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BY AUTHORITY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1916

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honour Josiah Wood, D. C. L., 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.

It is to be regretted that Honourable Mr. Clarke, Premier of the Province, is unable, by reason of illness, to be present, but I am glad to learn that he expects to resume his duties at an early date.

I desire to express my deep sense of the loss which the House has sustained by the death of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Walter Brittain Dickson.

When the Legislature prorogued last year, we were under the shadow of a great war. It is a matter of great sorrow to me that the conflict raging at that time has not yet ceased but rather increased in intensity. The citizens of New Brunswick, in common with the rest of the Empire, are, however, confident of victory, having an abiding faith in the triumph of the cause of righteousness and justice. The people of the Province have responded generously to the many calls made upon them for assistance to the different objects relating to the prosecution of the war. I am glad to know that many of the county councils throughout the Province have responded to a most gratifying extent by their contributions to the Patriotic Fund. The Province has also rendered financial aid, and her sons have continued to join the colors until a large representation of the best of our young manhood is either at the front or preparing to go forward.

In no part of the Empire was more sincere apprehension felt than in the Province of New Brunswick when the news of an accident to His Most Gracious Majesty the King was received. The injury was sustained while, in obedience to his high sense of duty, he was engaged in reviewing troops in France. A general feeling of relief and happiness was experienced when assurance was recently received that His Majesty had fully recovered from his serious injury.

In common with the people of the Empire, we were shocked by the destruction of the beautiful Parliament buildings at Ottawa, by fire. The material loss, while great, is overshadowed by the tragic loss of life, which occasioned the sympathy of the people of this Province to be extended in full measure to the relatives and friends of those who suffered.

During the year The Right Honourable Sir Charles Tupper, Baronet, the last of the fathers of Confederation passed away. Sir Charles was a statesman of broad and clear vision. He gave freely of his strength and great abilities to the land he loved. He lived long enough to see the prophecies of his youth fulfilled in our national life. We honour his memory.

Conditions in New Brunswick during the past year, in view of the general unrest throughout the world, have been most satisfactory. Our thanks are due to a kind Providence for the very large measure of peace and tranquillity which we have enjoyed.