

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1918

## Vigorous Speech By Premier On The Issues of The Day

Hon. W. E. Foster Makes Fine Impression;  
Government Alive to Needs of Hour; Able  
Criticism of Late Administration; Opposi-  
tion Leader's Address

Fredericton, N. B., Mar. 8.—The legis-  
lature resumed its session at three  
o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Foster submitted the report  
of the committee appointed to select all  
standing committees.

Mr. Crockett presented a petition of  
the city council of Fredericton praying for  
the passage of an act to authorize ex-  
emptions to the Hartt Book & Shoe  
Company.

Hon. Mr. Robinson presented a bill  
to enable councils of towns, cities and  
municipalities to assess for aid granted  
the Halifax sufferers.

Mr. Murray (Kings) on rising to re-  
sume the debate on the address, said he  
was pleased to congratulate the mover  
and seconder on the very able manner  
in which they had acquitted themselves.  
He knew from personal experience that  
it was not an easy task, and it was  
pleasing to him to see them perform it  
so well.

Reference had been made by the secon-  
der of the address to the elevation of  
Hon. J. D. Hazen to the high position  
of chief justice of the province. He  
had pleasure in endorsing the honorable  
member's remarks and felt sure that his  
long experience in public life well qual-  
ified the new chief justice to worthily fill  
the high office to which he had been  
called.

Since the house last met the hand of  
death had removed from the precincts  
of the house a number of old and faith-  
ful officials. The death of Joseph Howe  
Dickson, for seventeen years clerk of the  
executive council, came as a personal  
loss to many members, and then our old  
friend John Payne, who had performed  
public duties for fifty-two years, had  
passed away. Henry B. Hainsford, for  
many years clerk of the house, was un-  
able to perform his duties on account of  
illness, and G. Hudson Fawcett was  
also missing after many years of service.  
Then there was James Lynn, the faith-  
ful caretaker of the departmental build-  
ing for twenty-seven years, who on ac-  
count of advancing years was obliged to  
retire. He was sure that the officials  
whom he had mentioned carried with  
them into retirement the best wishes of  
all honorable members.

Referring to the great war the speaker  
said that this was the fourth session that  
he, as a member of the house, had occa-  
sion to discuss it. Little did he dream  
in 1915 that he would have to give ex-  
pression to practically the same senti-  
ments in the years 1916, 1917 and 1918,  
with the end not yet in sight. The peo-  
ple of New Brunswick in matters per-  
taining to the war had certainly shown  
great courage and determination. They  
had done well but apparently do not yet  
realize the seriousness of this great world  
struggle. The dominion government, in  
order to carry on Canada's part in the  
war, must this year raise a revenue of  
\$800,000,000. This money will come from  
all parts of the dominion and the people  
of New Brunswick must do their share.  
The Victory Loan had been referred to  
as being a sacrifice, but it was nothing of  
the kind. It was really nothing but a  
splendid opportunity for investment  
and saving. The situation is undoubtedly  
a grave one, and it was the duty of the  
honorable members of the house to  
abandon petty partisan and local  
shenanigans and to stand shoulder to  
shoulder in the interests of the people.  
He could say that honorable  
members to the left of the Speaker, while  
not forgetting their right to criticize  
measures which they believe to be un-  
sound, would work to further the best  
interests of the province.

The Halifax Disaster.  
In regard to the great disaster that  
had overtaken the city of Halifax, he  
was glad to know that New Brunswick  
had shared in the generosity exhibited  
towards that stricken city. The disaster  
brought home to the people a realization  
of the seriousness and awfulness of the  
great war and it also had a tendency to  
bring a realization of the awful tragedies  
in France, Belgium and Serbia.

Reference had been made in his hono-  
rable speech to the progress of the work  
of the St. John and Quebec railway. He  
(Murray) recognized the difficulties being  
experienced in carrying on construction  
work at a time such as this, and could  
say that the late government had also  
had its trials and tribulations. However,  
he was glad to know that there was a  
good prospect of having the road com-  
pleted and in operation by the beginning  
of next winter.

He asked the report of the royal com-  
mission on the Valley railway in-  
quiry was to be placed before the house  
and he was glad to hear that it was  
in reference to the matter. He wished to  
point out that there had been other rail-  
ways constructed in this province, and  
that the railway in question was not  
unusually long. He said this commission  
was composed of the late Chief Justice  
Lanigan, Mr. F. J. McLaughlin of Moncton  
and A. L. Reed of St. Stephen, men of the  
very highest standing. Their report had  
been submitted to the government and he  
was glad to hear that the government  
was taking steps to deal with this mat-  
ter, but he did not know if the late gov-  
ernment had taken any steps to deal with  
this matter up to the present. He said  
(Murray) that he had no apology to offer for  
the late government's inaction in the mat-  
ter, but would say that if the present ad-  
ministration proposed to deal with those  
who had wronged the province they  
should not make fish of one and flesh  
of the other. If other railways are in-  
cluded in the proposed bill, he could  
promise the hearty support of the oppo-  
sition. It was pleasing to him at this  
early stage of his career to see the gov-  
ernment introducing legislation to safe-  
guard the treasury of the province.

With reference to the proposed legisla-  
tion in regard to the public health  
(Murray), while not a medical man  
had grave doubts as to the wisdom of  
enlarging the government by another  
portfolio.

With reference to steel shipbuilding he  
could assure the honorable members that  
if the legislation he proposed was safe  
and sane it would have the hearty sup-  
port of the opposition. He noticed in the  
report of the Nova Scotia commission  
that a steel shipbuilding plant is likely  
to be installed in Halifax. He trusted  
that the government would be able to  
induce the federal authorities to estab-  
lish plants in New Brunswick and give  
this province a share of some of the vast  
contracts to be let.

Workers' Compensation.  
He was pleased to note that the report  
of the commission of Workers' Com-  
pensation act would be placed before the  
house during the session and that there  
would be legislation based upon the  
same. He trusted that this legislation  
would do full justice to the working  
men. This was a matter which should  
be dealt with by honorable members al-  
together apart from party politics.

He noticed that the speech from the  
throne promised a new highway act. He  
certainly thought that there should be  
a radical change in the present act or in  
the way in which it is administered. He  
could say that never before in the history  
of the province had incompetency, waste  
and extravagance been so rampant in  
connection with road work as was the  
case during last session. Competent offi-  
cials had been dismissed and the cause  
made way for partisans of the govern-  
ment and money borrowed on capital  
account had been expended on road work  
of a permanent nature and charged to  
capital.

This was true of practically every  
county in the province. He (Murray)  
noticed that a new forest act was prom-  
ised by the speech and the honorable  
mover of the address was hopeful that  
it would do away with the cutting of  
Christmas trees. While he (Murray)  
would be one of the last to deprive the  
children of Christmas trees, he trusted  
that the act would go further and  
strengthen the backbone of the honorable  
gentleman in charge of the crown land  
department.

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Stumpage.

Last session it will be remembered the  
announcement was made with a great  
flourish that the stumpage had been in-  
creased to four dollars per thousand.  
Already there was information there were  
certain quarters.

Hon. Mr. Foster—You know from ex-  
perience.

Mr. Murray (Kings)—We never raised  
stumpage and reduced it.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—You passed an  
order-in-council fixing the rate ten years  
ago, was that not the case?

Mr. Murray (Kings) continuing, said  
the government had increased the stump-  
age to four dollars per thousand when  
the price was reduced to \$2.50. His own  
opinion was that the day of government  
by commissions has gone by and the  
crown lands should be administered by  
men chosen by the people.

He noticed that in addition to bring-  
ing down a new forest act, his honorable  
friends proposed to amend the public  
land act. The government had during the  
year dismissed many competent men, and  
with the result that the game in-  
crease.

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and in the morning your head is clear,  
tongue is clean, stomach sweet, breath  
right and cold gone. Get a box from  
your druggist and enjoy the pleasant,  
gentle liver and bowel cleansing you  
ever experienced. Cascarets stop sick  
headache, biliousness, indigestion, bad  
breath and constipation.

Mothers should give a whole Cascaret  
to cross, bilious, sick, feverish children  
any time. They are harmless and never  
grieve or sicken.

THE MOST SATISFACTORY WORK SHIRT MADE

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terests had suffered. The deep snow of  
the present winter had been favorable to  
the illegal hunter and there had been  
the greatest slaughter of game the prov-  
ince had ever known. If this state of  
affairs allowed to continue, New  
Brunswick will no longer have the reputa-  
tion as a game preserve it enjoyed in  
the past.

Referring to the measures to be taken  
to provide additional revenue the speaker  
said that he realized that something  
had to be done along this line. The re-  
venue of the province must be increased  
to enable needed public works to be  
carried on. Any measure submitted by  
the government along safe and reason-  
able lines will have the hearty support  
of the opposition.

Finances.

The honorable mover of the address  
had stated that the financial affairs of  
the province were in the hands of men  
capable of great things. He (Murray)  
wished to say that there were some  
people who might doubt the truth of  
that statement. The speech from the  
throne had not mentioned the recent  
bond issue of \$1,000,000, but reference  
had been made to it elsewhere, and were  
not of a very complimentary nature.

What people wanted to know was why  
no public tenders were asked for the  
issue and why only one brokerage firm  
was permitted to tender. The bonds had  
been turned over to a brokerage firm at  
88 and had been resold to the public at  
99.12. He claimed that by this transac-  
tion the province had suffered a loss  
of at least \$20,000. Other brokers had  
been prepared to pay 97-1/2 for the  
bonds, but were not given a chance to  
tender.

The whole transaction looked  
bad on its face and had created sus-  
picion in the public mind. He trusted  
that his honorable friend opposite would  
be able to make a satisfactory explana-  
tion.

Last session his honorable friend from  
Carleton had asked the government why  
the vacancy in the representation of that  
county had not been filled. The govern-  
ment's reply was that it would be wrong  
to bring on an election during the busy  
farming season. Months have since gone  
by and the vacancy remains unfilled.

The very men who when the old govern-  
ment was in power should to high  
heaven of the injustice being done by  
keeping seats vacant are now doing the  
same things themselves.

The first year of the new government  
had come and gone and it had been noted  
for its partisan zeal. The old govern-  
ment had been accused of pandering to  
its supporters, but he could say that par-  
tisanism never was so rampant in the  
province as it is today. He did not be-  
lieve that the government possessed  
nearly that measure of public confidence  
that was the case when it came into  
office. The members of the government  
possessed nearly that measure of public  
confidence that was the case when it came  
into office.

The members of the government  
had not found things as bad as  
they expected and had been unable to  
impute any member of the former ad-  
ministration with wrongdoing. So far  
as he (Murray) was concerned, if it  
could be shown by investigation that he  
had taken money wrongfully from the  
public treasury he would retire from  
politics and go back to private life.

Proof that the government had found  
things better than anticipated, was  
shown by a letter written to a brok-  
erage house which referred to the splendid  
financial condition of the province. The  
speaker was sure that the honorable  
member opposite would be able to make  
a satisfactory explanation.

Hon. Mr. Foster—"I was referring to  
the inconsistency of my honorable  
friend."

In the city of St. John, when the late  
members, Hon. J. E. Wilson and Mr.  
Lockhart, deemed it wise to retire and  
accept each one of them a gift of  
office, his friend opposite made no at-  
tempt to fill the vacancies. He left them  
the largest centre of population in the pro-  
vince to the tender mercies of his col-  
leagues. In Gloucester to more than one  
year; in Kent more than a year; and  
these all at the same time; and yet his  
honorable friend now accused him.

Mr. Murray (Kings)—"I did not ac-  
cuse you."

Other interruptions from the oppo-  
sition side were followed by the Speaker's  
call for order.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the leader  
of the opposition was bigging a dose of  
his own medicine and he had nothing to  
complain of. In his opinion, the county  
of Carleton was fairly well represented,  
if the house were to judge by the action  
of the present member. In the last ses-  
sion hardly a day passed when one of  
them did not rise in his place and ask  
the minister of public works if he was  
aware that a certain bridge was in a  
dangerous condition, or if he was aware  
that some old road, left unfinished by  
himself, was a menace to the public.

Mr. Smith (Carleton)—"What bridge?"

Hon. Mr. Speaker—"Order, order."

On being granted permission to ask a  
question, Mr. Smith asked that the pre-  
mier should name a bridge regarding  
which he had inquired.

Hon. Mr. Foster—I have not the re-  
cord here. I will leave the question to  
my honorable friend the minister of pub-  
lic works.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—I will answer it.  
Hon. Mr. Foster, continuing, asked an  
election brought on in Carleton under  
existing conditions might create an awk-  
ward situation. It would not be the  
first by-election in that county; there  
was another to be held, he would refer. It  
was in September, 1916, and being ab-  
sent in the west he had not taken part.

However, on returning the day after the  
election, his attention had been called to  
a certain cartoon that appeared in the  
Standard newspaper, and which repre-  
sented a certain gentleman now occupy-  
ing a very prominent place in the polit-  
ical life of the dominion. He was re-

opposition members did not wish to in-  
clude in carping criticism, but they were  
prepared to criticize measures which  
they deemed not to be in the public in-  
terest. They will, however, exercise  
their right in moderation and in the best  
interests of the province as a whole.

HON. MR. FOSTER'S  
ABLE SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Foster, when he rose to  
continue the debate on the address, con-  
gratulated the mover and seconder upon  
the manner in which they had acquitted  
themselves and upon the credit they had  
brought upon themselves and their con-  
stituents. It was a pleasure to him to  
have associated in his party men of the  
standing of those who had spoken—men  
who were present at great inconvenience,  
and who were in the house not for any  
financial gain, but because of their desire  
to do their part toward advancing the  
interests of their province.

Hon. Mr. Foster also congratulated the  
leader of the opposition, but said that his  
congratulations extended more particu-  
larly to his style and flow of oratory, and  
the smoothness of his words, of which  
there were plenty. From his speech it  
would be judged that the leader of the  
opposition never had occupied a seat in  
the government of the province, instead  
of being there for years, that he never  
had been prime minister, and therefore  
had had no opportunity to bring into ef-  
fect the wonderful things which he had  
offered to the House in his speech. His  
attitude appeared to be that of one ex-  
pecting every moment to be summoned by  
his honor to form a government and  
thereby bring into effect such changes  
and reforms as apparently had slipped  
his memory and which now would revo-  
lutionize the whole country. As leader  
of an opposition, his honorable friend  
was admirably suited and when the  
people of New Brunswick would again  
have the opportunity of pronouncing up-  
on his fitness, they would keep him  
where he properly should be, and for  
many years.

No Break.

The speaker welcomed all members  
of the house, and said it was a matter  
for gratitude that during the interval,  
since the last session, no break had oc-  
curred in the ranks of either government  
or opposition. There was one unfortunate  
occurrence, however, to which he must  
make reference, that was the death of  
his honor the late Lieutenant-Governor  
Ganong. It had been the privilege of  
the speaker to know the deceased intelli-  
gent, previous to his death, and he held  
a high and honorable office which he held  
at the time of his death. During the  
short period that he knew him, he neces-  
sarily had come in close contact with him,  
and had learned some of his qualities  
and his character. One of his most ad-  
mirable qualities was that notwithstanding  
the fact that he was a member of the  
opposition, he always had time to de-  
vote to the public interest and wel-  
fare of the province.

His honorable friend had referred to  
the fact that no writ had been issued to  
bring the members of the provincial legisla-  
ture back to the house. He was sure that  
the ranks of the opposition should be  
replenished, the appeals fell on deaf  
ears. In that connection his honorable  
friends opposite decided that their ranks  
must remain solid, in the hope, he pre-  
sented, that something might turn up.

The incident had made him more de-  
termined, as leader of the government,  
that there should be no break in the  
ranks of his party, if he could  
control it, and that no act of  
disobedience should be committed.

The result had been that he had the  
pleasure of leading a united party, of  
which he was very proud.

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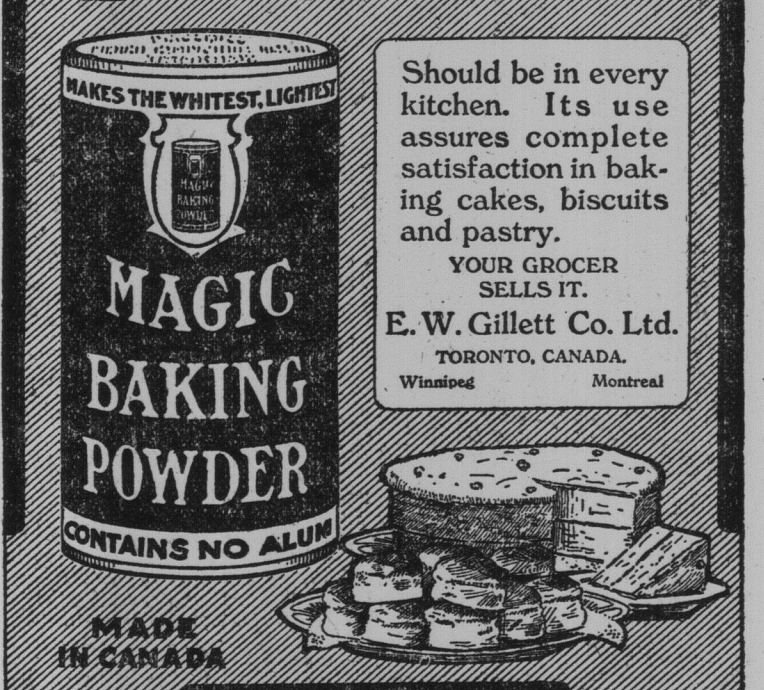
His honorable friend had referred to  
the fact that no writ had been issued to  
bring the members of the provincial legisla-  
ture back to the house. He was sure that  
the ranks of the opposition should be  
replenished, the appeals fell on deaf  
ears. In that connection his honorable  
friends opposite decided that their ranks  
must remain solid, in the hope, he pre-  
sented, that something might turn up.

The incident had made him more de-  
termined, as leader of the government,  
that there should be no break in the  
ranks of his party, if he could  
control it, and that no act of  
disobedience should be committed.

The result had been that he had the  
pleasure of leading a united party, of  
which he was very proud.

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the fact that no writ had been issued to  
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how much per 1,000 calories her food  
costs.