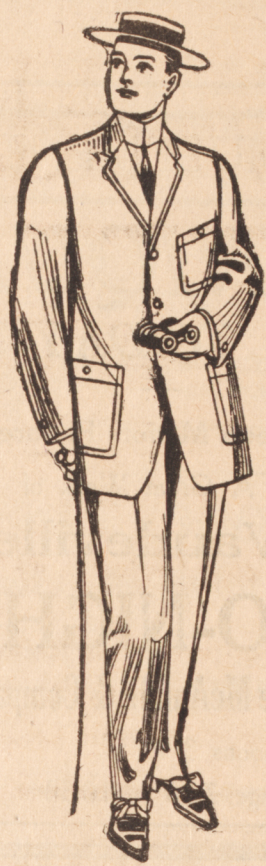


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Some Striking Facts for the People to Consider

The Speeches at the Opening of the Legislature on Thursday Should Give the Public Food for Thought

How the Government Builds Bridges to Accommodate Its Friends--A \$50 Bridge for \$1,100, and the People Pay the Bills--Where is the Money Brought by the Sale of the Albert Southern Rails?--Hon. Mr. Robinson Gives the Government Some Questions to Dodge--The Premier Gives no Information in Regard to the Valley Railway--Messrs. Hartt and McLachlan try to Defend the Ministry

The Legislature was opened Thursday afternoon with the usual ceremonies. His Honor Lieutenant Governor Tweedie came into the Assembly Chamber at three o'clock, took his seat on the throne and read the speech which has already appeared in these columns.

There were also the three other Fishery claims, those of the Quatapewagewick and the Patapedia Rivers, and the other that the revenues of the rivers were due to the province for the period before judgment on the dispute as to the claims of the Dominion Government and the riparian owners. All these matters were in difficulty now and things were going on under a modern vivendi. He could tell the House that in the conference he had had with the representatives of the Federal Govt. regarding the Fisheries claims, it had been suggested whether the province could not accept a lump sum to be paid in annual payments and relinquished control of the non-tidal waters. He believed that the Province's case was unanswerable and could not stand long before there would be some definite results.

Regarding the School Books, the Leader of the Opposition had put up the excuse that he had been Premier of the Province for a period of only nine months and therefore could not have been expected to do much in that time towards bringing about a reduction in the price of school books. But the election, when this govt. was returned to power, took place on March 3rd, 1908, they met the House in April and it was during the month of May that a plan was submitted bringing about a reduction in the price of school books. They had been hampered by an arrangement which had existed with Middlemen who got a rake off on every book that was sold. With the member for Charlotte and others who had urged for cheaper school books in the days of the old govt. he had always been told that it would be impossible to secure any reductions. The same statement was made during the last election although it was true that at the latter end of the campaign the ex-premier had said that he would have a commission appointed to inquire into the question if he and his party were returned to power.

The present administration had then taken charge of affairs. They first of all brought about a reduction of forty per cent in the prices of some of the most important books then they made the reduction general with all the common school books and now at the start of the next school year the reduction price would be further increased so that it would average fifty per cent on all common school books.

The Leader of the Opposition had said there were places where books could not be procured. In bringing any new action into operation, there was always trouble to get a new system working well at the first start. It would be remarkable, if in the appointment of vendors for a whole province, there were not some who should not have been appointed, perhaps, and who were unfitted for the position.

These cases had been remedied as rapidly as possible and during the past year there had been scarcely a complaint of this kind, although during the first year it was true that there had been several. His hon. friend could move for the returns of the School Book Department fund as had been done last year and he would find that the cost of administering the department was the merest bagatelle compared with the saving which was being effected for the people of the province in the prices they were paying for these school books.

Hon. Mr. Hazen informed the House that Rev. J. W. McConnell who had been the chaplain of the House, had removed from the province and he moved that Rev. Neil MacLauchlan be appointed chaplain of the House.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill to incorporate the Relief Committee of the Town of Campbellton.

Mr. Hartt in moving the address in answer to the speech from the throne said that the meeting of the Legislature after the lapse of the year, with the ranks remaining unbroken was a matter of much pleasure. He regret-

ted that several members of the House, through illness, were unable to be present and attend to their duties, but all would hope that they would soon be restored to health again and be able to fill their accustomed places. He felt that the sentiment of the House when he said that all the members found pleasure in meeting together, and in the point of real friendship and courtesy, he felt there was no body of a similar nature where more existed. There were differences of opinion but they were on matters of policy. On his side of the House it was felt that the opposition took an interest in the country's welfare which was strong and to the point, but they would not trust them, nevertheless, as they believed the honourable members opposite would appropriate for their own use, every plank in the platform of this progressive government.

The speech from the throne was marked by brightness and cheerfulness and bore the imprint of optimism and courage which were the fundamental principles of this government.

Twice in ten years the British Empire had sustained the loss of its Sovereign. When King Edward succeeded his mother, Victoria the Good the high hopes which were held out for his reign had been fully realized. He was a man fond of sport, but in his mind had been the great national affairs. By his diplomacy, lasting peace between Britain and France had been assured, he had dispersed the war cloud which hung over Europe and he saw the inauguration of responsible government in South Africa where Britain and Boer now stood together as loyal subjects of the Empire.

King Edward had richly deserved the title of "The Peacemaker," which had been bestowed upon him. His last words, "It is all over now, but I think I have done my duty," showed the spirit that dominated his life, and the vast crowd of three million people at his obsequies was but an index of the general grief which was felt throughout the world and in no place was there more genuine sorrow than in Canada.

But King George had ascended the throne in succession to his noble father and it was a matter of satisfaction that there was no dispute as to the rightful heir to the throne and no civil war with bloodshed to mar the pages of history. All would join in saying long may he reign.

It was an act of Providence that caused the largest hay crop in the history of the province during the past year and while the government could not perhaps take the credit for that, credit was due the government for the increased interest it was stirring up in agriculture, for finding markets for the farmers and for the many expenditures they were making to better agricultural conditions in this province. The lack of proper help was one of the great problems on the farm. The introduction of machinery in the various lines of work attracted men away from farm work. There was a time in the history of farming when a man would take his scythe and work all day in the hayfield, proud of his strength and endurance to be able to do such work, but the sound of the moving machine had been the sign to hang up the scythe. The same state of affairs existed more or less with work on the roads. It was easier to get men to work on the road machines than at manual labor.

He was glad to see the increased interest in horticulture in this province, and a good thing would be accomplished if it were possible to get the fruit growers to agree upon a few varieties which were the best to grow. If all were growing different varieties it would be hard for a buyer to get a good sized shipment of any one kind. There were different opinions as to how the different parts of fruit-growing work should be done, and it required to have the proper information constantly placed before the public.

The government deserves credit in connection with the opening up of the Cuban market for New Brunswick potatoes; over three thousand barrels of potatoes had been exported to Cuba from this province last year,

but this year the Canadian market was more profitable and a better market for New Brunswick potatoes, but the shippers at St. John had brought in potatoes from Maine, where the prices were not so high as here, and had shipped them to Cuba. Nobody could have any objection to that move by the shippers. It was a good thing as it kept them in touch with the Cuban market.

General sorrow was felt during the year at the destructive fire which had practically wiped out the prosperous town of Campbellton. The work of the flames had been so swift and so awful that hundreds of people were soon made homeless, and all were gratified at the way the people of the country came to their relief. The people of Campbellton had grasped the situation with wonderful courage and had started upon the erection of a new town which would rise on the blackened ruins of that which had been destroyed. He felt that the House should stand united behind the bill to provide assistance for the town and prevent uncertainty which might interfere with its development. The bill should pass so that the government would be put in a position to give the stricken town the assistance it deserved.

Mr. Hartt said that he favored the building of the St. John Valley Railway but it must be realized that the province had made a great offer. The people of Charlotte County felt that way and no doubt there was the same feeling in other sections of the province. Assistance to the extent of twenty-five thousand dollars per mile was a very generous offer, but he was in accord with what had been done because he believed in progress and in this age of development it was hard indeed to have a fine farming district such as the St. John Valley shut from the benefit of transportation facilities, on which the products of the farm should be carried to the most favorable markets.

He favored the building of a railway, but he didn't want the province encumbered forever and he didn't want to see the bonds of the province guaranteed for any company, unless it was a bona fide company willing to go ahead with the construction of the railway. But he had confidence in this government and its ability to handle the proposition and that was why he was not afraid to stand out in favor of it.

He believed that when the St. John Valley Railway was constructed and became part of the short trunk line, it would not be long before it would be realized that there was easy access across the country to Charlotte Co. ports, the finest ports on the Atlantic sea-coast and the ones which the Creator meant to handle Canada's trade.

He was glad that the territorial revenue was being so well collected and that there was a substantial amount added to the revenue of the province as a result. He was pleased with the way the business of the office was conducted.

The roads when this government came into power in 1908 were in bad shape, a statement which he felt nobody would deny. The bushes had to be cut out along the side to make gutters in the first place because you couldn't have a road without gutters and there had to be a great deal of work done, much of which was not noticed by the casual observer. Last season, however, a lot of new road-bed had been made and although the season was very much against road work, a lot had been accomplished so that another year the work could be done more easily and would be more evident.

MR. MACLAUCHLAN

Mr. McLachlan said that he was conscious he could add but little to what had been so well and so fittingly said by the member for Charlotte. He was glad to be reminded that of those who met here at the beginning of this term, all were still with us in the flesh and actuated by the same deep interest and welfare of the province. He trusted that not only were the members growing old gracefully, but becoming increasingly useful in discharging the duties devolving upon them as trustees of the country's public business. When the (Continued on page seven)

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