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The Mail and Empire of Toronto: "Mr. Crockett, who has been exposing some of the grafting operations at Ottawa, is threatened by the Government with defeat at the next election if he does not desist. The threat comes through the columns of the Toronto organ, and is, therefore, official. What new exposures are the politicians at Ottawa expecting? What crookedness do they want Mr. Crockett to keep back? There must be something bad in the wind or intimidation would not be resorted to."

THE LEGISLATURE.

In opening the Legislature this afternoon the Lieutenant Governor was able to refer with gratification to the prosperous state in which provincial affairs are to be found. That such is the case will be learned with satisfaction by the people generally; and it will also be matter for thankfulness that nothing untoward has marked the course of events since the last occasion on which His Honor was called upon to refer to the subject. The condition of the agricultural industry upon which the prosperity and welfare of such a large section of the people depends continues very satisfactory, and it is gratifying to know that the measures which have been taken by the government during the past year to further enhance the prosperity of the farming community have met with pronounced success. A continuance of these methods on the part of the government may safely be looked for, which may be expected to give very satisfactory results in the future.

Another matter to which reference was made and in which the public is especially interested is the "corporate revenue." This, during the last fiscal year, was the largest in the history of the province, a fact which speaks well for those whose duty it is to look after the proper collection and management of it. That the revenue still shows a tendency to rise will be learned with satisfaction. The government is to be congratulated upon the success of the legislation which was passed last session to aid in the development of the Gloucester Iron Mines. The mineral resources of the province, wherever they have been opened up and worked, have proved to be of very considerable value, and this is especially true of the iron deposits of Gloucester. The wisdom of the policy of assisting in the development of these deposits has already been fully demonstrated, and it may confidently be expected that considerable benefit will accrue therefrom to the provincial revenue in the near future.

Notwithstanding the very unpropitious weather which prevailed during a great part of the past year, and which proved most unfavorable to the making and preservation of the roads, the wisdom of the provisions of the recent Highway Act have been very apparent. Now that the care of the roads is placed entirely in the control of the local authorities, it is possible to ensure the proper laying out of taxes levied for the maintenance of highways in the way it is intended they should be laid out, and not diverted to other uses. The result has been that the roads have been properly looked after, and that, despite a most unfavorable season, they are now in a better and more usable condition than has been the case for some years. With the policy of the Act adhered to and the spirit of its provisions properly carried out, it may be confidently expected that in a very few years the province will be possessed of highways which will be surpassed by none in the country.

Probably the paragraph in His Honor's speech in which most interest will centre, is that referring to the Valley Railway. Although suggestions referring to it have been before the province on and off for some years, and legislation of different kinds has been passed on the subject, it is only now that any practical and tangible scheme has ever been put forward under which its construction may become an accomplished fact. For the first time in the history of the proposition we have a

government in power which is prepared to take the matter up with the serious intention of carrying it to completion, and with this idea a bill will result in the construction of this railway in the near future. The members of the government realize the urgent need there is for the early realization of this already too long deferred project; and they are determined that by some means or other the conditions which have for so long retarded the development of some of the most productive portions of the province, and operated adversely to the interests of the residents, shall be done away with as soon as possible.

Of other legislation which is foreshadowed, probably the proposed Act to provide pensions for school teachers, and that for the establishment of a Board of Public Utility Commissioners, will excite the most interest. Both of these are matters in which large sections of the public are interested, and each of these is susceptible to useful legislation. As outlined in His Honor's speech, the forthcoming session promises to be one possessing no elements of bitter partisan contention, but rather highly important in the matter of constructive legislation. The government possesses the full confidence of the people, whose interests they may be depended upon to at all times promote.

PREMIER HAZEN AND HIS PARTY.

It has been the subject for general remark by those who have been observing events in legislative and executive arenas that at no time in the history of this province has a leader of government met the House with such a united and loyal following as that which today so heartily supports Premier J. Douglas Hazen at the opening of the third session of the fifth Legislative Assembly. On the trains leaving the representatives of the people to the capital, at the hotels, in the corridors of the Assembly and the departmental buildings, and in whatever other places public men gathered, unbounded confidence prevailed. We have had consistently prudent and honorable government since Premier Hazen's accession to power; the foundation upon which progressive and business-like administration is being built has been well laid; our resources have already multiplied under his care and protection, and now we can look into the future, in this era of healthy development so recently inaugurated, with full confidence and with high expectations. This is the situation impressed upon the public mind on the occasion of the opening of the Legislative Assembly today.

When Mr. Blair came into power in March, 1883, he was beset with many difficulties, not only in the construction of his government, but in satisfying his followers within and without the Legislature. It is a fact that every leader of a political party which has been a long time in the cool shades of opposition has difficulties to contend with on his coming into power. In Mr. Blair's case they were not only numerous, but they were very persistently pressed upon him, so much so that at one time in the earlier days as his immediate friends are aware, he had almost concluded to throw up office and abandon politics. Hooped day and night for office by his followers, worried by the threats of members of his party who through disappointment had become noisily dissatisfied, unnerved by the demands of leaders in sectional jealousies in his own camp in various sections of the province, a yearning to quit the business had seized him. His third session was torn in the extreme, and the rumors were persistent that several of his supporters in the House were in revolt; that he might have to face defeat before the session closed. He had indeed become so tired of the distressing situation that when the house closed on the 2nd of April, he determined to put an end to his trials by going to the country. He would find release either in defeat or in a victory which would make some changes in the personnel of his following. And before some of the members arrived home the writs for the elections were in the hands of the sheriffs of their counties.

But with Mr. Hazen, he goes into the third session with a united and an exceptionally loyal following. He, too, has no doubt had difficulties. He has had differences to adjust and a certain amount of dissatisfaction perhaps to remove and overcome. That he has been eminently equal to the occasion, that he has brought his party successfully through the session of uncertainty, while not sacrificing in the slightest even one of the sound principles upon which his policy of government is based, redounds greatly to the credit of the man, and stamps him as the ablest and the most successful leader of government we have yet had in the public life of this province.

Mr. Fielding says that while the Georgian Bay canal is a "very fascinating project," it is one which he intends to let severely alone. There have been other fascinating projects in regard to which Mr. Fielding might very usefully have adopted a similar course.

Municipalities Union Has Warm Praise For Government's Road Act

Delegates to Convention at Campbellton Unanimous in Their Support of the Provincial Administration's Highway Legislation--A Fair Trial of the Road Act Has Proved Satisfactory in All Parts of the Province--No Change Desired.

Campbellton, Feb. 16.—The fourth annual convention of the New Brunswick Municipalities opened here this morning. Every part of the province was represented and Hon. John Morrisey, chief commissioner of public works, represented the provincial government.

The Highway Act.

At the afternoon session the first speaker was the Hon. John Morrisey, Chief Commissioner of Public Works. He expressed his satisfaction at being present and admired the progress made by the town of Campbellton, which was entirely due to the enterprise of its citizens. The speaker then dealt with the highway act. He said that the highway act had handed over to the municipalities the authority for the expending of all monies for roads. The Government had made an earnest effort to administer the act fairly and impartially last year they had given the municipalities very little money for the reason that the taxes of 1908 and 1909 were available and they had felt that these were sufficient. He had just one theory for the making of roads, and that was good drainage. There was not a really good road from the St. Croix to the Resolvoche, in fact they were no better now than they were 20 years ago. The department had given all its energy to the repairing of bridges, which were found to be in a very bad condition and when this was completed the roads would be attended to. He was strongly in favor of appointing a practical man as an expert and putting him to work in constructing a road from the St. Croix to the Resolvoche much on the same principle that railroads are built.

It was the only way to get good roads. It would take some time and money to do it, but it would pay in the end.

Public Health Act.

Mr. Morrisey then spoke of the public health act. He said that this was a matter which was being considered by the government. It had been said that the boards of health were charging exorbitant prices but all he had to say was that if good men did the work, they would have to be paid. He understood that the doctors were to make suggestions for needed improvements in the act and he hoped this would be done. The speaker next referred to the assessment law. He said that assessors sometimes took advantage of their office to salt political opponents and those with whom they had a grievance. Altogether too much power was placed in their hands in this regard. As a result in many cases, there was an inequitable assessment, and the assessment lowered in order to elect the Highway Act as there was a fixed rate for roads purposes.

Liberal Allowance.

In conclusion, he remarked that it was the intention of the government to place a rather liberal amount of money at the disposal of the highway boards throughout the province this year.

City Clerk Magee of Moncton, moved a vote of thanks to the commissioner for his attendance and address. The motion was seconded by Mayor Murray of Campbellton and carried unanimously.

Secretary Bliss of York county opened up a discussion on the Highway Act. He stated that the York council in reference to improvement in the working of the act, but on mature deliberation decided not to do so as the act was considered to be very admirable. The act was not perfect, but no piece of legislation ever was or ever would be.

More Satisfaction.

Dr. Stirling of York County and Ald. Crandall also expressed themselves as being well satisfied with the highway act. Councillor Flewelling of Kings asked if the government grant was to be distributed through the highway board or through the members. In reply the chief commissioner stated that unfortunately the patronage system still existed and he was not in a position to say anything about the matter outside his own county in Northumberland and the money would be expended through the highway board.

Warden McNally and Councillor Tirmans of York and Councillor Stoll of Westmorland stated that the act was working well in their respective localities and a change was not desired.

Secretary McCready spoke of the necessity for a bacteriological laboratory in the province where way alk and other food supplies could be examined with a view to the prevention of disease. He stated that the matter of cost to the province could be very small as all that would be required was the necessary equipment for the laboratory. New Brunswick. He submitted a resolution to the effect that a committee be appointed to present the matter to the government asking for its adoption as soon as possible. After brief remarks in support of the resolution the secretary was appointed a committee above referred to. At the evening session Rev. T. Hurst spoke of the responsibility of municipalities for the prevention of

tuberculosis arranging his heads in form of an acoustic on the wall municipalities. Mr. J. S. Magee of Moncton commended the report of the Canadian Union which suggested a uniform system of accounting. The report was adopted on his motion and a committee will be appointed to take the necessary action. In this way statistics can be collected from the uniform reports sent to the different provincial governments. The convention then adjourned on the 17th tomorrow morning.

READY FOR TARIFF WAR WITH FRANCE

Officials Have Little Hope Now For Amicable Solution of Difficulties

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—With only about six weeks remaining for the tariff difficulties between France and the United States to be settled, the situation is said today to give little promise of an amicable solution, chiefly because the French government is showing no desire to press tariff negotiations with the United States. Mons. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, has had no consultation with members of the tariff board since about Jan. 15, when matters were left in an entirely unsatisfactory state. The silence of the Ambassador and the apparent non-concern of his government, leads to the belief that President Taft will not apply the American maximum tariff to French imports on March 31, or that it is needless to seek negotiations which will be mutually satisfactory to both countries. Officials here incline to the belief that France is banking on the probability that President Taft will not apply the maximum. If this is the case, the French government is badly misinformed, as officials of the State Department, members of the Tariff Board and all who have to do with the Franco-American negotiations are unanimous in declaring that there is nothing for the President to do but to apply the maximum to French products.

Before adjournment Mr. Bentley of St. John County, the only new member, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Robinson, leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Lovell, of St. John County, and the first government bill of the session was introduced. There was a good sized attendance of members for the opening day and proposals for amendments were made on the floor of the House included the members of the Supreme Court bench, and ex-Chief Justice Tuck, who accompanied them.

THE LEGISLATURE OPENED TODAY

(Continued from page 1.)
seconded by Mr. W. L. Allan, M. P. for Northumberland. Both are fluent speakers and their remarks were listened to with interest and marked by applause from time to time. Before adjournment Mr. Bentley of St. John County, the only new member, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Robinson, leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Lovell, of St. John County, and the first government bill of the session was introduced. There was a good sized attendance of members for the opening day and proposals for amendments were made on the floor of the House included the members of the Supreme Court bench, and ex-Chief Justice Tuck, who accompanied them.

I. O. G. T. DEMANDS.

"Winthrop," Ont., Feb. 17.—Independent Order Good Templars for the three prairie provinces is in session here and will formulate certain demands which will be made upon the provincial government, among which will be changes in the local option law, debarring non-resident voters from polling against the veto by-law.

ED. GEERS INJURED.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 17.—Veteran Ed Geers, the dean of harness drivers, suffered what is said to be his seventh break of a limb, as he was returning from the daily duty of training his horses yesterday. Geers was riding a saddle horse, a family pet, when he slipped at a goat. He will be laid up for two months, his leg is broken above the knee.

Splendid Show at Unique.

The entertainment put on at the Unique these nights is the equal of any of the leading picture houses in the larger cities. The subjects last night were exceptionally good. The same strong bill tonight, Friday night, "The Devil, the Servant and the Man."

MRS. E. A. SMITH

will deliver the popular illustrated Lecture, "Through Canada with a Camera" Will be given under the auspices of the W. F. M. S. of St. Paul's Church IN THE OLD KIRK. Tues. Evg., Feb. 22nd At 8 o'clock. Admission 25c.

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Farmers' and Dairymen's
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Everybody interested in the agricultural development of our Province should make it a point to be present.
One of the interesting features of the sessions will be the practical demonstration of Beef, Dairy Animals and Horses, in the ring and general discussion and score card judging under the direction of Prof. Cunningham and Dr. Stoddard of the College of Agriculture, Truro, N. S.
On Wednesday the Provincial Seed Fair will open and on Thursday, the 24th, the Fruit Growers will hold their Annual Meeting.
Excursion Rates from all points at one single first class fare on Standard Certificate Plan.

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