

THE HERALD

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AT 81 QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor

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Sessional Notes.

After the opening ceremonies on Wednesday last, his Honour the Lieut. Governor took his departure and Hon. J. E. Wyatt, Speaker, took his place in the Chair. The usual routine proceedings of opening day were disposed of and the House adjourned to Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday, 13th, the House met at 3.15. After the usual routine Mr. James Kennedy moved the address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieut. Governor at the opening of the Session. He reviewed the Speech at some length. The visit to this Province of their Royal Highnesses the Governor General and party; the abundant harvest; the good markets and high prices received for farm products; the short course and other matters were favorably commented upon. The large money grant by the Federal Government for agriculture in this Province was highly commended, and the close attention to and good management of our agricultural department by the Hon. Commissioner, Mr. McKinnon, were highly commended. The development of our oyster fisheries by the Provincial Government was highly praised. Mr. Kennedy regarded this action on the part of the present Provincial Government as of the highest possible importance to the fishermen of this Province. He regarded the Government's great work in erecting permanent bridges as worthy of the highest praise, and highly commended the attention and energy displayed in the business of his department by the Commissioner of Public Works, the Hon. Mr. McNeill. He next directed attention to the large amount of money obtained from the Dominion Government. He pointed out that the present Provincial Government had received the amount of \$126,509 in one year; more than the Liberal Government had been able to get during all their years of office. In addition to this we would have received \$14,000 more had not the Liberal Senate held the matter up. The road act, our schools, the fox industry were most favorably reviewed. The Car Ferry he regarded as the greatest boon ever bestowed on this Province. He reviewed the three short hauls, and the high freight rates consequent thereupon were discussed at some length. The Car Ferry would make our Province a part of the mainland, and place the markets of the Maritime Provinces at our immediate disposal, and this must turn out to our incalculable advantage. The matter of our claims against the Federal Government on the matter of the lands given to the larger Provinces was next taken up, and the hope expressed that this claim so well presented by our Local Government, would be in due time realized. The efforts of our Government in the matter of retaining our representation in the Federal Parliament and the improvements in our telegraphic system all came in for favorable comment. All other matters referred to in the Speech were favorably and well reviewed in Mr. Kennedy's excellent speech.

Mr. Eneas A. McDonald seconded the address. The visit of the Duke of Connaught and his family was spoken of in the most commendable vein. The excellent crops and high prices were, he considered, a splendid evidence of the prosperity of our farmers. The establishment of a new agricultural hall was something worthy of the greatest praise. He thought the agricultural department was the busiest of all the departments. The large financial grant from the Federal Government for agriculture was a matter of the highest consideration. The road act, he thought, had given very good satisfaction. The Provincial Government had built more steel bridges during the past year than had been erected by all previous governments. No one could doubt he said that the Car Ferry would be of the greatest possible advantage to us. The Federal Government were to be highly commended for this, as for their numerous other good offices in our behalf. He was glad to notice the references in the speech to the advantages offered by this Province to emigrants, tourists, etc. He was glad to see that a change was to be made in the petty jury act. He hoped this change would be to the advantage of the jurors. The several other matters referred to in the Speech were favorably commented upon. Since confederation all Governments of the Province, before the present one, had secured altogether the sum of \$120,000. The present Government have already secured over \$126,000 more than all previous Governments combined. The reduction in our debt and liabilities foreshadowed in the Speech is agreeable anticipation; something not heard of in a Governor's speech for a very long time in this Province.

On the Speaker putting the motion and no one rising it was declared it carried. The Leader of the Government then moved that the House adjourn. On this motion being put the Leader of the opposition complained that the previous motion was put very quickly. The Leader of the Government then suggested that the motion might be reconsidered. This being done the Leader of the opposition made a moderate criticism of the speech. The Leader of the Government rose to reply at 4.25. He complimented the mover and seconder of the address for the excellent way in which they had acquitted themselves. He went on to show that the Leader of the Opposition was altogether wrong in his remarks regarding the schools, the dog tax and other matters. He pointed out that under the Liberal Government a teacher who passed the required examination got first class license, if he were about to leave the Province; but not till after some time if he were going to remain at home. Nothing, in his estimation, could more effectually empty our schools. Under the present Government, a candidate's first class license is granted to anyone qualified, only on condition that the recipient remain in the Province for two years. At the end of that time he will receive a permanent license. The Premier then proceeded to correct the Leader of the Opposition regarding our land claims against the Federal Government, and explained the basis of our claim in this respect. He pointed out that we had put in our claim for compensation regarding the enlarged territories granted to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. We had a partnership in those lands, we helped to buy them and to equip them. In lieu of these lands we are quite willing, he said, to be placed on a par with the Provinces of the West, as to increased subsidies. The Government of Canada wanted last year to give us some \$14,000 for roads; but the Opposition at Ottawa blocked this. At the present time the same Opposition are hampering the Federal Government. But as soon as the Government frees itself from this blockade they will likely attend to our claims, regarding these lands. The present Government have received from Ottawa \$6,000 more than had been received in additional subsidies from the Federal treasury by all previous governments combined. In the matter of steel bridges, the Premier pointed out that the present Government had erected in a year 500 feet more than the previous Government during all their term of office, and had accomplished the work at a reduction of twenty five per cent, as compared with the operations of their predecessors in office. Regarding the finances of the Province, Premier Mathieson showed that Mr. Palmer, when he handed over the reins of office, left behind a disastrous financial record. In the two months between the end of the fiscal year and Mr. Palmer's resignation, the debt of the Province had been increased \$83,000; besides liabilities amounting to \$85,000 more. The Premier thought the roads were giving very good satisfaction. Coming to the question of the oyster fisheries, the Leader of the Government said the greatest care had been exercised in the matter of the leases. Wherever there was any supposition that live oysters existed, the lease was not granted until the case was thoroughly investigated. It being six o'clock, the Premier moved the adjournment of the debate and the House adjourned till the following day.

The House met on Friday afternoon at 3.10. After routine the debate on the address was continued by Premier Mathieson. He took up the matter of education. He showed how our schools had deteriorated, when the late Government had wiped out the supplements and cut off the bonuses. The present Government had restored these and had established a retiring allowance for old teachers. It was the intention of the Government to utilize at least a portion of the special agricultural grant from the Federal Government for the purpose of developing a course of nature studies. Referring to the nature of our representation in the Federal Parliament, he said he had attended two conferences with the Premiers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He also had the assurance of support from Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, and other Leaders in this matter. The Western provinces, too, would also come to our assistance. He had this assurance from many prominent men in these sections. Our beaches and bathing waters are such as are to be found in very few countries, and when once these become better known to the people of great Canadian cities, tourists will flock here in large numbers. But we must prepare for the advent of these tourists. The completion of the Car Ferry will be the first and most important step in this direction. The Premier then enumerated the steps that had been taken by the Government in finally securing the very important improvements in our telegraph service. For a number of years a difficulty existed in consequence of a misunderstanding between the telephone and telegraphic companies. But this has been overcome and it is expected that in a short time these com-

panies will work in unison and we shall have our messages delivered at a cheap rate either from a telegraph or a telephone office. It is proposed, the Premier said, to amend the income tax so as to make it more equitable. It is intended to exempt all clergymen from income tax on their stipends. Should any of them have other means these would be subject to the general trend of the act. On the other hand, the wealthy people of the Province would be asked to pay on their income. The remuneration of petit jurors will be increased. In the fifteen months of the Government's existence four quarters of Dominion subsidy had been received; but six quarters of teachers salary had been paid. The financial statement when presented, would show a condition much better than estimated last session. Premier Palmer in the two months between the close of the fiscal year and his resignation had run the Province in debt \$83,000, and left besides, liabilities amounting to \$85,000. Under the present Government the policy is to make every year's financial transactions show for themselves. There would be nothing carried over into the following year.

Mr. McWilliams offered some criticism on the operations of the Government. Mr. L.L. Jenkins discussed at considerable length the subjects under review. He took up the different subjects referred to in the Speech. Mr. Gallant controverted the statements of Mr. McWilliams in condemnation of the road act. He claimed that the roads in his district, the first of Prince, were good. In the second district, from which Mr. McWilliams comes, there were some of the very worst roads, so much boasted of by Mr. McWilliams. He said that the road master at O'Leary had taken the prize offered for best work during the last year. He congratulated the Government on the large amount of increased subsidy from Ottawa. He praised Premier Borden for the car ferry and other boons to this Province. The principal fault he had to find with the present Provincial and Federal Governments was that they had retained two many Liberals in office.

Mr. Feehan referred briefly to the different paragraphs in the address. He considered that his Majesty the King had done us a very great honor in sending us the Duke of Connaught for Governor-General. Referring to the warlike preparations going on in the different countries of Europe, he warmly commended the action taken by Premier Borden in his proposition for providing three great dreadnoughts as auxiliaries to the imperial navy. He considered that the short course in agriculture, inaugurated by the Provincial Government, must be of great advantage to our farmers. The seed farms, also, could not fail to improve our methods of farming. Hitherto no attention had been given to agriculture in our schools, and he was pleased to know that the present Government was going to inaugurate a new departure in this respect. The rule, hitherto, has been that the educated member of the family left the Province. He hoped under the changed conditions, this state of affairs would be changed. It was the neglect of the farm that made poor people. The car ferry would do more than anything else to correct and improve matters, agricultural and otherwise. The oyster industry he regarded as a matter of the very greatest importance to our Province, and thought the Government had done a great work in the action they had taken in this matter. He considered the road act had been productive of very good results. When the expected aid for our roads would come, he thought Mount Stewart should benefit thereby.

Hon. Mr. McLean moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House adjourned until Monday afternoon.

Federal Parliament.

The Opposition in the House of Commons continued their obstruction during the whole of last week, just as on the previous week. The principal change in their methods and manner of obstructive warfare was that a large portion of their talk consisted of abuse of Winston Churchill, first Lord of the Admiralty rather than the Borden Government. Following are some extracts from the Churchill correspondence:

On Jan. 23, Mr. Churchill replied giving the following memorandum: The suggestion that the proposed battleships could be expeditiously built in Canada cannot be based on a full knowledge of the question.

Looking to the far greater wanting difficulties which now exist than formerly in 1909 the establishment of two such units would place a strain upon the resources of the admiralty which, with all the will in the world, they could not undertake to meet.

Apart from the reply to your immediate question, it seems desirable to comment on another point. The admiralty will, of course, endeavor to facilitate the development of any practicable naval policy which may commend itself to Canada; but the prospects of their being able to co-operate to any great extent in manning the units is now much less than it would have been at the time of the imperial conference of 1909.

Between that time and 1912 a commencement was made with the establishment of a Canadian naval force but in these three years only small progress was made with the training of recruits and cadets and it would have been impossible for the Canadian government to man a single cruiser. The provision of two fleet units consisting of the most modern ships would divert from their necessary station large numbers of very efficient officers and men which would have to be lent by the admiralty.

Taking the above points into consideration, it is clear that it would be wholly unwise for Canada to attempt to undertake the building of a battleship at the present moment. The cost of laying down the plant alone would, at a rough estimate, be approximately \$15,000,000 and it could not be ready for four years. Such an outlay could only be justified on the assumption that Canada is to keep up a continuous naval building programme to turn out a succession of ships after the fashion of the largest shipyards in Great Britain and Europe.

The climax of the two weeks obstruction of the naval aid bill was reached late Friday night when the government suddenly announced to the committee of the whole that the existing rules would hereafter be enforced and if found inadequate for the passage of the bill new rules would be introduced. The announcement, made by Hon. Robert Rogers was immediately followed by the application of the relevancy rule requiring a speaker to speak to the clause under consideration. It was applied against a speech by Hon. Frank Oliver to the effect that the government proposal involved not a gift or a loan but a pawn in the politics of Canada and the United Kingdom. Premier Borden took the position that this was a discussion of the principle of the bill which had been adopted on the second reading. Chairman J. A. M. Aikens so ruled. Mr. Oliver appealed and the ruling was sustained on a division of 68 to 28, a majority of forty for the government. The sudden movement of the government found the opposition numerically weak. There seemed to be a prospect of more divisions on points of order, but not for a very spirited or protracted resistance. The obstructionists had a wide field and the government was determined that progress must be made.

Ottawa, March 18.—The Canadian House of Commons was the theatre, Saturday night, of the most disgraceful scene in its history when the Liberal members, under the leadership of Hon. Mr. Pugsley, broke all bounds of decency and precipitated a near riot. It was the culmination of a long drawn and deliberate resistance of the standing rules of the house carried out on apparently pre-arranged lines. For the first time (Continued on third page.)

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Synopsis of Canadian North-West Land Regulations.

Any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$5.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. CORY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

P. E. I. RAILWAY.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Excursion Return Tickets at one way rate, valid for return to and from all stations, on March 20th, 21st, 22nd and 24th, 1913, good to return up to and including March 26th, 1913. Tickets are good only for continuous journey in either direction, and are not good for passage on going journey after date of issue.

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Advertisement for L. J. Reddin, 'My Store', featuring sample sweaters and other clothing items. Includes contact information for Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Advertisement for R. F. Maddigan & Co. featuring home-made preserves, eggs & butter, house cleaning supplies, and Eureka Tea. Includes contact information for Charlottetown, P.E.I.