

The Evening Times and Star

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THE LEGISLATURE

What promises to be a rather quiet but very interesting session of the provincial legislature opens today. The elections were held since the house last met, and there will be many new faces, while some that had grown familiar will be absent. There are changes on both sides of the house, and the farmer members will introduce a new and interesting feature. The government majority is not large, but there does not seem to be any outstanding issues in controversy that would be at all likely to jeopardize the administration. There will be no disposition on the part of anybody to attempt to force another appeal to the people. The people think well of the Foster government and its progressive policies, and are especially interested in its hydro-electric programme; and we may fairly look for a business-like and not too long session of the house.

The speech from the throne, in its reference to agriculture, announces that an appropriation will be asked for to encourage the flax industry, and gratification is expressed that the distribution of lime as a fertilizer has yielded good results. Further progress in hydro-electric development is promised. Progress in the government's highway policy is noted, and the fact that during last year many old bridges were replaced by permanent structures. There is to be a further extension of the road patrol system. In addition to work done on trunk roads last year the less important roads were much improved. Amendments to the public health act are promised, and it is noted that during the year much has been done to remove prejudice and misconceptions. With regard to education, it is proposed to provide a system of loans to assist Normal School students and thus increase the number of student teachers, which has been falling off. A paragraph in the speech refers to representation at Ottawa, and apparently raises the question of a recent senatorial appointment. There is a reference to the struggle for fair railway rates in these provinces, and in regard to the Valley Railway the significant remark is made that the anticipated export traffic by this route has not materialized. This is a matter concerning which more should be heard, especially as no proper effort has been made to develop even the local traffic of the road. The financial side of this railway calls for special consideration by the legislature. The speech refers to the gratifying increase in territorial revenue under the wise policy introduced by this government. Legislation looking toward better prevention of fires is promised. It is noted that the credit of this province stands very high in the money markets, and this is a source of universal satisfaction. It is pointed out, however, that public expenditures at the present moment must be very carefully considered, with a view to keeping the interest obligation on loans as low as may be reasonably possible. On the whole the speech forecasts a body of useful legislation, and the members settle down to business in a business-like way we may anticipate a fairly fruitful session, with results generally beneficial to the province.

THE ROTARIANS

What is the significance of this two days' conference in St. John of business and professional men from Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown, Moncton and St. Stephen, who have come here in the name of Rotary? They do not represent any secret society. They have no politics. They draw no sectarian lines. They are not after anything for themselves. They speak in terms of the golden rule in relation to business, social relations, community welfare, and national and international concerns. They are not supermen, but just plain fellows who have a vision and an ideal, dimly or clearly apprehended according to their temperament and the extent to which they have studied and applied Rotary principles. They are learning as they go, and the learning broadens their sympathies, enlarges their understanding and gives them a common inspiration. There is a very real and valuable significance in such a conference. It breaks down prejudice and tends to unity of purpose along right lines. The men and women who go back to their homes with a larger vision and a warmer feeling of friendship will be better citizens and more eager to have done with the local prejudices which keep people apart. There is a deep spiritual meaning in much that has been said at these meetings of earnest men who have no selfish interest to serve. Rotary may be made a great unifying and vitalizing force in these provinces. It meets a need in human life and experience which no other organization has so well met. There can be no doubt that the local club will get a new and nobler viewpoint and inspiration from this conference, and its members feel a deeper obligation to interpret Rotary that its influence will spread far beyond the bounds of membership.

The American government has refused to permit army and navy men to march in a procession in which are societies seeking to obtain recognition of the Irish republic and the separation of India from the Empire.

WHERE IS HE AT?

The Standard organ describes the Conservative party in this province as one in search of a Moses who may give it leadership. It says: "At the present time there is no recognized leader, and without one it is idle to expect to get very far. The first thing to do therefore is to find a leader, and frankly it is not going to be a particularly easy job. Able men, capable leaders, are not picked up as easily as daisies on a lawn. There are suitable men available, but whether they could be induced to take hold of the situation is another matter. Anyone who does, will want to be satisfied that he can rely upon the loyal and unswerving support of the rank and file, otherwise little progress is likely to be made." Here is the task for the proposed convention. Mr. Wignmore apparently will not do. He is to be deposed. He is not a "recognized leader." The announcement will doubtless set a bee buzzing in many bonnets. It would perhaps be regarded as ungracious for outsiders to make suggestions, but St. John could submit at least a dozen names of gentlemen who believe they could make a better job of the leadership than any who has essayed the great task for quite a number of years past. No doubt, also, there are aspirants elsewhere, and it is at least possible that when the convention is held it will be a convention of leaders, all ready to lead. That would be a development of the liveliest possible interest.

THE CASE RE-OPENED.

The railway bridge matter is not yet settled. Something is not going to be put over on St. John just because the Canadian Pacific wants to put it over, and some people such as are always to be found in this city are willing to agree that anything is good enough for St. John. Apparently the railway company was having its own way, but the visit of Mayor Schofield, Mr. George S. Cushing and Mr. F. C. Bestaue to Ottawa has changed the aspect of affairs. They were able to show the minister of public works that the matter had not been fairly presented, and he has ordered a new survey and a further investigation of the conditions. Is it not time the Board of Trade and Commercial Club took an active interest in this question? It means much to St. John to keep the navigation of the falls as clear as possible. The fight for justice in this matter has fallen on the shoulders of a few, and now that the whole case has been re-opened there should be no doubt about the feeling of the whole community. Those who have been active in this matter have rendered a public service. They should now receive such support as will safeguard the city's interests and secure the measure of justice which it should never have been necessary to plead for at Ottawa.

Halifax Echo—"So long as the feebleminded are allowed at large to propagate their kind, the burden of derelicts support will grow heavier rather than lighter. It would seem to be the part of wisdom to expend what public funds must be used in this way, in preventing reproduction by segregating the feebleminded during the child bearing years. Only in this way can the number of society's incompetents and the cost of their maintenance be steadily and effectively reduced. There can be little or no doubt that the matter should be carefully weighed by society from a dollars and cents standpoint as well as from racial considerations. If the cost of the child and county poor farms could be computed for the last generation, and the sort of derelicts carefully classified, there is no doubt that financially, prevention would prove a better investment than aftercare. It only needs an awakening of public conscience to bring about a change."

New York Evening Post—"American can help in the settlement of the reparations questions because she is at the same time disinterested and interested. She is not interested in getting anything out of Germany. She is vitally interested in bringing peace to the world. Because we can speak without selfishness, with authority, and with common sense, it is an abnegation of duty to stand aside. We can help. And Mr. Harding can show the way."

WANDERER SAYS HE SEES MURDERED WIFE EVERY NIGHT

Chicago, March 17.—Every night since he killed his wife and their unborn child last June, Carl Wanderer has talked with her spirit, according to testimony given yesterday by Dr. Harold D. Singer, state alienist at Wanderer's trial on charges of murdering the "ragged" stranger alleged to have been paid to stage a fake hold-up. Dr. Singer said that Wanderer had told him that Mrs. Wanderer had come to him nightly in her wedding gown and holding a child in her arms. The witness said he considered Wanderer sane. Two other alienists also testified yesterday to Wanderer's sanity, their reappearance being the end of the state's case in rebuttal.

Progress Along Many Lines Indicated In Speech From Throne

(Continued from page 1.) The establishment of one of the most up-to-date plants for the crushing of lime rock and the distribution of one of our natural resources as an aid to fertilizing the soil has been energetically and successfully carried on. The large demand for this product fully justifies the expectations that such would meet with the approval of agriculturists generally.

In further assistance to agriculture, my government proposes to encourage the flax industry and to supply flax seed to those interested in its production. You will be asked to make an appropriation for this purpose.

Hydro and Highways. I am happy to state that during the year very satisfactory progress has been made toward developing the water power on the Musquash River, where upwards of 9,000 horse power will in the very near future be available for industrial and domestic purposes. The New Brunswick Electrical Power Commission has been investigating other water powers to be made, and plans to meet the wishes of the people for water power developed in full production, where it is most needed are under consideration.

The improvement of the highways was continued last year. Taking advantage of the federal aid programme, contracts were awarded for reconstruction of the main trunk roads in various sections of the province. This work was up to the standard approved by the council of the federal aid board and was subject to inspection by engineers of that board, who expressed themselves well satisfied with the work being carried on. A certain portion of the main trunk roads, subject to federal aid, was carried on under the organization of the department of public works, which received the commendation of the federal engineers. Owing to the federal grant for maintenance of the trunk roads, the public works was enabled to inaugurate the policy referred to at the last session of the legislature, having in view the expenditure of funded automobile traffic on the principal branch roads leading to the main trunk roads, and to the improvement of such roads, as well as the road tax money collected, to be expended on the by-roads or less important market roads. It is hoped to be able to continue this class of work until the four years programme is carried out.

The ever increasing automobile traffic has put to a very severe test the maintenance of ordinary wooden bridges. So great has been the necessity for replacement of bridges of this class that it has been found necessary, wherever possible, to do so, to replace wooden bridges by structures of a permanent character. Many structures of this class were erected during the past season and the government is hopeful of being able to carry on this programme during the present year. A patrol system for newly constructed highways is being gradually brought up to a standard of efficiency and last year this policy was particularly successful for which a special appropriation for this purpose will be required.

Public Health. All citizens keeping in active touch with government and the work it has recognized that the public health movement has received a very marked impetus during the last few years. That it has been placed among the first in importance of government services, because it is destined to relieve and correct the unfortunate conditions of unnecessary suffering and death brought about through the want of knowledge and application of its principles in practice. In this connection I am glad to be able to say that New Brunswick is keeping abreast of the times. Its Department of Health has been carried on with assiduity during the year. The several services of the department have been conducted with that measurable degree of success incident to an almost completely new department as far as this province is concerned; prejudices and misconceptions are necessary incidents in all countries to such a service in its early stages; such prejudices and misconceptions are dispelled, however, by education and publicity. The institution of the department will, it is hoped, prove to be one of the most usefully forward steps ever undertaken. Certain amendments of the act respecting the department are being considered, looking forward to greater efficiency, will be laid before you for your careful consideration.

Educational. It has been the policy of my government to make the educational provision more attractive to persons of suitable capacity and attainments. Much difficulty has been experienced in carrying out this policy, owing to the increase in the cost of living, which prevents many who desire to fit themselves for the teaching profession from doing so. In order to overcome this obstacle in the way of the recruitment of the teaching profession in the province the government has had under its consideration a plan for the making of loans of suitable amounts to those students in attendance at the Provincial Normal School who may require assistance. An act has been prepared to give effect to this plan and will be submitted to you for your approval.

During the recess there was a conference of representatives of the provincial governments of the maritime provinces, and plans were formulated for the pressing of all claims of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island against the dominion.

Recent occurrences make it my duty to say to you, as the guardians of the interests of the people of New Brunswick, that the province is being 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.

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 liv-



HON. A. A. D'SART
New Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislature.

ing, 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 \$425,000 for the construction of the Valley Railway and when further authority for the issuing of the bonds of 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.

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 unable 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.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 202 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1916, "chief 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 was 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 a source of commendation to 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.

Fire Prevention. Legislation looking towards the suppression investigation and prevention of fires, was introduced in the House. Fires cause economic waste and the replacement of property as destroyed adds materially to the public 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.

The success attending two large provincial loans during the year is indicative of the splendid financial standing of New Brunswick in the money markets and the high value of its securities. The revenues of the province have been buoyant and the prevailing high cost of labor and materials and the demand for an expensive programme to meet the public needs caused a large increase in expenditure. Any additional outlay based upon popular demand must be very carefully considered in view of higher interest charges and the larger sums required to pay increased annual obligations on new and refunded bond issues.

Payments to the motor vehicle and highway acts, further amendments to the schools act, and to the act respecting the Provincial Hospital for Nervous Disease, also the consolidation of the game act, the county court act and of the law relating to partnership.

I have directed the accounts of Income and Expenditure for the last year as well as a statement of the receipts and payments of the current year up to the opening of the present session to be laid before you.

Estimates of the probable income and expenditures for the current year will be submitted to you and I believe you will find that the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

In conclusion I desire to assure you of my confidence in your patriotism and zeal for the public good and to express the hope that your deliberations will insure to the welfare and prosperity of the province.

IN LIGHTER VEIN. Appreciation. Gramercy—that was a nice car you used to drive.

Park—It certainly was. When the wife's hands held me up they left me their machine and took mine. — New York Sun.

Good Enough For Him. I see by the papers that old Doc is dead. Well, he was a good doctor and I'll always remember him with affection. I'll never forget last winter when he had the influenza, how hard he worked to keep me alive — and sick. And the winter before that, when I didn't have the influenza, but was afraid I was going to, I called Doc up one day when I was feeling under the weather and nervous.

"Doc," I said, "what's good for the in-

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fluenza, besides whiskey?" "Gosh," answers Doc, "who cares?" — Cleveland Plain Dealer.
HON. M. W. DOHERTY TO SAIL FOR HOME TOMORROW
London, March 17.—(Canadian Associated Press)—Hon. Manning W. Doherty, minister of agriculture for Ontario, will sail for home on Saturday on the Canadian Pacific liner Minnedosa.



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