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BY AUTHORITY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1918.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honour the Honourable William Pugsley, D. C. L., K. C., P. C., 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 gives me much pleasure to welcome you to the second session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick.

This is the fourth meeting of the Legislature since the beginning of the tremendous war for liberty and civilization which began in Europe in August, 1914, and it is a matter for the greatest congratulation that the spirit, courage and determination of our people for victory and a successful conclusion of that great struggle, are stronger than ever. The response of the people to patriotic effort, for the funds of the Red Cross and the bonds of the great Victory Loan, has been such as even to astonish themselves.

My Government, recognizing last spring the need for more food stuffs, asked the farmers to increase their production, procuring for them both seed grain and fertilizer. I am happy to say that they spared no effort to increase the production of their farms. A fresh appeal is now being made to them, and all possible measures will be taken for facilitating their task.

The settlement of returned soldiers upon the land has been engaging the attention of my government in co-operation with the Federal ministry, and plans are being formulated which I hope will result in encouraging many of those returning from overseas to take up the pursuit of agriculture.

The Province has also agreed to co-operate with the Military Hospitals Commission in the erection of additional accommodation for soldiers afflicted with tuberculosis, and extensions are now being made to the River Glade and Saint John County institutions.

I am pleased to be able to congratulate the Province upon the beneficial results of the Prohibition Act. The area of enforcement has been considerably increased by reason of the co-operation of the Federal Government, which made it unnecessary to hold elections in several Counties for the repeal of the Scott Act.

The construction of the Saint John and Quebec Railway between Gagetown and Westfield has proceeded during the year as rapidly as labour conditions and scarcity of material would permit. On account of the extraordinary demand for steel rails for use overseas, as well as in this country, the Canadian Government Railways were unable to carry out their undertaking to provide the rails necessary for the completion of this section, but arrangements have recently been made preliminary to the taking up of the steel rails upon the Northern New Brunswick and Seaboard Railway, authority for which was given at the last Session of the Legislature. Construction of the road is at such a stage that with the assurance of steel for the track-laying, the Company is able to look forward to completion of the railway, ready for transportation for the next fall and winter. Details of the expenditure upon this important work will be furnished you.

In the month of April, 1917, a Commissioner was appointed to enquire into contracts entered into and acts performed by the Directors and Officials of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company. The Commissioner has made his report, which will be laid before you.