

LOCAL LEGISLATURE

Hon. Mr. Tweedie submitted returns of the votes polled for the City and County of St. John.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Tweedie and Mr. LeGere.

Hon. Mr. Jones was introduced by Hon. Mr. Pugsley and Hon. Mr. Farris.

Mr. Lowell, the new member for the county of St. John, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Lablache and Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Maxwell, the new member for the city of St. John, was introduced by Messrs. Hazen and Smith.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley introduced a bill respecting life and accident insurance companies.

The address in reply to the speech was moved by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Lowell, who both did as well as could have been expected.

Mr. Hazen was the next speaker and in rising, extended a hearty welcome to the two new members from St. John.

He spoke of the experience both as a member of the provincial legislature and as a member of the municipal council.

Referring to the speech from the throne, Mr. Hazen said it sounded too much like a funeral dirge.

"It is only noticeable for its length and its being filled with stale platitudes and bad English. Viewing it in that light, I almost thought that the custom of commenting upon it might today be given up."

He referred to the lack of useful legislation during recent years and said that one glaring omission in the speech is that there is no reference to the agricultural policy of the government.

The commissioner of agriculture, the colleague of my hon. friend, has not been allowed to have any hand in it. This is remarkable when it is considered that agriculture is our greatest industry.

Yet there may be good reasons for this omission. A few years ago the government embarked on a new policy with regard to agriculture and dairying.

It is now that the only county that is holding its own with respect to dairying is Kings. Does not this indicate that the dairying policy of the government has been a failure?

Continuing, he said: The paragraph with reference to the provincial hospital will not be objected to, and I have no doubt that the report of the manager will justify the course taken by the opposition with regard to that institution.

I remember, when on the Sunbury hustings, having Mr. Blair read me a letter from the hospital which said that anything against that institution, yet the report will show that the asylum was used as a dumping ground for persons who were a burden to their relatives, who wished them to be kept at the expense of the public. It is a pleasure for me to be able to say that from the best information I have been able to obtain, I believe that the hospital is a good one, and I hope that he will worthily fill the position.

The statement which is made with reference to mining development is a very modest one compared to what we have been accustomed to hear. I believe that some seven thousand tons of coal were mined last year. How are the mighty fallen! If we look up the addresses of the attorney general to the electors of Kings county in 1902 you will find that he promised royalties to the amount of \$50,000 a year from coal alone. The amount of royalty obtained last year was just \$700. How can my friend from Queens, in view of these facts, praise the government's mining policy? Has he forgotten that the line of railway from Chipman to Chipman to Fredericton and that this house on this promise guaranteed bonds to the extent of \$250,000? The Central Railway was also to be put in first-class condition. Why should the railway from Chipman to Norton today? Where is the railway from Chipman to the city of Fredericton? It is talked so much in the vicinity of Newcastle, so many times in this place, and the \$250,000 of bonds have all been endorsed and the money has been spent, and there is no money left to build the line here. Not one dollar of private capital has been raised to do the work. We also gave \$300,000 in bonds to place the Central Railway in first-class condition. What has been done with that large sum? We should have had a full and frank explanation on the point. The attorney general seems to have been the head and front of the whole business, and it will be his duty to tell what has become of these bonds.

Attorney General—You shall have the very fullest explanation.

The government has been engaged in chasing the rainbows for some years past. The attorney general promised the electors of Kings that he would get \$2,000,000 as share of the Halifax fishery award. My friend from Queens endeavored to extract some comfort from Mr. Wilfrid Laurier's statement in regard to the increase of the subsidy, but I would direct his attention to the reply made by Mr. Prefontaine the other day that it was not the intention of the government to submit the fisheries question to the courts.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—Have you seen the latest answer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Hansard?

Mr. Hazen—The statement made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier does not refer to the Halifax award at all. It is clear that the federal government are not willing to hand over this money unless compelled to do so. If we took the matter into court, we could not prove a legal right, because the money was given to the Queen.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—We have an equitable claim to it.

Mr. Hazen—Nova Scotia will not join us and we cannot hope to have this matter settled in our favor. The answer given to Mr. Carvell is that the case is still under the consideration of the department of justice. That is not very encouraging. The case has been under their consideration a long time. With regard to the federal subsidies, if we are ever to succeed in getting them increased, now is the time. The position I have always taken is that the terms proposed are not favorable to this province, and I hope that if the case is opened up that the terms will be improved. At the last session of the legislature the attorney general said he was glad to be able to state that he had a message from Sir Wilfrid conveying the idea that the increased subsidy would be granted. Now Sir Wilfrid states that he does not approve of the demands of the conference. Was the promise made by Sir Wilfrid to the government in writing or is this another case of the attorney general being too optimistic?

I have already referred to the barrenness of the legislation of the house in good results. The dominion government in its immigration policy is giving

no attention to anything east of Lake Superior. Our young men are going west, and although we are proud of our western heritage and glad to see them going to part of our own country instead of the United States, we would prefer to have them at home. The great difficulty in this province is the lack of agriculture and the fact that we have had an immigration policy, but it was directed along the wrong line, and people were brought out who were not fit for the needs of the country. We need immigration of three classes: first of a class that will take up deserted farms and capable of taking up new land; third, of a moneyed class, that will purchase improved farms which are now on the market, and with sufficient agricultural skill to make a profit on the investment or two carry out a survey of the field shows that at present efficient farm and domestic labor is not available among English-speaking people. In Great Britain today there are thousands of laborers who know nothing but farm work, whose yearly wage does not exceed \$25.

Another matter which demands attention is the improvement of agricultural education. I would also like to have the pleasure of hearing an address from Prof. Jas. Robertson on this subject. We should favor the encouragement of nature studies and school garden work. We should encourage a system of school consolidation. I think that the scheme put forward by the provincial board has a great deal to commend it and I am glad to see here today a gentleman from the province by whose liberality such a school is about to be established in that county. We should establish short courses in stock raising, also in poultry raising, and in the more effective carrying out of farmers' institutes and the establishment of women's institutes. There ought to be greater efforts on behalf of good roads, and the education of officials and the public generally. The road expenditure ought to be placed in charge of the municipalities.

A few years ago the government promised us some legislation in regard to our forests, but that promise was not carried out. We should have proper forestry laws, and the forest lands should be surveyed. There should also be a survey of our forest areas and a division between settlement and non-settlement lands. There is great room for legislative action along these lines. I congratulate my friends on their courage in leaving the office of solicitor general and surveyor general for a whole year. They have thus proved that we have too many paid officials in the government. They brought on the elections at last after the dominion elections, thereby showing a certain amount of cunning. The position of the member for St. John was due more to his own strength than to the assistance of the government. In the city of St. John they did not have the courage to put up a candidate against Mr. Skinner, who ran as a liberal and did not say one word in favor of the government.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I heard him say many words for the government. Mr. Hazen—Mr. Skinner said that he ran as a supporter of the liberal party, and again in filling up the government long service in this house seems to have counted for nothing and two new names have been put in. The man who was with the condemned man at the last said that Martin admitted having drowned the baby, but denied striking it with an oar.

The miners, who have had experience of gold-mining in various parts of the world, say that the further the lode goes the richer it becomes. Specimens have been taken showing a percentage of pure gold amounting to 3 1/2 per cent. Other specimens of auriferous quartz have been picked up in the neighborhood, showing varying percentages of gold.

Great excitement has been caused in the district by the discovery of the widest rumors are current, but no properly authenticated assays have yet been obtained.

It is to the discovery of a German scientist who was on a geological expedition that the discovery, should it be substantiated, will be due. Two experienced miners have been engaged for some time in working a vein which is said to be of fabulous richness. The vein has been proved to run for a distance of over ninety feet into the hillsides.

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