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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., FEB. 22, 1900

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

The bill of fare presented to the House of Assembly at Fredericton last Thursday on the opening day of the session is conclusive evidence that an overwhelming majority has not made the Emmerson Government careless of the needs of the Province of New Brunswick. To anyone conversant with the state of affairs in this Province, the complaint of the leader of the Opposition that the Speech from the Throne contained but little of much import to the people seemed an idle one. If Mr. Hazen regards the proposition to establish a Maritime Agricultural College and Technical School an affair of little importance to the people of this Province, he is welcome to his view, but we can assure him that he is almost alone in the possession of it and that the people of New Brunswick may congratulate themselves on their providential escape of last winter from being governed under his direction. Mr. Hazen, before he can be useful as a legislator, let alone successful as a leader, will need to climb down from his Ottawa step ladder and study the needs of this Province and the scope of the House of Assembly. In a country of farmers reaching out with a new born hope for the great markets of the old land which can only be reached by successful competition with the 20th century farmers of Belgium, Denmark and other countries, it needs no prophet to foretell the advantages which must accrue to the development of newer and more progressive methods by the instruction of our country boys in a modern, up-to-date, well equipped Agricultural College. The splendid results which have followed the efforts of the Emmerson Government to develop the agricultural industry have been so frequently mentioned that it is only necessary to remind our readers that in the past few years the New Brunswick system of Agriculture has been revolutionized. The dairy products, formerly of little importance, have by the bonusing of cheese factories and creameries attained an importance in the sphere of agriculture which no one ten years ago would have dreamed to be within the confines of possibility. Wheat raising, which had been accepted as unprofitable by the bulk of our farmers, is to-day admitted to be a valuable addition to the New Brunswick crops, and yet it is only two years since the Hon. Mr. Emmerson was derided as an idle dreamer for urging our farmers to give it a fair trial. Pork raising, although still in an incipient state in this Province has proven a winner, and in many other directions the most important industry of our Province is but in its infancy. The Government's latest proposition will be gladly accepted by the farmers of

New Brunswick and cannot but result in great benefit to the people of the Maritime Provinces, for we take it as an accepted truth that whatever benefits the producer is of benefit to all classes. The addition of the technical school for the instruction of our boys in the mechanical trades will prove a valuable adjunct to the Agricultural College, for to-day the youth of the lower Provinces are handicapped by their inability to obtain a proper mechanical training such as is offered in other portions of the country. As Mr. Emmerson remarked, no better evidence is necessary of the need of a manual training school than the fact that all of the technical mechanics in the great iron and steel works at Sydney, Cape Breton, have been imported from Massachusetts. No more practical proposition has ever been advanced by any Government in this Province than this combined training school for the farmers and mechanics of the future. It is on account of such practical propositions that a new hope has been born in the hearts of our people and a belief in the intelligent methods of the Administration has been begotten in the minds of the electorate. We are a plain, practical people in New Brunswick and can recognize common sense legislation, and the sooner Mr. Hazen throws off his Ottawa frills and studies our people and their needs the better for himself and the forlorn hope of which he has so far shown little political sagacity in the leadership.

We take issue directly with Mr. Hazen in his statement that there is no necessity for any amendment of the law for the celebration of marriage in this Province. Again and again has the local legislature been forced to make legal marriages solemnized by protestant ministers of different denominations who according to the law had no more power to perform the marriage ceremony than any storekeeper, farmer or fishermen. And almost every lawyer in the Province has had his attention called to cases of this kind where the illegal marriage contract has never been legalized by special legislation, with the result that owing to no fault of their own, respectable married people are in the eyes of the law not married at all and their issue would be by our Courts declared to be illegitimate. A case of this kind was brought to our own notice a short time ago where the couple were forced, in order to prevent the nasty publicity of special legislation, to be secretly married again in order to protect their children. We insist that a reform is most urgently needed in the public interest.

The revision of the New Brunswick Statutes, which Mr. Hazen deems a waste of the public money, is recognized both by the legal fraternity and the laity to be a necessary work in the public interest which has unfortunately been delayed too long. As the Premier said, this work is not undertaken for the benefit of the lawyers, who keeping their Consolidated Statutes carefully annotated with the yearly changes in the law which each succeeding legislature has effected, are in a measure independent of a new revision, but the numerous justices of the peace having no such aid are forced to rely for their decisions on the unchanged copies of the Consolidated Statutes and as a result are very frequently misled. Nor will the lawyers of the Province scorn the simplification of their labours which an up-to-date revision of the statutes must imply. The very argument of Mr. Hazen that the consolidation of the Acts relating to the practice of the various Courts of the Province renders this revision unnecessary, is the strongest argument in favor of a revision at this time,

proving as it does that a large portion of our law having been recently codified is in such form as to justify the public in expecting no numerous changes for some years to come. No better time then could be chosen for an up-to-date revision of the New Brunswick Statutes which would place in the hands of our justices of the peace, and the Commissioners of the Parish and other interior courts the statute law as it actually is to-day. This work so necessary in the interests of justice is not a matter of contention between the Government and Opposition, but will be gladly welcomed by men of all shades of political opinion.

The proposition to provide a substantial grant from the Provincial treasury in aid of the patriotic fund for our soldier boys in South Africa will, we are sure, be accepted by all as a proper and practical expression of New Brunswick's remembrance of the brave boys who responding so promptly to duty's call have gone forth to do battle for the Empire. They are but forerunners of a larger band which it needed is ready to obey the call of Queen and country in the time of Britain's need. We who remain at home are one solid unit in extending to these martial samples of New Brunswick manhood the only possible recognition their country may offer in the provision for their needs and the necessities of the loved ones left behind. May the God of Battles preserve them and return them safely, duty done, to their loved ones in the Province by the sea.

We congratulate the Emmerson Administration on the splendid prosperity of every department of business in New Brunswick and are glad to recognize the determination of its members to leave nothing undone to promote and increase the welfare of our people. None but a carping critic can find much cause for fault-finding in the energetic, intelligent and progressive Administration so ably led by the Hon. Henry R. Emmerson.

LOCAL PICKINGS.

The shaft of satire which Mr. Hazen directed at the Hon. H. A. McKeown for his accepting office in a Government which he had at one time opposed was deftly turned on the leader of the Opposition by the Premier's remark that, Mr. Hazen, after the very election which had brought Mr. McKeown into the House as an Opposition member, came to Fredericton to celebrate the victory of the Government. The moral is that those who live in glass houses should never throw stones.

In fairness to Mr. McKeown the Premier further pointed out that at the time Mr. McKeown was in Opposition, not a single member of the present Administration held office. So that he could never have been said to be in Opposition to the present Government.

The position of Mr. Laforest, M. P. P., for Madawaska, is a difficult one. For years a consistent Liberal, he in the federal election of 1896 contested his constituency as a Liberal candidate against the Hon. John Costigan, whose latter day recantation of Conservatism and acceptance into the true political faith, Mr. Laforest refuses to sanction or ratify. Of him it might truly be said that his present disagreement with his political friends is due to the fact "Not that he hates Toryism less, but Costigan more."

Premier Emmerson's hopefulness for the future of this Province and Mr. Hazen's blue ruin wail can scarcely apply to the same country. But opposition has always bred pessimism in its adherents. How sunny would seem



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New Brunswick's pleasant hills and fertile vales if J. D. H. was only Premier.

Mr. Hazen's desire to abolish the office of Solicitor General is the most conclusive evidence that Mr. Hazen doesn't expect to be Premier yet a while. We would respectfully suggest that in introducing his Bill to abolish this office that he also provide for the abolition of all the Executive offices—to which might be appended a codicil by which provision be made for reviving the portfolios when Mr. Hazen and his friends come into power. A post scrip might be added providing that when revived the offices should command an increased salary to the extent of the amount that has been saved in the interim.

N. B. The most important details are always added in a post scrip, hence the suggestion.

By this time no doubt each one of "the five roses" of the local opposition has made selection of the particular portfolio which nature has destined him to fill with acceptance—to himself. Its truth there is no farmer in the little coterie, but Mr. Shaw, of St. John, who is a baker, might be chosen Minister of Agriculture properly enough now that wheat is one of New Brunswick's important crops and flour mills are being erected over every section of the Province. Here's to you "Farmer" Shaw.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Mr. Hazen, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"—especially when it comes to the needs of the Province of New Brunswick.

BY THE WAY.

The "reptile" press still keeps up its patriotic effort to prove the majority of the Canadian people unpatriotic.

Sir Charles Tupper's refusal to make public the name of the individual who provided the million dollar accident policy on the first Canadian contingent stamps him as a press agent of no mean ability. It's a wonder the yellow journals of New York hadn't captured Sir Charles long ago to boom their circulation. It's a pity to confine such advertising genius to the narrow confines of the Montreal Star.

We have discovered that the Conservative party went back 1900 years for their precedent of the disloyalty cry. They found their example in the trumped up charge of sedition preferred against the "Man of Sorrows" by the ultra loyal members of the Jewish Sanhedrin before Pontius Pilate.

Two million dollars worth of patriotism in addition to her three contingents and the vast amount of money raised by private subscription is pretty good evidence of Grit loyalty for one year.

The people of Canada are beginning to wonder where the evidences of burning zeal for the British Empire were buried during the 18 years when the Conservative party had power to initiate Canadian Contingents.

As Mr. Fielding said on one occasion the Conservatives used the

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Richibucto, N. B.

broad folds of the Union Jack to cover up the dirty spots of their latter day administration. Patriotism prior to 1896 was an excuse for Boodling.

The "reptile" press is now bewailing the retirement of General Hutton. A week ago it was demanding vengeance for Gen Hutton's treatment of the tory patriot—Sam Hughes. What a different man General Hutton must be to-day from what he was a week ago.

An American humorist on one occasion remarked that there were only three liars of note in America. Bob Burdette was one and Bill Nye was the other two. The Ottawa correspondent of the St. John Sun has assumed Bill Nye's position since the latter's untimely decease.

The Opposition at Ottawa has awakened to the fact that the transportation problem is a question of the very highest importance to Canada. Fortunately the Government recognized that three years ago, and as a result spent \$9,000,000 in deepening and widening the Canadian Canal System and extended the peoples Railway to Montreal. At this rate the Opposition may one day recognize the statesmanship of the Minister of Railways and Canals.

The relief of Kimberley comes like a Christmas gift, two months delayed. It is none the less welcome for the delay.

"Bobs Bahadur" is the man for Britain. Next thing we know he will be Duke of Bloomfontein or Nabot of Pretoria.

The people of Kent will be pleased to notice the favourable mention of Lieut. C. W. McLean of the First Canadian Contingent. Lieut. McLean, though only a lad of 18, has been offered and accepted a commission in the regular army. His mother was Miss Porteous, of Kingston, in this County. Kent County blood is bound to tell.

In a cable to the Mayor of Toronto, Lord Lansdowne, British Sec'y for war says: "Permit me to say how proud I am of the manner in which Canada is standing by us." Sir Charles Tupper's speeches are evidently not seriously regarded by British statesmen.

**LIEUT. McLEAN LED REINFORCEMENTS.**

Frederick W. Hamilton, correspondent of the Toronto Globe with the first Canadian contingent, and whose account of the capture of Douglas by the Torontos and Queenslanders was published a short time ago, has since contributed to his paper a very interesting account of the return of the column under Col. Pilcher to Belmont. Among other things he says: "When we arrived in camp at Thornhill on Wednesday night, it must be mentioned, we found a reinforcement awaiting us of Lieut. C. W. McLean of G Company, who had brought up some thousand rounds of reserve ammunition in a wagon train with a party of twelve men and non-com., Sergt. Russell, from G Company. Lieut. McLean was very welcome in camp, and he had made a capital road sketch as he came along. Late on Thursday evening extra rations came into camp from Belmont under escort of a party of eight men of E Company, under Sergt. Adams."