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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., MARCH 30, 1899

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The Provincial House of Assembly was opened in due form last Thursday, Mr Geo. F. Hill, M. P. P., for Charlotte County, being elected Speaker. The Speech from the Throne, which we publish elsewhere in our columns, was moved by Mr. Geo. Robertson, M. P. P., for St. John City, an old Kent County boy, and seconded by Mr. Thos Lawson, M. P. P., of Victoria. In this is outlined some very important and practical legislation, and we are glad to notice that the interest manifested during the past years by the Local Government in the development of agriculture is to be continued and extended in desirable directions. The proposition to develop pork raising by the establishing up-to date pork packing establishments in this Province, is one that will meet with the assent of the New Brunswick Agriculturist regardless of his party leaning. In the County of Carleton, the only section of our Province which has entered extensively into pork raising, this industry has proven a paying one for the farmers, and it is freely conceded that where swine are raised under proper conditions and in large numbers and sold at 4 cents a pound, it is the farmer's most profitable industry. What has been done in Carleton County can be done with good success in every County in the Province if a certain market is secured for the product so that there need be no fear of our production breaking the price below what is a proper return to the farmer. If a large, modern pork packing establishment could with the Government's aid be started at a central point, as for example at the City of St. John, where it would be at the point of shipment of the finished product to the markets of Great Britain, and at the same time be within freighting distance of the pork raisers along both the I. C. Ry. and C. P. Ry., the success of the project would be assured. The Carleton County pork almost in its entirety is at present shipped to St. John to the local pork packers and the trial establishment proposed by the Government should be placed there to be of most benefit.

The proposed introduction of modern road machinery is a sensible move in the right direction. Our people have in the past six or seven years seen what can be accomplished in road making by the use of the road plows introduced by the Government against the bitter opposition of the people of all sections. The present proposition is a natural and intelligent progression of the same policy which gave us the road plow and we wish the experiment every success. The antique methods of road construction in vogue in all

parts of this Province have been recognized as expensive and undesirable by those who have had the opportunity of comparing them with the up-to-date system adopted in Ontario. This is a question in which every citizen is interested and to no class is it of such vital importance as the farmers and lumbermen of our Province to whom the condition of the roads means profit or loss. We are therefore pleased to see the activity displayed in this direction by the Government led by the Hon. H. R. Emmerson, who has personally displayed the most active interest in the subject.

The reference to the decision of the Privy Council in regard to the rights of the Province in the fisheries would lead us to suppose that until the respective provincial and federal rights in the shore fisheries located within the three mile limit is defined, there will be a disposition on the part of the two governments to agree on the terms by which the Dominion Government shall continue their control. However, until the promised measure is introduced dealing with this subject, it were perhaps best to withhold discussion of the subject.

Legislation is also promised dealing with the settlement of the crown lands; to amend the law relating to the protection of game; to encourage the development of our mineral wealth and to stimulate the manufacture of creamery butter. We are therefore assured that the session will be a busy one although it is probable that owing to the preponderance of strength in the government benches there will be little of the vexatious delay which has too frequently characterized the sessions of our Local Legislature.

We must congratulate Mr. Geo. Robertson, M. P. P., of St. John, on the really clever speech made by him in moving the adoption of the Speech from the Throne in the Local Legislature. Not having any previous legislative experience it was reasonable that this gentleman should show a trifle of hesitation at the outset, but after he got well started this entirely disappeared and period after period of brilliant oratory was received with impassioned applause by the members of the House. The closing sentences particularly were well worded, and delivered with splendid effect, Mr. Robertson being in good voice. It was a happy introduction to the House of the member from St. John and augurs for him the attention of the members whenever he shall rise in his place to speak on behalf of his constituency.

Needless to say Mr. Robertson is a native of Kent County.

A SPLENDID RECORD.

The outline of the work performed in the past three years by the Laurier Administration given by the Premier in reply to Sir Charles Tupper shows a record of which the Liberal Party may well feel proud. The remarkable prosperity of the Dominion since 1896 is a pleasing fact which not all the idle bluster of the aged baronet from Cumberland can dispute, and the vain egotism of that gentleman in claiming that prosperity as the outcome of the Conservative policy is simply mirth provoking to the people of Canada. It is really not a vital question to the people who are feeling the benefit whether Sir Charles Tupper should in his second childhood claim the credit, for as the Premier shrewdly suggested the main point is the existence of the prosperity. The people of Canada are willing to support a party in power which can bring good times and are not given to a very critical examination to determine whether the prosperity is due to the fact that

the Liberal party has "squared Providence" or has merely followed the prosaic method of introducing a sound business policy in the management of the county's affairs.

The Manitoba School Question which previous to 1896 had been threatening the very existence of the Confederation has been relegated to the province to which it properly belonged and all the logic chopping argument of Mr. Geo. E. Foster will not convince the electorate that it has not been settled so far as being an issue in our federal politics is concerned. The whirlwind of race and religious dissension raised by the insincerity and indecision of the time serving politicians in charge of the Conservative party has been quieted by the fair dealing and honesty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues and the county has not forgotten the great service.

The denouncing of the German and Belgian treaties in four months and the introduction of a 25 per cent. tariff preference on British imports into Canada in the face of the Conservative claim that such a thing was impossible of accomplishment turns the sarcastic and bitter denunciation of Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues into ridicule, and makes the accomplishment appear so much the more worthy of laudation. The increase of 6 per cent. in the value of British imports into this country shows that the preference is having the desired effect in promoting trade within the empire.

The establishment of both domestic and imperial penny postage is something that will favourably move the present Administration for all time to come. The jealousy of the Conservative leaders at the credit gained by Postmaster General Mulock has been almost laughable and their efforts to prove that this credit belonged to Mr. J. Henniker Heaton are entirely discredited by the statement of that gentleman himself, who gives to Mr. Mulock the honor of the efforts which brought about the reform. As far as Canada is concerned it was the honest, economical administration of the Post office department in reducing the Conservative deficit in 1895 in the postal service of \$781,000 to a deficit of only \$70,000 in 1898 which was the biggest factor in the establishment of penny postage, and which in fact made it possible. As Sir Wilfrid showed, the reduction in postage meant reduction of 1/3 in the present income of the Postal department for the time being, but under the present economical management that could only mean that the deficit this year would be no more than one half what it was under the Conservatives before the reduction.

The extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal has even in one short year justified itself, while the stand taken by the Government with the C. P. R. at the time the contract was made for the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway has saved the farmers of the West 3 cents on every 100 pounds of farm produce, and has resulted in a reduction in freight on merchandise of from 10 to 15 per cent., making a saving of \$60,000, to the people of the west in freight rates alone. Yet this was the contract for which the Administration, and particularly the Hon. Minister of Railways, was stigmatised as dishonest. "The mills of the gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding sure," and it seems as if Sir Charles Tupper and his associates were destined to be brought to confusion in every vicious attack made against the Laurier Administration.

The position of the Government on the Reciprocity negotiations,

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and the Prohibition question is sensible and satisfactory. The statement of the Premier in regard to the former will satisfy all sensible men that while the Government is anxious to leave no stone unturned to accomplish the desired result, it will at the same time see that the interests of Canada are properly conserved in any treaty which may be made. The adjournment of the Commission as we have explained to our readers is to give an opportunity to the countries to arrive at an amicable agreement by diplomatic means of the questions at issue in connection with the Alaskan boundary. The Premier's explanation of the stand taken by the Administration in refusing to introduce a Prohibition measure in view of the undecided vote of the Plebiscite will meet with general approval.

In three years the Liberal Administration has accomplished more than their opponents did in eighteen, and in view of the record the Leader is justified in the statement that Canada closed one era in 1896 and had started out on a new one of progression and prosperity.

A DANGEROUS SUBJECT.

The St. John Globe, with more courage than discretion, divides the Local Legislature on federal lines in the following way:

Liberals—Veniot, Burchill, Barnes, Johnston, Emmerson, Scoville, Dunn, McLeod, Purdy, McKeown, Robertson, Hill, Todd, Russell, O'Brien (Charlotte), Robinson, Wells, Farris, Carpenter, Thompson, Whitehead, Smith, McCain, Carvell, Porter, Lawson, LaForest, Gagnon—28.

Conservatives—LaBilloy, Mott, Poirier, Burns, Tweedie, O'Brien (Northumberland), Fish, Legere, Humphrey, Melanson, Osman, White, Shaw, Hazen, Glazier, Gibson, Campbell—17.

Independent—Pugsley—1.

The next federal election will show the Globe that it was quite astray in its decision of the opinions of the local members on federal politics and that the preponderance of Liberals in the House of Assembly was greater than it

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supposed. Like Rip Van Winkle, the editor of the Globe has been slumbering for a time on the mountain tops of theorism, while more active forces of the Liberal party have been carrying on with effect the work in which the Globe should have been the leader. If we were disposed to discuss in detail the list prepared by our St. John contemporary so as to show its error in particular, the well-remembered advice of London Punch to the individual who was contemplating matrimony would cause us to refrain from so dangerous a subject for newspaper discussion.

The placing of Mr. William Pugsley in the loneliness of independence is a piece of delicious humour from which not even the duty to its party was powerful enough to induce the Globe to refrain.

RECOGNITION OF PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

For very many years the Federal Government showed a disposition to keep from the Provinces rights which belong to the latter, it being apparently the doctrine of Sir John Macdonald and his successors in the Conservative leadership that there was a natural enmity between the Federal and the Provincial Governments. We in New Brunswick found it impossible to get a settlement of our Eastern Extension Claim although the justice of the claim was generally admitted. We are glad to notice from the declaration contained with Governor's speech in opening the House of Assembly last week that this claim is in a fair way to be at last adjusted. The report of the Premier and Attorney General of Nova Scotia in reference to the present status of the provincials claims for refund of money spent on railways is as interesting to the people of the Province as to Nova Scotia. The report is as follows:—

On Monday, the 2nd of January, your delegates had a formal meeting at which Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir L. H. Davies, the Honorable Messrs. Fielding, Blair, Paterson, Scott and Sifton were present. As claims of a similar character are being pressed by the province of New Brunswick the representatives, Hon. Messrs. Emmerson, Tweedie and White, were present at this interview, and the Hon.

Mr. Farquharson, representing the government of Prince Edward Island, was also present pressing claims of that island, but not of the same character as those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

After a full discussion of the matters between us an understanding was reached, subject to the approval of the respective governments interested, that these claims should be fully considered by the federal government and if that government was unable to report in favor of payment, then in such case the Dominion government would agree to refer the claims to a committee of arbitration.

We understand that the provincial Governments have since received an intimation from Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the matter has been considered in Council and by it has been referred to a sub-committee for investigation. The Premier further stated that in case of the failure of the sub-committee to agree to the payment of the amounts claimed by the various Provinces that the Dominion Government would be willing to refer the matter to arbitration. This straightforward method of dealing with the long suppressed claims of the Provinces stands out in marked contrast to the evasive policy of the late Conservative Government which for so many years kept at issue these vexatious matters. There is now every prospect of the speedy settlement of the Provincial rights which have been so long kept in abeyance by the autocrats in power at Ottawa from 1873 until 1896. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues are to be congratulated upon their business-like method of dealing with business matters, while the people of New Brunswick may congratulate themselves on the good sense displayed in returning to power a Local Administration which has prosecuted to a successful issue this just claim of our province.

WISH TO MAKE A NEW PROVINCE.

OTTAWA, March 28—A delegation headed by D. F. Burk, Port Arthur, waited on Hon. Mr. Mills, Minister of Justice to see what course it is necessary to pursue to cut out a new province to comprise the northern part of Ontario, Keewatin and a part of Manitoba. Mr. Mills told them that it would be necessary to get the consent of Ontario before anything was done, and if Manitoba was interfered with that province's consent would also have to be obtained.

SAVED THE BABY. "Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry saved my baby's life. She was cutting her teeth and was taken ill with Diarrhoea very badly. My sister advised Fowler's Strawberry. I got a bottle and it stopped the trouble at once." Mrs. Peter Jones, Warkworth, Ont.