

# GOOD SPEECHES HEARD AT OPENING OF LEGISLATURE

**Mr. Mersereau of Sunbury and Mr. LeBlanc Of Restigouche Mover and Second of the Address Acquitted Themselves Well---Member for Restigouche Referred in Eloquent Terms to the Great War and Dwelt Upon the Importance of Increased Agricultural Production.**

The session of the Provincial Legislature got away to a splendid start yesterday afternoon. Taking into consideration the fact that it was a new House, with a new government, a new Premier and a new Speaker as well as a new opposition leader, things went along with remarkable smoothness. The attendance of spectators was unusually large, considering the fact that the weather was none too favorable for such an event. Chairs for those present by invitation had been placed in the vacant space on the floor of the House and all were occupied, a number of strangers, including wives and relatives of the legislators being conspicuous among those present. The three galleries were also crowded, students of the Provincial Normal School occupying the bulk of the seating space in the Ladies' Gallery.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor wore his Windsor uniform and was attended by nearly a score of officers in khaki. His Honor read the speech from the throne in a voice audible in all parts of the Chamber, the procedure occupying a little more than ten minutes. When the gubernatorial party withdrew from the chamber the House immediately got down to business.

Premier Foster, although entirely new to parliamentary practice, acquitted himself like a veteran. He proposed the candidate for Speaker, escorted him to the chair, and during the afternoon put through the usual motions which fall to the lot of the Premier on the opening day.

For the first time in many years there were no speeches from the opposition leader and Premier. It seems that they had arrived at an understanding that any remarks which they had to make would be deferred until today.

The speech making yesterday was limited to the remarks of Messrs. Mersereau and LeBlanc, the mover and second of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Mr. Mersereau's speech was well conceived and appropriate and occupied about ten minutes in delivery. He made a splendid impression. Mr. LeBlanc spoke for fifteen minutes and was followed with rapt attention. He has a perfect command of English, and his eloquent and patriotic utterances were frequently applauded.

## Attendance Almost Complete.

Every supporter of the government was in his place, while on the opposition side Mr. Baxter, who is attending the King's College closing, was the only absentee. Each opposition member displayed a button-hole bouquet, but this emblem of purity, while it lent a touch of color to the scene, appeared to fall short of completely purging the gloom from the atmosphere to the left of the Speaker. The opposition in the present House numbers twenty members and is numerically the strongest since Confederation.

If a healthy opposition means efficient and honest government, the people will have little reason to complain of the administrative acts of the present government during the next five years.

## MR. MERSEREAU

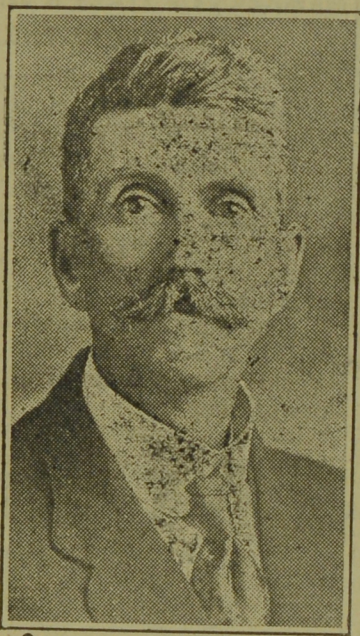
New Member for Sunbury Delivered a Vigorous Speech in Moving the Address.

Mr. Mersereau, speaking to the motion to adopt the address, said:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, laid before us by His Honor the Lieut. Governor, I might say that my sympathies have always been extended to those who previously occupied the same position as I do here today. But never before did I fully realize their feelings until this present moment. While I appreciate the honor, I dreaded the task; but I must first acknowledge the compliment paid to my constituency in being called upon to perform this honorable duty, and only regret my inability to perform the task on account of my inexperience. However, I accepted the charge laid upon me by the Premier, under whose banner so good a fight was fought and won on February 24th last. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of this province that they have exercised their rights and have given their votes in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, and I firmly believe in the best interests of the province. But this being the first session I have had the honor to occupy a seat in the Legislative Assembly of this province, I will only crave the indulgence of hon. members of the House for a very short time.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that every member of the House will concur with me in noting the lateness of this session on account of the recent upheaval which caused a change of administration in this Province.

We can fully agree with the remarks expressed in His Honor's speech referring to His Royal Highness and every one of us extend to him and his family our sincere sympathy in the loss of his gracious consort. But we also welcome to this Dominion his successor, the new Governor General, His Excellency the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and



D. W. MERSEREAU.  
Mover of Address in Reply to the Speech from Throne.

I am sure it is a matter of deep regret to all of us that we meet under the shadow of the greatest of world's wars which has been going on for over three years, and the intensity increases from day to day. But the British Empire and her allies have taken a firm hold of the situation both on land and sea, and we hope and believe are in a fair way with the moral and financial support of our sister nation, the United States of America, to bring it to a successful issue.

The reports reaching us of our gallant soldiers in active service on the battle fields of France and Flanders are such as to cause our hearts to swell with pride and admiration, and while they are giving their lives in the interests of freedom and civilization, we should drop party strife and bickering which divide and alienate men and families and unitedly engage in promoting and devising legislation towards those higher ideals which make more easily attainable a higher and honorable Canadian citizenship. We will welcome the day when peace shall reign and our Canadian boys shall return home to us with victory plainly written on every shield.

In this connection I am pleased to note that this Government has under consideration the establishing of Military and Convalescent Hospitals for the treatment of returned soldiers.

## Greater Production.

I was pleased to note the forward movement of this Government in the magnificent gathering in this city to further the movement of Greater Production, and I trust that the Government of this Province will give to the people through its Department of Agriculture every possible advice and assistance along these lines.

I am sure it must be of great satisfaction to the people of this Province to learn through His Honor's speech that this Government is to complete the Valley Railway as speedily as possible, and have it operated by the Department of Railways and Canals.

I am sure every member of the House will agree that with a new Administration taking over the affairs of the Province, it is the proper method to pursue to ascertain the exact financial position of the Province, not only for their own safety but for those retiring from office, so that if any blame for wrong doing re-handling of the people's affairs has existed or does exist the wrong can be placed where it properly and legitimately belongs.

## Permanent Roads.

I am especially glad that the question of permanent roads has already received the attention of this Government, and that a permanent Engineer has been appointed to carry out this work, and I have every confidence that this Government will not make a Political football of this question of permanent roads as has been done by past Administrations.

Every member of the House will be glad to learn that this Administration intends to submit Legislation for our consideration relating to our principal asset, the Crown Lands of this Province, and I hope such Legislation will be for the conservation of these, our most important resources.

In conclusion, I must say I have the fullest confidence in the ability and integrity of the Premier successfully to steer the ship of state in a manner that will make his name rank high among the great provincial leaders of this country and that in the discharge of his duties the interests of this Province will be advanced and safeguarded.

## MR. LEBLANC.

The Junior Member for Restigouche Treated the House to An Eloquent Patriotic Address.

Mr. LeBlanc in seconding the address, said: I rise to second the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In doing so perhaps it is quite in order that I should congratulate the Honorable Premier on the notable success achieved at the polls on the 24th of February last. The result of the election was a splendid testimony to the Premier who, having taken the leadership of the party only a few weeks before, was able on account of his personal reputation and integrity to achieve a splendid victory. I wish to congratulate him on keeping faith with the people of the Province. Shortly before the electorate was called upon to choose the provincial law makers Mr. Foster sent out a message to the people of New Brunswick, that if they placed him in power he would surround himself with men of integrity and ability, and in the choice he has made of his Cabinet, it is quite plain that he has kept his pre-election word, and I am glad to be able to congratulate him upon the choice which he has made of the cabinet members.

## The Grim Reaper.

I must say a word of sympathy in connection with the removal from among us of a man who occupied a high place in the councils of the province and enjoyed the complete confidence of his party. I refer to the Hon. George J. Clarke, late Premier of this Province, and I want to assure his relatives that however much we may differ in political views, our heartfelt sympathy goes out to them in their sad bereavement and we shed a sincere tear of sympathy on the newly closed grave.

In the choice of a new premier and government, it is quite apparent that the people of New Brunswick have made no mistake. In reading the speech from the throne it is quite evident that the premier and his government have a full grasp of provincial affairs and have taken a firm grip.

## The Great World War.

I was pleased that in the speech a prominent place was given to a subject which is of world wide importance, I mean the gigantic struggle now going on in Europe. Although this is quite beyond the power and jurisdiction of this Government and Legislature to raise men or build ships for the defence of our coast and our commerce, the premier showed marks of statesmanship in taking the steps which he took to encourage production and furnish in all the measure he could foodstuffs to the combatants. Reference has been made to the bravery and valor of our Canadian troops in the field. I do not propose to dwell at any length on this subject; that will be done by historians and will be read and related by our firesides by future generations.

## Retribution Will Come.

When the great statesman, Mr. Asquith unsheathed his sword on that ever memorable 4th day of August, 1914, he did so not only to avenge and restore down-trodden Belgium, and to compel an unscrupulous ruler to respect a now famous scrap of paper, although those motives were quite laudable, the incomparable British statesman, I feel, had in his mind the upholding of enduring and most sacred principles and traditions. If individuals receive in the other world reward or punishment for their virtues or vices, nations as such, by immutable principles of retributive justice receive in this world the reward or the punishment for their national virtues or vices. The Romans received great power and influence over the other nations as a special recompense of their military valor and assiduity to work. The influence of the Greeks is felt to this day, because of their superiority in literature, sciences and arts. What national virtue did the Giver of all Good wish to reward in the English nation when He gave them the Empire of the world. It cannot be said that it was on account of their great strides in arts, sciences or literature, although England can point with pride to her Watt, her Shakespeare, her Milton, her Byron, and the host of other literary giants who made English literature what it is today. Neither was it as a special recompense for her military superiority notwithstanding that she can boast rightfully of her Black Prince, her Marlborough (Continued on page 3.)

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

Several Interesting Addresses Made Before Provincial Committee Yesterday---Want Clergy's Assistance

Several interesting addresses were made at the meeting of the Provincial Committee on Increased Production yesterday.

Major L. P. D. Tilley, acting National Service director, outlined the modus operandi of increased leagues the first step in which was the formation of provincial county leagues to be interdependent, these to be formed by the county delegates. Seed and labor were two very essential features and the campaign of this year to be followed by an increased campaign next year. It is proposed to get the assistance of all the boys, this to be accompanied by means of the several churches and organizations where boys assemble, the labor to be so distributed throughout the province by means of the immigration bureau at St. John. The prevention of all waste was essential and danger to seed from smut is to be eliminated by a process of sterilization, the seed itself to be selected.

Details as to marketing, etc., are essential; also instruction in canning.

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The need of live stock, particularly of more pigs, was accentuated. Next fall's plowing, in order to attain the maximum amount, may mean the use of tractors while a system of rural credits should be established.

Mr. C. J. Osman suggested that circulars be sent to the schools and to the women of the province, and this was endorsed by Mr. G. E. Fisher.

Discussion was also held with respect to the granting of half holidays in order that some assistance to the plan might be thus enlisted. The assistance of the clergy of the province, who will be asked to support the project from their pulpits was regarded as a most powerful means of enlisting aid.

A nominating committee was then appointed to nominate members for the executive committee for the province with respect to the increased production campaign. The committee consisted of Dr. W. S. Carter, Mr. Geo. E. Fisher and C. J. Osman, who chose the executive.

Hon. J. F. Tweeddale, Minister of Agriculture, occupied the chair. Mr. J. D. McKenna, of Sussex, acted as secretary.

Mayor Hayes of St. John, and Mrs. Hayes are guests at the Queen.

## General of Siberian Rifles Assassinated

Riga, Russia, May 9, via London, May 10. — Major General Kartseff, commander of the Siberian rifles division has been assassinated. He was attacked while walking near the railroad station. His assailant disappeared. The soldiers among whom General Kartseff was very popular, deny the possibility that the assassin was one of their number.

Hon. C. J. Osman and wife of Hillsboro are among the guests at the Queen.

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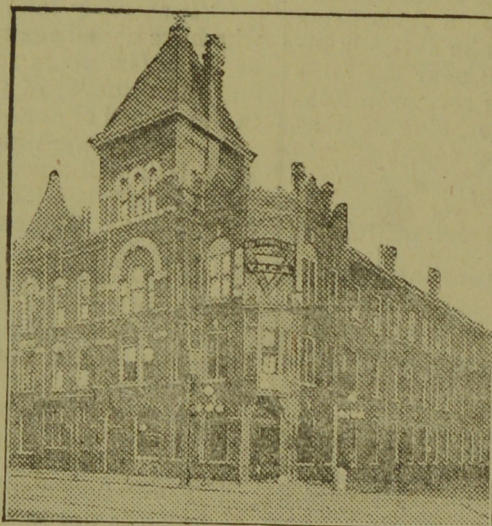
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# The Transformation

Right in the heart of the great city of Toronto, in the centre of the principal business district, close by the cross-roads of main traffic, stands the "second longest bar" in all Canada. Observers say they used to count hordes of men entering this stronghold of the Traffic. Were the frequenters of the bar better men when they came out?



On September 16th, 1916, Prohibition went into force in Ontario, and, of course, the bar lost its license. On the 16th of April, 1917, the old bar was busier than ever! But what an arresting, beautiful transformation! Would that you and your sons could have been there to see the sight. The old barroom was a bevy of flowers. Fifty fair ladies served refreshments to Toronto's most prominent citizens and their wives, and not one of them all but was proud to be seen in the old barroom.

The aching, worrying hearts of the army's mothers are relieved now when they see their sons enter this building—for the old bar is helping to save men now instead of ruining them.

The hotel is now the "Y.M.C.A. Soldiers' Club," one of the Young Men's Christian Association's long chain of clubs, marquees, huts and "dug-outs" extending from Vancouver to the firing line in France—those helpful sentinel-posts that safeguard our precious soldier men and boys wherever soldiers are congregated. To the Y.M.C.A. Canada owes a debt of gratitude she never can adequately repay.

Like New Brunswick, the Traffic in Ontario has the opportunity, after the war, of putting Prohibition to the test at the polls. But Prohibition in Ontario is being enforced, and the old strongholds of the Traffic—the long bars we mean—are one by one being turned to useful purposes. Many of the hotel buildings that depended for existence upon bar trade are now devoted to commercial enterprises—constructive instead of destructive.

Does New Brunswick want to return to the destructive license system, and again be a partner in the old firm of John Barleycorn and Company, Limited?

Or does New Brunswick want to maintain Prohibition for ever? If so, Enforcement must be province wide, must be both strict and effective.

## Help to Enforce Prohibition

Every man and woman in this province shares the responsibility for the proper enforcement of Prohibition—not the officers of the law alone. Your duty is clear.

## Dominion Temperance Alliance

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