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The Legislative Session

The Legislative session opened two weeks ago yesterday and in this fortnight very little has been done beyond passing the address in reply to the Lieutenant Governor's speech. Tomorrow the House will probably adjourn till Tuesday next. Thus three weeks of the session shall have been consumed in doing what might very well have been accomplished in three days. At the opening of the session, the Leader of the Government, esteeming the result of the general election cause for self gratulation, intimated that with such a business-like Legislature and such a practical Administration the work of legislation would be entered upon at once and vigorously prosecuted. How much sincerity there was in the Premier's declaration is shown in the snail-like pace at which the proceedings have thus far advanced. The Leader of the Government loses no opportunity to praise himself and colleagues for calling the session so early. What does he mean by that; does he consider the 19th of March an early date for calling the Legislature? Is it not a much later date than that at which the House has been accustomed to meet? It is true that the session is some six or seven weeks earlier than last year; but surely last session cannot be regarded as a precedent. Every manly feeling and instinct of a free and independent people was outraged by the time of opening and the initial proceedings of the session of last year. The Peters Government passed an act authorizing the issuing of the public accounts immediately after the close of the financial year, whether the House is in session or not; but here we are three months after the close of the year and the public accounts are not yet tabled. When the Leader of the Opposition asks the Premier about these accounts he is told they are not ready. Coming to the meeting of the month, it is found it have the work done with ordinary help. Whatever little legislation the Government have brought down is so crude and imperfect that not one of their bills will bear ordinary criticism. They have to be set aside for further consideration and clause after clause has to be amended to such an extent that the original in some cases would be scarcely recognizable. In this way time is frittered away and little or nothing is accomplished. For days in succession, the House has not met before twelve o'clock. It adjourns at 1 o'clock and does not meet till after 4 o'clock and adjourns at 6. When it does meet not unfrequently it finds the Government unprepared to go on with any business, and the members simply sit round and look at one another. All this shows that the Government are unprepared to go ahead with the business of the Province; that they are unwilling to go ahead with it, or that they are incapable of going ahead with it. Still we are told the session was not called at the particular time at which members were brought together, in order to avoid the trial of certain election petitions. If not, what was the design of calling it? It does not appear, as we have shown, that it was for the purpose of going ahead with the public business. Now, in all seriousness, this is surely not the way the electors of this Province expect the Government to conduct the public business. It is a scandalous waste of time and money, thus to spend week after week in the Legislature doing little or nothing. Surely there are business men among the Government supporters in the House that cannot approve of such conduct. They do their own business according to business methods, and we must assume they would expect the business of the Province to be conducted in the same way. It is all very well to burrah for the Government and from the house tops to proclaim the greatness of the Liberal party; but coming down to hard facts and conducting the affairs of the Province according to business principles is quite another thing. Now, the point is, are those business men who are in the Legislature for the first time perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the Fairbairn Government are conducting the work of legislation? Are they perfectly satisfied with the energy and economy of time practiced by the Government?

Sessional Notes.

The House did not meet till about half-past four in the afternoon of Monday March 25th. After matters of routine, the tobacco and cigarette bill was advanced a stage, then the debate on the address was resumed. Mr. John McLean was the first speaker. He spoke a short time before six o'clock and continued during the evening sitting. Referring to the prosperity of the country of which we heard so much, he acknowledged that our farmers had received good prices for their pork and had been much benefited in consequence of the prosperous dairying business of last year. In view of this prosperity, of which the Government and their supporters were never done lauding, he hoped the Leader of the Government would be able to announce a large surplus on the transactions of last year. Mr. McLean's references to the death of Queen Victoria were pathetic in the highest degree and were excellently expressed. He was pleased to hear that the Leader of the Government and others express their appreciation of the late Cyrus Shaw. He had known Mr. Shaw from his boy-hood, and he certainly was one of the finest characters with whom he had ever come in contact. He was glad there was prospect that the war in South Africa showed signs of coming to a close, and expressed his pride and pleasure at the splendid account the Canadian contingents had given of themselves. The pleasure consequent on the conduct of our brave boys was somewhat marred by the death of the two Islanders who had fallen; but what more glorious death could they meet than to fall in defence of the Empire! In reference to the question of Agriculture he would not oppose anything that he considered would be of genuine advantage to our farmers. It was his opinion, however, that the stock farm, should be experimental. Nothing, he considered had been of so much benefit to our agriculturists as the lectures of Professor Robertson, who was master of the subject and thoroughly understood the farmers. He was astonished at the paragraph of the speech regarding the delegation to Ottawa. In 1896 and 1897 we were told that the Government would be pressed and submitted to arbitration. Was all this for the purpose of humbugging the electors? Was there no reference to arbitration in the Government's memorial? Was an increase of subsidy all they now were striving for? Was there any hope of obtaining such increase, and would it be sufficient? What is the reason the public accounts for 1900 had not been tabled? The Peters Government passed an act authorizing the presentation of these accounts immediately after the ending of the year, whether the House was in session or not. But here we were in the second week of the session, and in the latter part of March and no public accounts yet presented. This was a rank injustice on the part of the Government. The questions under review could not be intelligently discussed without them. Nothing was more unsatisfactory than the working of the road act; the road machines when properly managed worked fairly well on hills; but on the level or on low lands they were a positive injury. The manner in which the supervisors did their work was little short of outrageous. They did not keep the roads in anything like the repair they should with the amount of money expended by them. The Government speakers had thought proper to drag in the Wise episode and other matters pertaining to a former session of the Legislature. Why was this? The Opposition were justified in concluding the Government, last year, undertook to carry on the business of the Province without a majority in the Legislature. The Government brought on the elections at a most inopportune season and the Leader published a most misleading and disingenuous manifesto. With such tactics as the Leader of the Government and his associates pursued, it was wonderful that any Conservatives were elected. The debt which the Government had on hand was of very large dimensions. On this debt they had, until lately, been paying 8 per cent interest. Now it was reduced to 5 per cent. It was a false and misleading proceeding for the Government to place in receipts money obtained from the sale of debentures. By this means they tried to cover up their deficit for the year 1899, which actually amounted to \$36,918. Mr. McLean completely exposed the duplicity of the Government's shuffling.

regarding the withdrawal of the \$200,000 from Ottawa. It was well known, he pointed out, that the bill authorizing this withdrawal was passed by the Legislative Council, where the Grits had an overwhelming majority. That ought to settle this matter for all time. Mr. McLean's speech was a keen analysis of the Government's conduct and in manner and matter left little to be desired. Dr. Douglass continued the debate on behalf of the Government, and he was followed by Hon. Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers justified, to his own satisfaction, the choice the Leader made of a Commissioner of Agriculture, and contended he had done the right thing in purchasing the two bills for the Government at the prices given. Mr. Matheson followed, on the Opposition side, and his speech was a valuable contribution to the debate. It was logical, incisive and humorous and the Grit arguments went down before it like the uprights in a nine pin alley. He thought the Premier and some of his followers had exhibited not only bad taste, but a spirit of vindictiveness in dragging in dead issues and disinterring political skeletons long since buried. Perhaps, however, the Premier felt obliged to have recourse to some such course, as he must be in some sense a ticket-of-leave Premier, inasmuch as he felt his tactics had not been justified by the people. The people cannot be fooled all the time. They are often slow in their judgments; but in the end their verdict is generally correct. The Premier's election manifesto was a gigantic attempt to hoodwink the electors. This manifesto, he considered one of the most remarkable financial statements ever published by a politician. Indeed it was equal to any prospectus that ever emanated from Wall Street. In this remarkable document a new theory of finance was propounded. According to methods of computation here laid down, the deeper we run in debt, the more wealthy we become; the more money we borrow the larger the surplus. The possibility of such a financial theory are surely unlimited. It was evident that this wonderful statement of the Premier's had made an impression on the people, that the Opposition had not time or opportunity to offset. The surdite Pineau, towards the close of last session, declared that the Premier's financial manipulations had captured him when he said: "The thing that converted me is the fact that the Premier has a surplus." A surplus is a grand thing, even if it be only on paper, and it is not wonderful that the Premier's exhibit of a surplus beguiled ordinary mortals, when even such a colossus as Pineau was misled. Referring to agriculture, he said it was all very well to "disseminate valuable information." But what our farmers needed more than anything else was to see some of the numerous theories put into practical operation and to know the results. With this end in view, he should be pleased to see the Government Farm superintended by a competent man. The argument that a business man was better adapted for the head of the agricultural department than a farmer, was in the highest degree amusing. The argument advanced was that a business man in that office had no prejudices in regard to farming. Reasoning in the same way, it would be better to place at the head of a railway, a man who knows nothing about railroading, and who has no prejudices respecting the business. From this line of argument we must conclude that a business man, inasmuch as he has no prejudices regarding breeds of cattle, for instance, is better qualified to purchase cattle for the improvement of our herds. Following these lines, our Commissioner of Agriculture would have glorious possibilities, should he be induced by some enterprising farmer in Quebec or Ontario to purchase a pair of large working oxen. Mr. Matheson thanked the Leader of the Government and other members of the House for their kindly remarks regarding the late Mr. Shaw. His own tribute to the memory of the deceased gentleman was particularly pathetic and appropriate. He pointed out that it might be truly said of the late Cyrus Shaw that the nearer you came to his home the higher you found the appreciation of his merits. Mr. Matheson's speech was first class. The debate was continued on behalf of the Government, by Messrs. Hughes and Wheat and was adjourned by Hon. Mr. Cumiskey. The House then adjourned till Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Cumiskey finished his speech on the address. He was followed by Hon. Mr. McLeod, and the debate was concluded by Mr. Palmer. The House then went into committee on the address, which was reported back agreed. The House then adjourned. On Wednesday the forenoon session was occupied with consideration of an address to His Majesty, the King. The Leader of the Government moved the adoption of the address which was eloquently seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. The address is as follows: To the King's Most Excellent Majesty. MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,—We, Your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to approach Your Majesty to express the profound sympathy felt by this House and by the loyal people of this province with Your Majesty, and all the other members of the Royal Family, at the irreparable loss sustained by you and them in the death of our late Beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria. In common with our fellow subjects in all parts of the British Empire we mourn deeply the death of our revered Queen, under whose wise and beneficent rule our Province and Dominion have reached their present prosperity; and we earnestly pray that Almighty God may abundantly comfort Your Majesty and the Royal Family in your poignant grief. With feelings different but very deep and sincere, we now hail your Majesty's accession to the Throne of your ancestors. We beg to assure Your Majesty of our devoted attachment to Your Majesty's person and Throne, and to express our fervent conviction that under Your Majesty's gracious rule the prestige of our great Empire abroad and the welfare and happiness of Your Majesty's subjects at home will be fully sustained and advanced. To His Honor the Honourable Peter Adolphus McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Esq., &c. MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR.—The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, in Parliament convened, having agreed to an address to His Most Excellent Majesty the King, expressing sorrow at the irreparable loss sustained in the death of our late Beloved Queen, and congratulating His Majesty upon his accession to the Throne, humbly request that Your Honor will be pleased to forward the same to His Excellency the Governor General for transmission to His Majesty. The afternoon session of Wednesday was occupied with the consideration of a bill to be entitled an act respecting the use of tobacco by minors. The bill evoked much discussion and many amendments to different clauses were introduced. Beyond matters of routine, the first reading of one or two private bills and some consideration to a Government bill to amend an act to impose certain taxes on certain companies and associations and brewers, very little business was done in the House on Thursday. After routine proceedings on Friday, some questions were asked by different members regarding public works and other matters. The Leader of the Government then moved the House into committee of the whole on a bill respecting certain public departments. The bill refers particularly to searches and transfers of crown lands in the office of the Registry of Deeds. After considerable discussion the committee reported progress, in order to afford time to look into the bill and improve it. The House then adjourned till Monday afternoon. The time for receiving estimates in E. W. Taylor's P. E. I. census competition is extended to April 15th or until further notice. Send him your dollar, get your dollar's worth and in addition make an estimate of what you think the population will be. The nearest estimators will receive a prize, the first being a gold watch valued at \$100. Ap 3-2i Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT. Close of Debate. Even Bourassa has to condemn the Government's Inconsistency. Nothing for the Farmer. MONK TO THE FRONT. OTTAWA, March 30 The debate which closed yesterday morning brought out in a striking manner the weather-cock character of the government and the blotched and mottled condition of the Liberal party. Nobody knows what it means, and it is very doubtful if the Cabinet does. Here was Sir Wilfrid Laurier declaring for a revenue tariff, forgetting what the tariff is, forgetting what the Finance Minister himself says, so that the voice of the voice of Jacob and the hands of Jacob were seen. NOTHING WASTED FOR THE FARMER. If there was one thing promised before the election of 1896 by these Liberal statesmen, foremost above all was that they would do something special for the farmer, but on Monday night of this week, one of the supporters of the government from the west got up and said he was dissatisfied with the tariff because it was far too high, and Mr. Richardson said that the farmers of the west had been led to expect that the duty would be taken off agricultural implements and coal oil, but that they had been disappointed. The members of the government vary amongst themselves. But the Liberal party, their utterances clatter and clash and differ, and so it is impossible to say whether the ministerial party is a free trade party or whether it is a free trade-revenue-tariff-protectorial party. By taking the duty off corn, a breeder like the Minister of Agriculture gets some advantage, but the market of the Ontario farmer and the Northwest farmer for their coarse grains is injured. COAL OIL. Can there be any excuse for their keeping up the duty on coal oil, when it has ceased to be a Canadian industry, in consequence of the action of these men now in power. POLITICAL DEGRADATION. Sir Richard Cartwright's revelation of himself has shed a horrible light on the morality of the government. So horrible that the Montreal Witness, an independent Liberal paper, gibbets him for his falsehood and tergiversation, and the Huntington Clearer, a Liberal paper, after describing his speech says: "The infamy of deceiving not Liberals alone but the country at large, rests upon a special force on the head of this old man who has exchanged the high honor awarded to those who are true to their word for general contempt." But there are other kinds of degradation. On Monday night, Mr. Walter Scott, member for Western Assiniboia, by the grace of Sifton and violence and corruption, took part in the Budget debate, when even the Liberal benches were deserted. How did any constituency elect such a man? How could a constituency have put such a man in Mr. Davin's place? The Ottawa Citizen the next day headed its reportorial column: "Mr. Davin's successor makes a speech, and such a speech." How this man got to parliament was however revealed in the despatches the day before, which told how in one place Mr. Davin's supporters were arrested and fined, and kept in duration during the day of election, and how Mr. Scott got a majority of seventy-six, where there were never more than thirty-four votes before. The Chief Justice of the Territories (Hon. Mr. Justice Richardson), has quashed the conviction, and now it is in order to prosecute the man. I have been told that much more was done, and that by trickery and violence on the day of election, in both Eastern and Western Assiniboia, hundreds of Conservative voters were driven from the poll. THE LEADER AND SOCIETY. Society is a power in all countries, and a politician or leader cannot afford to ignore it, though he need not do so as a dancing-master. It is a very important thing that the wife of a politician or leader should be an able woman, fit to take a leading social place, and have no nonsense about her; not put on too many frills and flourishes. Mrs. McKee was one of the most successful political women we have had in Ottawa, because she was sincere and sensible. Mrs. Borden, the wife of the leader of the opposition had an "at home" this week, and it is quite clear she is a gifted and charming woman, dignified and sensible—who will be representative of the best womanhood in Canada. THE COOK CHARGES. H. H. Cook charged that the Government was ready to make him Senator, but wanted \$10,000 for it. All parties concerned had to be very cautious, because to traffic in offices was the game between. Cook swears that M. C. Cameron offered him the Senatorship for \$10,000, and showed him a letter from Sir Richard Cartwright saying, "Surely Cook would do something." He also swears that Preston—that saint of crookedness—offered him the Senatorship for \$10,000. Cook's evidence was unshaken—the Honorable Mr. Bright confirmed it. Sir Richard Cartwright's evidence showed there had been negotiations. He wanted Cook to get the Senatorship. Sutherland was against it. That speaks volumes. Sutherland represents the Machine. Why was he against it? Sir Richard knew. Preston's evidence was something awful. He said he had not offered the Senatorship to Cook, but Cook wanted to buy it, and he begged Cook to do nothing so naughty. It would spoil everything with a proper government if he were to offer money. "Billy Paterson," the Minister, is implicated, and if Sir Wilfrid Laurier's skirts are clean in this matter, and he dare not, his duty to His Majesty and the country and public life and himself, is to have the names of Cartwright and Paterson straggled from the list of Privy Counsellors. BORDEN AND MONK. The leader of the opposition for Que-

bec is a man of fine presence; tall, dark hair, florid complexion, blue eyes, a refined musical voice. He is not merely a gentleman in manner, but a man with a high sense of honor, and he and his leader, Mr. Borden, make a strong team. Mr. Paterson the Minister of Customs was constrained to acknowledge what Mr. Borden had done in the short time he has been leading the House—it is something Laurier was not able to do in the whole of five sessions, namely, give dignity to debate. It is a strange thing, and yet not strange, for to be weak is miserable, doing or suffering or leading the House of Commons, and Laurier is weak. I was going to say it was strange that the advent of Laurier—a man of refinement—to power was the signal for the degradation of debate. He either contemned or was too feeble to repress such disgraceful conduct on the part of his friends in the sessions of 1897-8, as never before disgraced parliament. By '99 some members of the opposition had taken them in hand and tamed down the boorish wildness and calculated misconduct. But now since Borden has led in opposition, a tone has been given to the Commons which the leader of the house was never able to impart. MONK'S SPEECH. Was really an able effort. He set out by a glance at the discordant cries of conflicting utterance from the ministerial benches, increase of expenditure over \$7,000,000; increase in expenditures by over \$4,000,000. On the articles imported under the preference Canada losing \$2,000,000 annually. The consumer got no benefit, the mass of the English people got no benefit. It went to the surplus of \$5,000,000 nobody took stock in. The day after the budget the boys selling the Montreal Herald, which has received \$20,000 for printing, were shouting that a picture of Fielding, the Finance Minister would be "given away" with the Herald. Who pays for this? Spent during 1900.....\$3,844,510 Receipts ".....51,000,000 Deficit.....\$ 2,844,510 But by taking \$9,742,187 of the expenditure and saying we will not call it "expenditure," we will charge it to Capital account, by juggling bookkeeping a deficit of \$2,848,510 is changed into a surplus of \$8,000,000! Mr. Monk dealt with Yukon mismanagement and the fearful blundering of the Immigration Department in crowding in such immigrants as Doukobors and Galicians. He scored the Government that with their opportunities, with a vast revenue they had not done anything to solve the transportation problem. LEASING FURNITURE. Referring to the comparison made by the Minister of Customs of the rate of duty in 1896 and 1900 Dr. Spronlie in the course of an able speech recalled how when a man said: "Figures can't lie," his opponent retorted: "No; but I can figure." Mr. Paterson said the duty on imports was 23 per cent. higher in 1896 than in 1900. What is the good of this unless the prices are lowered to the consumer? But the fair comparison was between the four years his party was in power with the last four years of the Liberal administration. per cent. of customs taxation 1896-8.....17.445 1897-1900.....17.125 .320 1.000 a difference of 32-100ths of 1 per cent. A REVENUE TARIFF. One of the best points in Mr. Spronlie's speech was his defining what a revenue tariff is. This was necessary because of the unflattering declaration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that we have a revenue tariff. Perry the great free trader said: "While revenue taxes select by preference things wholly imported, protectorial taxes are placed on such foreign goods as are also and especially made at home," and he goes on properly to say that under a revenue tariff tea and coffee are the best things to tax. Mr. Spronlie then went over the items in the tariff today and in 1896, and showed that the duties have remained practically the same—thus exposing the hypocrisy of Laurier and Cartwright and their boundless faith in the gullibility of the people whom it is their profession to humbug. He made a strong appeal for helping best-root sugar manufacture. SPEECHES GOOD, BAD AND INDIFFERENT. Continued the debate on Thursday, Mr. Kendry telling how the preference was closing up the Woolen factories, and even Bourassa finding himself constrained to denounce the Government for its inconsistency and its faithlessness to its pledges to give a revenue tariff and reduce taxation. The division took place at 4.20 a. m., on Friday morning. Mr. Calvin, the member for Frontenac, voted against Mr. Borden's amendment, so that the figures stood: For.....64 Against.....118 Majority.....54 On the main motion of the Government, on which Mr. Calvin voted with the opposition: For.....117 Against.....65 This is the normal majority. 52 But as their majority in Quebec is 68, it follows that there is throughout the country, outside of Quebec, a majority against them in this house of six. High Pressure Days. Men and women alike have to work incessantly with brain and hand to hold their own nowadays. Never were the demands on the intellect, the wants of the family, the requirements of society, more numerous. The first effect of the pressure is effort to keep up with all these things is commonly seen in a weakened or debilitated condition of the nervous system, which results in dyspepsia, defective nutrition of the brain and nerves, and in extreme cases in complete nervous prostration. It is clearly seen that what is needed is what will sustain the system, give vigor and tone to the nerves, and keep the digestive and assimilative functions healthy and active. From personal knowledge, we can recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla for this purpose. It acts on all the vital organs, builds up the whole system, and fits men and women for these high-pressure days. Minard's Liniment relieves Distemper.

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