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PREMIER FOSTER'S CRUSHING REPLY TO OPPOSITION CRITICISM

(Continued from page 6.)

support. Reports from all over the province were that the results of the Act had been beneficial and showed that the staff of sub-inspectors was efficient and well organized.

The Forest Lands.

One of the most important matters mentioned in the Speech from the Throne was in relation to forest lands, which every day were becoming more valuable. It had become necessary to bring forward legislation under which the Crown Lands could be best administered. It could not be said what part New Brunswick would play in the British lumber trade after the war, but many predicted that every square mile of growing timber would double in value. It could easily be seen why the best methods for conservation and administration should be adopted. When the extent of the timber lands is realized, comprising 10,000 square miles, more than double the area of Alsace-Lorraine, the pivot point of the war, it easily could be seen that the House could well spend time on discussion of such a bill. His friends opposite should be ready to give the benefit of all their experience and they had had some experience in connection with Crown Lands.

The value of timber products was daily growing, and basing its policy upon that fact, the government during the past year had asked the lumbermen or lessees of the Crown Lands to pay an additional stumpage of \$1.00 per 1,000 into the Exchequer of the province. His hon. friend, when referring to this matter had wandered far afield for something to criticize, apparently being driven to desperation. The subject of all things was one he should

have left alone, so long had he been associated with those who used the Crown Lands for political purposes—one might almost say personal purposes.

Sidestepped the Issue.

HON. MR. FOSTER said he had read the manifesto issued by the leader of the opposition prior to the last election, and he could challenge him to say if he had had any definite policy in respect to the matter; if he had, he succeeded in concealing it. He sidestepped the issue, in order that he might not find disfavor in certain sections of the province, at the same time hoping it would not be an issue in other sections. However, when he had come to the House and found himself in the midst of his little band of followers, he found them out of tune with his instrument for when the question of stumpage had arisen last session, one hon. member of the opposition rose in his place and stated that the lumbermen should make up the whole deficit. The member for St. John led the House for a short time and announced the policy of his party on this matter. The junior member from Albert made the statement that he would favor an increase in stumpage, only after an honest effort had been made to collect the stumpage at the existing rate.

The senior member from Albert had had little to say—as might be expected. (Laughter.)

HON. MR. FOSTER said he believed the increase as put into effect was in line with the advanced price of the product. The burden could be borne by all classes. At the same time it must be remembered that the lumbermen of New Brunswick were laboring under difficulties in regard to the high price of material, increases in wages and difficulties in transportation due to war conditions.

The Great War.

The Speech from the Throne had referred to the war and most fittingly to the courage of the people and their determination to achieve victory. The speaker made fitting reference to the record of the 26th Battalion in the field and stated that the determination of the men of that unit, which had placed them in advance of any others at the battle of Vimy Ridge, was typical of the feeling of the people of New Brunswick. He referred to the record of this province in enlistments, contributions to the Red Cross and subscriptions to the Victory Loan. The determination of the people would be continued until the victory was won.

HON. MR. FOSTER then came to the duty of the hour—increased production. He had attended the conference of provincial premiers at Ottawa, where he had been asked that the whole situation in regard to food production be laid before the Legislature and the people of the province.

Broadly speaking, production had been curtailed in all the countries of the Allies; Great Britain was a possible exception on account of increased acreage. The scarcity of agricultural labor and of fertilizers was most serious. In France they had resulted in a serious reduction in wheat production. In stock-raising the situation is similar. It was estimated that since the beginning of the war there had been a reduction of 115,000,000 meat animals. In 1918 Great Britain, France and Italy must have 250,000,000 bushels more of wheat than they had in 1917—the only possible sources of supply are North America, the Argentine Republic and Australia. North America will be called upon to furnish the bulk of this, on account of shipping conditions. The United States can furnish not more than 70,000,000 bushels; Canada must give the rest. To do this ten acres must be cultivated, where seven were before. Some consider this impossible, but he believed the people would rise to the situation as they did in the Victory Loan campaign.

Increased Production.

The methods to be adopted by the Provincial governments to bring about increased production were: Seed distribution, increased acreage, the provision of farm tractors, the employment of boys on farms through the education departments, the education of boys to the necessity of this work, and the provision of labor by voluntary enlistment.

HON. MR. FOSTER said he could not let the occasion pass without reference to one of New Brunswick's honored sons, the late Hon. H. C. Brewster, Premier of British Columbia. He had been one of the outstanding figures at the conference of provincial premiers. As he had shaken hands with the speaker at parting, he had said: "Take care of good old New Brunswick." Great had been his sorrow upon noticing by the press soon afterwards that this distinguished son of this province had passed away.

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row upon noticing by the press soon afterwards that this distinguished son of this province had passed away.

HON. MR. FOSTER said he had much to say in the way of pointing out to the people of New Brunswick their duty in regard to increased production, and he would ask the leader of the opposition that their agreement would stand in order to give him an opportunity to complete his speech on Monday night.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) said he would offer no objection, but explained that he possibly would not be present.

The House adjourned at 5.30 p. m. until Monday at 8 p. m.