



ROYAL GAZETTE EXTRA

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By Authority

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

Fredericton, Thursday, March 18, 1909.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honour Lemuel John Tweedie, K. C., LL.D., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, came to the Assembly Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me great pleasure to welcome you on again assembling for the discharge of your Legislative duties.

Our thanks are due to Divine Providence for the prosperity which the Province has enjoyed during the past year. The prices obtained for farm products have been good, there has been employment at remunerative wages for all who are willing to work, and while some of the sister Provinces and many of the States of the American Union suffered very severely from forest fires New Brunswick was exempt from great material disasters.

The celebration of the 300th anniversary of the landing of Champlain at Quebec was one of the principal events of the year. The presence of the Prince of Wales, the Vice-President of the United States and of representatives of the French Republic and the British possessions, made the gathering a notable one and served to emphasize the friendly feeling which exists between Great Britain and the other nations represented as well as between the different provinces of Canada and the two great races from which most of her population are descended.

During the summer New Brunswick was visited by a delegation of Scotch farmers and while it is to be regretted that their visit was a brief one it is pleasing to note that they expressed themselves as being greatly impressed with the agricultural possibilities of the Province and the advantages and attractions it possesses for settlers from the Motherland.

A fire occurred at the Provincial Hospital in St. John during the month of January last, but I am pleased to be able to say that largely in consequence of the good judgment and coolness displayed by the officials of the Institution and of the efforts of the Fire Departments of St. John and Fairville no lives were lost, none of the patients were in any way injured and the damage to the asylum building was confined largely to one of the ells of the Institution. A great calamity and disaster was averted for which the people of the Province have every reason to be thankful.

I regret deeply the fact that the McDonald Consolidated School at Kingston was recently destroyed by fire. This Institution was erected through the munificence and generosity of Sir William McDonald, who has done so much to promote technical and agricultural education in Canada and was an Institution of which the Province had every reason to be proud. It was the first Consolidated School erected in New Brunswick and its influence for good upon the Educational system of the country had been very marked.

The important question of the respective rights of the Federal and Provincial Governments in the fisheries of the Province and the regulation thereof still remains unsettled. In the month of February, 1908, my Government was informed that Mr. Samuel Tovel Bastedo had been appointed an agent on behalf of the Government of Canada to consider and discuss with the authorities of the Provinces all matters concerning the rights and jurisdiction of the Government of Canada and of the Provinces in respect to the fisheries under the British North America Act, which communication was laid before my Ministers and the Federal Government was informed that they were prepared to meet the agent of the Government at any time that might be arranged to discuss these matters with a view of having the same settled. Up to the present time however neither Mr. Bastedo nor anyone else acting on behalf of the Government of Canada has communicated with my Government in regard to this matter. My Government has called the attention of the Dom-