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The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.

Maritime--Moderate west to northwest and becoming mild.

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FREDERICTON, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1914

TWO CENTS PER

Brilliant Scene Marks the Opening of the Legislature

Mild Weather Graced the Occasion and There Was a Record Breaking Attendance--The Occasion Marked by the Usual Military Display--Mr. W. B. Dickson Elected Speaker--Two New Members Introduced--Speech From the Throne a Wordy Document But Forecasts no Important Legislation

The second session of the thirteenth legislative assembly of the Province of New Brunswick opened this afternoon with the customary pomp and ceremony. As a spectacle the opening was equal to those of former years, the military display being striking both outside and inside the House. As a social event the opening was as brilliant as ever, the floor of the chamber and the galleries alike being thronged with beautifully gowned ladies. The weather was all that could be desired, today being a most glorious winter's day.

The number of people in the city to attend the opening of the House exceeds that of former years and all hotels are thronged. The streets were filled at an early hour this afternoon in anticipation of the march of the guard-of-honor to Parliament Square. Those specially invited appeared at the House early to take their places.

MILITARY FEATURES.

The guard-of-honor fell in at the Armory at 2.30 and marched to Parliament Square, where it received His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. Capt. H. F. G. Woodbridge, 71st York Regt., was in command of the guard, which was drawn from "H" Company, Royal Canadian Regiment and the 71st Regiment. The regimental color of the 71st was carried by Lieut. H. S. Laughlin, and Lieut. Lyne-Evans, R.C.R., was subaltern. The regimental band of the 71st Regiment was present at authorized strength and the entire guard made an excellent appearance.

The Lieutenant Governor's salute of fifteen guns was fired by a detachment from the 12th Newcastle Field Battery. Capt. Crocker was in command with Lieut. Sutherland as subaltern. Promptly upon the arrival of His Honor and his staff the salute boomed out from the battery of sixteen-pounders on the bank of the river and the guard-of-honor gave a Royal Salute.

HIS HONOR ARRIVES.

His Honor, Lieutenant Governor Wood, was attended by Private Secretary Wm. Cruikshank, Lt.-Col. J. L. McAvity, A.D.C., 62nd St. John Fusiliers, and Major F. B. Black, A.D.C., 8th Princess Louise Hussars. Wm. T. Howe, High Sheriff of the County of York, and Dr. B. M. Mullin, Coroner, were also of the gubernatorial party.

NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN.

The swearing in of the new members, P. A. Guthrie of York, and R. Watson Grimmer of Charlotte, took place at noon in the Assembly Chamber in the presence of a large number of interested spectators. His Honor Chief Justice McLeod administered the oath.

PROCEEDINGS IN CHAMBER.

The House convened at 3 p.m., at which hour the clerk, Mr. Henry B. Rainsford, read the certificates of election of Messrs. Guthrie and Grimmer as presented by the Provincial Secretary.

The clerk of the House then addressed himself to the House as follows:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I am commanded by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to state that His Honor having been informed of the resignation of The Hon. George Johnson Clarke as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, it is therefore His Honor's pleasure that you do forthwith choose a fit and proper person to be your Speaker and that you do present him whom you shall have so chosen to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, in this House at 3.15 of the clock this afternoon for His Honor's approbation when His Honor will declare the causes of his calling this Legislature.

W. B. DICKSON ELECTED.

Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier, then

proposed to the House for Speaker, Walter Brittain Dickson, Esq., and moved that he do take the chair.

Mr. Dickson was elected Speaker and standing upon the upper step of the throne, he addressed the House as follows:

"It is my pleasure today to express my grateful acknowledgment of the high honor conferred on me by the House in electing me to be their Speaker. Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience of parliamentary procedure I should have hesitated about accepting a position involving so much responsibility were it not for the fact that I know that I shall be able at all times to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance and kindness of every member of the Assembly. Again thanking you, I now submit myself to the House."

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

The members elected to the House since the last session were then introduced. Mr. P. A. Guthrie of York was introduced by Premier Fleming and Mr. John A. Young. Mr. R. Watson Grimmer of Charlotte, was introduced by Hon. George J. Clarke and Dr. Taylor. Both members were received with applause.

HIS HONOR ENTERS.

The Sergeant-at-Arms then announced that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was without.

Speaker Dickson then retired and His Honor entered the chamber.

The Speaker re-entered and delivered the following speech:

May it please Your Honor:

Your Honor having communicated your pleasure to the Legislative Assembly, they proceeded to choose a Speaker. They have elected me to that important and honorable position and I am now presented for Your Honor's approval.

The approval of His Honor was made known by the Clerk of the House.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Honor then read the Speech from the Throne as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It gives me much pleasure to again greet you on assembling for the dispatch of your legislative duties. I am confident you will devote yourselves earnestly to the consideration of public measures and the business coming before the Legislature from day to day and that you will discharge your duties with such ability as will promote the public interest.

Looking back over the past year, we have every reason to be grateful for the blessings abundantly bestowed upon us by a kind Providence. The season proved favorable for the production of good crops and an excellent harvest was gathered. In most lines prices have been satisfactory. In consequence, our great industry of Agriculture is in a sound and healthy condition.

The lumber industry of the province has also had a successful year. With the exception of a strike in the mills at St. John, which tied the industry up for a time, the year has been one of unusual activity. Unemployment has been practically unknown within the province during the year and labor has been fairly remunerated. Business conditions have been satisfactory and altogether the financial stringency, with its corresponding curtailment of business, has been but little felt throughout our province.

In the Agricultural Department there has been great activity throughout the year. The staff in this department has been greatly increased, and new work is being undertaken. It is pleasing to note that there is substantial progress and development along agricultural lines. The exhibitions held in the fall of last year were all of a high character and the attendance unusually large. The re-

port from this department will give a record of the many branches of work now being carried on and the excellent results being secured.

It is particularly pleasing that there is an increase in dairy production throughout the province. The value of our dairy products for the past year will be the largest in the history of the province.

A short time ago there was placed by the United States an embargo against potato shipments from Canada into that country. This action was one of great importance to the agriculturist in New Brunswick. The Agricultural Department has kept in touch with the American authorities, representatives from the Department and from the potato shippers having attended a meeting in Washington in December and subsequently a meeting at Bangor, Maine. The embargo is on account of the potato disease known as the Powdery Scab. The Department has for several weeks been carrying on vigorous inspection efforts and while there are many localities which are free, or nearly free from the disease, it cannot be contended that the disease does not exist in the province. A measure dealing with this important subject and looking to the eradication of the disease will be presented for your consideration.

The Vocational School at Woodstock, provided by the executors of the late L. P. Fisher under the terms of his will, has been completed and has been conveyed to the Crown to be used for agricultural and other purposes. A principal for this school has been secured and a short course in agriculture will commence early in March. It is earnestly hoped that a large number of young men from the farms will avail themselves of the instruction given at this school.

The important subject of Maritime representation has received consideration during recess. My government was represented at the Inter-Provincial Conference held in Ottawa in October last, when this subject was presented and discussed at the conference. It is a matter of sincere regret that the representatives of the various provinces did not concur in the case as presented by the Maritime Provinces representation. The conference decided that it was a matter to be dealt with by parliament. Further effort in connection with the representation was made in January last, when the claim of the Maritime Provinces was put forward and urged upon the federal government.

I am pleased to announce the settlement of the Fishery Claims that have been outstanding between the province and the federal government for upwards of thirty years. The settlement of these claims ensures the payment by the federal government to the province of the sum of sixty-six thousand, three hundred and eighty-two dollars. My government has pressed for a settlement of these claims and there is no doubt the knowledge that an agreement has been reached and that payment will be made will be heard with interest and satisfaction throughout the province.

The work in the Immigration Department has increased rapidly during the year and reports show a larger number of people settling in the province than formerly. The Farm Settlement Board have had a busy year, having purchased over one hundred and sixty properties, and have sold and settled over one hundred and thirty. Greater publicity throughout Great Britain and more complete organization within the province would ensure splendid results. We have the fertile lands and we have satisfactory markets. The province urgently requires more population upon the land.

Railway construction has been active throughout the year, the Minto Railway and the Southampton Railway both being completed and both are being operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Since the opening of the Minto line a very

(Continued on page four.)

FISHER DENIES RAKE OFF STORY

Says There is No Truth in the charge Made by Col. Hughes

Will Institute Criminal Action if Statement is Repeated Outside of Parliament

Ottawa, Feb. 25--Hon. Sydney Fisher has given out a rejoinder to Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes in connection with the charge made by the minister of militia in the Commons on Monday last intimating that Mr. Fisher had received a considerable "rake-off" when the site for the Farnham military training camp was purchased some years ago by the Laurier government. Mr. Fisher says in part:

"There is absolutely no foundation whatever for this reckless charge against me. I am satisfied that the minister knew when he made this statement that there was no foundation for it. He has known me for many years, both as a private member in the House and as a minister, and he knows that nobody with any regard for decency or truth has ever suggested my obtaining pecuniary advantages from the public positions which I have occupied."

"I shall only add that this accusation is untrue in every particular, and if Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes will undertake to make that statement where he has not the protection of the privilege of parliament, a criminal action for libel will be taken out against him the next day."

FIRST STATE DINNER TO BE HELD TONIGHT

His Honor the Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Wood Hold Reception This Afternoon

The first reception to be given this season by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor took place at the Queen Hotel this afternoon. Miss Powell of St. John, assisted Mrs. Wood in receiving the guests.

Tonight at the Queen Hotel the first state dinner will be held. Those who will be present are as follows: Hon. Josiah Wood, D.C.L., LL.D., Lieutenant Governor.

Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier. Hon. George J. Clarke, Attorney General.

Hon. John Morrissey, Minister of Public Works. Hon. D. V. Landry, M.D., Provincial Secretary-Treasurer.

Hon. John A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. John E. Wilson, President of Council.

His Lordship the Bishop of Fredericton.

Hon. Chief Justice McLeod.

Mr. Justice McKeown.

Mr. Justice Grimmer.

Mr. Justice Barry.

Sir F. E. Barker.

H. B. Rainsford, Clerk Legislative Assembly.

Sheriff Howe.

His Worship the Mayor of Fredericton.

Mr. W. A. Loudoun, Auditor General.

Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith, Chaplain.

Mr. J. Howe Dickson, Clerk Executive Council.

Major F. B. Black, A.D.C.

Lieutenant Colonel J. L. McAvity, A.D.C.

Major R. Crocker, C.F.A.

Dr. C. C. Jones, Chancellor of University of New Brunswick.

Captain M. Roscoe, O.C.D.

Dr. B. M. Mullin, Coroner.

Captain Woodbridge, Commander of Guard of Honor.

William Cruikshank, Private Secretary.

W. B. Dickson, Speaker.

P. A. Guthrie, Mover of Address.

R. W. Grimmer, Seconder of Address.

N. T. R. REPORT GROSSLY PARTIZAN AND UNFAIR

Intended to do Duty as a Campaign Document--The Twenty Thousand Dollar General Manager of the I. C. R. One of the Commissioners--No specific charges of Graft or Dishonesty Contained in the Report--Where the C. P. R. Comes in

Ottawa, Feb. 25--The report of Mr. F. P. Gutelius, ex-C. P. R. Divisional Superintendent and now General Manager of the I. C. R. at \$20,000 per year and of Mr. George Lynch Staunton, whose long services to the Conservative party are well known, on the National Transcontinental Railway, was tabled in the House of Commons last Tuesday under peculiar circumstances. No report by a Royal Commission, with so obviously partisan a purpose and so open to criticism on almost every point, was ever +

apparent.

Although the commissioners have had two years to prepare the report and although their actual investigation ceased months ago, the report was brought down in type-written form and was immediately whisked away to be printed by the thousands of copies, before any Liberal member of Parliament had a chance to see it and examine the evidence on which the commissioners' conclusions were founded. Meanwhile the partisan press report prepared and handed out by the Government is all the country has to go upon. This latter report, carefully elicited and amended by the Government itself with a view of taking the utmost political advantage of the alleged "scandal" has been exploited by the Government press to the fullest extent, the obvious intent being to impress the public mind with the idea that there has been a deliberate waste of many millions in the construction of the roads and to let that impression sink in before the Liberals are given a chance to read the report of the commissioners themselves or to discuss it on its merits in Parliament. That is the first bit of unfairness tending to throw suspicion on the bona fides of the whole report.

UNDERLYING MOTIVE.

But that perhaps is the least suspicious circumstance. There is a whole series of synchronizing events showing with increasing clearness the motive underlying the whole report. In the first place there is the personal of the investigating commission

Mr. Gutelius was selected as one of the commissioners from the ranks of the C. P. R. officials and as such would naturally be prejudiced against the National Transcontinental from the outset. He was "loaned to the Government" as the Minister of Railways said for two years. He was placed in charge of the I. C. R. at a salary of \$20,000 a very big increase over what he had been receiving before from the C. P. R. Mr. Lynch-Staunton has been a well known Tory lawyer for years and has received many lucrative retainers from the party. For their work in preparing the report Mr. Gutelius received the huge sum of \$27,465 and Mr. Lynch-Staunton got \$24,038 in addition to their large earnings from other sources while the report was being prepared. Under the circumstances, a report suitable to the political requirements of the Government might have been expected.

In the next place it may be noted that one of the first acts of Mr. Gutelius as Manager of the I. C. R. was to raise the rates on the people's railway in the Maritime Provinces. That was, of course, pleasing to the C. P. R. which competes with the I. C. R. and it also paved the way for the policy of handing the I. C. R. over the C. N. R. as is said to be seriously contemplated by the Government. Then there came the agreement entered into by Mr. Gutelius with the C. P. R., the company which loaned him to the Government, giving the latter road a very cheap rate for its trains over the I. C. R. to Halifax. His whole administration of the I. C. R. has certainly not tended to popularize Government ownership and operation of railways but it has increasingly popularized him with the C. P. R.

ALTERED STANDARD

Meanwhile it must be borne in mind that Major Leonard, also a former friend of the C. P. R. has been made head of the National Transcontinental Commission in place of the former commissioners. Acting under instructions from the Government he proceeded to immediately change the character of the National Transcontinental and to

(Continued on page 3)

BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Two Teachers Granted Leave of Absence in Order to Permit Them to Take Course in Physical Training--February was Hard Month on Fuel --The New School Building

The regular meeting of the School Board was held yesterday afternoon with Dr. VanWart presiding. The other members in attendance included Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Lynch, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Weddall, Mr. Sharkey, Dr. Crockett and Mr. LeMont.

Considerable business were under discussion and the session was an extended one. The Secretary reported several additional permits issued and many others in prospect. Great difficulty was experienced in the different schools to keep the temperature of all the rooms at a comfortable point all the time during the month. On one of the cold days two weeks ago the janitor thought he was "firing" a steamboat and disposed of five cords of wood. This expenditure of fuel would not cost

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Application for leave of absence for two months were read from Miss Sadie L. Thompson, Principal of Charlotte Street School, and Miss S. Miriam Cadwallader of the York Street School staff. These young ladies have been invited to take a course of physical drill at the capital. Provision has been made by the Federal Government to provide instruction for teachers from representative centres. Students are allowed three days and transportation seems some doubt whether more than

(Continued on page 3)