

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE

FREDERICTON, Feb. 24—Restigouche held the floor in the house on Monday afternoon, when Hon. Mr. Labilloy was heard. Mr. Labilloy was in excellent form and did credit not only to the party with which he is affiliated but to the House as a whole. In tone his speech was very moderate and in that very fact lay much of his criticism. He was heard with close attention as he exposed the weaknesses of the government policies and administration.

The Restigouche man was particularly strong in his reference to the importance of colonization. He expressed his keen disappointment that the speech from the throne, placed in the hands of the Governor by the cabinet, had a thing whatever to say of this most important subject. Immigration, he said, but surely it is of far more importance to the welfare of the province that something be done to encourage our own people, particularly our young people, to stay in the home land and aid in its development. This matter has been emphasized before, he continued, during recess it was brought before the government; our own young people have been demanding that something be done. Quebec people have showed their willingness to settle in large numbers along the line of the International and on the Blue-bell tract. In spite of these facts, the government has ignored this question of vital importance. In so doing they have ignored the recommendations of their own Agricultural Commission and the recommendations of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association.

It is all very well to have an Immigration Bureau at St. John and to pay \$2,000 for an advertisement in a London paper but surely the northern doors of the province should not be closed. Up in Restigouche, he said, there are many acres of land awaiting settlement. True, they are under lease in many cases but I have confidence in the spirit of the men who hold these leases and I am sure that, looking to the future development of the province of which we and they are fellow citizens, they will be glad to assist in any way within their power the work of encouraging our people to stay home and work for the advancement of our native land.

Mr. Labilloy went on to point out that the ministers may say that already they have set aside some acres of land for colonization. This, he said, is quite true that the land is such that it is not fit for its alleged purpose and young men who have cruised it for the purpose of seeing whether or not it is suitable for them to settle upon have gone away from it disgusted.

Recently, he said, the government has been asked for 30,000 acres along the line of the International and for some 20,000 acres in the Blue-bell tract. The men who came before the government did not ask that the land be given them, but they were willing to pay for it. For a long time the government gave them no answer

whatever and since notice has been taken of the request really nothing has been done. Thus, men interested in an undertaking which might yield most beneficial results to the province have been given no encouragement, but the very reverse. Moreover, the provincial treasury is the poorer by \$50,000 which these men were willing to pay for the desired land.

Mr. Labilloy was also very outspoken in regard to another matter of importance in many rural districts. This is the control of automobiles. The government boasts of its Highway Act, with its increased taxation but it does nothing to safeguard the interests of the farmers and their families in the sections where automobiles are used. The man of means may have his auto but surely in simple justice farmers should not be subjected to danger and loss through the frightening of their horses by the motor vehicle. There should be some restrictions on the running of these cars—certain days should be set aside for their use of the highways. If this were done farmers and their wives and children would not be liable to danger through the frightening of their horses; they could do their business more comfortably and merchants, too, would profit as under present conditions many farmers send to stores outside the province, rather than risk the drive to the home store over roads which automobiles frequent.

Mr. Labilloy also criticized the government for its lack of progressive agricultural policy. Nothing has been done, he said, which shows a thought for the farmers' interests. True, the number of agricultural societies has been increased—but that means a lessening of the grant to each one and the consequent hampering of its work. Horse importations have been made, one the importation of race horses from blue grass Kentucky, but the farmers have not benefited through these. In the case of the last importation the farmers had to bid against horse dealers and were given no special treatment which would justify the view that the government is sincere in its profession of desire to advance their interests.

As for the fruit raising on which government speakers have laid so much stress to their own glorification, Mr. Labilloy pointed out that the foundations for success were well laid by the old government years ago. Exports of New Brunswick agricultural products were sent abroad nineteen years ago and won honors, yet this government would have the people believe that never until Hazen rule, or misrule, did New Brunswick farmers meet with any success in this, nor indeed in any other way.

The Highway Act, said Mr. Labilloy, is speaking for itself. On all sides there is complaint. The machinery is too complicated. The operations under the act are turned to political ends. Over \$40,000 was squandered by the government to help federal Conservatives in 1908, and this amount came from the pockets of the

people. In 1908 Hon. Mr. Morrissey was asked to spend money on road work in the summer months; nothing was done until the fall came on when to aid Conservative candidates money was spent on useless work. In a word, the people's money was used as part of the Tory campaign fund. It has been so used even in municipal elections. From all these defects there could be expected but one result, the result which has come, bad roads. Put the road money in the hands of the municipalities, said Mr. Labilloy. Have an experienced man at the head of road affairs. Use the people fairly, ceasing to mal-administer road matters for political gain, and the roads which the province should have will come.

Mr. Labilloy also emphasized the importance of some well direction action to check the tuberculosis plague and commended generous action in the way of providing pensions for school teachers. Incidentally too, he pointed out to the government that everywhere in the province it stands discredited. Carleton county condemned it, Northumberland condemned it; St. John condemned it; every county is waiting similar opportunity to express its condemnation of the mismanagement and broken pledges.

Mr. Tweeddale, of Victoria, is a ruthless iconoclast. On every occasion on which he speaks he breaks some government idols. He followed his custom this week. He spoke for one thing of the horse importation. As for the first one made by this government, he said, it was simply an importation of racers and hurdlers of no use to the farmers. The quality of horses imported on the second occasion was not even open to condemnation such as was justifiable in the first case. However, Mr. Tweeddale found fault with the manner of the sale. It was held in St. John. Farmers had to bid in competition with horse dealers and speculators. Thus the sale could not really be of much benefit to the farmers. The purpose of horse importations, he said should not be to make money for the province by taking it from the farmers' pockets, but it should be to assist in the improvement of the farmers' stock by making it possible for them to obtain horses of good breed at the lowest possible prices.

Other matters which Mr. Tweeddale touched upon were those of the Gloucester Iron Mines and the Grand Falls Power Co. In regard to the iron mines he pointed out how remarkably generous had been the treatment given the Drummond Co. For eighty years this great corporation is to have the right of operating those mines and paying to the treasury of the province only the paltry sum of five cents per ton. They talk about the mineral discoveries in New Brunswick' said Mr. Tweeddale, 'it will be unfortunate if more of these discoveries are made if the interests of the province are to be sacrificed as they have been by the Hazen government in the case of the Gloucester mines.'

By the maintenance of his present methods Dr. Landry, Commissioner of Agriculture, promises to become most consistent in his continued inconsistencies. He made his bow to the House as an apostle of consistency;

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quality is the consummation, he declared, most devoutly to be wished. Another piece of his doctrine was that politics should be kept out of the Agricultural Department and the discussion of agricultural affairs.

Last Tuesday a number of members of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association were in Fredericton. In the afternoon they attended the session of the House, report has it by the invitation of none other than the Medical Commissioner of Agriculture. This consistent man, who preached against politics in agricultural matters, seized the opportunity to deliver a lengthy address setting forth the great things which the Hazen government and he himself in particular, had done for the farmers of the province. As Hon. Mr. Sweeney said, it was the most patent bid for the support of the men in the galleries. There is one side on the Landry brand of consistency.

But Dr. Landry went further than this. He took occasion to condemn the agricultural policy of the old administration. He was particularly severe in regard to the Experimental Orchards set out under the former regime. 'Today,' he said, 'the Queens Co. orchard is almost a wilderness, the St. John orchard is in lamentable shape. In Kent the orchard would hardly be recognized. These,' he went on, 'are the orchards which the Opposition claim have done so much for fruit raising in New Brunswick.' And perhaps all this impressed some of the farmers to whom Dr. Landry was playing.

In the evening Mr. Byrne of Gloucester, took the floor. He exposed Dr. Landry's consistent inconsistency in a way that brought about marked discomfort in the government benches. Perhaps his most telling point was made when he read from Dr. Landry's own report of 1908. In that report the doctor declared 'Good progress' was being made at the orchard in Queens; that the St. John orchard was 'doing well'; that in Kent the orchard was under the most careful cultivation, and making good progress. These facts make clear Dr. Landry's remarkable consistency and his no less remarkable idea of what constitutes accuracy of statement.

Mr. Byrne spoke very strongly in regard to the action of the Surveyor General in reducing the size of the saw logs from 18-19 to 15-9. No greater mistake could have been made, he said. Rather, the size of the logs should have been increased. Of course more stumpage is to be temporarily collected; but the reduction in the size of the log must inevitably play havoc with the forests. The opinion of Hon. Mr. Sweeney, it may be noted, is that if the present regulations are adhered to, direct taxation will be inevitable in the comparatively few years when our forests will have been almost exhausted.

Mr. Byrne's speech by the way, was a most effective one, to which further reference will be made.

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NEW BRUNSWICK EDITORS WILL MEET AT ST. JOHN

Winter Port Board of Trade Sends Out Invitations to Meet and Discuss Important Matters

It has been suggested to the St. John Board of Trade that the interests of this province might be advanced by a free and informal interchange of views among the editors of New Brunswick newspapers. The time seems ripe for active, persistent and concerted effort toward the general advancement of the Province, the development of its resources, the increase of hope and confidence among its people and the spread of information among strangers concerning the opportunities which New Brunswick affords.

The business men and the press of St. John, like those of other communities, are liable to regard matters from a local point of view, and there is no doubt that it would be helpful to all if leaders of opinion in each district of the province should frankly discuss together matters of general and local concern.

The editors of newspapers are in close contact with the people about them, and understand the conditions, problems, possibilities and difficulties of the districts where they live and work. They should be able to bring to such a conference much information and many useful suggestions. The result of such a convention as is proposed would be a closer understanding of the provincial situation from many points of view, and a practical co-operation for provincial progress.

Among the purposes in view are the discovery of means whereby the people of this Province may be kept at home, settlers obtained, life in the province be made more attractive and prosperous, natural resources developed, new industries established, old ones assisted, tourist travel increased, outside sportsmen encouraged to come here, and a spirit of provincial loyalty be promoted consistent with and helpful to the larger national patriotism.

HALIFAX DOWNS CHATHAM

HALIFAX, Feb. 23—In the McLenan cup competition tonight the Halifax Curling Club players defeated two rinks from Chatham by four points. The match was keenly contested throughout, the final scores being: Halifax, 33; Chatham, 29.

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This is to inform you that I have been a sufferer for the last fourteen years from Kidney and Stomach trouble, brought on by severe colds, having been laid up every winter during that time. Last year I was laid up seven months so that I could not get out of the house. Dropsy set in and my stomach swelled so that I was six inches larger than my usual size, had two doctors in attendance but I grew worse and they were going to tap me. My friends despaired of my life. At this time I was recommended to use GATES' LIFE OF MAN BITTERS and INVIGORATING SYRUP and in one week after commencing their use my size was reduced two inches, and in four weeks was reduced to usual size so that I went to work in my mill, and have been able to continue it ever since. By continuing the use of your BITTERS and SYRUP I hope to get a cure of the kidney and stomach trouble so far as it is possible as it always helps me when I take it. You may make these truths known for the benefit of sufferers.
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MR. CROCKET UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

In placing Mr. O. S. Crocket under the editorial microscope and telling the country the result of this somewhat unpleasant inspection, the Toronto Globe performs a public service of some merit. Such an examination can, perhaps, be better conducted by a journal removed from the region of New Brunswick politics, as the Globe is, and interested in Mr. Crocket only because he is a persistent defamer of public men and a peevish and jaundiced person who has made himself somewhat of a public nuisance at Ottawa by continually yelling, 'Wolf.'

Here in New Brunswick, where Mr. Crocket is known, where his futile activities have long caused a sort of contemptuous amusement among his opponents and something like shame and confusion among his friends, the public has long been wondering why the serious men of his own party gave him so much rope. They have been willing, apparently, that Mr. Crocket should pursue tactics with which which they themselves would have nothing to do. The Globe explains that they are not responsible for him.

The Globe regards the man from York as a monomaniac, and while to come that will seem a somewhat harsh explanation of his activities it really does him more than justice, for it assumes that he is crazy enough to believe that some of the things he says, or insinuates, are true. As the Globe points out, men of his own party are not moved by the scandals he pretends to unearth. They have come to know him...

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