

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Enquiry Respecting Law Clerk-- Amendment of Game Laws.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson Resumes the Debate--Compiments Mover and Seconder of Speech in Reply--Pays Some Attention to Mr. Hazen and the Opposition, Also to the Late Opposition Leader Dr. Stockton.

PREMIER'S SPEECH RECEIVED WITH CHEERS.

FREDERICTON, March 24--Mr. Shaw gave notice of inquiry: Is it the government's intention during the present session to appoint or employ a law clerk?

Hon. Mr. Dana committed a bill amending the game law--Mr. Birchall, chairman. Mr. Dana explained that the bill merely proposed to extend the close season on hares for two additional years.

Hon. Mr. Dana introduced a bill to encourage the discovery and development of oil and mineral gas in the province of New Brunswick.

Mr. Hazen introduced a bill in amendment of and in addition to the act relating to elections to the general assembly.

Mr. Tweedie submitted the report of the Boys' Industrial Homes. A return from the municipality of Kings county, showing indebtedness and assessed value of property, a return showing the indebtedness of the city of St. John, also returns showing the bonded indebtedness of the city and county of St. John; also a report of the lunatic asylum for last year.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson, from the committee to nominate all standing and general committees reported as follows--

House Committees. Contingencies--Farris, Dana, Carvell, O'Brien (Charlottetown), Veniot, Barnes, Lafort, O'Brien (Northumberland), Hoyt, Glazier, Lawson, Robinson, Gibson, Whitehead, Shaw, Scovell, Osman.

the survivor of the fittest--would thus go back upon the strong testimony he had heretofore given in favor of the wheat policy of the administration.

The honorable leader of the opposition had spoken of the government's agricultural policy as though it was hollow mockery, and said the speech dealt only with dead issues.

What the government had already done to promote the intelligent pursuit of agriculture only formed the first page in the coming book to be written in the future.

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The honorable mover of the address had referred to the favorable position now taken by Canadian products in the mother land. That very fact would require the government to call the attention of the people of the province to the need for stepping out beyond anything that they had hitherto done.

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Mr. Emmerson--Well, I don't know what year it was brought up in, but I know as a matter of fact that the government was not going to be hypocritical enough to say that he regretted, politically, Dr. Stockton's defeat; but from all other standpoints his absence from the house was a matter for sincere regret.

the government had been in the best interests of the province. Mr. Emmerson said he did not agree with the honorable member (Hazen) that it would be impossible to divert any considerable portion of the tide of immigration to New Brunswick.

Mr. Hazen--That has been continuing from year to year. Hon. Mr. Emmerson--Yes, but I am afraid that the tide of immigration will not meet the demands. He thought it would be necessary for the government to have a survey such as had been made in the past.

It was not merely for the purpose of inducing the tide of travel from other lands to the province, but it was to induce our own young men to settle on our lands. It was a well-recognized fact that the tide of immigration was now almost a thing of the past, and therefore the effort of the government should be directed to encouraging our own young men to remain at home.

The honorable member opposite had contended the present dominion government was not to be held responsible for the claim during the past three years. It was strange that when the honorable member was in the city of St. John in the dominion parliament he had not shown the zeal for the interests of the province in this matter that he showed today.

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port. The honorable gentleman (Hazen) must know that at present and in the past this government had been contributing to the success of the winter port scheme by an annual subsidy. He said that the present government, not only by its professions, but by its every action, had shown its deep sympathy with the efforts made to uphold the port scheme.

One of the strong claims put forward in support of the government's ticket in St. John was that if the action of St. John proved to be hostile to the dominion government and its friends, naturally the strong arm of the minister of railways and canals, our representative in the cabinet, would be paralyzed--not to the province, not so much to uphold St. John, but that he would be unable to overcome the prejudice that might be created in consequence of the hostility shown him and his friends.

It was the honorable gentleman and his friends who chose to run the course of the dominion government, irrespective of the merits or demerits of the government at Fredericton. He thought it would have been more appropriate instead of ever mentioning St. John, the honorable member (Hazen) representing as he did a rural constituency (and by the skin of his teeth) had dropped a kindly little word for the county of Sunbury.

No one need waste any time fearing lest the mover of the address (Robertson) would not be found looking after the interests of St. John. To him belonged in a very great degree the credit of the present government's action in that port and the house could rest assured that when any further aid of St. John's legitimate aspirations the honorable member (Robertson) would be heard from, and the government would be ready to take any course that the honorable member (Robertson) would be a business man and he knew that when the estimates were brought down they would be able to talk longer and more to the point than even his honor's speech.

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they might discuss this question face to face, for the acts and nothing but the facts would be presented to the consideration of the case and the country. He did not wish to discuss this matter now at length, but would lay down the principle that in the construction of public works it was unwise, and against the public interest, that any contractor should be allowed to adopt.

On motion of Mr. Tweedie, supply was made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Mr. Robertson moved and Mr. Lawson seconded that the address be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker, and presented to His Majesty by a committee of the house.

Mr. Speaker appointed Messrs Robertson, Lawson and Farris as such committee.

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the bridge the plans and specifications upon which tenders were called for were altered after the contract was awarded, and if so what were the changes in such plans and specifications and under what circumstances were they made? Has any similar plan been used in the construction of the bridge in places where the original plans and specifications called for hard pine, and if so, who authorized the change? Is it true that some of the braces or other timbers of the bridge have fallen down or gone out of place?

Mr. Humphrey gave notice of motion, seconded by Mr. Glazier, for a statement in detail showing what public works are now under construction, and not appearing in the public accounts for 1898. The amounts paid down to this date on account of any such public works or contracts--by warrant check, accounted draft or drafts or otherwise. If any such public work let by tender, then the names of the several tenders for each work, the amounts of the respective tenders and the names of the tenders to whom each contract was awarded, with the amount of the contract in each case.

Mr. Veniot rose to a question of privilege. There had appeared in the St. John Star the statement that Mr. Veniot, of Gloucester, has been using his influence to make Mr. Johnson remain in the house hoping thereby to get a position in the executive of an Acadia representative.

He wished to give this statement a fact contradiction. He had in no way sought to interfere with Mr. Johnson in the discharge of his duty and would add that during the election campaign he (Veniot) had sought into the county of Westmorland and did all he could to elect Mr. Richard and no member of the house regretted that gentleman's defeat more strongly than he did.

MR. GORDON'S CALL. What a Western Paper Has to Say of It. The Victoria Colonist of March 17th has the following--

The congregation of Calvary Baptist church, from the pasture of which Rev. Ralph Trotter recently resigned to go to the Boundary Creek country, last evening extended a unanimous call to Rev. J. A. Gordon, M. A., pastor of the Main street Baptist church of St. John, N. B., the salary offered being \$1,500 a year.

Mr. Thompson introduced a bill in amendment of and in addition to chapter 65, 1st Victoria, entitled "An act to enable the inhabitants of St. Mary's parish of St. Mary's, York county, to assess themselves for protection against fire and for securing a supply of water."

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