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QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

Opening of the Session, The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech.

QUEBEC, Jan. 9.—The third session of the Sixty Legislature opened this afternoon with the customary ceremonies. Cardinal Taschereau and several of his suite were also at the opening and occupied seats to the left of the throne. A Battery of artillery furnished the guard of honor with a band. A royal salute was fired from the grand battery in the citadel.

After His Honor entered the Council Chamber with his military staff, Premier Mercier and the members of the Cabinet, the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr. Hatt, by command, summoned the members of the Legislature to listen to the reading of the Speech from the Throne.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I am certain that I but give expression to your sentiments and those of the people of this Province in stating that we regret the absence on this occasion through illness, of the head of the Executive, and that we all sincerely desire to see him soon restored to health and to the office he so worthily fills.

THE FINANCES.

Reasons of a special nature have delayed the conversion of the consolidated debt of the Province authorized by your last session, but my Government still expects to carry out this financial transaction which will enable it to devote large sums of money towards promoting the interests of public instruction, agriculture and colonization.

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATES.

The act amending the law respecting District Magistrates, assented to on the 12th July last having been disallowed by the Federal authorities without their having appointed the additional judges ordered by this Legislature, my Government was compelled to put into force in the city of Montreal the old laws respecting District Magistrates with a view of stopping the ever-increasing accumulation of judicial business in the metropolis of the country. You will be again asked to enact the same law which certain modifications rendered necessary by circumstances as to put an end to the difficulties in the administration of justice in Montreal and to assert the rights of this Legislature. The correspondence in connection with the disavowal will be submitted to you.

FEDERAL ENCROACHMENTS.

The Federal Government having raised doubt as to the right of this Province to the ownership of a certain portion of the Crown lands, called "Beach lots," my Government deems it necessary to protest energetically against such an encroachment, which, if successful, will be disastrous in its results. The memorandum sent to the Federal authorities on this subject will be submitted to you, together with the other documents connected therewith. The Federal authority having informed it they had under consideration the question of disallowing the act of last session confirming the settlement made in connection with the property known as the Jesuits' estate, and consequently the carrying out of the principal provisions of that act has remained and will remain suspended until the expiration of the delay within which the disavowal might take place.

COLONIZATION AND AGRICULTURE.

In accordance with the desire of this Legislature the Department of Agriculture and Colonization has been entrusted to a practical agriculturist, which will, I trust, assure the signal success of these two great national undertakings, and you have doubtless learnt with pleasure that by this arrangement an important department is conferred to a representative of the minority in this province in the person of a member from the Eastern Townships. You will be called upon to consider the advisability of conferring special and honorary rewards for agricultural merit, so as to excite a noble and legitimate emulation amongst our farming population.

THE REVISED STATUTES.

The revised statutes of this province come into force by proclamation on the first of January instant, and the distribution is being made with all due diligence.

DEBTORS OF THE PROVINCE.

Efficient measure have been taken to ensure the collection of the monies due to the province, and to enforce compliance with the Licence Act.

RAILWAYS.

As a result of new appropriations which you voted to railway companies, the work of construction on a certain number of these roads has been energetically carried on, and I have much pleasure in informing you that some of them have completed and are already in full operation. The aid granted last session to the Quebec Railway Bridge Company was, by order-in-council, placed at the disposal of the promoters of that important undertaking under the terms and conditions imposed by the law.

QUEBEC AND ONTARIO.

My Government endeavored, under the authority of the Act fifty-one and fifty-two Victoria, chapter twelve, to appoint arbitrators to whom would have been referred certain questions which the Government of Ontario and Quebec would have mutually

the two Governments could not agree, my Government insisting upon submitting only the questions connected with the school lands fund and the Government of Ontario insisting upon adding others. There is, however, reason to hope that the difficulty will be settled shortly to the satisfaction of both provinces.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The public account for the fiscal year ended the 30th June last will be laid before you without delay as well as the supplementary estimates for this year and the estimates for the fiscal year 1889-90. You will observe with satisfaction that the hope expressed with reference to there being a considerable surplus for the past year (1887-88) has been realized, and that every possible economy has been observed in the ordinary expenditure.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

THE WORK FOR THE SESSION.

In order to carry out the promise made last session, a bill will be submitted to you for an equitable settlement as possible of the question of the exemption from taxes of certain property held for religious, educational, or charitable purpose.

You will be called upon to consider amendments to the act passed in 1885 relative to lunatic asylums, in accordance with some of the recommendations contained in the report of the commission appointed to study that important question and with a view of removing the feeling of uneasiness caused by that act.

Several other bills will also be submitted to you, amongst others in connection with the Quebec Controversial Elections Act, the Mining Act, and the License Act.

I have every confidence that you will give all the necessary attention to these important matters, and I pray Divine Providence to bless your labours.

On the Legislature resuming duties, the Speaker read his report to the House as to the several bye-elections and contested elections cases.

Hon. Col. Rhodes was next introduced to the House by the Premier Mercier and Mr. Owen Murphy, and Mr. H. B. Torrey by Mr. Nicollet by Hon. Mr. Tallon and Mr. Duplessis. Both the new members were warmly welcomed.

In the Council Chamber Mr. Marcell and Mr. Laroche were introduced and took their seats, giving the Government a majority of one, counting on the Hon. Mr. Starnes, who will it is said, before long be appointed speaker of the Council, as the Government intend changing the law to give this effect.

The writs for Montreal and Laprairie, have been issued and the Government hope to carry both divisions.

JULIAN HAWTHORNE ON "GENTLEMEN."

[Truth for the people.]

Mr. Julian Hawthorne, the novelist, has added a fresh bitterness to life by giving a

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

new impetus to that old question. "What is a gentleman?" In a recent lecture he ventured on the statement that no Englishman can be a gentleman, because he is continually looking down on somebody, and looking up to somebody else. There is no Englishman he says so humble or so high that is not at once condescending and humble—a state of things which he considers fatal to all chance of gentlemanhood.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The Great and Growing Burden upon Industry.

(Toronto Globe.)

In the public accounts for last year there are given tables showing the interest on our national debt from year to year. Making allowance for the interest received on investments of sinking fund, etc., the rate paid in 1888 was \$4.51 per cent; now it is \$3.12 per cent. Hon. G. E. Foster, in his preface to the volume, does a little jubilation on account of this decrease. But has not his Government been so wasteful that our country has gained nothing from the fall in interest?

It is too rashly assumed that because our interest rate has been reduced the burden of the debt lessened. That is not so for two sufficient reasons.

In the first place the amount of interest paid per head has increased.

In the second place it requires a greater amount of labor to produce \$3.00 in three days than would produce \$4.00 or \$5.00 in 1887.

In 1887 our population was 3,150,000. The net debt was \$75,723,641. The rate of interest paid on the net debt was \$4.51. The debt charges for the year were \$4,860,757. Charge per head of population, \$1.54.

In 1889 our population is 4,900,000. The net debt on the 30th June last was \$234,531,358. The rate of interest paid on the net debt was \$3.12. The debt charges for the year were \$10,166,905. Charge per head of population, \$2.08.

The interest charge per head, therefore, instead of decreasing has increased 54 cents—35 per cent. in 21 years.

While the interest charge has been running up the ability to pay it has been running down. This interest has to be paid out of the products of industry of wheat, barley, cattle or dairy produce obtained from an acre of Canadian land has certainly not increased during the last twenty years. On the contrary, as everybody knows, the virgin fertility of the land has been considerably impaired, and the farmer who used to reap his 25 or 30 bushels of wheat has to be content with eighteen or twenty, with other things in proportion. And the price obtained per bushel has been running down instead of running up. Comparing prices now current with those of this day twenty years ago, the following is the result:

PRESENT PRICES COMPARED WITH PRICES TWENTY YEARS AGO.

Wheat, spring.....	\$1.06	\$1.55
Wheat, winter.....	1.07	1.67
Barley.....	.62	1.10
Oats.....	.36	.53
Potatoes.....	.68	.72

The prices of twenty years ago are, it will be seen, away ahead of those of the present day, though the price of wheat to-day is twenty to twenty-five per cent. higher than the average price of the N.P. years. The Bureau of Industries reports that the average price of wheat all over the Province for the last six years has been—fall wheat, 72 cents; spring wheat, 62 cents. We have no similar statistics twenty years old to compare with these. But such as we have indicate the average price of farm produce between '65 and '71 to have been 66 per cent. higher than it has been for the last six years. Taking the prices of the five cereal crops it will be seen that they average 50 per cent. higher in 1888 than in January, 1869.

The sum of all this is that where twenty

years ago it required forty pounds of wheat to pay \$1 interest on the national debt, it now requires nearly sixty pounds; and on the average during the last six years it has taken about 85 pounds of wheat to pay as much interest as 40 pounds paid in 1868.

Our debt charges in 1888 were \$4,870,757. To pay this, taking wheat at \$1.60, the average consumed the proceeds from the sale of 3,057,973 bushels of wheat.

In 1888 our debt charges were \$10,166,905. Taking wheat at \$1.07, the sum consumed the proceeds of 9,501,780 bushels of wheat.

Taking the average price of the last six years at 69 cents—the medium between 72 56 cents given by the Bureau as the average price of fall wheat respectively—it would take 14,734,644 bushels of winter wheat to pay our annual debt charges.

Collecting the figures and facts given above in tabular form we have this result:—

OUR BURDEN OF INTEREST.

1868.	1888.
Net debt.....\$75,723,641	Net debt.....\$234,531,358
Debt charges.....\$4,860,757	Debt charges.....\$10,166,905
Per cent.....4.51	Per cent.....3.12
Population.....3,150,000	Population.....4,900,000
Per head.....\$1.54	Per head.....\$2.08
Wheat required to pay annual charges at prices of 1869.....3,057,973	Wheat required to pay annual charges at prices of 1888.....9,501,780
Wheat required to pay annual charges at prices of 1888.....14,734,644	

That is to say our debt is now as compared with its condition in 1868:

Three times as great in bulk.

It bears 2 1/2 times as much interest.

Though the interest rate has gone down and the population gone up, the interest charge is now 35 per cent. higher per head than it was twenty years ago.

It takes three times as much wheat to pay our interest now as it took twenty years ago, using present prices as a guide.

It takes nearly five times as much wheat to pay our interest now as it took twenty years ago, using the average price of the last six years as a guide.

And this calculation leaves wholly out of sight the decrease in the number of bushels obtained from an acre now compared with twenty years ago.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

The London Bulletin in reviewing the financial position of the Canadian Pacific Railway, estimates the gross earnings for the past year at \$13,412,412 and the net earnings \$3,567,412, which would be deducted according to the Bulletin, fixed charges, interest on loans, &c., \$3,686,138, leaving a puny balance of \$1,274, which will go a ridiculously small way in paying the interest on \$85,000,000, the amount of shares issued. The Bulletin might well comment upon the almost bankrupt condition of the C.P.R. for in order to pay 3 per cent. not less than \$1,950,000 is required. The position of the Company financially is to say the least, deplorable.

PROVISIONS.

POKE, LARD, &c.—The market has been almost demoralized owing to the wretchedly wet weather, which has been a great drawback to business. Pork has been very slow sale, as well as lard. The bad country roads have interfered a great deal with orders, and no improvement is to be expected until a drier, more seasonable weather is experienced. Prices are more or less nominal, as follows: Canada short cut clear, per bbl, \$17.50; Chicago short cut clear, per bbl, \$17.00 to \$17.50; Mess pork, western, per bbl, \$16.50; Hams, city cured, per lb, 12 1/2 to 13 1/2; Lard, western, in bulk, per lb, 10 to 10 1/2; Lard, city, in bulk, per lb, 10 1/2 to 11; Tallow, refined, per lb, 6 to 6 1/2.

DRESSED HOGS.—The receipts for the past week were 3,864 head, against 1,115 head for the week previous. On spot there has been very little doing, although packers have been buying in the West at prices which it is claimed cost \$7 laid down here. Car lots are quoted in the market at \$7.37 1/2, the outside figure being extreme. Owing to the unfavorable weather buyers take only just what they require from hand to mouth. Small lots are quoted at \$7.15 to \$7.25 per 100 lbs.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.—Receipts during the past week were 717 packages, against 1,212 pkgs. a week ago. The market continues very quiet, in fact dull, although stocks here are comparatively light for this season of the year. The only sale of any consequence since our last report was that of a car load of creamery at 26c. Apart from this sale and a few enquiries from the Lower Provinces there has been nothing doing aside from the local trade. The American market is quite demoralized, prices for fresh creamery in New York have been 12 to 13c per lb. within the past six weeks. The shipments this week by the Central Vermont Railway to Liverpool are 700 packages. We quote prices here as follows:—Creamery, finest, 25c to 26c; do. earlier made, 22c to 23c; Eastern Townships, 19c to 22c; Richmond, 17c to 19c; Renfrew, 17c to 19c; Morrisburg, 19c to 21c; Brockville, 19c to 20c; Western, 16c to 18c; Kamouraska, 17c to 19c.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS.—Prices are somewhat easier this week owing to the continued spring-like weather which it is said has caused the Southern birds to drop their fruit. Buyers are consequently afraid that fresh Southern eggs may at any moment make their appearance and smash the market. The New York market has been broken about 2c since the introduction of Southern arrivals. We quote Montreal laid, 18c to 20c, and fresh laid, 20c to 21c. Strictly new laid command much higher prices.

BEANS.—Good to choice white mediums \$1.75 to \$1.80 per bushel for jobbing lots.

HONEY.—Extracted white clover honey 11c to 11 1/2c per lb in 5 lb tins, and 10c in 30 lb tins.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY RECEIPTS.—Return of traffic for the week ending 5th January 1889.

Passenger train earnings.....	\$122,027	108,978
Freights.....	189,087	200,983
Total.....	\$311,114	\$309,961

Increase for 1889.....\$1,153.

WATERFORD, Ireland, Jan. 14.—At the close of a trial full of sensational incidents, a batch of fifteen prisoners were pronounced guilty, under the Crimes Act, of unlawful assembly. They were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and taken off to jail in a body.

The whole population followed, cheering the victims and abusing the police. A riot followed, people groaning at and stoning the police. The latter had to charge with fixed bayonets to disperse the mob. Ten citizens were wounded and six policemen were injured.

Mr. M. HODGINS.

Toronto, Dec. 25th, 1888.

That since the Christmas chimes pealed last o'er all the world so wide

A cloud has fallen on our home, for oh! our loved ones died!

The world at best is full of care—perhaps 'tis both a burden and a pain

A glorious Christmas day in heaven has dawned for them we know;

A comfort it should be to us to know their trials are o'er;

But oh! his hard to struggle on and never see them more.

But still we say "God's will be done," we're lone and sad to-day,

But hopes of meeting them in heaven will cheer us on our way;

And oh! what joy then it will be when all life's cares are o'er

To meet our loved and cherished ones where death can come no more.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL MARKET QUOTATIONS.

FLOUR, GRAIN, &c.

FLOUR.—The receipts during past week were light, being 2,512 bbls, against 3,619 bbls. the week previous. The miserable weather and bad country roads have continued to kill what trade would otherwise have fallen to the share of our dealers. The market continues in the same weak and unsettled condition, although letters have just been received from some of the leading millers in the West instructing receivers here not to offer any more of their flour at present prices, which is construed as indicating a firm feeling at the mills in Ontario, owing it is said to the receipt of better cable advices and more enquiry for breadstuffs from abroad. A prominent flour salesman has returned from the Lower Provinces, but he found that there was very little to be done in that direction in the way of new business, as most of the dealers there were pretty well stocked up. In this market at least the wheat is at a premium, old wheat brands bringing \$5.75 to \$5.85, while new wheat brands have sold at \$5.50 and under. Straight rollers have sold at \$5.60 to \$5.65 for well known brands, down to \$5.55 to \$5.50 for other grades. We do not alter former quotations, which are as follows:—Patent winer, \$5 to \$5.15; patent spring, \$5.60 to \$5.65; straight roller, \$5.50 to \$5.75; extra, \$5.20 to \$5.45; superfine, \$4.80 to \$4.90; cut-down superfine, \$4.40 to \$4.60; strong bakers, \$5.50 to \$5.75; Ontario bags, extra, \$4.40 to \$4.60.

WHEAT.—The market is quiet but firmer, and sales have made at \$1.17 to \$1.18 for car lots as to quality. Shorts, \$1.19. Monies \$2.25 to \$2.26 per ton.

WHEAT.—Receipts 18,156 bushels. In the present unsettled state of the market and the paucity of spot transactions, it is impossible to give prices for nominal quotations. Manitoba No. 1 hard, \$1.22 to \$1.24; No. 2 do., \$1.20 to \$1.21; Canada red and white winter purely nominal and difficult to quote.

CORN.—Receipts during the week, 7,168 bushels, against 6,116 bushels the week previous. The market is quiet but steady at 55c to 58c du bushel paid.

WHEAT.—Receipts for the week, 456 bushels against 1,500 bushels for the week previous. The market in Ontario is reported easier, prices here being quoted at 72c to 73c per 60 lbs. There is no business worth mentioning on spot.

BARLEY.—Receipts for the week, 17,153 bushels. The market is steady, and prices West have advanced under a better enquiry from the United States. Have sales of choice malting barley here made at 70c, and we quote 65c to 70c. Feeding qualities, 55c to 58c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—The market continues quiet at \$7.75 per 100 lbs.

BUCKWHEAT.—The sale of a car of buckwheat transpired in this market at 57c per bushel of 48 lbs.

MALT.—The market is steady at \$1 to \$1.15 per bushel to quality.

SEEDS.—The market is generally very quiet. A few lots of timothy have been received, but prices paid were kept very quiet, although sales have been made at \$1.90 to \$2 per bushel. Clover seed is firm at \$5.50 to \$6 per bushel. Clover and timothy seed are firm in Chicago.

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But still we say "God's will be done," we're lone and sad to-day,

But hopes of meeting them in heaven will cheer us on our way;

And oh! what joy then it will be when all life's cares are o'er

To meet our loved and cherished ones where death can come no more.

ow sale at 50c to 60c, and geese at 5c to 60c ducks, 8c to 9c.

FROZEN MEAT.—Fore and hind quarters of beef, 2 1/2c to 5c per lb as to quality. Mutton carcasses, frozen, 6c to 6 1/2c per lb.

ASHES.—Furnace pots, \$4 to \$4.05 per 100 lbs, and of seconds at \$3.65.