The St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1921 PAGE 3

A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

SPEECHES AT OPENING OF LEGISLATURE LAUD WORK OF FOSTER GOVERNMENT

House Meets With All the Pre-War Splendor—Speech from the Throne Suggests Much Legislation That is to be Before Members During the Present Session.

Fredericton, N. B., Mar 17.—With all the customary ceremonies and pomp, the first session of the 5th New Brunswick Legislature was opened here this afternoon, the booming of the salute of fifteen guns from a battery station on the St. John River banks in front of the Parliament buildings heralding the opening.

Hon. A. A. Dysart, of Bactouche, one of the members for Kent County, was elected Speaker of the new House, and the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by Dr. L. M. Curran, of St. John County, seconded by A. Bordage, of Kent. A composite guard of honor under command of Major John S. Scott, of this city, was present, and Lieutenant Governor Pugsley was attended by many military officers, including Brig. General MacDonnell, C. M. G., D. S. O., general officer commanding No. 7 Military District.

Sworn In At Noon

The members of the new Legislature were sworn in at noon before Sir Douglas Hazen, Chief Justice of New Brunswick, but nobody from Restigouche County presented themselves to be sworn in as members of the House, Messrs. Stewart and Diotte having been unseated by the decision of Mr. Justice Barry in the recent election petition case.

Restigouche Demands.

D. A. Stewart and A. J. Diotte, the opposition candidates in Restigouche at the general elections last October, when they were first returned as elected, then a recount demand, and finally a protest filed, appeared at noon today before Sir Douglas Hazen, Chief Justice of New Brunswick, and demanded that they be sworn in as members of the Legislature.

The appearance of Messrs Stewart and Diotte was an unmistakeable surprise, and when Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Leader of the Opposition, demanded that they be sworn in and seated as members, the first political gun of the session had been fired.

Sir Douglas Hazen declared that he had been presented with a return by the Provincial Secretary showing the roll of members elected to the Legislature and that regarding Restigouche County it was stated that the sheriff had made no return.

Must Present Return.

Hon. Mr. Baxter persisted that there had been a return made by the Sheriff of Restigouche County showing Messrs. Stewart and Diotte elected, and he again demanded that they be sworn in. Mr. Baxter called upon Hon. if a return was presented to him showing Messrs. Stewart and Diotte elected he would have to allow them to be sworn in. Mr. Baxter called upon Hon. Dr. Hetherington to present the return, which, he said, had been sent by the sheriff, and which, he said, he had seen himself in the government offices. The Provincial Secretary said he was acting under instructions from the Attorney-General, and Premier Foster took a hand.

Stewart and Diotte were not sworn in and as soon as the swearing in proceedings were completed, the Opposition party went into caucus. When they adjourned, Hon. Mr. Baxter said he was not in a position to make any statement as to what the next move would be with regard to the Restigouche situation, but he intimated that something further would be done later.

Speech From Throne

In the Speech from the Throne, Lieut.-Governor Pugsley stated that "a measure will be introduced to fund the amounts already advanced to meet the interest upon the bonds issued in connection with the construction of the St. John Valley Railway."

Regarding the Valley Railway, it was stated that "the estimated receipts have fallen far short of the requirements to pay the interest," and that "the province has, as a result of this, been called upon to pay large sums in interest for which no provision has been made."

The Government, it was announced, will ask the Legislature to consider how best to make the necessary provision for meeting the interest charges from the Valley Railway in the future.

Guard Provincial Rights.

Referring to provincial rights, His Honor said they "must be vigilantly guarded and upheld, and any attempt to tamper with either the letter or the spirit of the British North America Act, particularly with regard to representation in the Senate and Commons, must be viewed with the gravest apprehension and should be resisted to the utmost.

The terms of Confederation, being the compact of the union, should never be disregarded and should only be varied with the approval of all the provinces interested."

Musquash Works.

The Speech from the Throne also referred to the commencement that has been made with the development of the water powers by the Hydro-Electric Commission at Musquash, near St. John, where, it was stated, 8,000 horse-power will be developed and available in "the very near future," also to the fact that the revenue produced from the Crown timber lands in the past year was the largest in history as a result of the increased stumpage rates, the establishment of the lime rock crushing plant near St. John for fertilizing purposes, and the construction of highways.

Legislation is promised to provide assistance for students attending the Provincial Normal School in order that the available supply of teachers may be maintained; an act for the apprehension, investigation and prevention of fires such as recently suggested by the fire underwriters and amendments to and consolidations of various acts now on the statute books. In agriculture, it is proposed to encourage the flax industry by supplying flax seed to those interested in its production, and an appropriation will be asked for that purpose.

The question of railway rates in the Maritime Provinces, so important to all commercial pursuits and having so great an influence upon the cost of living, was brought to the attention of the Government during the recess and a representative has been in attendance at several conferences, obtaining much information and preparing such arguments as may assist to safeguard the interests of business and the people of New Brunswick generally when this question comes up for final decision before the Board of Railway Commissioners.

When authority was given in 1912 for the guaranteeing of bonds to the amount of $4,250,000 for the construction of the Valley Railway, and when further authority for the issuing of the bonds by the province was given from time to time for the same purpose, it was understood that the railway would be a part of the Transcontinental system and it was estimated that the revenue therefrom, under the agreement with the Federal Government, would be sufficient to pay the interest upon the bonds and establish a sinking fund.

Port of St. John.

The expectation that export traffic would find an outlet through the Port of St. John by passing over this line has not materialized. Consequently the estimated receipts have fallen far short of the requirements to pay the interest. The province has, as a result of this, been called upon to pay large sums in interest for which no provision has been made. I have, therefore, to advise you that a message will be introduced to fund the amounts already advanced to meet the interest upon the bonds issued in connection with the construction of this railway. My Government will ask you to consider how best to make the necessary provision for this expenditure in the future

Liquor Act

In accordance with the provision of Section 202 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1916, electors of the province were given an opportunity to express their opinion for or against the retention of this measure The result of the referendum which held on July 10, 1920, will be laid upon the table of the House

Territorial revenues during the last year were exceptionally good and are further evidence of the vigilance attending the administration of the Crown lands of the province Stumpage rates have been increased and a revenue of about a million and a half of dollars from the Crown assets of the province is something that even the most sanguine public man of New Brunswick never anticipated.

Legislation looking towards the suppression, investigation and prevention of fires will be introduced. Fires cause an economic waste and the replacement of property as destroyed adds materially to the economic problem. Through this proposed legislation it is hoped to bring this important matter more prominently before our people and to invite the co-operation of the municipal authorities towards the adoption of fire prevention methods

You will be asked to consider amendments to the motor vehicle and highway acts, further amendments to the schools act and to the act respecting the Provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases; also the consolidation of the game act, the county court act, and of the law relating to partnership.

Names Assistant Clerk

Upon the speaker resuming the chair the clerk announced that he had nominated James Bacon Dixon for the position of clerk assistant, and asked the approval of the House.

Mr. Baxter said that it was not his intention to divide the House, but he would say that he did not consider it good practice. A gentleman holding office should be strictly non-partisan. He strongly disapproved of the course being taken and felt that the Government must accept responsibility for it.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that Rev. Schofield Neales be appointed chaplain of the House.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to enable the Soldiers' Comforts Association to transfer monies and other assets to the mayor of St. John for patriotic purposes. He explained that about $5,000 remained on a fund collected by the ladies during the war and they propose to turn it over to the mayor of the city to be used for patriotic purposes.

Dr. Curran

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Dr. Curran of St. John county, and seconded by Mr. Bordage of Kent. Mr. Curran said that the world was now in the wake of the greatest war in history. All nations were now struggling with great problems, and every effort was being put forward to provide labor and contentment for the people generally. With so much unrest in other countries it was pleasing to find New Brunswick comparatively free from that, and its industries were going along as in pre-war days. He was pleased with the reference made in His Honor's speech to the claims of the Maritime Provinces against the Federal Government. The province has interests arising out of Western school lands and also in connection with railway conditions.

Province's Treatment

The two Western provinces were given a large cash subsidy in lieu of natural resources, and today were seeking to obtain control of those lands. As partners in the original confederation, he held that the Maritime Provinces had an interest in those lands, and as a matter of justice should be paid an equivalent in subsidy In addition there was a certain railway discrimination against the Maritime Provinces which was deserving of attention. He believed the lines in the Maritime Provinces were practically self-sustaining, so it was unfair that the people of these provinces should be taxed to make good deficits incurred in other parts of Canada.

Valley Railway

He heartily concurred in the sentiment expressed by the speech with respect to the Valley Railway. In that road the province had the image of a great monster, whose fangs were fastened on the public revenue, a monster born of blunder. The road served an important farming section, but it was hopelessly in the hands of the C. P. R. He believed that the Federal Government should take over the Valley road, as the province was unable to bear the burden of such an expensive undertaking.

Hydro-Electric

With regard to hydro-electric development it was a matter of great importance It was surprising to him that the great water-power possibilities of the province should have been permitted to remain dormant so long. Near St. John, on Musquash River, they had a power site capable of developing eight thousand horse-power, which was double the amount now developed by the New Brunswick Power Company, and it would be supplied at one-third the cost. There was a call for the immediate development of the water-power of the Lepreaux River, which was capable of producing twelve thousand horse-power. There was also water-power to be developed on the Miramichi, and in the northern section of the province.

Agriculture

With regard to agriculture, he thought most members could say that they had been born on farms. At any rate he could truthfully say that every man who was in the sound of his voice was daily fed from the farm. He believed that the Province of New Brunswick should produce sufficient for the needs of its own people, in addition to a surplus for exportation to outside markets. The Government had made a good start in providing crushed lime for the farmers at low cost. There had been evidence of sound business management in connection with the department of public works. Under the system of federal aid, splendid highways were being constructed. The secondary roads of the province were being provided for by the auto tax fund, which last year had reached the respectable total of $750,000. Good secondary roads would mean enhanced value of property, a cheapening of the cost of transportation and all classes of people would benefit.

Public Health

With reference to the work of the Public Health Department, he said that under the present act in City of St. John alone 300 unfortunates had been found in the public schools by inspection. Relief was given them in the hospitals. That fact in itself was sufficient return for the paltry sum expended. He had no doubt that the same work is being carried on all over the province. As time went on the results would improve Objection might be taken to expenditure on sanitation. He believed there should be continuation of expenditure in this particular as good results were being secured. It caused him great satisfaction to make reference to the financial statement which had been issued a few weeks before. Early in 1917, the Foster Government had assumed the responsibilities of office. Since that time it had doubled the revenue of the province, a fact which was worth bearing in mind. This year apart from the tremendous liability of the Valley Railway, there had been a surplus in the vicinity of $196,000 on current business. The territorial revenue had reached a total of $1,500,000.

Seconds the Address.

Mr. Bordage, in seconding the address said: Reference has been made to the proposal of the government to make the educational profession more attractive to our young men and women in order that we say keep our teachers in the province and also enroll many others under that banner. The scarcity of teachers has caused many schools to close, which has a tendency to hinder the education of our children. This is certainly not as it should be, and I feel sure that Hon. Members on both sides of the House will welcome any plan such as that proposed in his Honor's speech, for bringing about an improvement. It is scarcely for me to say that the measure to be introduced, making provisions for government loans to those student teachers who may require assistance, will have my hearty support.

There is no question about the prosperous condition of the country and the policy of the government in awakening, encouraging, assisting the farmers of this province is beginning to bear fruit. The operation of a vigorous agricultural policy has brought about a marked improvement, not only in methods of farming but in the breeds and quality of live stock, and the benefits derived therefrom are heartily appreciated. The plan undertaken by the Hon. Ex-minister of Agriculture, backed by the Hon. leader of the Government, in establishing lime crushers and distributing lime to the farmers of the province at cost, has had a most beneficial effect.

While on the subject of agriculture it may be not be out of place for me to make reference to the first Dominion egg-laying contest now being carried on at the Fredericton Experimetal Farm. Twenty-one hens of New Brunswick bred pullets are taking part and the fact that they are thus far leading in egg-production all of the provinces of Candada, with the single exception of British Columbia, says much for the high quality of poultry stock brought into New Brunswick during the past four years through the agency of the Department of Agriculture.

The stand which the present government has taken for the preservation of the Crown Lands should have the hearty support and approbation of all parties

Water Power.

In the line of development of the natural resources of the province comes the Musquash River water power, to which reference has also been made in his Honor's speech. No time was lost in acting upon the progressive legislation passed at the last session of this House. The Commission appointed to look into the matter of water-power development has already done good work. A good start has been made in the development of power on the Musquash River.

It is gratifing to note that roads constructed under the policy of the government have been approved and adopted by the Federal Aid Board. Under the measures adopted at the last session of this House the Department of Public Works has been in a position to divert the automobile funds from the main trunk road to the secondary branch roads, thereby preserving the ordinary monies allotted to roads, for the benefit of byeroads.

The reconstruction and maintenance of the public highways of this province under the policy inaugurated by the minister of public works, is a matter worthy of our most hearty approval. It should be treated by all parties in this House in an intelligent and business-like way, having always in view the advancement and betterment of our population as a whole.

Mr. Baxter moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Foster moved that further consideration of the address in reply to the speech from the throne be made the order of the day for three o'clock tomorrow.

Baby's life—
In infancy is the time to build future sturdy men and women. Babies need—
Borden's EAGLE BRAND Condensed Milk

Intend To Have A Correct Report

Grand Falls Delegation Will Carry Along Stenographer When Interviewing Gov't.

Special to The Standard.

Grand Falls, N. B., March 17.—It is understood that arrangements are being considered to have a Short Hand Reporter accompany the delegation from Grand Falls to Fredericton in opposition to further extension before commencing development, so as to take down a verbatim report of the proceedings attending such mission. This measure is the result of conflicting remarks of the statements made by Premier Foster to the delegation that awaited upon the Government last year. The matter has been discussed amongst some of the leading business men and they have expressed themselves favorable to the idea.

It may be possible to obtain an Official Court Stenographer for the purpose and it is reported that two have already been communicated with. The citizens of Grand Falls are determined that everything in connection with the movement shall be done along strictly business lines and no expense is being spared to this end.

Features of The Turnover Tax

Questionaire and Circular Sent Out by Montreal Board of Trade Received by Local.

A copy of the questionaire and Circular which the Montreal Board of Trade has been sending to its members, in connection with the suggested turn-over tax, has been received by the St. John Board.

The Circular says that the General Turn-over Tax would be, insofar as Canada is concerned, a new departure, and, while many modifications are possible, it is generally taken to include the following features:—

"1. A uniform tax of whatever percentage may be found necessary and desirable on the whole turn-over or gross sales of all goods, wares, and merchandise, by manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers or individuals; on sales of real estate; on gross receipts for personal or professional services, such as rendered by brokers, doctors, lawyers, bankers, architects, etc., but not on wages or salaries; on gross income of railway and public utility companies.

"2. It is understood that the General Turn-over Tax, if adapted, would replace all the minor and in many respects vexatious taxes now in effect, such as taxes on telegrams, railway tickets, luxury taxes, business profits tax, etc.

"3. This tax would be universal in its application to all transactions and services with the following exceptions —Business showing a gross turn-over of less than $5000 per annum, Exports and Original Sales by Farmers.

"It has been estimated that a tax rate of somewhat less than one per cent would yield a sufficient revenue owing to the universality of its application, but the rate would have to be fixed with full knowledge of the requirements and probable volume of business on which the tax would be levied."

Hon. Mr. Foster submitted a copy committee to nominate the standing committees consist of Hon. Mr. Foster, Hon. Mr. Robinson, Hon. Mr. Venot, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Fawcett.

Hon. Mr. Foster submitted a copy of the agreement with Robert P. Allen for reporting the debates of the legislative assembly. The agreement was concurred in by the House and the official reporter was assigned his seat on the floors of the House. The House adjourned at 5.10 o'clock.

LOST ELECTION SO COMES BACK TO HOUSE POST

Hon. Mr. Baxter Criticises Re-Appointment of J. B. Dickson to Clerkship.

WILL NOT DIVIDE HOUSE ON ISSUE

"Dangerous Policy" is His Definition of Strange Attitude in York Case.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, N. B., March 17.—Declaring that he did not now wish to divide the House on the point, but that more might be heard of it later, the Hon. J.B.M. Baxter, leader of the Opposition, raised an objection to the appointment of J. Bacon Dickson as assistant clerk of the House at the opening session this afternoon.

A. A. Dysart had bee elected Speaker, and the rest of the proceedings had gone along without a discordant note, until J. M. Keefe, the Clerk to the House announced that the Assistant Clerkship had been vacated and he recommended the appointment of Mr. Dickson, who had been Assistant Clerk but resigned when he accepted nomination as a government candidate in York county, in the election.

Suggested by Premier.

Premier Foster then made a motion confirming the clerk's recommendation. Mr. Baxter said that he did not propose to divide the House on the question but he wished to draw the attention of the government to the fact that the procedure of allowing officials of the legislature to resign their positions to become candidates at election and then be re-appointed again if they failed in the election was a most dangerous practice. It meant, he said, that the positions in the legislature were being made mere appointments of political preferment instead of maintaining the idea that the officials of the House were independent of politics and there to serve all the people.

Many at Reception.

While there was not state dinner tonight, the giving of dinners having been abolished by Lieutenant Governor Pubsley, the reception which the Governor and Mrs. Pugsley held at the Queen Hotel this afternoon proved a large and brilliant function. Almost 700 people attended. His Honor's staff were in attendance and among those assisting Mrs. Pugsley were Mrs. D. Campbell Scott and Mrs. H. F. MacLauchlan of Ottawa, who are her guests here for the opening of the legislature.

New Railroad In Forests of Maine

Bangor, Me., March 17.—The heart of the dense forests above Moose Head Lake is to be penetrated by a railroad, built by the Great Northern Paper Co., from Seboomook, to St. John Pond, 18 mile north.

The line is to be of regulation broad gauge and will facilitate the getting out of lumber in the St. John River headwaters region, which ordinarily would be floated down the river.

In addition to the main line, there will be numerous branches from one to three miles in length, and it is understood the company plans the extension of the main line to the Canadian border eventually.

NOVA SCOTIAN ACTOR DEAD.

Boston, March 17.—The death of Wm. Lawrence, who succeeded Denman Thompson as "Uncle Josh" in the "Old Homestead" and played the part 3,000 times, was announced today He had been ill for four days.

Lawrence was born in Nova Scotia, and was a sailor and fur trapper before he went on the stage.

Crown BRAND Syrup
The Great Sweetener

A wholesome, nourishing food—the most delicious of Syrups. At all Grocers.

Linoleum Rugs

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These good-looking, cleanable rugs have so many advantages that they appeal to modern housewives.

They possess the good qualities of linoleum. They make housework easy — cleaned quickly with mop or damp cloth; are comfortable—soft to the tread; inexpensive — cost less than other rugs; durable and long wearing and they lie flat on the floor without fastening.

Linoleum Rugs are made in our Canadian Factory by Canadian workmen, who fashion many designs of beauty from the specifications of our expert artists. Each rug is constructed to withstand our severe Canadian climate. Made in many popular sizes.

Leading stores carrying floor coverings will be glad to show you an extensive range of patterns. You will be pleased with the moderate prices quoted.

Pattern illustrated appropriate for use in Dining Room, Living Room or Bedroom. Other patterns available for use in Kitchen, Hall or Den. The Rug Surround or Parquetry Pattern illustrated, may be used if desired.

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