

# Achievements and Proposals Present Government Are Shown

Messrs. Wood of Westmorland, and Groom of Charlotte Point Out What Premier Tilley Has Done For Benefit of the Province—A Creditable Showing.

Speaking yesterday at the New Brunswick Legislature Messrs. H. M. Wood, M. P. P., of Sackville, and H. M. Groom, M. P. P., of St. Stephen, delivered excellent addresses when respectively they moved and seconded the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Owing to the interest which usually attaches to the debate on the address, The Daily Mail is publishing these speeches quite fully. We also propose during the ensuing session to give the public as correct account of the legislative session as it is possible to give without taking up unduly the space in our paper, which is required for general news and other features.

The speeches of Messrs. Wood and Groom yesterday both pointed out the achievements of the Tilley Government and what the present administration has done for the public good during its term of office.

The session promises to be an interesting one.

## Mr. Wood's Speech

Mr. Wood said:—On rising to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I wish to express to the Honorable the Premier and the members of his government my deep appreciation of the graceful compliment paid by them to the County of Westmorland, and of the honor conferred upon me in having assigned to me this part in this Session's proceedings. Had my own wishes been consulted, I may say frankly, I would have much preferred to have performed this pleasant task for the Honorable the Premier and his Government, next Session. On the other hand, I presume that in selecting me on this occasion they have been thoughtful of my opportunities.

## Change of Governors

Since our last session a change has taken place in the office of Lieutenant Governor of this Province. Major General the Honorable Hugh H. McLean, K.C.V.D., L.L.D., whose term of office has expired, will long be remembered by the people of the Province for the gracious manner in which he administered the duties of his office, and for his genial hospitality. The honorable gentleman, who has succeeded him in this high office, is a well known figure, not only in his own province and in the Dominion of Canada as a former member of the Federal Cabinet, but also internationally. He is a prominent figure in the medical, military and political life of the Dominion, and is to be congratulated on his accession to the office of Lieutenant Governor of this Province, a position which we are assured, he will fill with credit to himself and to the people of this Province.

## Members Rewarded

During the past year this House has lost the services of four very capable Members, Mr. M. E. Agar and Mr. H. Colby Smith of Saint John, Mr. J. W. Smith of Hampton, and Mr. J. M. Scott of Fredericton. Their sane judgment and wise counsel will be greatly missed in the deliberations of the House. Fortunately however, their services are not lost to the public, as they have left the House to fill positions of responsibility and public service in their respective localities. The congratulations and good wishes of their former colleagues go with them.

We are approaching the end of the second term of the present party in control of the affairs of the Province and a review of the activities and accomplishments of the Government under its various leaders will not be out of place. The whole history of this party since taking over the reins of Government in the fall of 1925 has been one of progress and constructive development of the Province's various departmental functions.

## Public Health

In the medical department presided over by our genial Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Taylor, the Government, recognizing the value of special training for its medical staff has had these officials specially trained in Public Health service. This has been made possible through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, which provided the necessary scholarships. This action on the part of this organization, I might mention is a distinct tribute to the merit of the public health programme of this Province. The result of this training has been to further increase the efficiency of these officials, and the value of their work. It has also made possible the organization of the work throughout the Province into Districts, each with a thoroughly trained medical officer in charge, in a manner which has resulted in greater co-ordination of effort, and consequently a saving to the Province in time and expense.

The Department has also made a notable advance in the extension of its tuberculosis diagnostic services thus further assisting in combating this disease.

## Something New

A special phase of this type of service rendered by the Department is a thorough examination, including the X-ray of all students in Normal School, and in the colleges throughout the Province. By this means tendency to this disease is discovered in time, in most cases, to effect a cure. It also has a value in educating the public in its fight against this

scourge. This service is free to the students.

Other activities deserving special mention are the financial assistance and supervision given to the public health nursing services. The building up and improvement of the laboratory service of the Province, and the wonderful progress achieved in the control of, and reduction in communicable diseases, including tuberculosis.

## The Hydro Service

The Hydro Electric Commission under the careful and efficient supervision of The Hon. E. A. Reilly has continued to extend its services to the public. The most notable addition to this service was the completion in December 1934 of a high voltage line from the Power plant at Minto to Nelson, N.B., a distance of about 73 miles. This line will not only serve a large rural district from Minto to Nelson, but from its sub-station at that point will transmit power to other sub-stations in Newcastle and Chatham for general distribution at those points. There the current will be stepped down and made available for light and heat, and cheap power for manufacturing purposes. The principal industries of the country of Northumberland have been hard hit by the depression, and the citizens of this county should benefit greatly from this service.

## Agriculture

The history of the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of Honorable Lewis Smith, who is himself a practical farmer, and brings to this department the benefit of his own experience, has been one of increased services to the agricultural community. Our farming community has suffered during the depression especially in the depreciation in the value of their dollar, and consequently in their buying power, through the tremendously reduced values of farm products. Under these circumstances the assistance rendered by the department should be of particular benefit to them.

Activities of this Department which have been carried on for the assistance of our agricultural community include, first, aid to the Dairying Industry in the paying of a half cent per pound for the transportation of cream from outlying districts to the nearest point of manufacture. Secondly, a check testing upon request of all cream samples sent to factories. To this service has been added a check of samples of churnings sent in by the creameries, to whom would be returned a grading of the butter, and a report of any faults which might be discovered in the quality of their make. There is also a cheese grading service.

## Herd Improvement

One of the most recent developments was the taking over of herd improvement work, which was discontinued by the Federal Department in December 1933. This service consists in assisting and co-operating with the dairy farmer to keep a record of the production of his herd, thereby enabling him by selection, and improved feeding methods, to improve his production.

Another valuable service rendered is the T. B. test for cattle. Where the animals are found to be infected the Federal Government recompenses the farmer to the extent of two thirds of the estimated value of the animal, and in addition the farmer gets the slaughter value. All these services are provided free by the Department.

## Poultry Culture

The Department's activities in the poultry division have resulted in a splendid increase of poultry and poultry products. In the egg laying contests New Brunswick birds have led the Dominion and our stock has been sought for import into Quebec and abroad into England.

There is also a blood testing service provided by the Department for the eradication of pullorum, and the improving of the health of the flocks. This service was inaugurated in 1928. During the year 1934 over 24,000 birds were blood tested, for various tanneries in the Province, and the percentage of birds showing traces of this disease was found to have been reduced in the six years from 14 per cent to 1.4 per cent of the birds tested. The Government pays fifty per cent of the cost of the laboratory test.

Perhaps one of the most important activities of this Department has been in promoting interest in Junior Club work in the Province.

These include calf, swine, poultry grain and home economics clubs, and now, number approximately 2,000 members. To encourage this work prizes are given, the cost of which is borne in equal proportions by the Provincial and Federal Governments and by local organizations.

## Soils and Crops

Under the soils and crops division the Department offers a free laboratory soil test. The Department field force also assists in the conducting of test plots on the soil under investigation. The laboratory test, field force service, and most of the additional cost in connection with the test plots is borne by the department.

The Department also pays the cost of the freight on drain tile in carlots and also gives assistance in the purchase of lime by assuming all freight in excess of fifty cents per ton. I might also mention the assistance which has been given in the erection

of wheat mills for seed cleaning plants.

Lastly in 1934, \$19,000 was expended by the Department to assist the various agricultural societies, and a yearly grant is also made to 165 Women's Institutes in the Province.

## Public Works

Coming now to the major spending Department of the Government, that of Public Works, we find a remarkable record of achievement—anyone who travelled our Provincial Highways in 1925 and travels them again today, will appreciate what the Hon. the Minister of Public Works has accomplished in the way of road improvements. In the nine years during which he has had control of this Department, he has given to New Brunswick a system of improved and gravelled highways, second to that of no other Province in the Dominion—this result has, of course, not been accomplished without spending a considerable amount of money. As a matter of fact, the total expenditures to date for road purposes, exclusive of the cost of bridges, total \$23,000,000 in round figures. This seems like a staggering sum, but when you consider that during those nine years no less than 5,538 miles of road have been constructed and 10,364 miles of road graded and improved—these mileages, I should point out, are cumulative and include mileage reconstructed and regarded after the first improvement—it brings the total per mile cost to approximately \$1,500 per mile, and this figure includes all the cost of the machinery which was utilized in the construction of these roads.

## Tribute To Premier

And now to deal more particularly with the Government of my friend the Hon. Premier, I think that it is no disparagement to former Premiers and reflects great credit on the present Premier, when I say that he is giving to the duties of his office more time and personal attention than any previous incumbent of the office. The results are here to show for themselves. Let me recite briefly a list of the accomplishments of the Government under his regime.

## A Striking List

The Tilley Government enacted the first Mining Act in the Province of New Brunswick. This Act provided legislation designed to protect the miners, from a wage viewpoint, and instituted safety regulations for their protection while at work.

Enacted the Provincial Marketing Board Act, whereby a Board was appointed to make a study of the marketing of the natural products of this province and make recommendations for the development of this service.

Through the newly organized Marketing Board the Government is investigating new markets, and making initial shipments of New Brunswick potatoes to Egypt and India.

Enacted the New Brunswick Forest Operations Commission Act, appointing a Commission to fix minimum wages for men working in the lumber woods of this province.

Passed legislation permitting women electors the right to take seats in the Legislature of New Brunswick.

Established single men's unemployment relief camps, subsequently taken over by the Federal Government, at whose expense they are being operated, which will create a permanent artillery range and reforestation depot, in Sunbury and York counties. Instituted a hard-surfaced Roads Policy, whereby a certain mileage of roads in the province will each year be hard-surfaced thus assuring a continuous program of road improvement in New Brunswick—a steadily increasing tourist attraction.

Provided aid to Colonists, in the way of free seed and food allowances during seeding period.

Secured a large increase in colonization lots awarded to settlers in New Brunswick.

Reserved on all Crown Land Fishing Licenses, a Mileage Area for public fishing by residents of New Brunswick.

Increased the rate of pay to men working on the bridges and highways of the Province.

Instituted annual conferences between the Municipal and Provincial authorities in New Brunswick, setting up a committee of contact between the Municipal and Provincial Governments to discuss and make recommendations re matters of vital interest to both.

Financially aided the counties of Northumberland and Gloucester thereby relieving them of serious financial problems and embarrassment.

Restored the pay cut to all provincial employees and officials.

Arranged for educational instruction classes in the Single Men's Relief Camps in this province, through the Vocational School Board.

Assisted in the settlement of strikes in the Minto coal mines, and a Northumberland lumber mill.

Materially reduced the province's per annum Capital Expenditures.

## A New System

Changed the system of making up the annual Provincial Estimates of receipts and expenditures, that is to say, immediately after the close of the fiscal year, October 31st, Departmental and Governmental expenditures are submitted and approved for recommendation to the Legislature in place of, as heretofore, making up such estimates in January, following the close of the fiscal year.

Required sawmill licensees to cut the maximum required to be cut annually under timber regulations.

Reserved from saw mill licensees and pulp mill licensees the right to an approved applicant to cut hardwood from hardwood stands of timber included in said licenses, where the licensee is not operating in hardwood.

Arranged for the grading of lumber for export.

Arranged for the recommendation for formation of Producers association as well as Exporters' Association. Arranged for the appointment of an official representative in Great Britain of the Eastern Canada softwood and hardwood industry.

Passed Legislation whereby the Province may step in and take over management of any Municipality liable to go into liquidation.

Assisted in increasing the market for New Brunswick lumber in Great Britain; the 1934 shipments of long lumber and pulpwood from Crown Lands being over double that of 1933.

Held three meetings with Maritime Premiers in regard to Maritime claims and prepared a brief for New Brunswick, to be submitted before the Commission appointed to further implement recommendations of the Duncan Commission.

## Interest Paramount

First, last and all the time, he and his Government have made the interests of the people of New Brunswick paramount.

This is truly an enviable record and he has been well styled the "Premier of action."

## MR. GROOM'S SPEECH

Mr. GROOM, in rising to second the Address, said:

Mr. Speaker, the voice of modesty, telling me that the Hon. Premier in extending to me the privilege of seconding the motion in reply to the gracious address delivered by His Honour was but paying a compliment to the County of Charlotte, is interrupted by the whisper of egotism, that such choice was perhaps in some small measure in recognition of my efforts on behalf of the County and this Conservative Administration since 1930. To be sure that I cover both possibilities I wish to express to our Premier the appreciation of the people of Charlotte County for the honor he has paid to the County, and my personal thanks for the tribute I feel I have personally received.

## Compliments Mover

I congratulate the Hon. Member from Westmorland on his well reasoned discussion in reply to the important Speech read to us this afternoon. The political background which the Hon. Member received from association with his father, the late Hon. Josiah Wood, once Lieutenant-governor of the province, along with the knowledge of general business which he has obtained through his many activities in the commercial, financial and radio life of our Province qualify him to debate the issues of the day with a confidence gained through the experience of years.

## The New Governor

The ceremonies of this afternoon bring to our minds a change in the political life of our country which though political in its inception is, once made, happily above politics. The feat we bear towards His Most Excellent Majesty—the British traditions which have become a part of our national life as well as an inherent part of our individual selves causes us to put away political thoughts when paying our respects to the Representative of His Most Gracious Majesty in this Province. I know that I voice the opinion of all within these walls and within this Province when I say that today we are filled with additional pride in knowing that the Honourable Murray MacLaren, C.M.G., recently appointed Lieutenant-Governor of this Province is one whose lifetime activities, political and otherwise, have been such as to give him that broad understanding of national affairs which has for generations distinguished representatives of His Majesty in the various colonies of the Great British Empire.

He paid a tribute to the retiring Governor, and to the former Chief Justice Mr. Hazen.

## Some Changes

Since the prorogation of this House last April four Members who formerly sat on your right have resigned to accept offices of emolument in the various public services of the Province. This House will greatly miss the indefatigable attendance at Committees and sessions of Mr. William Smith, the present Registrar of Deeds for Kings County; the suavity and considered advice of Mr. Colby Smith which are now being applied by him to his duties as Sheriff of the County of Saint John; the old world courtliness and well reasoned debate of Mr. Miles Agar, who has become a valued member of the Liquor Control Board, and last but not least the genial presence of "Uncle Jim Scott," the present Registrar of Deeds for York County, a man of much experience in one of our primary industries, whose unvarnished truths were listened to with

rapt attention and carried more weight than many a more eloquent address. Well Earned

While our friends of the Opposition, for what they believe to be political advantage, have in recent years been inclined to refer to political changes in the Government in a rather capricious manner, I am convinced that in their deep-most thoughts they feel that each of our former associates referred to has by long service to the public earned his appointment, and join with me in wishing them many years of success in their new positions.

## The Friend of Labor

While I have in recent years lived in a community which is fortunate indeed in having several prosperous manufacturing industries in its midst, I have also been fortunate in having lived the earlier years of my life in the rural districts of the County where I gained my first knowledge of the agricultural, lumber and fishing industries of our Province, as a result of both experiences I become more convinced each day that the welfare of all industry, manufacturing or otherwise, and hence of our Province depends primarily on the prosperity of the working man. In this connection one of the most pleasing things I have observed in the work of the Hon. Premier is that under his leadership very important legislation has been enacted to protect and assist the man who earns his livelihood "by the sweat of his brow," as we sometimes say.

## The Mining Act

First came the Mining Act, calling for improvement in certain respects of the conditions under which men should be required to work, the hours of labor, etc., with the purpose of avoiding maiming and fatal accidents and protecting the health of those engaged in that arduous industry. In addition it gave certain powers as to the regulation of wages. This necessarily resulted in changes in methods of operation and increased expenditures on the part of some operators and as was natural did not, I believe, receive plaudits from all. However, the statement read to us this afternoon by His Honour that the production of coal in the Province had greatly increased during the past year and was the greatest of any year in the history of the Province is evidence that once again the Premier was right and by helping the laboring man he helped industry. The coal industry of this Province received no assistance by way of subvention as does that of Nova Scotia, and we are fortunate in having charge thereof men of ability who in a time when most industry has been on the decline have by putting their shoulders to the wheel pushed the industry over the top.

## The Forgotten Man

Last year the Premier in his capacity as such and as Minister of Lands and Mines became cognizant that conditions of men laboring in another primary industry—the lumber woods—were far from satisfactory. Due to an excess of woods workers over the demand for the same it appeared that some of the unconscionable operators of the Province were taking an unfair advantage of the situation to the detriment of the hard-working laborer and the Province as a whole. Until such time as legislation governing the matter was made no action on the part of the Government was possible other than to gather information on the subject as a basis and then prepare legislation for introduction before this House when it met in 1934. This was done and the New Brunswick Forest Operations Commission Act was passed. Our Premier of action and his Government moved promptly to appoint a Commission of action. In the choice of Chairman of that Committee the Government was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Justice W. C. H. Grimmer. Bred close to the soil; for many years practising as a barrister in what was then a thriving lumber community; later as a Member of the Government of this Province, occupying a position as Minister of Lands and Mines, and for the past twenty years a Judge of the Supreme Court, he brought to the important office of Chairman of the Commission an extensive knowledge of the industry itself, the diplomacy of a statesman, and a judicial mind. It has not been my pleasure to become acquainted with the other members of the Board, but I wish to commend all connected therewith for the promptness with which they have dealt with matters coming before them. While we regret that press of judicial duties necessitated the resignation of His Lordship as Chairman, we are pleased to note

that his successor and his associate Commissioners are continuing to carry out the Act with the same efficiency as marked the initial work of that body.

This Act passed last year with the approval of both sides of the House has at present I believe the general approval of all who have watched its beneficial effects, and while there may have been some attempted evasions, the lumber operators as a whole are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have tried to comply with the spirit of the law. With a lumber cut equal to that of the preceding year employing at least an equal number of men, but with wages paid to those men considerably increased in many instances, the benefits of the legislation have been felt in many parts of our Province.

It is only by co-operation of all interested in our problems that success can be obtained, and the initiative of the Prime Minister of this Province in inviting Government officials and lumbermen of our adjoining sister provinces to meet with him at Saint John in the early part of last summer is to be commended. The problems relating to the export lumber trade are common to all the Eastern Canadian provinces, the quality and class of our lumber is similar, and our forest products must be sold in practically the same market, the Old Country. One of the results of the mutual study of the industry was the appointment of a resident representative at London, thus giving our exporters a direct contact with the market requirements and conditions in England and which I believe will prove of great benefit to all provinces joining in the project.

## Marketing Act

A third, but not the least important of the Acts enacted with the object of assisting the primary producer—the man who earns his living by manual toil—in no matter what industry he may engage was the Marketing Act. This Act is important not only to the laboring man but to all classes as the greater our markets the greater the demand for labor, the better the wage, and increased employment and wages brings prosperity.

Pursuant to the Marketing Act provisions a Marketing Board was appointed, a Board which consists of men of outstanding ability in the industries they were supposed to represent. Occasion has not demanded close scrutiny on my part of the work accomplished by the Board, but I feel quite safe in saying that through the efforts of this Provincial Board acting in conjunction with one of a similar nature appointed under a similar Act of the Federal parliament considerable benefit is accruing to the potato growers of the province, and I trust will continue to accrue. Whether it does or not both Governments and both Boards are to be commended for the zealous efforts they have made to solve this problem, better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all.

The Board has also been investigating conditions affecting other industries of our Province and in due time, acting by itself or perhaps in conjunction with Boards set up under the Dominion Act, will sponsor other schemes which will undoubtedly be of great assistance to the welfare of the province.

## Should Be Granted

Speaking of export trade reminds me of the warning note recently sounded by the Hon. R. B. Hanson, Minister of Trade and Commerce, a few days ago, when he asked that careful attention be given to the grading of all lumber intended for export purposes, and pointed out the harm that one poor shipment may do. The advice is timely, and should be applied not only to lumber but to all products.

(Continued on page seven)

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