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is Yet to Come-



The House of Assembly Opened Yesterday.

The eighth session of the 23rd General Assembly opened yesterday at 3 o'clock. At the prescribed hour His Excellency the Governor, attended by Mr. E. Watson, Capt. Campbell, M.C., and Commander MacDermott, R.N., arrived in the Assembly grounds, and received the salute from detachments of the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, C.L.B., C.C.C., and Highlanders, the Band of the C.L.B. rendering the National Anthem. Entering the Legislative Chamber, His Excellency took his seat on the Throne, and with his A.D.C.'s, were also in attendance. His Excellency the Chief Justice, Sir William Horwood, Hon. Justice Johnson, Hon. Justice Kent, Inspector-General Matthews, Lieut.-Col. W. Rendell, Messrs. Montgomerie, Carty, Paterson, Capt. Bert Butler, D.S.O., etc., and Messrs. Blandford. In the Chamber were U.S. Consul Denedick, attending the use of the forthcoming General Election of the Voters' List, taken in 1917. Care should be taken to ensure that the electoral qualifications of Newfoundlanders who have been serving in His Majesty's Naval and Military forces shall in no way be affected by their absence abroad on active service during the period of the war, and you will be asked to approve an amendment to the Act to this effect. You will be asked also to extend the franchise to Newfoundland sailors and soldiers, under the age of 21 years, who have been Overseas with His Majesty's Forces.

The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to the bar of the House by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech from the Throne.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly.

It is with mingled sentiments of pride and thankfulness that I greet you to-day, for the wonderful progress of the Allied arms in the great world war which ended in November last; and thankfulness of the termination of a conflict which has caused untold miseries to the greater portion of the human race. I trust that from the wreck and devastation of the war, better, more enduring and happier conditions may arise, ushering in a new era of peace and content which will in some measure atone for the great sacrifice of blood and treasure which has been poured forth so freely and unhesitatingly upon the altar of Liberty.

At the time of the last session of the Legislature it will be remembered that the fortunes of the Allies were most critical and the war situation was of the utmost gravity. Under these circumstances a Bill was introduced to postpone for a second year the General Election, and the Legislature then determined that the term of the present Assembly should be limited to April 30th, 1919.

Thanks, however, to the almost superhuman exertions made by the Allies, the continued pressure of the war, and the tenacity and sustained gallantry of the soldiers, the situation underwent such a change during the latter part of the summer and autumn that armistices have been signed with the enemies. The victory which we had been hoping and praying has been achieved. The Peace Conference, which followed the cessation of hostilities, has been in session some months. Problems of international significance and far-reaching importance, which may call for legislative action and approval, are a course of settlement at the Conference and my Ministers feel that the Government should be in a position to call the Assembly together whenever necessary without any undue delay.

There are many problems of first importance connected with the

demobilization of our soldiers and sailors, their re-establishment in civil life, the making of provision for War debts and obligation, as well as questions of transportation by land and sea, which call for a new mandate from the country, and a newly elected and full House of Assembly to deal with them. These problems are urgent.

The object for which the Legislature is now called together is to make provision for that immediate appeal to the electorate, which the legislation of last session necessitates and to enable the use of the last Voters' List which was taken over twelve months ago.

The work of completing another List would throw unnecessary expense on the country, and cause delay in appealing to the electorate.

Your consideration will be invited, therefore, to proposals for amending the Election Act, in order to legalize the use of the forthcoming General Election of the Voters' List, taken in 1917. Care should be taken to ensure that the electoral qualifications of Newfoundlanders who have been serving in His Majesty's Naval and Military forces shall in no way be affected by their absence abroad on active service during the period of the war, and you will be asked to approve an amendment to the Act to this effect. You will be asked also to extend the franchise to Newfoundland sailors and soldiers, under the age of 21 years, who have been Overseas with His Majesty's Forces.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly.

I am happy to be in a position to inform you that there was a substantial excess of Revenue over Expenditure to the amount of One Million Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars and Ninety-four Cents for the past fiscal year. It is gratifying to know that a surplus of Revenue over Expenditure for the current fiscal year may also be anticipated, as the Customs Revenue for the eight months ending on February 28th shows an increase of One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-four Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-three Dollars over the receipts for the same period last year.

You will be invited to vote the necessary funds to defray the expenses of the forthcoming General Election.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The tidings of the death of Prince John stirred the sympathetic feelings of the King's devoted subjects throughout the Dominion. It was my sad duty to convey to Their Majesties an expression of the sorrow and sympathy of our people in their affliction, which has knit even closer together the ties of love and loyalty which bind us to the Throne.

In response to a summons from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Prime Minister attended during the summer the sittings of the Imperial War Cabinet, and represented the Dominion in the discussion and determination of vital issues connected with the conduct of the war. He also participated in the deliberation of the Imperial Conference which dealt with varied and complex problems affecting the present and future policy of the Empire.

In November last, following upon the signing of the armistice, the Prime Minister was recalled to London



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don by the British Government to take his place in the Imperial War Cabinet in connection with the discussion and formulation of terms of peace. Later he proceeded to Paris with the British Empire delegation and took part in the Peace Conference there, actively interesting himself in all matters affecting or likely to affect the Dominion. Before returning home he represented Newfoundland's position to the Imperial authorities and received an assurance that our interests would be very carefully safeguarded.

My Ministers decided to endeavor to raise loyalty as well as in Canada the moneys required for the continued prosecution of the war and issued a Victory War Loan. Their faith in the patriotism and public spirit of the people was fully justified by the magnificent result achieved, the amount of the issue being considerably oversubscribed within a very short period. This response is most gratifying as an evidence of the confidence of our people in the resources and possibilities of the country.

The continual growth and expansion of our trade and commerce of late years, combined with the increasing importance of our relations with the Mother Country, having emphasized the necessity of adequate representation there, my Ministers arranged for the appointment of a High Commissioner in London to look after the trade and commercial interests of the Dominion.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome home to our sailors and soldiers who have represented Newfoundland so valiantly and well during the past four years amid the changing fortunes and bitter hardships of war. More words cannot express our feelings of appreciation and admiration of their wonderful work. Their deeds are eloquent and pass to judgment before them. On sea and land and in the air their worth has been proven and their fame has spread far and wide. Those who have died for the Right have bequeathed us a precious legacy—the undying memory of duty performed even to the death, and the eternal fragrance of that love which exceeds all others—that a man lay down his life for his friends. Their loss to the country can never be fully estimated because it is impossible to compute the value of the chivalry, honor, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty which these men possessed in the highest degree. We can only endeavour to prove worthy of the glorious heritage which they have purchased for us at such a price.

In taking leave of you I trust that your deliberations may conduce to the further welfare and prosperity of Newfoundland and that Divine Providence may guide you in the performance of your duties.

On return to the House, His Honor the Speaker read the Speech from the Throne, a copy of which he had secured for greater accuracy. Mr. J. F. Downey, member for St. George's, moved that a Select Committee be appointed to draft an address in reply. In doing so he referred to the ending of the war, Newfoundland's part in it, and congratulated the Government on the announcement that the revenue was in excess of expenditure. Mr. LeFevre seconded this motion, dealing with the proposed amendment to the Election Act in connection with the Voters' List, and the extending of the franchise to the soldiers who are under 21 and who have been overseas. He concluded his remarks by congratulating the Premier (Rt. Hon. Dr. Lloyd), on the honor that had been conferred upon him.

Mr. A. B. Morine (Bonavista), followed, saying that the courtesy of speaking for the Opposition had been extended him as the senior member, but he spoke as an independent member, having no connection with either Government or Opposition. He congratulated the Premier (Rt. Hon. Dr. W. F. Lloyd), and the Minister of Finance (Hon. Sir M. P. Cashin), upon the receipt of the honors that had been conferred on them. In the case of the Premier, he recognized that

the honor had not come to him personally, but rather to the country as a whole, as it has been a custom, of late years, to knight the Premiers as they attended conferences on the other side. The Finance Minister's knighthood was more of a personal one, for he had long been a member of the House, rendering good service to the country. In other days knight-hoods had not been so plentiful, and for that reason, perhaps, they had been better esteemed. To-day they are plentiful, and some day we may even hear of Sir John and Sir William. The latter, he noted, had been visiting some famous places in London, and assumed that he was trying to make up his mind as to whether he would be beheaded in the Tower, or London or buried in Westminster. Mr. Morine, then touched on the passing of Prince John, saying that the same sorrows came to palace as to hotel. We should not look upon the parents as King and Queen, but rather as father and mother. He could not agree with the remarks of a previous speaker to the effect that the war had ended. It had not, neither officially nor in fact. It was anything but peace in Europe to-day. The signs were that there would be wars upon wars throughout the old world. Germany has not recanted, and is still the same Germany as of old. Mr. Morine here spoke of the Peace Conference, paying a high tribute to the great leaders, Lloyd George, Clemenceau and to the great American, President Wilson. We should not forget that great American, Theodore Roosevelt, a typical American; a man and a man's man. He was heartily in accord with the reference in the speech to the returned soldiers; but an empty tribute of words to them was not enough. It is not what we say of them, but what we do for them that counts. As we pay our respect and gratitude to the living as well as the dead heroes, so we should not fail to remember that the supreme sacrifice had been paid on enlistment, not when death came. Therefore every volunteer deserves the help and gratitude of the country irrespective of whether he died or came back. He did not see signs of adequate returns to them or that the Government was grappling with this question of the day. Promises had been held out to them, but they were no more than promises. Dealing with the Government's proposal to hold a general election, he said his attitude was perhaps more consistent than any of the Government or the Opposition. He had previously supported the Bill for an extension of the life of the Legislature, and the ground he took was that there should be no appeal until the men who had gone across had all returned. The men have not yet come back, and probably would not be back before polling day. Again, the issues on which the country would be asked to decide have not been put before the people. It would be physically impossible in the districts north of Trinity to visit one half of the hamlets where the people live. He urged the Government to take serious thought on the matter and give the people a fair election. If they wanted a mandate let them see that it was one worth something morally, and not a snap verdict.

The Premier (Rt. Hon. Dr. W. F. Lloyd) followed, speaking to some length of the Imperial and Peace Conferences and of the big men of Europe. The Government, he said, was trying to do the best for the soldiers. He was prepared for the polls whatever the verdict might be. The Government was not hankering after power, and if it had to get out it would do so gladly.

The Committee to draft the Address in Reply was then appointed as follows: Messrs. Downey, LeFevre, Target and Currie.

The Premier gave notice of a Bill to Amend the Election Act of 1913, and the Minister of Finance of Supply, after which the House adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Fishery Reports.

The following figures of the exports of codfish in the month of February, 1918, and the present year, have been posted at the Board of Trade masts:

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