

THE DAILY MAIL

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

THE Speech from the Throne which was delivered this afternoon by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, outlines many matters of public interest and forecasts much important legislation which will be introduced including such matters as will benefit labor and industry, agriculture and fisheries and co-operative organizations.

Important improvements in our educational system are outlined in the Speech from the Throne.

The forest and mining industries and colonization are to be expanded. The study of municipal administration has been continued during the year and a report regarding its activities will be presented to the Legislature.

Many other measures for the promotion of the good and welfare of the province will probably be introduced during the session which opened this afternoon. Take it all and all the indications are that the present session will be one of the most important in several years.

"CHISELLING" ON THE INCH

BECAUSE of wars and other spectacular goings-on throughout the world little attention has been paid to a serious bit of news from Washington. While legislators there have been pre-occupied with national and international affairs, neutrality, boycotts and the like, a House of Representatives Committee has decided that Uncle Sam's standard inch measure is too long.

Incidentally, of course, it appears that England has been "chiselling" on the inch; also on the yardstick. With the wear-and-tear of years these official measures in London are shorter than they were, say, a century or so ago, Washington claims; and this seems reasonable enough. But, with characteristic tenacity and complacency, England says an inch and a yard are whatever length English standards say they are.

So there seems nothing to do but shorten the United States inch, too; then the yard will look after itself; the usual 36 inches—but English inches.

How much shorter is the English inch? Washington has the answer, and here is where the business becomes interesting; also gets into rows of decimals, like this: United States inch, 25.40005 millimeters; English inch, 25.39996 millimeters. See the difference? Not with the naked eye, of course, but it's there.

It is said there is "an understanding" between Washington and London that something will be done about this; but they hint that also regarding the two navies, in a somewhat larger field. And there has been more fuss over the alleged naval "understanding" than about the unifying of the inch.

This inch issue may be regarded by those who scorn decimals as not worth the attention of legislative solons, but it is important. Think it through: Shorter inch, shorter foot, shorter yard, and so on up to the shorter mile; which means, of course, more miles round the world. It also means new speed records for all races; old records will be "inched out" as they say in sports circles. Doesn't all this matter at all?

Washington claims this disparity in inches creates an "intolerable" situation, though hardly another international crisis. Still, there are other implications that might be figured out, but decimals in their serried rows tend to chill enthusiasm in this direction.

AMENDING THE F. C. A. A.

THE discussion of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act in the House of Commons last week, on the introduction of proposed amendments by the Minister of Finance, was, to say the least, enlightening. There, as in all the discussions by the public and through the press, the two sides had their innings. The Act, while of unquestioned benefit to large sections of the farming population in every Province, has not been without its defects, in a great many cases positive injuries quite as distressing as any condition it sought to cure.

Perhaps the best feature of the proposed amendments is that its operations are to be terminated as conditions in each Province warrant. There was a very definite feeling on the part of some members that it had served its usefulness in Ontario, and was now the cause of greater harm than good. Miss Agnes Macphail illustrated this conclusion with particular vividness. It was a fact, she asserted, that young men, farm-raised, anxious to get out on their own, cannot obtain the assistance they need because the Act was "drying up farm credit." In her own constituency she claimed many such cases.

Miss Macphail followed the illustration through to its most ludicrous conclusion. These young men "are finally forced off the farms into the cities or towns. They may not be actually unemployed, they seldom are, but if they are working they are displacing some one else. . . . Then in a city like Toronto or Winnipeg, or maybe Ottawa, some person thinks up a scheme of putting that fellow who knows nothing about farming and never will back on the land." And he is "put up in a part of the country where a goat could not live."

Miss Macphail also cited cases, to which Mr. Dunning previously had drawn attention, of farmers in retirement whose sole means of livelihood was the interest on the mortgage of the land they had sold, often under compelling circumstances. The reduction in interest and principal made by the Board, in many cases, had reduced these people to poverty, conditions far worse than those of the mortgagee, who, "at least, has a chance of getting some milk and cream and meat and vegetables."

Supporting the operation of the Act in Saskatchewan, Rev. T. C. Douglas, the C.C.F. member for Weyburn, contended that such injustices were a rarity rather than the rule in that Province, 83.5 per cent. of the farm debt owing outside the Province and chiefly to mortgage and loan companies. He quoted a resolution of the Saskatchewan Legislature, passed unanimously last March, which urged the Federal Government to extend the provisions of the Act to include property owners of the towns and cities, even "retail merchants and traders," as an indication of the desire for its retention and extensions of its activities.

What Mr. Douglas did not deal with was the effect of the widespread, and in many cases too liberal, adjustments in debts on the future credit of Saskatchewan agriculture. While the need in that Province cannot be argued against, it is no less a fact that farm credit has dried up. Insurance companies and mortgage houses have made it no secret that they have no money for such investments and will not have for some time to come. In spite of Mr. Douglas's references to the unanimity of opinion there, it is not conjecture to say business and individual investors in that Province feel no differently.

The complaint they make is not against the Act, but what to them, as creditors (and themselves debtors), are the abuses of it in the arbitrary readjustments made. This is a factor Saskatchewan, along with Ontario, would do well to consider. From the criticism of the Board's operations in Manitoba, it has already been considered there with little pleasure. While its benefits may total thousands, its injustices are far too numerous to be lightly passed over. Since the Act, obviously, must be continued in some Provinces, it would seem only reasonable that such cases be given the opportunity of an appeal to a higher court.

Snapshots

Welcome to our Provincial Legislators.

The youth, beauty and style are gathered at the Parliament Building this afternoon.

What would happen if the fire alarm should ring while Karl Walker was making his little bow before His Honor?

And what would happen if some one stole the mace or the black rod?

There is a six-toed black cat in the Parliament Building. It is a mascot to help the fortunes of the "Five Roses" of the Opposition.

Once upon a time U.N.B. won games. Year after year they were football champions. What's the matter with them in recent years?

We hope none of the Normalites will try to pick out R. B. Bennett or Mackenzie King this year, at the opening of the House. This happened last year.

Now girls! Don't all try to flirt with the good looking single Cabinet Minister. He is a great fellow, but a little bashful.

N. B. LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page One)

Simon, district ordnance officer, M.D. No. 7, and Lieutenant C. H. Millican, of the Saint John Fusiliers.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Cock, A.A. and Q.M.G. M.D. No. 7, acting officer commanding the district in the absence of Brigadier L. F. Page, D.S.O., D.O.C., who is on leave of absence to the West Indies, also accompanied the escort.

The Guard of Honor for the Lieutenant-Governor is again being supplied by the University of New Brunswick Contingent of the C.O.T.C., under the command of Temporary-Captain J. A. K. Legere, Newcastle. Other officers with the guard, who were announced last week by Major W. G. Jones, officer commanding the unit, will be Lieutenant A. C. MacCallum, Campbellton; 2nd Lieutenant K. K. Langmaid, St. Stephen, subalterns; and Lieut. G. A. Campbell, of this city, adjutant.

The Speech from the Throne which we publish elsewhere, dealt with many matters of importance.

In the Chamber

The Assembly Chamber presented a spectacle of brilliancy not often seen at the Provincial Capital. Each side of the Throne was banked with palms and ferns. Huge bouquets gave the Chamber an air of more than ordinary festive appearance.

On the floor of the Assembly were a number of ladies occupying seats near the Throne. These included Miss Margaret MacLaren, daughter of the Lieutenant Governor; Mrs. A. A. Dysart, wife of the Premier, and his daughter Miss Mary Dysart; Mrs. J. B. McNair, wife of the Attorney General; Mrs. A. P. Paterson, wife of the Minister of Federal Affairs; Mrs. W. S. Anderson, wife of Hon. W. S. Anderson, Commissioner of Hydro, and others.

The Address

Dr. F. A. McGrand, M.L.A. for Queens, moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This was seconded by Ernest W. Stairs for York County. These will appear in The Daily Mail tomorrow.

Hon. Fred C. Squires, leader of the Opposition, will move the adjournment of the debate later this afternoon and it is expected that the debate will be resumed on Tuesday next.

DE VALERA

(Continued from Page One)

retary, and Sir Thomas Inskip, minister for defence coordination, attended with Mr. Chamberlain, while Mr. de Valera, Sean Lemass, industry minister, James Ryan, agriculture minister, and J. W. Dulanty, high commissioner, attended for Eire. Mr. de Valera and Mr. Dulanty remained with Mr. Chamberlain after the other conferees left.

Trade matters were discussed at a later meeting attended by W. S. Morrison, agriculture minister, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Lemass and Mr. Dulanty. Board of Trade officials represented Oliver Stanley, president of the Board of Trade, who is ill.

The talks will be resumed tomorrow and it is predicted they will continue until the week-end.

While it was predicted a commercial agreement could be concluded, Mr. de Valera was represented as determined to obtain concessions on his requests for an eventual United Ireland before signing any agreements.

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VICKS COUGH DROP

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me much pleasure to greet you upon the resumption of the thirty-eighth Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick.

The period intervening since your last Session witnessed the Coronation, in the month of May, of their Majesties King George the sixth and Queen Elizabeth. Upon that momentous and significant occasion, New Brunswick was represented by myself and the Honourable the Prime Minister who also participated in several conferences while in London.

Recently the Federal Government appointed a Royal Commission to study Dominion-Provincial Relations. My government is giving every co-operation to facilitate the work of the Commission. Material and data are being assembled for presentation at the formal sittings of the Commission which will begin in this City on April 19, next.

Since the last Session my government has been requested by the Federal Government to give assent to an amendment to the British North America Act transferring to the Dominion jurisdiction in relation to unemployment insurance.

Consistent with their conception of the Constitution and the principles of Responsible Government, my Ministers, without discussing the merits of the proposal, took the position that the question should be determined by this Legislature and the Federal Government was so advised.

The proposal will, accordingly, be presented for your consideration.

It is gratifying to note that the period since the last Session has been one of substantial recovery which is reflected in the finances of the Province. My government has completed the fiscal year with a surplus which will serve to further encourage our people.

The building of hard-surfaced roads was continued and with the completion of present contracts, this Province will have 869 miles of dust-free permanent pavement, fulfilling a long-felt need and, in addition, providing an added accommodation to attract tourists.

My government has achieved notable success in its policy to broaden existing markets and secure new markets for our primary products. Particular mention may be made of the development of market for our seed potatoes in South America. An entree was secured in 1936 and last year exports were increased nearly seven-fold. This enormous development has assisted substantially not only potato growers but subsidiary industries and labor, including port workers at Saint John.

Furthermore, to take advantage of the market for bacon in Great Britain, farmers were encouraged to stimulate production. As an indication of expansion it is worthy of observation that organized clubs alone, prepared and marketed ten thousand high grade hogs suitable for export—the largest local co-operative movement in history.

Forest industries experienced the most active and profitable business in years, absorbing many unemployed, adding new wealth to the Province and yielding increased crown land revenues to the Provincial Treasury.

Interest in mining is being revived. Several geological parties carried on investigations during the year while private interests have been systematically exploring various sections of the Province for precious metals and other minerals with encouraging results.

Colonization settlements organized to establish families on the land are demonstrating the soundness of the policy. Progress has been steady and in some instances quite marked.

To assist in the progressive endeavours of the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, my government, in recent months has had a survey made of the fisheries of this Province. Subsequently a carefully selected advisory committee gave consideration to the entire field of fisheries development and submitted specific recommendations which are receiving the attention of my Ministers.

Steady progress has been made in the improvement of our educational system. Training courses have been conducted to develop qualified leaders to carry on the work of adult education. A youth training programme has been instituted, in co-operation with the Federal Government, to equip men and women for suitable employment.

Where circumstances permit, my government has continued to move steadily forward in the matter of making the benefits of electrical energy available to increasing numbers of our people.

I speak with regret of the unfortunate outbreak of infantile paralysis throughout Canada and elsewhere, a few months ago. We are thankful for the measures of control and treatment adopted by the Department of Health of this Province which proved so effective in checking the spread of this dread disease.

The facilities at the Provincial Hospital have been enlarged and the services rendered by this institution raised to a high standard of efficiency.

A new hospital unit is being added to the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium which will provide accommodation for fifty additional patients and enable the government to deal more effectively with the tuberculosis problem.

The study of municipal administration has been continued during the year and a complete report on the finances of municipal corporations within the Province will be tabled in the House.

My government not only promoted the principle but has been the first in Canada to make use of recent Federal legislation to provide pensions for the blind.

You will be invited to give consideration to important legislation designed to promote the best interests of our people, including measures to promote the security and well-being of labor and industry; to foster the establishment of co-operative organizations; to revise the electoral laws and the law relating to landlord and tenant; as well as amendments to the Highways Act and other public statutes.

The public accounts of the last fiscal year and the estimates for the current year will be submitted for your consideration.

I commend the work of the Session to your careful and faithful attention, trusting that Divine Providence will guide and direct you in your deliberations.

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HERE MONDAY!

Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo

FOUR POWER

(Continued from Page One)

3. Naval parity with France and possibly also with Britain in the Mediterranean.

4. Possible transfer to Italy of some of Britain's shares in the Suez Canal and abolition of canal dues for Italian vessels.

5. Financial help, either through a loan or through credits, as outlined in the international economic plan drafted by former Premier Paul van Zeeland of Belgium.

6. Stopping of the supply of arms to unruly natives of Ethiopia which she suspects is being sent from Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Kenya Colony.

There were indications Britain may oppose any large concessions on the second, third and fourth points and also may demand stringent guarantees any financial help would not be used to divert Italian money to rearmament.

The Associated Press said the cabinet hoped to draw Italy into a far-reaching plan possibly aimed at curbing Nazi expansion in Central Europe through the binding restrictions of the long-dormant four-power pact.

Mussolini sponsored the four-power pact in 1933. Its purpose was to associate Britain, France, Germany and Italy in common policies to protect European peace.

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