

Last Week in Alberta Legislature

The third week of the present session opened quietly, but on Thursday work had reached the interesting stage, and from now on there will likely be something doing and divisions will be frequent.

Monday saw the debate on Bramley Moore's resolution asking that the natural resources of the province should be handed over to the province for the benefit of the province. Mr. Moore in moving the resolution, said in the course of a lengthy speech, that the fisheries, timbers and minerals should be under the control of the province and not of the Dominion. So, too, the water powers should be controlled by the province and either allotted to individuals or administered by the government for the general public. Speaking of the settlement of vacant lands he thought some treaty should be made with the Dominion whereby these lands should revert to the province.

"We have still another grievance," he said. "Alberta is now the dumping ground for Eastern Canadian goods. This is unfair to us because the East by means of its high tariff says we must accept no other but their goods. I am a strong free trader." Mr. Moore concluded by saying that all the provinces in the Confederation should be kept on an equitable basis. Alberta is our country, and to speak figuratively now she only has a cotton dress when she is entitled to a silk one.

Mr. Bennett wanted to know if any further information will be forthcoming regarding the year's finances. Premier Sifton replied that the estimates would be brought down at an early date and would include all under royal warrants, and these would also be brought down.

Compulsory School Attendance

The act respecting truancy and compulsory school attendance was introduced by Hon. C. H. Mitchell, who explained how it differed from the present school ordinance. The new act makes it compulsory for a child to attend school for the full term when of school age, which is stated to be from 8 to 13 years, and the penalty is fixed at a maximum of \$10. An important provision is that children of school age shall not be allowed to work out during school hours unless there is a valid excuse. The appointment and control of truant officers will rest with the towns and cities. In rural districts the minister of education has the right to make appointments as he also has in the cities and towns if the school boards fail to act before a certain date.

University Act

Hon. Mr. Mitchell, in moving the second reading of the act respecting the University of Alberta, said that the necessity for having the work carried on in the best way was daily becoming more apparent. The present act is not sufficiently clear respecting the functions of the different bodies connected with the University. The new bill provides for a board of governors of nine appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to whom will be entrusted the financial management and the property which they can handle subject to the assent of the government. The senate will be much larger than at present, and dentists, surgeons and other similar bodies will be given representation under certain conditions. The faculty will be represented on the senate, and the convocation will also elect some of the members. Powers will be given for raising money under certain conditions, and an important provision is that in future fifty per cent. of the money collected under succession duties is to be devoted to the University. This amount is not very large at present, but is growing rapidly.

Act Respecting Loans

Hon. Mr. Sifton, in introducing the act respecting the raising of loans authorized by the legislature, said the bill required little explanation as it did not authorize loans but only indicated the manner of raising loans when they are

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authorized for future bills. It provides that loans may be raised in permanent stock, debentures or subscribed stock as may be thought best at the time.

On Tuesday Premier Sifton introduced "An act respecting the bonds guaranteed by the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway Company, being an act to specify certain defaults and consequent rights of the province." This will come up for discussion on Friday.

The debate was resumed on Bramley Moore's resolution, which was seconded by J. K. Cornwall and who explained the resources of the north. He said: "If we can get hold of our natural resources then it is only a matter of administration as far as Alberta is concerned." He also spoke of the destruction of timber and said that in the last ten years there has been enough timber destroyed in the north country to pay off all our provincial debt and to build a large number of railways.

Premier Sifton followed and said in part: "I have always believed that we should administer our mines and timber. The question is not now whether we would like to control our natural resources, but what is the best way to get them. I have already discussed this matter with my government and we intend to keep up negotiations with the federal government with the end in view as set out by the resolution." He suggested that the resolution before the House should be withdrawn, but before this course was taken Mr. Michener had risen to speak. Mr. Michener strongly supported the resolution and dwelt with the stand taken by his party at the time the autonomy bill was introduced in the Dominion parliament.

Returns Wanted

Mr. Bennett presented two resolutions, one calling for all correspondence, etc., in connection with the resignation of the Rutherford government and the calling upon Mr. Sifton, and the other calling for all documents relative to the acquisition of a boulevard along the Bow River. The premier said the returns asked for would be tabled shortly.

Beet Sugar Bounty

Hon. Mr. Marshall introduced a bill respecting the bounty on beet sugar. This abolishes the bonus of 1/2 cent per pound the first three years and 1/4 cent the next two years paid on beet sugar.

Hon. Mr. Marshall also introduced a bill respecting the rights of married women. This provides that the widow of a man who dies leaving a will by the terms of which his said widow would in the opinion of a judge before whom the application is made receive less than if he had died intestate may apply to the supreme court for relief.

Among many motions were the following respecting railways: The Chertmore and Calgary Suburban Railway; The Bludman Valley Electric Railway Co.; The Lacombe, Ballocksville and Aliz Railway Co.; The Fischer Creek, Cardston and Montana Railway.

Wednesday's Session

Wednesday's session was quiet, except that it was shown that a division will be taken on Bramley Moore's resolution. Mr. C. M. O'Brien spoke strongly on the subject from the standpoint of the Socialist party, explaining the Karl Mac materialistic conception of history and the Malthusian theory of population. Mr. Patterson in a brief speech supported the sentiments of the resolution.

Among the petitions, first readings, etc., of private bills, the following respecting railways were found: Edmonton Interurban Railway; High River and Hudson's Bay Railway. Most of the session was spent in discussing the act respecting truancy and compulsory school attendance by the committee of the whole house.

Thursday's Session

Thursday afternoon witnessed the first real set-to of the session, and it looks as if something serious might yet be attempted. The debate on Bramley Moore's resolution was resumed by Mr. H. B. Bennett, who was in a bantering mood and good naturedly got after some of the members for what he termed their change of front. He was afraid that it was too late to get everything asked for, but several local matters could still be secured, such as the