self-sustaining, so it was unfair that the people of these provinces should be taxed to make good deficits incurred in other parts of Canada. The government of the maritime provinces had prepared a case and he hoped would be successful in presenting it to the federal authorities. There never was a time when the mar-

time provinces were so urgently in need of strong federal representation in the federal cabinet and parliament in order that justice might be done to this section of Canada.

The Valley Railway.

He heartily concurred in the sentiment expressed by the speech with respect to the Valley Railway. In that road the province had the image of a great monster whose fangs were fastened on the public revenue, a monster born of blunder. The road served an important farming section but at Walford it was hopelessly in the hands of the C. P. R. It was to have been part of the transcontinental line and was to have had direct connection with St. John by means of great bridges over the St. John river, but that had not come to pass. From Westfield, the trains were now run to St. John over the lines of the Canadian Pacific, and the rental which had to be paid practically absorbed all of the revenue which the government derived from the road. He believed that the federal government should take over the Valley road, as the province was unable to bear the burden of such an expensive undertaking.

Education.

He was much pleased with the reference made in his honor's speech to the subject of education. It was to education that the province largely owed its security. It was their duty to educate the young to proper citizenship and regretted to say that it was a duty that was not often appreciated. He was glad that the government proposed to take the matter up and felt sure that the measure would be brought down would have cordial support from both sides of the house.

Hydro-electric.

With regard to hydro-electric development it was a matter of great importance. The province would be able to give a good account of the progress already made in the work of development. It was surprising to him that the great water-power possibilities of the province should have been permitted to remain dormant so long. Near St. John on the Musquash river, they had a power site capable of developing 8,000 horse power, which was the amount now developed by the New Brunswick Power Company, and it would be supplied at one-third the cost. Already they had assured that a market would be found for the power as soon as it could be delivered. Relief was given them by the end of the present year. There was a call for the immediate development of the water-power of the Lepraux river, which was capable of producing 12,000 horse power. The value of these water-powers to the material interest of the province could not be calculated at the present time. There was also water-power to be developed on the Miramichi, and he believed it would be developed just as soon as a market could be found.

Agriculture.

With regard to agriculture he thought most hon. members could say that they had been born on farms. At any rate he could truthfully say that every man who was in the sound of his voice was daily fed from the farm. They had in the province of New Brunswick fertile valleys and meadows lands which were adapted to the development of live stock, and he felt sure that representatives of the great business industry who were in the house for the first time would join heartily with the hon. minister of agriculture in formulating an agricultural policy which would meet all requirements. He believed that the province of New Brunswick should produce sufficient for the needs of its own people in addition to a surplus for exportation to outside markets. The government had made a good start in providing crushed lime for the farmers at low cost, and he was glad to note that it proposed to lend encouragement to the growth of fax in the province.

There had been evidence of sound business management in connection with the department of public works, and he felt that department was a cause for

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being constructed, the province paying sixty per cent. of the cost and the Dominion forty per cent. The interest and sinking fund on the outlay was provided from current revenue and he would ask if that was not good business. The secondary roads of the province were being provided for by automobile tax fund, which last year had received the respectable total of \$200,000. Good secondary roads would enhance value of property, a cheapening of the cost of transportation and all classes of people would benefit from them. He believed that in a few years New Brunswick would have roads the equal of any in the Dominion, and that the province would have reason to be proud of them.

The Public Health.

With reference to the work of the public health department he wished to say that for eight years prior to the passage of the new act he had been associated with the board of health. It was therefore in a position to say that the work undertaken by the board had amounted to very little, having been confined principally to snailshoop epidemics. The members of the board had worked without remuneration, and where there was no remuneration it was impossible to get service.

Under the present act in the city of St. John alone 800 unfortunates had been brought under the operation of the act. Relief was given them in the hospitals. That fact in itself was sufficient return for the paltry sum expended. He had no doubt that the same work is being carried on all over the province. As time went on the results would be reported. The members of the board had worked without remuneration, and where there was no remuneration it was impossible to get service.

For a period of thirty years they had never been published. The county of Kent was brought under the operation of the present act only within the present year. With a population approaching 20,000 that county had reported seventy-nine deaths for the year. The county of Gloucester with a population of 10,000 reported 62 deaths. Kent had reported 267 births and in an equal period Gloucester had reported 1,600 births. What was the explanation? The reports were not coming from Kent county. Births and deaths in that county were not being recorded.

It might be asked what was the advantage to the state to collect vital statistics? The answer was that it showed one advantage. In certain districts the rate of infant mortality reached 100 per cent. The rate of infant mortality was greater than that of the state. With this knowledge, the rate of infant mortality could be brought down to the level of the state. Objection might be taken to expenditure of money in providing crushed lime for the farmers at low cost, and he was glad to note that it proposed to lend encouragement to the growth of fax in the province.

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It caused him great satisfaction to make reference to the financial statement which had been issued a few weeks before. Early in 1917, the Foster government had assumed the responsibilities of office. Since that time it had doubled the revenue of the province, a fact which was worth bearing in mind. This year apart from the tremendous liability of the Valley Railway, there had been a surplus in the vicinity of \$100,000 current business. This was something which the people of the province could view with appreciation. The territorial revenue had reached a total of \$1,000,000. He felt that under the circumstances the various ministers must have a feeling of satisfaction with regard to the condition of their various departments. It must be with ease and complacency that they could examine their conduct before the bar of their own consciences, which was much more powerful than public opinion. The leader of the government must feel well satisfied with his cabinet and there could be little doubt of the continuance of the confidence of the people of the province in the administration for many years to come. Its members had acquitted themselves like men.

Mr. Boudage, in seconding the address, congratulated the mover and the new

Speaker and he went on to deal with various matters mentioned in his honor's speech. He referred to the scarcity of teachers in the province, and the need for some measure to bring about an improvement. He would heartily support such a measure.

The Farming Industry.

"There is no question," said Mr. Boudage, "about the prosperous condition of the country and the policy of the government in awakening, encouraging, and assisting the farmers of this province is beginning to bear fruit. The operation of a vigorous agricultural policy has brought about a marked improvement, not only in methods of farming but in the breeds and quality of live stock, and the benefits derived therefrom are heartily appreciated. The plan undertaken by the hon. ex-minister of agriculture, backed by the hon. leader of the government, in establishing lime crushers and distributing lime to the farmers of the province at cost, has had a most beneficial effect. It is a fact that the use of limestone forms the very basis of permanent agriculture. Lime is essential to plant life, and the great regulator of soil fertility. There is evidence that the farmers have given their unqualified approval to the efforts of the government to supply them with this indispensable material."

"I am glad to note that the number of Agricultural Societies in the provinces at the close of the fiscal year ended July 31, 1920, was 154. The farmers derive great benefits from these societies, and are able to purchase through them seeds, pure bred stock, etc. I do not know how many of these societies hold annual exhibitions, but it has become the custom in my own parish of St. Louis, Horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, grain and vegetables, are placed on exhibition and suitable prizes awarded. This practice has been followed for upwards of thirty years."

"While on the subject of agriculture, it may not be out of place for me to mention the stand which the present government has taken for the preservation of the Crown Lands should have been hearty support and approbation of all parties. When we consider the great potential value of these lands, and the heavy support and approbation of all parties. When we consider the great potential value of these lands, and the heavy support and approbation of all parties. When we consider the great potential value of these lands, and the heavy support and approbation of all parties."

Water Power Development.

"In the line of development of the natural resources of the province, the Musquash river water power, to which reference has also been made in his honor's speech, No time was lost in acting upon the progressive legislation passed at the last session of this house. The matter of water power development had already done good work. A good start has been made in the development of power in the Musquash river, and we are told that in the near future there will be available 6,000 horse power. All will be glad to know that development of water powers in other sections of the province will be proceeded with in due haste. It is a great privilege to be given the power to be generated by the water powers in other sections of the province will be proceeded with in due haste. It is a great privilege to be given the power to be generated by the water powers in other sections of the province will be proceeded with in due haste."

Worthy of Support.

"The farmers should endorse the government's road policy without a dissenting voice. I am sure that improvement of transportation facilities throughout the province is a matter of vital importance which has been dealt with most wisely and intelligently by the present administration. The farmers have long been clamoring for better roads and the contents of certain settlers that the by-roads should be given first aid is perhaps a little illogical. The funding automobile fees for the construction of trunk roads, I believe, is a start in

the right direction and has paved the way for a still more progressive policy. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the good feeling that has pervaded this house during the four years I have had the honor of being a member will be continued during the present session. While we differ on matters of policy, such differences should not be allowed to disturb our personal relations, and I believe that all hon. members are sincerely desirous of promoting the public welfare."

Mr. Baxter moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that further consideration of the address in reply to the speech from the throne be made the order of the day for three o'clock tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Hetherington submitted to the house the returns of the votes polled in the by-election in the City of St. John, June 28, 1920, and in Queens county, Sunbury counties, December 27, 1920.

Hon. Mr. Hetherington submitted to the house the annual report of the Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick, and also the accounts of the University for the year ending December 31, 1920.

Hon. Mr. Hetherington submitted to the house the returns of the votes polled in the prohibition plebiscite held July 10, 1920.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that the committee to nominate the standing committee consist of Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Robinson, Hon. Mr. Veniot, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Fawcett.

Hon. Mr. Foster submitted a copy of the agreement with Robert P. Allen for reporting the debates of the legislative assembly. The agreement was in numbers, red in by the house and the official reporter was assigned his seat on the floor of the assembly that forenoon, showed some increase.

The house adjourned at 5.10 o'clock.

## COMMENTS ON THE ELECTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Smuts' Winning Over of the Labor Vote—South African Party's Victory in Spite of Deficient Organization.

London, March 18.—(By Canadian Press).—The Cape Town correspondent of the Times writes as follows concerning the significance of the recent South African general elections:—

General Smuts' victory owes its magnitude first to the desire of the entire English-speaking part of the people to meet the Dutch-speaking part in a great joint effort to obliterate racialism from South African politics; secondly, to the conviction held by the same elements of the utter failure of republicanism, a conviction strengthened in the case of the English-speaking portion by its devotion to the British connection, and in the case of the Dutch-speaking portion, by the realization of the economic, defensive and financial advantages of partnership in the British Commonwealth; thirdly, to the marvelous energy, brilliance, and de-

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tion with which General Smuts personally conducted the campaign.

Never in any South African election has the personality of a single individual counted for so much. His judgment in demanding an election was seriously questioned at the outset of the campaign by many usually shrewd observers who predicted a "land-slide" of the South African party Dutch to Nationalism, which would not be balanced by gains from labor, but the total results have proved that the Dutch followers of the South African party have stood firm and actually increased in numbers, though it is also true that the Nationalists voting strength, thanks to a registration system that favored them, showed some increase.

It is important to remember in this connection that the South African party organization at the outset of the campaign was lamentably deficient, and was only repaired by the enthusiasm and devotion with which General Smuts inspired his adherents. The Nationalists, on the other hand, were perfectly organized and ready for the election. Their leaders and newspapers had confidently predicted that the old South African party would be practically obliterated. In the event the South African party lost only two seats on balance to the Nationalists, and probably with a longer period of propaganda to penetrate the rural areas they might have actually gained.

The tremendous swing round of the labor voters, as compared with March is due to the impressive manner in which General Smuts brought home the danger of an indeterminate poll, also to the deep dissatisfaction with the attitude of labor members during the last session, and also to the fact that at the last election the dominating economic issue drove many Unionists into the Labor camp, whence they have now returned to the South African party.

The logical conclusion of the Nationalist vote is the amplest justification of General Smuts' policy, and South Africa realizes the danger from which she escaped. The Nationalist leaders profess satisfaction though Mr. Tielman Roos decries "so much unfaithfulness." He insists that the Nationalists will persist and prove how little value attaches to "lies about civil war and the tearing up of the constitution by which the cowardly part of our population has been moved to vote against their own principles."

An interesting illustrated lecture on "How We Got Our Bible" was given last evening before a large audience at St. Luke's church by Rev. F. S. Potten.

## KILLED BILL THAT WOULD PROHIBIT DIVORCE

Concord, N. H., March 18.—The house of representatives has killed a bill that would have prohibited divorces in New Hampshire.

The special service in the Carleton Methodist church last night was attended by a large number and music was furnished by the choir. Rev. Neil MacLachlan gave an address on the subject, "What the Church Has and What It Needs."

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## MUTT AND JEFF—AS A REPORTER JEFF FLASHES SOME SNAPPY COPY

By "BUD" FISHER

