

THE LEGISLATURE.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE]

MR. HAZEN

who was applauded on rising, said: It is not pleasant for me to commence my speech by making a complaint. On two previous occasions I had pointed out the fact that, as leader of the opposition, I should receive a copy of the speech in time to look over its contents. In 1901 the premier assured me that I would have no ground for such complaint in future, but I have not received a copy of the speech until this moment.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—You could have got it from the deputy provincial secretary. It was my intention that he should have sent it to you, but the speech, as a rule, is not prepared very long in advance.

Mr. Hazen—I do not want to speak in a fault-finding spirit. Last session a copy of the speech was left for me at the hotel, and I hope this will be done in the future. At the opening of this new parliament I cannot but feel regret at the absence of familiar faces. I feel that it should be improper for me not to make reference to the late member for St. John, Mr. Shaw, who sat for so many years on my left. I regret his absence, and I know that many others will regret it. I also regret the absence of my two friends from Westmorland who were associated with me for four years, also my friends from Madawaska and from Restigouche. Among those absent is one of the members for Carleton county, an honorable man, who at one time sat in the parliament of Canada. I also must express my regret at the defeat of the junior member for Victoria, whom I have known from boyhood. Such, however, are the fortunes of war. While we regret the absence of old faces and miss them from our councils we must unite in welcoming the new men who take their places. There is none to whom I would extend a more hearty welcome than the new member from Carleton county, who has moved the address in so pleasing a manner, and the new representative from Victoria. I do not know whether the news that I see in the papers is true, that the cabinet has been filled up and that the upriver counties have been ignored. If so the delegation which appeared at Fredericton in the interests of the new government supporter from Carleton did not succeed in having him made a member of the cabinet. Perhaps the honor of moving the address has been given to him to console him for his disappointment.

The people of this country would like the government to inform the house why it was necessary to fill the office of solicitor general. We have had no solicitor general for four years, and if a solicitor general is necessary now why was he not necessary in those years? We ought to have some information on that point. To many it will come almost as a shock that there are six salaried heads of departments in this province, while there are only four in the growing province of Manitoba and three in Nova Scotia.

My hon. friend from Carleton referred to the election of the 28th of February last as an endorsement of the government, but in most of the constituencies the conduct of the local government was the last thing discussed on the hustings. In scarcely a single county did they meet us on that issue. The powerful minister of railways and canals came into this province and made it the issue that the liberal party should be supported. I had the honor of meeting that gentleman on the hustings in Sanbury county. He practically refused to discuss local issues with me, and claimed the support of the electors on the ground of the interest of the liberal party. In the county of Northumberland the premier laid down a different issue. In a document which he sent out in that county, of which I hold a copy in my hand, he claimed support for himself and his colleagues on the ground that he had made the county of Northumberland prominent and powerful, and he closed by saying the question for you is who will lead the government, Tweedie or Hazen?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—And they said Tweedie.

Mr. Hazen—Did they? The hon. gentleman emerged from that contest like the last rose of summer. He was left blooming alone, while all his companions were faded and gone. He made his appeal on sectional grounds not on large issues, as we might have expected a premier to do. Columbus discovered America, but my hon. friend must not think that he discovered the North Shore. That section of the province has already been represented in the house and in the dominion parliament by men of worth and ability, by men like the Honorable Peter Mitchell, John M. Johnson and Michael Adams, yet in his extremity the premier had to make his appeal to Northumberland on sectional grounds. He knew that the men who were opposing him

were able to look after the interest of Northumberland. Now I unhesitatingly say that if it had not been for the powerful influence of the minister of railways the premier would not have been sitting on the right of the speaker today.

The speech from the throne has a most familiar sound. At last year's opening of the legislature his honor delivered almost the same speech, and the government might have as well made it do service again this year, for little new has been added.

In the paragraph dealing with the fisheries we were told there was reason to hope that a solution satisfactory to the province would be arrived at. Last year it was hoped that a friendly arrangement would be made or a case prepared to be submitted to the supreme court. There must be a good supply of hope in the attorney general's breast. In the paragraph dealing with the Halifax award the province of Nova Scotia is mentioned. That province has declined to join Quebec, P. E. Island and New Brunswick in a demand for the money paid over to the Dominion under the treaty of 1871. I have been charged with being opposed to the province receiving this award. Such a charge has no foundation, on fact. What I contended on the hustings, and what I have always maintained, is that the federal government has taken the view that the money belongs to the fishermen of the country and should be set apart for their use in the shape of bounties. I firmly believe that a strong case on legal grounds could be submitted, showing that the money should come to the province.

In reference to the paragraph on better terms, I might say that last year's speech from the throne contained the statement that the attention of the house would be invited to this matter. Another subject referred to in last year's speech was the absorption of the branch railways of the province by the Intercolonial railway, but neither this nor the matter of better terms ever got further than the lips of the governor. Since last session a conference of provincial premiers has been held at Quebec, of which the question of better terms was discussed. In 1887 a similar conference was held at Quebec, and that recently held was merely a revival of the other. Realizing more than ever that in consequence of the extravagant expenditure, unless some money was obtained from some source, the province would have to throw on the municipalities the burden of maintaining public works, the terms of the conference of 1887 were revived, which called for additional amounts to the various provinces. For this revival Hon. Mr. Tweedie was not in a position to claim much credit, for when Mr. Blair in the session of 1888 moved concurrence in the Quebec resolutions, Mr. Tweedie in a vigorous speech opposed them and ridiculed the delegates. But what a change of heart the present premier has experienced.

To secure better terms, means greater burdens in the way of additional taxation, for depend upon it, the people will have to pay back every dollar through customs and excise duties. Better terms, therefore, would be no relief to the people, although it may relieve the government. At nomination proceedings in Sanbury county I put a question to the minister of railways and canals, asking him whether there was any hope of better terms or the fishery award being arranged favorably to the province, and he uttered not a word, which would lead the electors to believe that there was no ground for any such hope.

The paragraph dealing with representation was not so hopeful as those relating to federal aid and the fisheries. It has been already stated by papers supporting the Dominion government that as a result of the last census Restigouche and Gloucester, or Albert and Kings would be united for federal purposes. I trust, therefore, that the premier will tell the house what assurances he has in reference to representation.

The speech from the throne promises very little legislation. Legislation dealing with the subject of re-afforestation is promised. Such a law wisely framed would be in the interests of the province. It is important to preserve our forest wealth, and one of the ways is to see that the regulations of all licenses granted are carried out. In granting long leases it is most imperative that the regulations should be strictly enforced. Under these leases land in the northern counties is often held for speculative purposes, thus locking up the land and preventing men of enterprise from establishing industries of benefit to the province.

The reacquiring of lands from the New Brunswick Railway Co. would be wise legislation. I am told that that land is well suited for agriculture, being comparable with Carleton county. The opening up of lands like this would be in the interest of the province and do more to keep the young men at home than the immigration scheme upon which the government spent so much money. That policy seems to have been abandoned, for the reason that im-

migrants are attracted to the great west. In my opinion New Brunswick is a better country than the west, the social conditions are preferable, and we have everything to make a people prosperous and happy. Immigration is bound to flow this way in the near future, and I am glad that efforts are now being made to make the country attractive, so that our young men will be kept at home. These efforts will have the hearty support of myself and every member of the opposition.

After a reference to the consolidation of the statutes, Mr. Hazen said the member for Carleton has referred to a matter not mentioned in the speech, and that was the question of transportation from the west. I agree with him that parliament should subsidize no trans-continental lines without having a clause inserted in the charter making St. John the winter port. If the Grand Trunk runs through the province seeking an outlet at St. John every man living along the route should feel it his duty to see that the line follows the west branch of the St. John. It is not creditable that such a fertile country is without railway communication. In reference to the recovery of His Majesty King Edward VII., I think that irrespective of politics, we all agree on one thing, that we are united in the attachment which we feel for the British crown.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved the adjournment of the debate, and on his motion it was made the order of the day today.

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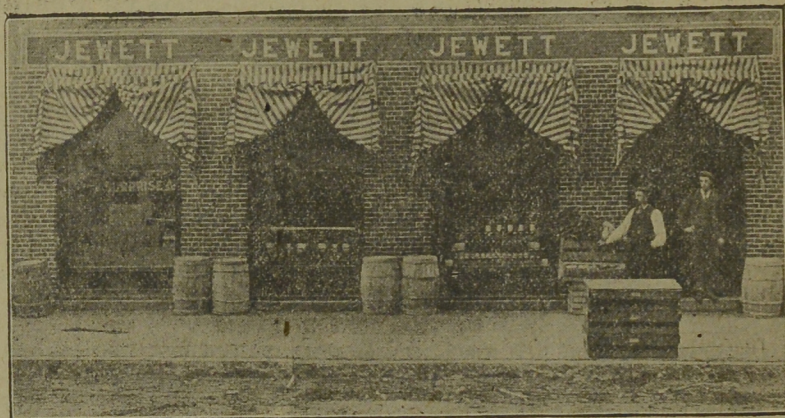
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