

SPEECH

OF THE

HONOURABLE THE PREMIER

IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA ON MARCH 20, 1916

In the Debate upon the Address in Reply to the Speech
from the Throne

VICTORIA COLONIST, MARCH 26th, 1916

On rising to speak the Premier was greeted with applause. Mr. Bowser said:

Mr. Speaker, I feel that perhaps I cannot start my opening remarks without congratulating the honorable mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, upon the very lucid argument which they advanced, and which appealed to every business man of the House.

I am sure I am only voicing the regret of the whole House in stating how much we will miss the mover, Mr. Thomson, after this session, as he has decided to retire from public life, but I am sure it will not be long before the City of Victoria will again force him into the public service of the country. (Applause).

I wish to congratulate the honorable senior member for Cariboo for the excellent address he gave in extolling the virtues of that portion of the Province, which is now about to be tapped by a railway running through the backbone of that country, and which will do more for British Columbia than any other railway which we have seen fit to assist.

In connection with the old constituency of Cariboo, I regret that under the Redistribution Act that comes into force at the close of this session, it will lose one of its members, in the person of Dr. Callanan, a man who has not been heard, it is true, very often on the floor of this House, but has

given signal interest and service to the constituency of Cariboo.

Alludes to Opposition

I wish to congratulate the House on receiving back on its floor the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. We have for some time in this House been handicapped in not having the Liberal party represented here; and it has been very often a question as to who was really the Opposition, so far as the Government was concerned. The hon. member for Newcastle has done very well, it is true, during the last few years in carrying on the onerous duties—of course, being very much handicapped, naturally, in having so much work to undertake, and particularly where the House has had such a large majority against him. We must all appreciate the excellent work he has done in that regard. I can say for the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that we have known him before in this House since I came here in 1903, and we have all known the great interest he has taken in the public affairs of the country; and I know on this occasion he will not default in the arduous labors upon which he has entered. And the best wish that I can voice on behalf of the Government is that he may long remain in his position as Leader of the Opposition. (Laughter and applause).

His Own Constituency

I also wish to offer congratulations to the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr.