

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

Mr. LaForest Puts Himself on Record in the Local House.

COMPLAINS FOR FRENCH CANADIANS

Caught in a Questionable Piece of Work—The Debate—Lines Himself Against the Government—Hon. Mr. Lablouis Condemns Mr. Laforest's Attempt to Excite Religious and National Strife.

Fredericton, Feb. 16.—The new members of the legislative assembly were sworn in by Mr. Justice Barker. Mr. Young was introduced to Mr. Speaker by Premier Emmerson and Mr. Porter, and Mr. Fleming by Mr. Hazen and Mr. Shaw.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie submitted a return showing the municipal indebtedness of Northumberland county. Mr. Hazen asked leave to introduce a bill abolishing the office of solicitor general.

Mr. Tweedie took the ground that this bill could not be introduced by a private member. Such a bill could only be introduced by one having the authority of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. If a private member had the right to introduce such a bill as proposed by the leader of the opposition, such a member would have quite as much right to bring on a bill to abolish all the offices of the government.

Mr. Hazen said there was nothing in the rules of the house to interfere with his bringing in the proposed bill. He read rules 117 and 120, which might, he thought, be on this point, in support of his view. His bill did not involve the expenditure of the public money, but the saving of it. The journals of 1868 showed that Hon. Mr. Hazen had introduced a bill to abolish the office of solicitor general. There are five references in the journals of that year to the matter, and there was not a single instance that Mr. Wetmore had obtained the authority of his honor before introducing the bill.

Mr. Tweedie—What position did Mr. Wetmore occupy in 1868? Mr. Hazen—He was attorney general. Mr. Tweedie—Just so, he was attorney general of the government and introduced the bill as a government measure, and with the full consent of the lieutenant governor.

Mr. Hazen said there was nothing in the journals to bear out that contention. Mr. Tweedie—If you get the original bill you'll see Mr. Wetmore introduced it in his capacity of attorney general.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the bill might be introduced subject to objection and the committee ruling before it was further advanced. Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry: "Is it true, as stated in the Boston Globe, of January 21st last, that the committee of the Fredericton Tourist Association guaranteed the government that they would take the excellent exhibit now at the Crown Land office, transport it to Boston and pay all expenses, at the show, and return the exhibit to Fredericton without asking the government to pay one cent, and the government refused to allow the a society to have the exhibit on these terms?"

Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry: "Why was George O. D. Oty removed from his position as registrar of probates of the county of Kings? Was any complaint made to the government in reference to the manner in which the duties of the office were discharged by Mr. Oty during his thirteen years of service? Was there any charge made against him as an active political partisan, and if so was any investigation held into such charge?"

Hon. Mr. Pugsley gave notice of a motion for copies of all applications of petitions presented to the lieutenant governor or chief commissioner of public works or on behalf of Amelia Morton and others asking compensation for alleged injury done to certain intervals land of the petitioners situated in Cardwell parish, Kings county, by the raising and maintenance of the public highway adjoining the land, and also of all other papers relating thereto on file in the office of the chief commissioner.

Business was then taken until half-past seven o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson, containing the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, said that in raising for the first time during any session to address the house one's mind is naturally carried back over the year which has passed since we were last gathered together and we are reminded that while we have our little ills we have very much indeed to be thankful for. It is true that there are some dark shadows. While the grim messenger of death has not invaded our seats yet it has entered upon the floors of the legislature and taken from our midst one whom we delighted to honor in his official capacity as a reporter in this house, one who had a very high position in his profession as a stenographer of the courts, one who as official reporter was able, I think, at all times to claim the commendation of the members on both sides of the house, and one who took a very high position indeed from a literary standpoint by his excellent articles with reference to New Brunswick as a sportsman's paradise. He (Emmerson) felt that he could endorse very heartily in kind words which the honorable leader of the opposition had used in reference to the late Mr. Risteen.

After complimenting the mover and second of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, Mr. Emmerson said it gave him great pleasure in complimenting the leader of the opposition on the manner in which he had discharged his duty. It seemed to him, however, that there was something in the position of the leader of an opposition which was inclined to make him somewhat of a martyr. He seemed to go it as their whole duty to simply fight, without regard to whether the objects are entitled to criticism. The objects of an opposition or the members

of an opposition might well criticize subjects which are entitled criticism but he did not think it should be their faith and creed to denounce everything which might be presented by the government of the day. He (Emmerson) had no fault to find with the manner in which his honorable friend had criticized but he did not think he did himself full justice. If his criticism was divided into classes it would seem as though it should be a criticism as to constitutional usage, the second a criticism with reference to the meagreness of the bill for fear contained in the speech from the throne, the third a very serious complaint, as he stated, that the speech contained too much, and then as a final utterance of complaint he said there was not enough in it.

As to the grievance with reference to constitutional usage, this is the custom which has always prevailed in the motherland in the Canadian parliament and in the various provinces of the dominion. There is a sort of prerogative on the part of the crown that the speech is not to be published or placed in the hands of any member of the house until it has been read by his honor from the throne. My honorable friend as leader of the opposition should be able to reasonably anticipate all that any government might do in the month of the representative of the sovereign as in the interests of the people, and he (Emmerson) was sure that he did so anticipate it and therefore that he had no reasonable ground for complaint.

With reference to the complaint that the address in reply to the speech should not be considered on the first day, he (Emmerson) believed the house could do justice to itself and to the demands of the country by dealing with it on the opening day, and he believed it to be in the interests of the country that it should be so dealt with.

Dealing with the second complaint, which was that his honorable friend did not contain material of a character that met the requirements of the province of New Brunswick said he did not believe a speech was ever presented of more vital and essential character than the one read by his honor at the opening of this session.

Let us take up the subjects which have been referred to in the speech. Surely my honorable friend does not complain of the period of prosperity which has existed in the province during the past year. While he is constrained to agree that such is the case, yet with a spirit of lamentation he says it is not going to last. He did not think his honorable friend had a very full appreciation of the resources of this province and the energy of its people. He was living under a cloud of gloom and he was not looking into the future of this province. He believed we were on the eve of a period of prosperity which has existed in this province and the peer of any province in Canada. (Applause.) He did not think his honorable friend could have been so shortsighted as to be only criticizing for the sake of throwing discredit on the government. He (Emmerson) did not claim that the prosperity was due to this government or to any government but he did claim that a government could contribute very materially to the welfare of the country by the

Energy and Activity which they displayed in dealing with those public matters which properly came within their jurisdiction, and he thought he had a right to claim that the government of New Brunswick had exerted itself in a way that should merit some applause at least for the manner in which they had dealt with the questions which from time to time had come before them. He did not believe the present conditions of prosperity of this province and the opening up of trade they proposed doing it to the best of their ability, and he felt sure that in doing it they would have the hearty support at least of every member on both sides of the house and, he trusted, the support as well of the members of the opposition. (Applause.) Referring to the second paragraph in the speech Mr. Emmerson said he felt sure that the sentiments there in express-d would strike a responsive chord in the heart of every man in the province of New Brunswick, the loyalty of all classes of the Canadian people of Canada to their queen and the empire is unquestionable. It is a national and normal and abiding principle, and why not, protection, civil and religious liberty, constitutional freedom and equal laws are the supreme characteristics and conditions of her country. That

Love and Devotion to Our Queen as the type and living representative of constitutional freedom, a well ordered government, a generous present and a hopeful future, is the ruling passion of British subjects the world wide empire over. It excites no surprise, it does not even excite a question in our minds, because it is all a truism. I do not intend to go into the history of the war in the Transvaal, or the cause which led up to it, but if I dwell upon the question at all I would dwell only in the light of history. I would dwell with it beginning with our existence as a people—as a dependency. If you will, of Great Britain—and I would refer to the

citizenship which existed in this province previous to confederation. I would follow down from that period to within the past few years and I would draw a contrast between the citizenship which existed previous to 1867 and the citizenship of the period between 1867 and recent years, and I would reiterate that within a very short time there has burst upon us a breadth and a broadness which we in no sense recognized in previous years. (Applause.) I am sure that every man is proud to boast of the fact that he is a Canadian—no matter what his creed, no matter what his ancestry may have been. As a Canadian citizen today he is a citizen of an empire (applause) and I am sure that this house and this country tonight recognize the fact that the enlarged citizenship which they recognize its added responsibility, they will feel the weight of those responsibilities, but I am sure they have always been, to every responsibly which has been cast upon them. (Applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Emmerson said there regretted seemed to have escaped the notice of the honorable leader of the opposition. He in no way referred to the despoiling of the land and the resources of the old land and the wealth and resources of our province. He (Emmerson) recognized the fact that in the past New Brunswick has not been known to the people of the old land and the wealth and resources of our province. He (Emmerson) recognized the fact that in the past New Brunswick has not been known to the people of the old land and the wealth and resources of our province. He (Emmerson) recognized the fact that in the past New Brunswick has not been known to the people of the old land and the wealth and resources of our province.

Defect in our Immigration System, and that more attention should be given to bringing before intending settlers from the old land the province of New Brunswick. There it was the government had sent an agent to the old land to bring before the people our resources in dealing with immigrants. He did not wish to say anything against the western territory, but he believed the marriage laws of the motherland advantages which could not be had in the west. Therefore we are trying to give to the representative of the province distinctive information with respect to these advantages—to our social conditions, to our climatic conditions—all these are misunderstood, and in the motherland in England, in Scotland and in Ireland, with respect to our province, certainly do not do us justice.

Referring to the subject of a technical school, Mr. Emmerson said he did not think the honorable leader of the opposition had grasped the needs of the province in this direction. He had referred to the direction of connection with McGill University. Of course we can never hope to reach such magnitude as the institutions of the east, but we can keep the legislature busy for at least a large part of a session.

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Consolidation of the Statutes. If this matter were dealt with simply from the standpoint of the legal profession there might not be any very serious complaint because by reason of the condition of our statutes today there is a great deal of grist brought to the mill of the legal profession. Every practicing lawyer has his consolidated statutes annotated, with the latest amendments simply being tacked on to the end of the volume. This is a most creditable manner. Recently brought about in this province.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson, continuing the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, said that in raising for the first time during any session to address the house one's mind is naturally carried back over the year which has passed since we were last gathered together and we are reminded that while we have our little ills we have very much indeed to be thankful for. It is true that there are some dark shadows. While the grim messenger of death has not invaded our seats yet it has entered upon the floors of the legislature and taken from our midst one whom we delighted to honor in his official capacity as a reporter in this house, one who had a very high position in his profession as a stenographer of the courts, one who as official reporter was able, I think, at all times to claim the commendation of the members on both sides of the house, and one who took a very high position indeed from a literary standpoint by his excellent articles with reference to New Brunswick as a sportsman's paradise. He (Emmerson) felt that he could endorse very heartily in kind words which the honorable leader of the opposition had used in reference to the late Mr. Risteen.

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or the individual members of the government. The honorable gentleman has referred to the changes which have taken place in the government during the past few months. He referred particularly to his (Emmerson's) colleague from the city of St. John (McKeown), and he called attention to the fact that the honorable gentleman had been in opposition to this government, or to the men who compose the government. There is not a man in the government today who was the government at the time to which he makes reference. But, perhaps, my honorable friend does not remember that an honorable friend of his, who was not in the government at the time, was in opposition to the government. Surely he has not forgotten the time when he came from his home in the city of St. John to the county of York to jubilate over the victory of the government which my colleague from the city of St. John opposed. Continuing, Mr. Emmerson said he did not think there was any mystery in connection with the recent changes in the government. He did not think it very strange that he should take the position of attorney general, after performing for many years the duties of the office of commissioner of public works. If the honorable leader of the opposition sought to reflect in any way upon himself as a minister of the crown, it would be well to become him (Emmerson) to seek to attract the attention of the house or country to any qualifications which he might have in the matter. He could only say that during the time he had held the office of chief commissioner he had endeavored to do his duty to the best of his ability, and in the interests of the country, it was not for him to stand in a being placed in the position of attorney general, but he would say this: He would do justice to the position which he now held he would not for a moment attempt to predict, but he would say that if the same gentleman had acted in the past as he believed it would, he would give to the country the talents which God had given him. (Applause.) As to his colleague, the present chief commissioner, he wished to say that he would be glad to have his record in comparison with the record of any attorney general who had ever held office in this province, and it would be found that he had done his duty and the ability which he had displayed in the discharge of his duties would compare favorably with any other who had held the position of attorney general. Attending to the criminal prosecutions of the province was by any means the whole duty of the attorney general, and he believed that he had done his duty at least three months of the year attending meetings of the government. Documents have to be prepared, and these are all referred to the attorney general to be dealt with by him, as well as a multitude of other questions which are constantly coming up. He (Emmerson) could only hope that he would be able to approach the standard of the late attorney general and present chief commissioner. Mr. Emmerson said that before going further he wished to contradict a report with which his name had been connected. He wished to say that any changes which had occurred in the government during the past year, or at any time within his knowledge, he had assumed the office of attorney general because he did not feel able to properly perform the onerous duties of the office of chief commissioner, as well as those connected with his position as the leader of the government. These were the sole reasons which actuated him to be placed in the position which he now held. His name had been connected with a judgeship and while judgeship is a high honor he wanted it, but he understood that he was not waiting for any man's shoes or for any public position. So long as he could, with credit to himself and with a due regard to duty which he owed to his country and his constituency, he would continue in the position which he now holds, and if any attempts on his part were made to remove him from the position, the leader of the opposition, from the position which he now holds he (Emmerson) wanted him to be removed, but what was had to pay for it. Our exhibit surpassed the exhibit from any other state, and it excited the jealousy of these men. After the show was over they did not even show signs of interest in our attempts to get a refund of the duty. We found the whole thing was simply a money-making scheme, and it is said they made \$40,000 or \$50,000 out of it.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson—Do I understand that you never got a refund of this duty? Hon. Mr. Emmerson—We never did. He did not think our collection in the Crown Land office was collected for the purpose of peddling it over the country for show purposes, and thus destroying it. He (Emmerson) said: I have an abounding faith in the future prosperity of this province, not merely as an agricultural province, but in the lines of our mineral development, and I hope that these results will be realized to their fullest extent. We can realize our changed conditions, in the agricultural, agricultural and other citizenship as the world. (Applause.) Mr. Emmerson next referred to the mineral development of the province. Devon in Charlotte is a company of Devonian New York capitalists which has been formed for the purpose of developing the copper mines on the islands in Passamaquoddy Bay. There is an English company working at St. Stephen in connection with the copper or nickel mines there, and it is said the prospects are

very encouraging. In Albert county there are two companies with very large capital; one has expended some \$75,000 in the purchase of a railway, and are also purchasing the Albert Southern as an extension of the Salisbury and Harvey line. What are known as the oil shales constitute the mineral properties. They have paid to the owners large sums of money, and have commenced development. With reference to the oil, he would say that Prof. Shaler, who had charge of the explorations, had stated that the results had more than surpassed his expectations, and he (Emmerson) looked forward to the day, and he thought it was not far distant, when it will have been demonstrated that we have in the northern and eastern counties compare with the oil districts in many of the states of the union. Then, near Moncton, near Coal Branch, there has been discovered a very valuable deposit of coal. The seam is not a very large one, but the development there promises well. It is also stated that an English company has purchased the iron deposits in the county of Gloucester, and that they purpose at the very earliest moment in the spring to open up the same. This means that progress is being made and an interest awakened. In conclusion Hon. Mr. Emmerson said: I have an abounding faith in the future prosperity of this province, not merely as an agricultural province, but in the lines of our mineral development, and I hope that these results will be realized to their fullest extent. We can realize our changed conditions, in the agricultural, agricultural and other citizenship as the world. (Applause.) Mr. Emmerson next referred to the mineral development of the province. Devon in Charlotte is a company of Devonian New York capitalists which has been formed for the purpose of developing the copper mines on the islands in Passamaquoddy Bay. There is an English company working at St. Stephen in connection with the copper or nickel mines there, and it is said the prospects are

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