

DR. P. H. LAPORTE, M.L.A.  
FOR MADAWASKA COUNTY,  
MOVES THE ADDRESS

Eloquent Member for Madawaska Refers to  
Important Matters of Public Interest

At the opening of the Legislature yesterday afternoon Dr. P. H. Laporte, M.L.A. for Madawaska County, in moving the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. Dr. Laporte in an eloquent and impressive manner dealt with several important matters. Dr. Laporte's suggestions on colonization are particularly worthy of consideration by the government and by the public.

Dr. Laporte paid a tribute to Hon. J. E. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries, on the efforts which that gentleman has made for the fishermen's benefit.

Much needed educational changes were advocated by Dr. Laporte. He put in a strong plea for the French language and advocated a better system of teaching that language, especially at the Provincial Normal School. He congratulated Hon. Dr. Roberts on his work in the interests of Public Health and suggested further advances, especially towards the prevention of tuberculosis.

Dr. Laporte spoke as follows.

**Mr. Speaker:**

In rising to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I trust, I am conscious of the great honor done to the County of Madawaska, which I represent in this House. I wish to express to the Honorable Mr. Premier and members of his Government, my deep appreciation for their graceful compliment in showering me with the duties attendant on this motion.

The Speech from the Throne, which his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make to this House, refers to events the people of New Brunswick, in common with the people of the other parts of the British Commonwealth learned with deep regret and concern. The constitutional crisis having as a climax the abdication of a King, has clearly shown the superiority of the English political system over all others. But as we say in French: "Le Roi est mort, Vive le Roi." We are rejoicing over the fact that the British Crown rests on the head of a King to whom we pledge our allegiance and answering loyalty. We know that King George Vth, with the help of her most gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth, will uphold the glory and solid foundation of the British Empire.

During the past year, the Province has been bereaved by the death of two of her very distinguished sons: Stewart E. Durling member of York County, and P. J. Veniot for some time Prime Minister of this Province. I need not dwell on the remarkable career of these two men. Their lifelong devotion to the public and great services rendered their country will be long remembered and cherished.

On entering, this Chamber, the new decoration catches the eye. Is this to be taken as an omen of prosperity's return to our Country and to this Province especially? Unmistakable signs of improving conditions are noticeable. It points out to the root of this scourge unemployment of the masses: the dole.

**Election Pledges**

The Province of New Brunswick possesses the wherewithal in natural resources of man power and wealth to insure prosperity and contentment for its people. I am proud to say that the present Government maintained this assertion on their election programme. Worldwide improvement international relations, returning prosperity in all provincial activities, especially in New Brunswick, is evident. This change has not been accidental, but the direct result of the King administration in concluding favorable trade agreements and the proper course of action followed in governmental departments of this Province. The Government has undertaken extensive road work, which has considerably helped in giving employment to the same but unhappy section of our population who fretted under the onus of the unemployment situation.

They have hoped so long for the day, when circumstances would permit their return to sane living, when they could be assets to their community and no longer burdens to the Province and their countrymen. Both Governments, federal and provincial have co-operated to alleviate the situation: people with unbiased judgment will appraise the manner in which they have fulfilled their programme. Legislation has been passed and measures have been taken to induce financial institutions to make credit easier and stimulate commercial and industrial enterprises. The Prime Minister and his colleagues merit our full gratitude for having undertaken such works. We may rest assured that they will not miss other opportunities, whenever they are existing.

**Our Fisheries**

The Honourable Minister of Fisheries should come in for special thanks. Very interesting and persistent publicity, improvement in transportation of sea products, and the actual survey undertaken in the functioning of fisheries in New Brunswick, should help in adopting measures calculated to bring beneficial improvement to this vital industry in our province.

New Brunswick is not, at least at the present time, an industrial as much as a colonization country. Our forests remain as yet, an untold wealth of revenues for the Government and for the people. It is not advisable to disperse settlers in the regions where roads and other means of communications are scarce and rough. The land worker must find a market for the products of his labours. The demand for settlement lots has been most insistent during the last year, particularly in the northern counties of the Province, where population is rapidly increasing.

**A Good Suggestion**

There are large areas of Crown land which contain excellent soil for agricultural purposes. If these areas could be laid out in settlements for the purpose of colonization, hundreds of new settlers could be placed, who, in time should become self-supporting. Controlled settlement in any of these areas would, no doubt, develop a wholesome settlement life. By-roads would necessarily have to be built, the land would be surveyed, the road work and the sale of wood from the areas cleared for the purposes of cultivating would provide some revenue, which, in addition to the clearing land revenue, would give to the settlers many natural and economic advantages. And at the same time, the forest should be protected against all encroachments, which may tend to diminish its value. It is protected as well as may be against fire hazards.

The forest is the largest industry in our Province. It gives the material for large and remunerative exportation in marketable and paper wood. For this reason, it should be preserved against ruin. Means of replenishing as fast as trees are cut should be studied. Just remember, Mr. Speaker, that one single cord of pulp wood requires the cutting of twenty trees. Is it not a pity that we should sacrifice annually hundreds of thousands of cords of pulp wood without trying to offset the tremendous loss by replanting on a large scale?

I shall now come, Mr. Speaker, to a question which was ever a burning one in our Province, and which at one time threatened to separate not our Province but three Maritime Provinces from the Canadian Confederation. The Central Provinces have been held responsible for the changes wrought here since the Confederation. Are they to be blamed for their geographical position, their overwhelmingly greater population, their better means of communication their natural resources in mines, forests, industries, water power which are much greater than ours? As far as I can see, the only way of bettering our position would be to demand greater compensations, while doing ourselves what we can to develop what is ours. Co-operation with the other provinces is an absolute necessity, and I need not tell you, that we would gain nothing by isolating ourselves. United we stand, divided we fall, a policy of isolation would be suicidal.

**Educational Changes**

A reform in the Educational Department would tend to give further improvement to the joy of living and of striving for the advancement of our Province.

It should never be forgotten, Mr. Speaker, that we, New Brunswickers of the French tongue, form one third of the whole population of this Province. It is no fault of ours of we multiply quickly. This is an ethnic fact that cannot be prevented. Nature brooks no opposition nor denial. Love of a people for his mother tongue is one of those facts that cannot be caused for annihilation, when it is backed by the unmistakable will to preserve one's ancestral language. The French speaking population of school age in this Province amounts to thirty-five thousand. They are mostly inhabiting the country, where French only is spoken and heard. In the light of history at home and abroad, would it not occur to all unprejudiced minds that it would be better to recognize the facts and try to make the best of all they stand for? May I be allowed to retail a saying that was attributed to Charles V of Spain and also to one of the Pitts: "A man is twice a man if he speaks two languages." Doesn't it stand to reason that a man in possession of two languages will better find his way than one who speaks only one? Let me illustrate this by an example: One of my friends in Montreal, whose mother tongue is French and who is known as a brilliant conversationalist in English, has often occasion to speak in public. Always, whatever the audience, he begins in French, after that he changes to English, and invariably

begins with this remark: "For the benefit of those who do not understand French, I shall now repeat my remarks in English. He says that in all his career, he has never heard an English speaker forced to make a similar remark to the address of his French listeners. Evidently there is no need for such a procedure. If he did so, it would be an act of courtesy. My friend says that many of his acquaintances, who belong to the higher walks of Society told him repeatedly that they did not like his way of saying that, although they could only say amen to the truth.

In this enlightened assembly, I should not be forced to talk thus, but I cannot deny that there has been and still exists much resentment against the present order of things in some parts of the Department of Education. It is a duty I owe to my constituents, and my compatriots at large. We are waiting with anxiety a reform that will give a measure of satisfaction in our country schools, and especially in the French Department of the Normal School, where a more thorough preparation of bilingual teachers is an absolute requirement. Far from me that thought of requiring the use of French where the Constitution does not allow it, but reason and common sense have higher rights than written laws. Would it not be better to squarely face facts than try and hide behind legal arguments?

**Public Health**

The matter of public health is one to which I, a physician, cannot remain indifferent. I must say that our Department of Health has made and is daily making a progress which gives New Brunswick an enviable place amongst the provinces of Canada and the States of the neighboring Republic.

After the beginning of the present century small pox, typhoid, diphtheria, scarlet fever among the acute diseases, as well as tuberculosis, continued to levy a heavy toll on the people of our Province. About 1900, public opinion was beginning to be really concerned, with the result that the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium was opened. In 1913, followed the opening of the St. John Tuberculosis Hospital.

The late Dr. George C. Melvin, especially trained in science of public Health rendered valuable services as chief medical officer.

Although a system of collection of vital statistics had been in operation in the Province, they were very incomplete. They were practically of no value except as matters of records of individual occurrences of births, marriages and deaths. They were valueless, as far as giving any indication of public health.

In 1917, the Honourable Dr. Roberts elected to the Legislature made a complete reorganization. He established a department competent to deal with health problems in a scientific way. The Honourable Minister of Health was the first holder of a health portfolio in any cabinet in the British Empire.

Since that time, the Province has been divided in five health districts, each in charge of a fully qualified medical officer, has produced the most remarkable improvements in the well being of our people.

At the present time, the counties boards of health are all actively working under one system.

Accurate vital statistics are kept. School children of the whole Province are included in our system of medical inspection. Tuberculosis diagnosis work of the department covers all New Brunswick. The Provincial Bureau of Laboratories is furnishing high scientific services to the medical profession and to the public at large. 50,000 examinations are being taken care of every year in this single bureau. For the control of communicable diseases we have provisions of antitoxin, serum, and like products. The physicians are provided with same for the treatment of their indigent patients.

Measures for the control and treatment of the so-called social diseases have been in operation throughout the Province since many years. A well organized health nursing system has been an important factor in lowering the infant mortality rate, and improving general health conditions.

With the accurate statistics we now possess, we can speak with some degree of assurance. The number of cases of typhoid, last year was about one-fifth that of 1930. Diphtheria in 1920, was four times greater than the present year. We can be confident of further improvements, with the general immunization of the children in the schools. In the past seven years 90,000 children have been protected against diphtheria. In 1918, 4,000 cases of smallpox were recorded in the Province. Complete eradication of this scourge is one of our proudest achievements. Vaccination of all school children has brought gratifying results. New Brunswick may be truly proud of this effort which has not been equaled elsewhere.

Tuberculosis still is one of our bitterest problems. We have made considerable progress, but we still consider there are too many deaths from that disease.

I am very glad to see in the Speech from the Throne, that new legislation will be introduced to alleviate the situation. All municipalities are burdened by the heavy expenses incurred by this class of patients. Any measures taken to improve the condition will be well received.

Figures are cold facts, but, looking at these statistics we visualize easily the tremendous benefits which have come to our people, since the present department has been inaugurated.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore free to express great hopes in the fulfillment of the great works undertaken by the Government. I see a day not far off when we will be able to express our pride in what we have done.

WON'T BE  
PUSHED INTO  
MARRIAGE

Fewer Germans and  
Italians Wed Despite  
Government Loans and  
Bonuses.

Attempts of some foreign governments to stimulate marriage among their nationals by artificial means have proved less successful than early reports may have indicated, according to statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, who declare that, despite the imposition of taxes on bachelors, in Italy, and the offer of gifts and loans to newly wedded couples, in Germany, those countries had greater declines in the marriage rates in 1935 than any other country except Bulgaria, among a group of thirty nations.

The greatest gains in the marriage rate were made by Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and Northern Ireland. The United States showed a slight improvement, and no change was recorded for the Irish Free State, Poland and Latvia.

On the other hand, Portugal, where the greatest improvement was recorded, showed a gain of 9.2 per cent., Australia a gain of 9.1 per cent., New Zealand 7.9 per cent. and Northern Ireland a gain of 7.8 per cent. The gain in the United States was approximately 1 per cent. Among the countries which recorded improvement in the marriage rate were also Japan, Canada, Scotland and England and Wales, while among those showing declines were Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Hungary and France.

"It is particularly interesting," the statisticians say, "to note the striking decreases which occurred in Germany and Italy, two countries which have made decided efforts to raise their marriage rates, and thus stimulate an increase in their population. Germany's decided drop in nuptiality to a rate of 9.7 per 1,000 population in 1935 is especially significant, since that country had a gain of 15.5 per cent. in marriage in 1934. Marriages had then been stimulated in Germany by certain artificial forces, marriage aid loans, in particular. It now appears that the effect of these measures was to bring about only a temporary increase in marriages, rather than to initiate a continued upward trend in German nuptiality.

"Similarly, gifts of money from the Government, a large tax on the bachelors and other stimuli have not enabled Italy to maintain the substantial increase in weddings recorded in 1934. In fact, the gains made in both 1933 and 1934 were practically wiped out by the 11 per cent. decrease shown during 1935. In that year the Italian marriage rate fell to 6.6 per 1,000 and closely approached the lowest point ever recorded for Italy, except in that country's world war period, 1915-1918.

"The decline in the marriage rate of France from 7.1 per 1,000 population in 1934 to 6.8 in 1935 is also extremely interesting in view of the fact that this country was the only civilized power to record an excess of deaths over births during 1935. The French marriage rate has been falling almost continuously since 1930."

BROKEN WORD  
SEEN AS CAUSE  
OF PRISON RIOT

GUELPH, Feb. 18.—Growing resentment among prisoners for not having received certain privileges promised if they observed reformatory rules "to the letter" and proved themselves worthy of trust, was a major contribution to the cause of the Ontario Reformatory riot Jan. 17, the public inquiry into conditions at the institution was told today.

"Privileges promised the prisoners included pajamas, mattresses, butter with meals, and more freedom in visiting," said a well-educated young prisoner, who had held a responsible position before being sentenced for forgery. "Grill gates were not to be locked and prisoners might visit freely between dormitories.

"None of the privileges was granted and there was a growing resentment causing discontent. There was no time stated for the continuance of good behavior, and no reason stated for privileges not being granted," the youth said.

"Too much indiscriminate liberty was a cause of the riot," he said. He declared men were loose at night in the church playing checkers and cards without supervision of an officer and that led to plotting. They thought they could put certain men on their honor, and it didn't work," he said. "No guard was there so the men could be impressed they were on their honor."

On instructions of the schoolmaster, all new men were subjected to intelligence tests, he told the inquiry "If they did not secure a certain rating, they were compelled to go to school. That destroyed a man's ambition and initiative, because to attend school he had to be kept on the bull gang with a pick and shovel. Good work and fine behavior would not permit him to be changed to the easier trusty work his actions may have warranted."

The young prisoner declared the school teacher, a guard, helped to make prisoners insolent by offering to interview those in trouble. He would tell them things much different than the guards responsible for their work told them, and his actions were definitely subversive to good discipline, said witness.

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