

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

FORMALLY OPENED BY LIEUT. GOVERNOR MCCLELAN—TEXT OF THE SPEECH READ FROM THE THRONE.

FREDERICTON, March 23.—The first session of the new provincial parliament was duly opened to-day by His Honor Lieut.-Governor McClelan. There was the usual military attendance and a large crowd of interested spectators. The Hon. George Hill, of Charlotte county, was elected speaker. His Honor read the following

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as the representatives of the people returned at the recent general election. We have great cause for thanksgiving that the many blessings which our people have in the past enjoyed are through the mercies of a kind Providence still continued to us.

## WELCOME TO LORD MINTO.

You are already aware that since the last session of the Legislature Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Earl of Minto, Governor General of Canada. I am sure that you will join with me and the people of Canada generally in extending cordial greetings to His Excellency, in whom we shall, I feel assured, find a constitutional representative of our beloved Queen.

The expression of welcome which we loyally accord to the new Governor-General will not lessen in any degree the regrets which we experienced at the departure of the Earl of Aberdeen, whose untiring zeal and devotion to the general prosperity of the people of Canada, signally characterized his administration and served in a marked degree to cement the bonds which attach our people to the Empire.

## THE INCREASED PROSPERITY

of the Dominion during the past year in Trade and in Commerce, and the extent to which the resources of Canada are becoming known throughout the Empire and the World, encourage the trust that there will be not only a continuation of such conditions, but greater activity in all industrial efforts during the current year, over all portions of the Dominion and that the high hopes of the people as to the future of our country will be abundantly realized.

## THE SPORTSMAN'S EXHIBIT.

The interesting character of the exhibit made by this province at the Sportsman's show held in Boston in March last, did so much to bring to the notice of the people of this continent the unrivalled opportunities which we offer to the sportsman and tourist, and was in all respects so promotive of good results, that the expectations of my government in undertaking the display were, I am pleased to announce, more than realized.

## NEW BRUNSWICK'S RESOURCES.

The awakened interest which I am glad to note is being taken in the Mineral resources of our Province has encouraged my Government to take further steps to secure the prospecting the development of the heretofore dormant wealth of our country's undeveloped resources, and a measure having this object in view will be submitted for your consideration.

## THE PORK RAISING INDUSTRY.

That efforts put forth by my Government in the past to stimulate and advance the Agricultural interests of New Brunswick have been fraught with such favorable results, that they have been led to make further advances in this same direction and there will be presented to you propositions to develop and promote that branch of animal husbandry known as Pork raising, with a view to the promotion of pork packing establishments in our midst, thus enabling us as a Province to more successfully compete with other Provinces and States in the markets of Great Britain and other countries.

## THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The pronounced success which has attended the efforts of my Government to advance the cheese industry, has encouraged them to make additional strenuous efforts to induce the manufacture of creamery butter throughout the Province during the whole year. To this end there has been erected by the Province a model creamery and butter making establishment at Sussex, which is now in successful operation, and has so fully demonstrated the fact that butter of the best grade can be advantageously made in the Province, at all seasons, that the Government confidently anticipate that similar industries will be established as a result of private enterprise at all suitable points throughout the Province. Already one such industry has been started at Woodstock. This establishment at Sussex has incidentally enabled the Government to provide the very best facilities for a Provincial Dairy School.

## SETTLING THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The desirability of encouraging the settlement of our public lands by our own people and by suitable immigrants from other lands, has been recognized in the past by the Government, and I feel assured that there is no abatement of that desire upon the part of the present Legislature and the people generally. The authority given by the Legislature at its

last session was acted upon, with results that promise favorably, but it is realized that if we are to encourage any appreciable flow of desirable settlers from the old lands, it will be necessary to have more and better information, in succinct form, as to the natural features and varied resources of our whole Province, and of its facilities for every branch of industry, than has hitherto existed, with a view to its judicious dissemination and distribution among the people of Great Britain and other European countries.

## IMPROVING THE HIGHWAYS.

The interest which is being taken by our people in the subject of improved highways, and the construction and maintenance of our common roads, has resulted in much intelligent discussion as to how these objects can best be obtained. In view of this you will be asked to make provision for the introduction of modern road machinery, so as to demonstrate to the people, as far as possible, its utility in making and maintaining proper road way.

## THE EASTERN EXTENSION CLAIMS.

The claim of the Province against the Dominion in the matter of the Eastern Extension Railway has, during the recess received attention, and you will be gratified to learn that my Government has the strongest encouragement to hope that a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the claim, will be effected in the near future.

## PROVINCIAL FISHING RIGHTS.

The recent decision of the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council, dealing with the subject of the Fisheries, and the respective rights therein of the Provinces and Dominion confirms the claim made by the Provinces to valuable and extensive fishing rights over which the Dominion Government have hitherto assumed the exclusive property and control, and defines more fully than had before been done, the respective jurisdiction of the Federal and Local Governments over the subject matter of the fisheries, at the same time leaving unimpaired the duty cast upon the Dominion to foster and protect all fisheries. A committee of my Government, early in the year held a conference on the matter with a committee of the Federal Government, and their report will be submitted to you, from which it will appear that the department of Marine and Fisheries claims, that, while the judgment of the Privy Council is explicit upon most points, it still, unfortunately, leaves open to question the claim of the province to proprietary rights in those shore fisheries located within the three mile limit and below low water mark. In view of the circumstances and the importance of the interests involved, it is desirable that my Government should be placed in a position to enable them to deal fully, effectively and promptly with the whole subject matter and with all conditions and phases of the questions which are liable to arise, and to this end a measure dealing with the matter will be submitted to you.

## SALE OF PROVINCIAL BONDS.

The unprecedentedly high price realized from the sale of Provincial 3 per cent. Bonds issued in February, 1898 to redeem outstanding debentures then maturing was most satisfactory, demonstrating, as it did, the very excellent standing of the province in financial circles. Since then my Government have effected the sale of 3 per cent. bonds at par, thus evidencing the fact that the financial credit of the Province, not only stands very high, but is advancing in a marked degree. A measure will be submitted to you giving authority to redeem, from time to time as they mature, Bonds bearing a rate of interest about three per cent by other Bonds to be issued and bear interest at a rate not exceeding three per cent.

## THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure for the past year, as well as a statement of the Receipts and Payments of the current year, up to the opening of the present Session, to be laid before you. Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure for the current year will be submitted to you, and I trust that you will learn that the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with careful regard to economy and the requirements of the public services.

## LEGISLATION FORESHADOWED

In addition to the Legislation already mentioned as being in contemplation, Bills relating to the Settlement of Crown Lands, to amend the Law relating to the protection of Game, and various other measures of importance will be submitted for your consideration, and I venture the belief that your deliberations, under Divine Guidance, will ensure to the general welfare and prosperity of our Province and People.

FREDERICTON, March 24.—In the provincial legislature yesterday, after His Honor the Lieut.-governor had retired, and Speaker Hill had resumed the chair, Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill amending the game law, which bill, on the ground of urgency, was read a first and second time. The reading of the speech by Mr. Speaker was dispensed with. The House then proceeded to consider the speech from the Throne.

## MR. ROBERTSON

in moving the address in reply thanked His Honor on behalf of the members for

the welcome extended to them. Mr. Robertson then paid a tribute to the excellent choice of the successor to Lord Aberdeen, and he said, the present governor-general was likely to prove himself a worthy successor to his distinguished predecessors in the discharge of his high and important office. (Hear, hear.)

All, he said, must endorse his honor's reference to the increased prosperity of the Dominion during the past year in trade and commerce. The awakening interest in the mineral resources is a feature of an encouraging nature. For instance the Yukon gold fields, the coal resources of Nova Scotia, also the probable oil and coal resources of New Brunswick. He spoke at considerable length on the success of the flour mill policy and predicted our farmers would raise more wheat this year than ever before. Mr. Robertson devoted considerable attention to the financial position of the province, which now stood high in the money markets of the world; and after giving the government credit for having done much to aid the many and varied interests in the province, he appealed to the people at large to co-operate with the administration in bringing about the highest attainable stage of development. He closed with these words: "As descendants of the loyalists; as descendants of the Anglo-Saxons; as descendants of the Normans and the Celts, and as descendants of the Acadians, New Brunswick should have all the energy necessary to make this province the great one that nature intended New Brunswick should be." (Great applause.)

## MR. LAWSON,

who seconded the address, after complimenting Mr. Hill on his election as speaker, expressed surprise that such an advocate of woman suffrage as the premier had countenanced a speech that contained no word of regret at the departure of Lady Aberdeen. He felt that New Brunswick was taking a prominent part in the new era of prosperity that had dawned upon Canada and while not a believer in paternalism, he hoped the legislature would do all in its power to assist in the development of the natural resources of the province. Mr. Lawson's maiden speech was well received by the house and he was repeatedly applauded.

## MR. J. D. HAZEN

followed. He started in by referring to the great loss to the province is not having Dr. Stockton in the House, owing to his thorough knowledge of parliament, law and practice. Referring to the Eastern Extension claim question was considered by Mr. Hazen who thought that a favorable reply should be received at once referring to the financial question, Mr. Hazen said there was nothing in the statement that the excellent financial position of the province as shown by the sale of bonds was due to the superior management of the government. The bonds of the province deservedly command a high figure, but this was largely due to the fact that there was in the money centres of the world to-day an enormous amount of money seeking investment for which investment could be found these capitalists were willing to take one half the interest they would have demanded twenty years ago. While he did not wish to decry the credit of the country, which were absolutely good, yet the fact that provincial bonds were selling at 3 per cent, was due to financial and economic reasons that were broader, deeper and more far-reaching than any legislation that could possibly be passed by this house. He would allow that the government might have had some legislation to propose to prevent the re-occurrence of practices that had prevailed in the recent election; legislation that would have given the people a secret ballot and that would have enabled employees, especially government employees, to vote without such shameful intimidation and coercion as had prevailed in St. John, Moncton and other places. He hoped that in future all public works would be let by competition. Referring to the recent election, Mr. Hazen contended that while the government had won a sweet victory, the number of seats carried by the opposition did not adequately represent the proportion of votes polled by their candidates. The effect of the Moncton convention was good if for no other reason than that it aroused an interest in provincial affairs that had not been taken for many years.

## THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM.

Mr. Hazen said in conclusion that the opposition in the present house would take its stand upon lines like these:—

(1)—Such amendments in the election act as will secure a secret ballot so that the electors may vote according to the dictates of their conscience and judgment without fear of intimidation or coercion.

(2)—That no contract for the construction of any public work be entered into unless tenders for the same be first publicly advertised in the Royal Gazette, and in such other ways as are desirable, for a length of time sufficient to enable persons so desiring to tender for the same, and that so far as possible all public work be performed by tender and contract.

(3)—A change in the system of auditing the public accounts and the appointment of an auditor general, so that this officer shall as far as may be, be invested with powers similar to those of the auditor

## WELL KNOWN VIOLINIST

Traveled Extensively Throughout the Provinces—Interesting Statements Concerning His Experience.

STELLARTON, N.S.—James R. Murray, a well known violinist, of this place, who has traveled extensively throughout the Provinces, makes this statement:

"I was running down in health and my weight fell off from 175 to 150 pounds. Prescriptions did me but little good. My trouble was called nervous dyspepsia. I resorted to Hood's Sarsaparilla and after taking five bottles I was greatly benefited. I feel as well now as ever in my life, and have increased in flesh so that I now weigh 177 pounds. I am well known in this part of the country, having followed my profession, that of a violin musician for the last 26 years. I gladly tell my friends what Hood's Sarsaparilla has done for me. Before I began taking the medicine I did not have any dyspeptic trouble perfectly cured." JAMES R. MURRAY.

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general of Canada, and shall not be removed from office unless by a vote of not less than three-fourths of the members of the house of assembly, and for cause only.

(4)—The immediate abolition of the office of solicitor general, having in view the further reduction of salaried members of the executive.

(5)—The reduction of the number of members of the house of assembly.

(6)—The passing and enforcement of such legislation as is necessary to preserve and conserve the forest and fishery wealth of the province.

(7)—Such legislation as will ensure to the different counties and localities of the province an expenditure of a fair share of the moneys borrowed for the construction of "permanent bridges."

(8)—The increase of the provincial grant to school teachers of New Brunswick as soon as the finances, as a result of the introduction of the necessary economies, will permit of the same being made.

(9)—A change in the system of management of the Provincial lunatic asylum, so as to increase the efficiency of that institution.

(10)—The encouragement and promotion by every legitimate means of the agricultural and dairy interests of the province, encouragement to include among other things aid to pork packing factories, the establishment of cold storage depots and the establishment of facilities or exporting the agricultural products of the province to the markets of Europe.

(11)—At least one-half of the by-road money for the several counties to be handed to the county councils thereof, to be apportioned by such council and expended through the commissioners appointed by them.

Premier Emmerson then moved the adjournment of the debate which was made the order of the day for to-day at 14.30 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson, seconded by Mr. Tweedie, moved that Rev. John D. Freeman be chaplain of the house. Carried.

On motion, Hon. Mr. Emmerson, seconded by Mr. Tweedie, it was resolved that a committee of five members of the house be appointed to name all standing and general committees, and that Hon. Mr. Emmerson, Tweedie, White, and Messrs. Hazen and Shaw compose such committee.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Shaw gave notice of following notice of motion:—

Resolved, That a special committee of five members of the house to be comprised of Mr. Robertson, Hon. Mr. Thompson, Mr. LaForest, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Hazen be appointed to whom shall be referred all matters connected with the contracting for, and construction of the superstructure of the following bridges: Grand Manan bridge in Charlotte; Saunders Brook Bridge in Queens Co.; Dingee bridge in Queens Co.; Leifewe bridge in Westmorland Co.; Blackville Bridge in Northumberland; Campbell bridge in Kings. Also all matter connected with the contracting for and construction of sub-structures and superstructures and approaches of the Petitcodiac bridge and the Port Elgin bridge, both in the County of Westmorland. All particulars in connection with these bridges to be reported by said committee.

Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry: Is Mr. Richard still a member of the executive council; if not, when was his resignation accepted?

Mr. Hazen gave notice of inquiry: Is it the intention of the government during the present session of the legislative assembly, or in the near future, to fill the office of solicitor general?

Adjourned.

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