

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1922

SPEECH FROM THRONE AT THE HOUSE OPENING

(Continued from page 1.)
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure to welcome you for the discharge of your legislative duties to the second session of the eighth legislative assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, and to join with you in an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings both have enjoyed during the last year, both in material respects, including a fairly abundant harvest, and for progress in the work of reconstruction which has occupied the attention of all the world since the end of the great war.

It seems fitting that in this connection I should refer to an event of momentous world importance which has recently taken place, and which is likely to make for permanent peace among the great nations and go far towards rapidly bringing about a condition of widespread confidence and prosperity. This event is the holding of the disarmament conference at Washington—the first conference of the kind in the history of the world—the deliberations of which have been marked by great frankness and international good will.

Since the last session of this legislature, Canada has been called upon to speed the departure of a highly esteemed governor-general—the Duke of Devonshire—and to extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Baron Byng of Vimy, and also to Lady Byng; and on behalf of the Province of New Brunswick I join in this welcome to a governor-general whose reputation stands so high in Canada as a great soldier and leader of men, and who is so well known to hosts of our young men who followed his leadership in the fields of France and Flanders.

Lumbering and Farming.

Special reference should be made on this occasion to the conditions that have somewhat seriously affected two basic industries of this province, namely, agriculture and lumbering. The prices of farm products have decreased in a much greater degree than the prices of those commodities which every farmer has to purchase, and therefore the prosperity of those engaged in this most important industry has been greatly affected, and in addition the climatic conditions of last summer had a serious result upon many of the most valuable of the crops. The price of lumber also decreased to a remarkable extent, and financial conditions in the old country, as well as in the United States, where our lumber products have been largely sold, were such as gravely to menace the prosperity of an industry which figures so constantly and so largely in the commercial success of this province. I am pleased to inform you that, every possible effort will be made to encourage agriculture, and a bill will be introduced to assist in co-operative selling and marketing of the products of the farm. My government has had the lumber situation before it for consideration and has made certain alterations in the regulations which will affect the stumpage upon the cut of diseased infected lumber, and afford a certain measure of relief to this industry. Unfortunately, during the last summer, a drought, the like of which has not been experienced in this province for nearly one hundred years, made the suppression of forest fires very difficult, but I am pleased to state that, through the efforts of the organization and officials of the forest service, the damage was kept within reasonable limits.

During the recess, I am pleased to inform you, a change was made in the trustees of the funds held for the benefit of the Saint John and Quebec Railway and the trusteeship is now located in this province. A bill will be introduced confirming the agreement reached between the government, the Saint John and Quebec Railway Company and the Prudential Trust Company, and also authorizing the incorporation of a trust company in this province to act as trustees.

The Roads.
The improvement of the highways of the province has been carried on energetically during the last year, and substantial progress has been made with regard to completing the highway programme called for by the agreement with the federal highway branch, which contributes forty per cent. of the cost of construction. The secondary trunk roads being built from the proceeds of bonds specially secured by the automobile funds have had their fair share of attention, but the cost of the upkeep of these improved highways is a matter to which serious consideration must be given.

The teachers of the province having signified their willingness to co-operate with the government in the matter of pensions by an annual contribution on their part and without materially increasing the financial burdens of the province, you will be asked to give attention to legislation along these lines which will provide for a more liberal retiring compensation for those engaged in this pre-eminent public service.

Hydro.

One of the most important of the government public undertakings in many years is the development of the water powers at Musquash and elsewhere, and I am happy to inform you that the work at Musquash has been practically completed and that electric current will be produced and made available for distribution within a very short time. My government will inform you as to what has been done in bringing electric current from the Grand Falls of Nepisiquit to important industries and for lighting purposes in the Town of Newcastle. The extension of the hydro power from St. John toward Moncton has been given careful consideration, and the results of the surveys of the engineers, together with estimates of cost for such extensions, will no doubt be laid before you during the session.

The important question of railway freight rates, to which your attention was called and which you had under discussion at the last session of the legislature,

has not yet been settled to the satisfaction of the business people of the maritime provinces, but many conferences have been held at which this province has been well represented, and in co-operation with the governments of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, demand for those rights which were a part of the compact of confederation will be vigorously pressed.

The attention of the government at Ottawa has again been called to the arrangements, uncompleted on the part of the federal administration, to take over the wharves in tidal waters, which was proposed by the federal minister of public works in 1918, and agreed to by the legislature as requested by the federal government, as the province's part of the arrangement.

Finances.

The revenues of the province during the year were greater than was estimated and the expenditures exceeded the income by a considerable amount. Large outlays were caused by unexpected emergencies such as the fighting of forest fires and the construction of ordinary bridges necessary to the safety of the province.

I commend to your careful consideration such proposals as may be submitted to you with a view to improving the financial situation in the province.

The matter of the transfer of the natural resources to the western provinces is now receiving consideration by the dominion authorities. My government have already taken steps to secure proper recognition of our claims.

Vocational and industrial education through day, evening and itinerant schools has made substantial progress during the year, a report of which will in due course be laid before you for your consideration.

The needs of public health are daily being made more apparent throughout

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TEA is good tea

Always Pure
and Clean
and Kept Good
in the Sealed
Package

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the countries of the civilized world—the conservation of health and lives of the people. In this respect New Brunswick, through its department of health, is rendering a service in this regard which has already justified its existence. Amendments to this act will be introduced during this session.

Several other important measures will be presented for your attention, including a consolidation of the schools act, and amendments to other important acts will touch upon the public welfare.

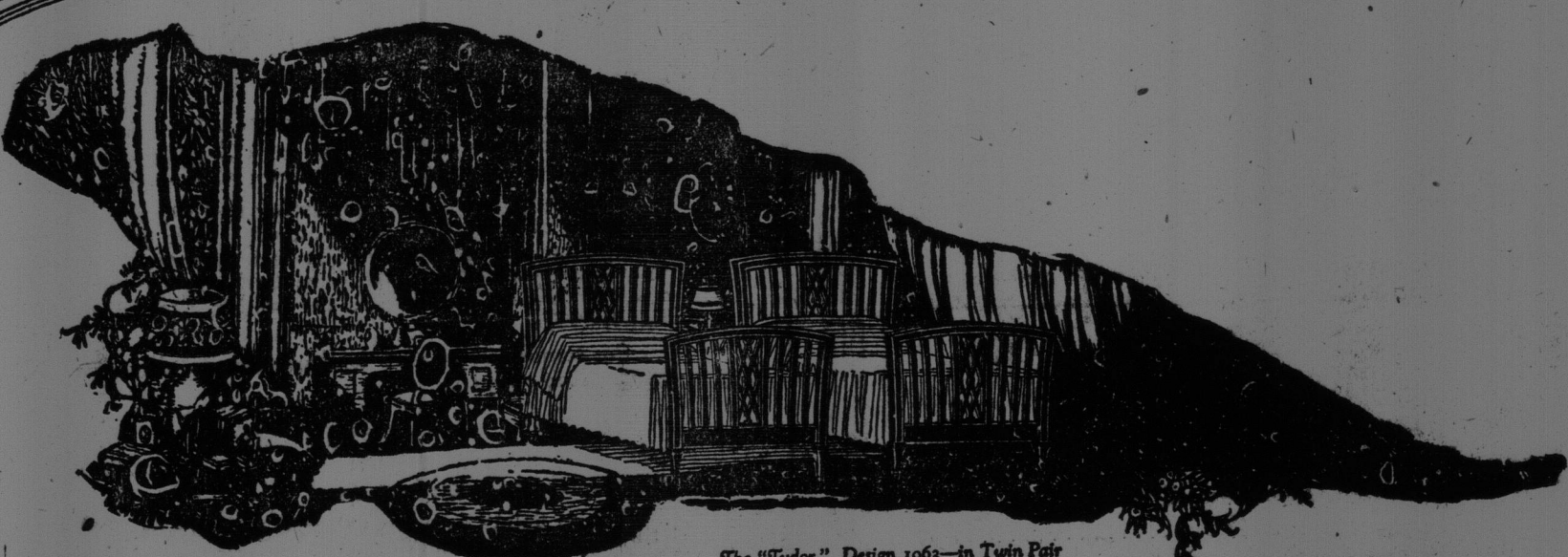
The public accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you, together with the estimates of revenue and expenditure, which have been prepared with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

I commend the work of the session to your most earnest attention and invoke the Divine blessing upon your deliberations.

The grist mill at Hampton, owned by W. H. Hill, was totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. Mr. Hill was in his office when he smelled smoke. He found the roof burning briskly and assisted by a volunteer fire brigade, tried to put it out. But the blaze had gained too great headway and the mill burned to the ground in half an hour. The stock on hand was practically all saved by the fire-fighters. The loss, including the building, was \$14,000, about half covered by insurance. The machinery was new and the building was fifteen years old.

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