

ABLE SPEECH IN THE HOUSE BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Continued from Page One.
Assembly Chamber,
March 30, 1920.

The House met at 3 o'clock.
MR. MAGEE introduced a bill to enable the village of Port Elgin to provide police protection, street lighting and giving it certain other powers.
MR. DICKSON introduced a bill to amend an act relating to the town of St. Andrews.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating cheese and butter manufacturing associations.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a bill to amend the Housing Act 1919. He explained that it was proposed to enlarge the scope of the Act so as to enable the authorities of villages to take advantage of the Housing plan.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a Bill to amend the County Court Act. He explained that it was to provide for increased fees in actions involving \$100 on torts and \$200 on contracts.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a bill to amend the Judicature Act, 1919. He said that it was proposed to increase the scale of costs allowed attorneys in the Supreme Court. The Bill also provided for increased witness fees, and it was proposed to empower a judge, after a verdict had been rendered or judgment given, to order a stay of proceedings. The present act did not vest that power in a presiding justice.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a Bill to amend the Act respecting the legitimization by subsequent marriage.

HON. MR. ROBERTS, on the order of the day being called arose to resume the debate on the Budget. He congratulated the mover and second of the Address and said he felt sure they had reflected much credit upon themselves and the constituencies they represented. He said he had a very high respect for his Acadian confreres in the House and considered the hon. member for Kent one of the best. During the first session during which he (Roberts) occupied a seat in the House he had felt that the Government was a good one. During the next session he saw plainly that it was a better one, and now he believed it to be the best administration which had ever presided over the affairs of the Province. He had been amused and entertained by the Speech of his hon. colleague of the City of St. John (Potts). That hon. member introduced humor into a debate and frequently said things with which he (Roberts) could not agree. When the hon. senior member for Albert arose to speak he thought at first that the hon. member for St. John had simply paused to get his breath, but a little later he observed that the hon. junior member for Albert was on his feet. It seemed hard for the moment to discern that one was sitting and the other standing and he had been reminded of the teeter-teeter of his boyhood days, when one end of the plank was down and the other up. The hon. junior member for Albert had given expression to caucus tactics by intimating that the logic and pathos in the Address of the hon. member from St. John was so astounding that hon. members on the Speaker's right had failed to rise in their places and reply. Such a display of caucus fire-works was amusing and he had much enjoyed it. He was glad that one hon. member supporting the Government measured up to the ideals of his hon. friend opposite. He had reference to the hon. member who had moved the Address. He was glad, as in the case of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, that they had at least one on his side of the House who could save the situation. In that connection he regretted that there did not seem to be among hon. members opposite even one who could eventually save the day for them.

A Good Record
He wished to say that he was proud of the present administration for what it had been able to accomplish for the good of the Province. He wished to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Agriculture on the work accomplished by the Department over which he presided. It had been alleged that the Hon. Minister took to himself all the credit for increased production and the great advances made in the field of agriculture. That was exactly what the Hon. Minister did not do. He had however made it possible to carry out the greatest programme along agricultural lines in the history of the Province. In many of the services his department had led all the other Provinces of the Dominion and there was ample proof of the magnificent results which had been achieved. He believed that it would rest largely with Ministers of Agriculture all over Canada to find a solution for the problem of the high cost of living.

He wished to say a word with respect to the Department of Lands and Mines. In that department the Hon. Minister was among the leaders of his special work throughout the Dominion. He had been called in consultation by Forester Departments in other parts of the country. Why was that the case? Because it had been left to him and the Foster Government to enact unique and practical legislation for the conservation of the greatest financial asset of the Province. They were protecting the forest from fire, were employing scientific scalars and looking carefully after the game. When they considered the fact that in the past fire had destroyed almost as much lumber as had been cut by lumbermen, the necessity of protecting the forests from such a scourge must be apparent to all.

Work on Highways

He did not think that too much praise could be bestowed on the Hon. Minister of Public Works. True there had been increased expenditure, but the work accomplished by the Hon. Minister won praise from both friends and opponents of the Government. They appreciated the good work being done on the highways and urged him to continue it, realizing that it was one of the greatest media that could be employed in building up the Province. Good roads would bring together remote sections of the country, and would reduce the distance from the farmer to his market. They would reduce the cost of upkeep of wagon or car fifty per cent. They would make it possible for manufacturers to build mills and factories nearer the source of raw materials, and with cheap power to be provided their position would be greatly improved. Good roads would mean increased tourist travel in the Province during the summer months. No Province of the Dominion furnished a more beautiful centre for pleasure seekers in the way of scenery, rivers, lakes, mountains, valleys and meadows; it had been well described as a sportsman's paradise. The people to the south with a population of 100,000,000 were hungering and thirsting after such a country and it was only necessary to make it possible for them to travel in comfort over the roads. Each foreign car visiting the Province could be expected to leave a daily minimum of at least \$40. That multiplied by an average of 35 to 40 cars per day would mean at the very least from \$1500 to \$2000. Taking that for five months there would be expended among the hotels, stores, farmers, etc. at least \$100,000. That was a service which they did not wish to look at with any lack of interest.

The publicity which good roads gave to the country was a factor worthy of consideration. The Hon. Minister of Public Works was deserving of great credit for what had been accomplished. He had been criticized for expending too much money. Could too much money within reason be expended? Let them look around and see if their neighbors had not been awakened by what the Hon. Minister had done. He did not know of a Province which up to a short while ago possessed worse roads than Nova Scotia, if he excepted New Brunswick prior to the advent to power of the present administration. Now Nova Scotia was proposing to spend \$13,000,000 on its roads, and Quebec was making a multiple expenditure, as compared with any made heretofore.

His hon. friend from Westmorland should feel proud of his work on behalf of Vocational Education. The Act passed by the present Government was a most practical peace of constructive legislation and good results had accrued from it. Boys and girls in the public schools concentrated their mind and effort on theory while the practical side was left undeveloped. Technical Education, therefore, had an important place to fill and when cities, towns and municipalities took advantage of what it had to offer it would mean much to the economic wealth of the Province.

He heartily concurred in remarks of his hon. colleague concerning the port of St. John, and would cooperate in any effort put forth with a view of enhancing the future of that port. He believed that some concerted effort should be made to advance the status of the Province from the standpoint of manufacturing, commerce and population. The Departments of Agriculture and Public Works entered into the scheme and he felt satisfied would contribute to it their quota. He believed there should be some form of organization that would include every county, parish, city and town, giving each specific work to perform with one object in view. There should be a survey of farms, occupied and unoccupied, and a classification of farm lands. Then it should be ascertained what form of commercial and industrial development towns and cities are best fitted to entertain. The result of the survey should be put into pamphlet form and they should have a Provincial Development Club, working in harmony with existing organizations. He believed the Government would back up such a scheme and do all in its power to lend a helping hand.

When the arrangements were made as outlined he would adopt as a slogan the doubling of the population of New Brunswick during the next decade. St. John was the winter port of Canada and would soon be considered one of its principle summer ports. If Canada was to develop it must be done uniformly. The east must be as much Canadian as the west and as much pride should be taken with the front as with any other part of the structure. It should be the duty of Canada to develop the winter port that it would be able to take care of the national intake and output. When the Province entered confederation there were some who depicted just what had since taken place because they believed the Province could get along better as it was. One great and grand effort should now be made. Relationship with Canada should be placed on trial in order that the people could ascertain whether or not justice would be meted out to them. Geographically the natural market of the Province was with the United States. Great potato growing counties were side by side on the border, and there was a great demand for that special product which brought as high as \$8 per barrel. The nearest Canadian market was in Montreal and Toronto, from 450 to 800 miles away. The Maritime Provinces had contributed a large portion of the brain and genius of Canada's Government which had worked out a development of middle and western Canada. They were now lost sight of because they could not win out in the battle of votes in parliament. Much Canadian trade is now carried on through foreign ports at the expense of the ports of the Maritime Provinces. He contended that such traffic belonged to Maritime ports, and if turned over to them the eastern provinces would soon come into their own. The loyalty which Canada had displayed during the war should now be manifested in a commercial way towards her own ports. It was in the interest of all of Canada that St. John should be provided with increased wharf and railway facilities and increased elevator space. In that respect he would endorse the suggestion of his hon. colleague that they send a representative delegation to Ottawa to press upon the Government the needs of the Province and the Port of St. John. In August last he had addressed the St. John Rotary Club upon the subject "A Greater St. John." For some years he had thought upon the problem of giving to New Brunswick a commercial metropolis equal in modern equipment and attractiveness to any city of its population in Canada and the United States. Among the factors which entered into such a problem were the establishment of a modern Union Station, the building of first-class passenger docks for the handling of trans-Atlantic traffic, also the creation of one or two residential districts. These might be upon either side of a boulevard, one of the termini of which would be upon the most beautiful rivers of the continent. Upon the banks of that river could be a playground, not only for the city of St. John but for the province of New Brunswick. There could be located exhibition grounds, race tracks, athletic fields, a modern pier jutting into the river with every provision for seasonable recreation. The city also could have its much needed municipal building and a harbor bridge or tube, the latter being the more practical. Transportation companies, private investment and the Federal authorities, all could well be asked to assist in such development leaving the balance to be raised by civic bonding, for St. John was one of the lowest bonded cities in Canada. St. John must follow such a plan at an early date to take advantage of the commercial tide which was setting in. Posterity would look back to this era of New Brunswick history, and would either praise or censure its ancestry according to whether the opportunity was seized or neglected. The city situated as it is on the Atlantic seaboard should attract industries of all kinds, and a modern hotel could be made the headquarters of the commercial transactions of a large area of the Maritime Provinces. An annex established on the St. John river could be the headquarters for sporting parties, after hunting and fishing.

Anything which would benefit the city of St. John would benefit New Brunswick, and anything which would benefit New Brunswick would benefit St. John. These matters to which he had referred might appear to be extraneous, but he considered them to be of high importance, and hoped that before the House should prorogue an arrangement might be made made for a provincial delegation to go to Ottawa to support the claims of the winter port.

The question of Teachers' salaries had been receiving attention recently, and he believed that with the exception of one or two of the Western provinces New Brunswick was preparing to do as much in proportion to her resources as was any other province. Scarcity of teachers was a problem not peculiar to this province. He had noticed an article in the New York Times touching upon the same problem in New York city, which stated that 1,000 teachers had left the schools of that city within the school year. The only proper method advocated by that newspaper was making the calling more attractive to teachers of ability. He believed the report brought in by the special Committee was most commendable. Unless teachers were better paid there soon would be many empty schools in the province.

ANOTHER EPIDEMIC OF THE SPANISH INFLUENZA

A great many authorities have predicted a return of that terrible plague which swept Canada from one end to the other not long ago and left so many deaths in its wake and those who did survive were left in a great many cases with some serious after effect such as weak heart, shattered nerves, impoverished blood and a general weakened and exhausted condition of the system.

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The speaker referring to the Workmen's Compensation Act said he concurred heartily with those who had favored an arrangement whereby hospitals and physicians would be paid fees compatible.

HON. DR. ROBERTS said he had devoted some time to subjects outside his own department, and proceeded to turn his attention to what he believed was one of the most important topics, namely public health. The Public Health Act had first seen the light of day about two years before. Few had extended it a welcoming hand, but he believed that those who opposed it had been honest in their conclusions, their opposition being based upon want of specific knowledge as to conditions existing, and of the necessity of such department. Although only some eighteen months had elapsed since the Act had been proclaimed the province had passed through in that time the greatest epidemic of modern times, which had made its appearance almost at the same time as had the Act. The further one got away from the period of the influenza epidemic the more one was led to believe that because of the centralized authority which under the Public Health Act had enabled officials to proclaim of all form of public assemblies the lives of hundreds of New Brunswick's citizens had been saved. Again the great war near its close began to reveal conditions which served to impress people everywhere throughout the entire world with the great necessity for modern

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