

MR. RITHET'S SPEECH.

The following is Mr. Rithet's speech on the Address in Reply, last Monday, as reported by the *Colonist*. It is carefully prepared, and will surprise those who have only given Mr. Rithet credit for being a shrewd man of business:

"Mr. Rithet rose amidst applause, to move that a humble address be presented in reply to the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. He was glad, he said, to be able to congratulate the government upon the confidence which has been shown in them by the electors of the country in again returning them to power with such a large following, and he congratulated also the country on the fact that the government are to be aided, as they no doubt will be, by the able, experienced and patriotic gentlemen on the opposite side of the house. Most of these honorable gentlemen have been known to him for a number of years, but he had not before had the pleasure of meeting them as their colleague in this Legislative Assembly. While he had to regret that they are on the opposite side of politics (laughter) he held them in the highest esteem, both personally and politically. (Applause) When the interests of the country are before the house, he was convinced that of only those on the government side but those on the opposite side as well will sink all party feeling, and strive which can do most to further those interests. Thus directed, under just and liberal laws, he had confidence that the Province will continue to advance. The depression referred to in His Honor's address no doubt increases considerably the care and responsibilities of both the government and the legislature, and until the conditions outside the Province are improved, we can hardly look for very rapid improvement in many of our most important local industries. Nevertheless, every encouragement should be and no doubt will be given to the investment of capital, which is the first and great essential in this connection. The large losses by floods in the early part of the present year caused much distress to many worthy settlers, and the action of the government in rendering such prompt and needed help will, he felt sure, meet with the hearty approval of every member of the house, as will also any steps which may be proposed with the view of guarding against a recurrence of such a calamity, even if it should be necessary to ask substantial financial assistance. But, in the opinion of many, this responsibility falls more properly upon the Dominion government, and he had no doubt that this view will be urged with all force possible by this government and legislature upon that government. The action taken by His Honor and the government to correct the wrong reports which were circulated as to the loss of life, he thought all would agree was highly commendable. He considered it most fitting that the loss to the Province of the late Chief Justice, Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, should have been mentioned in the speech of His Honor. He was sure that there can be but one opinion as to the services rendered to this Province by that most worthy official. Perhaps to him more than to any other man in this Province it is indebted for its reputation the world over as a law-fearing and law-

abiding country, because of his fearless but just administration of the laws in the earlier days of its settlement. He felt sure that he would be pleased to learn that there is a healthy reaction setting in in nearly all our principal productive industries, which for some years have suffered so much from the depression which has prevailed in the markets of the world. To this country, the gold, coal, lumber, salmon, quartz and sealing industries have been all important, and any improvement, either in the demand or prices, cannot fail in being beneficial to the citizens generally. The deep sea fishing will, he hoped be added to the list of successful industries before the next meeting of the legislature. The encouragement given to the development of quartz mining in the Kootenay country by the building of the Nikusp & Shewan railway, he hoped, would satisfy the house of the prudence of their action in giving the guarantee which secured the construction of that line, and would induce further steps in the same direction, when and where required. It will take another year to give the house returns showing the likely results of operating this railway, but it seems more than probable that the hopeful anticipations will be realized, and that the charge, if any, is not likely to be a large one upon the resources of our country. (Applause.) The maintenance of friendly relationship with the Dominion government upon all matters of common interest being most desirable, he thought personal interviews by the ministers the most effective way to a harmonious and satisfactory settlement, and was confident that the matters named as having been dealt with by the Attorney General on his late visit, would be noted with satisfaction when they are placed before the house so as to enable them to form a ready and intelligent conclusion. One of the great questions which he thought must occupy attention at the present session, and which must commend itself to every member of the house, is that of the settlement of this province by industrious and desirable settlers, accustomed to agriculture, experienced in and not afraid of the hardships attendant upon an early settler's life. (Hear, hear.) Such he took the colony of Norwegians to be which the government have been instrumental in placing on the Northern Coast. All will watch with more than usual interest the progress of this pioneer colony, and accord hearty support to any assistance required to make it a success. The recent visit of His Excellency the Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen has, he felt sure, all would agree with him in saying it, been a pleasure to everyone in British Columbia, for the hearty enthusiasm which greeted their welcome throughout the province affords ample proof of this. It is particularly gratifying, he felt sure, to every member of the Legislature to see that the subject of further railway extension, for the development of the province and its resources, is one to which attention has been called. (Hear, hear.) So great in extent and varied in its resources as it is, the province can only be opened up by large expenditure. To be satisfied we are warranted in making it is a pre-requisite of this. As a firm believer in our country, and from an intimate knowledge of its varied resources, he did not hesitate to say that it

is well worthy the investment of the capital necessary for its development, and can well afford to bear the outlay required without unnecessarily burdening the people. In proof of this it is only necessary to point to the fact that in whatever direction our province has been made accessible, whether by rail, water, or wagon road, development has followed, and as these facilities are increased and improved, so will development and prosperity follow in an increased ratio year by year. All know that the greater portion of the province, although known to be rich in natural resources, remains for want of proper facilities practically undeveloped. Holding as they do at the present time the destinies of the province in their hands, to a large extent, it seems the duty of the Legislature to see that their actions are directed by firmness and boldness, tempered with prudence and judgment. We must be progressive; we must not remain stationary or retrogression will follow. When therefore any proposition for the further development of the province, within the lines outlined, comes before the house he felt more than confident that it will receive due and careful consideration, not only from the government side of the house but from the opposition as well. (Applause.) He was glad to observe that the estimates were to be prepared with economy. With governments as with individuals, economy must be practised in time of dullness and depression. Efficiency, however, must always be kept in view, and properties which have been acquired for the public convenience, at public expense, must not be neglected. He had no doubt that although the showing for the past year may not be what all might wish it to be, yet it will prove to be such as to show the earnestness and care of the government over the welfare of the province in general. (Applause.)"

Sixty tons of machinery for Captain Moore's concentrator at Three Forks has arrived.

Some good specimens of high-grade galena have been brought from Ten-mile creek to New Denver.

A company is applying for a charter to build a railway from the north east arm of Arrow Lake to Trout Lake.

The C. P. R. is giving a rate of 42½ cents per hundred pounds on ore from Penticton to Vancouver, to be treated by the cyanide process.

Up to November 7th, 1937 tons of ore had been shipped from the Shewan, valued at \$105,900. The ore is moving at the rate of 50 tons per day.

Ex-Alderman Harry Collins is mentioned as a probable candidate for mayor of Vancouver next year.

Canada's inland revenue for the past four months was nearly a quarter of a million dollars less than in the same period last year.

On Friday last a C. P. R. train ran into a mud slide three miles east of Golden, and derailed the engine and three cars. A tramp stealing a ride on the break-rods was crushed to death.