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JAMES MCISAAC

EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

The Legislative Session.

The second session of the thirty-eighth General Assembly of Prince Edward Island was opened...

SPEECH

Mr. Speaker and Gentleman of the Legislative Assembly:

Since last we met in parliamentary session, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught retired from the Governor-generalship of Canada...

My references of last year to the war are equally applicable today. With undaunted courage the resources of the Empire are being marshalled for victory against the foes of freedom and justice.

As no means of providing for soldiers returning from the war, you will be asked to consider a measure having in view the organization and preparation for settlement of the unused lands of this Province.

The Development Commission organized one year ago has concentrated the efforts of our most progressive citizens in devising plans for the development of our great natural resources...

In the Department of Education there is evidence of increasing interest in our public schools. More liberal supplements have been voted and marked improvements made in equipment.

The past year has been one of abundant harvests and high prices for all the products of the farm. At no period in the history of our Province was Agriculture so profitable and so intelligently prosecuted.

The harvest of the sea has been abundant and profitable beyond the record of many years. I invite your most careful consideration of proposals providing for the fishermen opportunities for technical education in their calling.

It is a cause for deepest gratitude that notwithstanding the depletion of their ranks of workers, the trade and commerce and the revenues of Canada have surpassed all records, and we in this Province have our full share of the general prosperity.

The Public Accounts for the past year and the Estimates for the current year will be laid before you.

I now leave you in the discharge of your legislative duties, trusting that under the guidance of Divine Providence your deliberations may tend to the further advancement, welfare and prosperity of our people.

After his Honour had departed, the appointment of sessional committees and other routine usual on opening day was attended to. The House then adjourned till the following day.

After routine proceedings of Friday, the address in reply to the Speech was moved by Mr. McNevin and seconded by Dr. A. A. McDonald. Both gentlemen acquitted themselves admirably. The Leader of the Opposition followed and continued speaking for the balance of the week.

The Country's Finances.

Canada's fiscal year ends on March 31st, and the approach of that time finds the country in an eminently sound financial position. A fairly reliable indication of trade conditions throughout the country may be obtained from the customs revenues and it is interesting to note that these continue to break all records.

In a double sense is this satisfactory. First, because it shows that despite the war the country's prosperity is on the upgrade, and secondly, because it should act as an incentive to lift that prosperity to a still higher level.

Mr. Bonar Law continued, has completed his victory by a pursuit of 110 miles in fifteen days, during which the Tigris was crossed three times. This pursuit was conducted in a country destitute of supplies, despite the commencement of the summer heat.

Britain is negotiating for the purchase of the entire Canadian wheat crop of 1917. The price to be fixed and lesser details of the purchase are now the subject of correspondence between Ottawa and London.

The splendid position she has so dearly won in this war. The past year has been one of abundant harvests and high prices for all the products of the farm.

The Fall of Bagdad.

Referring in the British House of Commons on the 12th inst., to the success of General Maude's army in the east, Mr. Bonar Law said the fall of Bagdad came as a sequel to a series of brilliant operations carried out by British and Indian troops with dash and determination for which no praise could be too high.

London, March 15.—Correspondents at British Headquarters telegraph that Wednesday's successful British operations were carried out with heavy rain beating in the faces of our troops, so that at times they could see but a few yards. But they plunged forward through the clinging mud.

London, March 19.—British troops, say advisers from headquarters, pressed the retreating Germans hard all night long.

Bagdad. After an action the Turks retreated in the night, abandoning a position they had prepared. On March 7, British cavalry found the Turks in position and on the Diala river, eight miles from the outskirts of Bagdad. The river, he said, was unfordable and constituted a formidable obstacle.

Meanwhile the Turks had received reinforcements from Bagdad. They offered stubborn resistance along the Diala and in a position covering Bagdad from the southwest. Gen. Maude threw a bridge across the Tigris at its confluence with the Diala.

Gen. Maude in these operations, Mr. Bonar Law continued, has completed his victory by a pursuit of 110 miles in fifteen days, during which the Tigris was crossed three times.

London, March 19.—It is difficult at the present moment to give the names of all the places captured but some of the names and a reference to maps will aid in indicating the tremendous scope of the advance.

Paris, March 19.—Tomorrow or the day after two entire French Departments, those of Oise and Aisne will be liberated from the German invaders, according to reports from the fighting front.

Progress of the War

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London, March 19.—Memorable will be St. Patrick's Day, 1917. It was on that day the German lines in France, held for over two years, suddenly yielded along a front of one hundred miles.

London, March 19.—While newspaper comment is moderate in tone the retreat is described as unprecedented except for the period following the battle of the Marne, and it is emphasized that there is nothing yet to indicate where the German line will be halted.

Petrograd, March 15th.—Inlement weather, stoppage of railways and shortage of foods have apparently, been the predisposing causes of the revolution in which the Czar has, suddenly and unexpectedly, lost his high position and his high power.

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