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DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1907.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The legislature exhibited unusual despatch in disposing of the address in reply to the governor's speech at one sitting.

The debate did not develop any sensational incidents, and was carried on with the best of good feeling on both sides of the house.

Mr. Currie, the new member for Restigouche created a good impression in his observations in moving the address, and will doubtless prove a useful and energetic member. He is one of the substantial men of his county, largely engaged in lumbering and mercantile pursuits, and is in close touch with his constituents, whom he is in a position to faithfully serve.

Mr. Goggin who seconded the address delivered himself of a very creditable speech and both gentlemen well deserved the economies passed on them by the premier and the opposition leader.

Mr. Hazen as usual was eloquent and forceful, but he failed to make any serious criticism of the government. His observations on the highway act and other matters which he discussed, have all been heard before and fully answered by government speakers.

His taking credit to the opposition for the government's proposal to increase the teachers' salaries, was rather startling, however, and his ridicule of the increased federal subsidy secured through the active and unceasing efforts of administration, will not find a re-echo in the country.

The premier in his reply touched on the various points raised by the opposition leader, and easily refuted the latter's arguments. Mr. Tweedie was able to show that the government has exerted itself in the interests of the farmers, the lumbermen, and other classes of the population, and that its policy and administration have been heartily appreciated and commended by the people of New Brunswick.

The address passed, the house is now in a position to proceed expeditiously with the business of the session, but a break must occur next week when the important forestry convention is in progress.

CURRENT COMMENT.

In the new Nova Scotia legislature which opened Thursday afternoon there are only five opposition members. One who was elected as an independent in King's county, gave his first vote for the government.

Hon. E. M. Farrell one of members for Queen's county has been re-elected speaker of the Nova Scotia legislature. Mr. Farrell is the editor of a newspaper published at Liverpool and is regarded as a very clever politician with higher honors in store.

Through a misadventure, the full report of Mr. Currie's speech in moving the address in the legislature, was not available to the Herald until too late to handle today, but we shall have pleasure in publishing it tomorrow.

Mr. Hazen is very anxious to know when the provincial elections are to be held. That is quite natural. When a man is practically certain to witness the end of his career he frets until he is apprised of the exact day and hour of his demise. Well, we fear the opposition leader must endure the suspense for a few months yet.

Mr. Copp, M. P. P., the Liberal organizer, who was present at the Victoria-Madawaska convention that nominated Mr. Pius Michaud for the Commons, says the gathering was a large and representative one, and that Mr. Michaud created an excellent impression in his speech of acceptance. Mr. Copp does not anticipate opposition, but in any case Mr. Michaud's return is considered practically certain.

The I. C. R. pension bill has had its third reading in parliament, and the men who were employed on the Canada Eastern railway before it was absorbed by the government line, are placed on the same footing as those of the original government line. This would not have happened if Mr.

Foster had his way, but Mr. Emmerson insisted on justice to the Canada Eastern men, and carried the bill in the teeth of Mr. Foster's opposition.

Charges of absolute cowardice are made against the captain of the steamer Larchmont, which was sunk in collision with a schooner off the Rhode Island coast, causing the loss of nearly 150 lives. It is alleged that the captain and crew were the first to leave the sinking ship and that the passengers were left to shift for themselves, and as a consequence only eight per cent. of the crew met death, while twenty-five per cent of the passengers were lost.

THE LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from Second Page.)

be prepared to pay higher salaries.

Regarding winter roads permit me to say that when the chief commissioner introduced the Highway Act the opposition took the ground that a provision for winter roads was necessary and the member for Carleton moved an amendment making such provision. This amendment was voted down by the government supporters. The government is now realizing that it must bow to public opinion which the opposition had correctly estimated.

I regret that we have in the speech no declaration regarding the reduction of the price of school books. The opposition has put forward the opinion that the people of the province pay too much for their children's school books. We showed that a firm in St. John supposed to be printing those books had no facilities for such work. The books were brought from Ontario and for them the people paid exorbitant prices. Our contention was scouted. We were told that the people got them as cheaply as possible, as cheaply as the people of Ontario. It is worthy of note that no sooner did the Ross government go out in Ontario than the new government took up the matter of providing cheaper books. In New Brunswick, school books are sold for three or four times their cost price. Here we have another evidence of the wisdom of the opposition in urging fair prices for our school books and in protesting against allowing publishing firms favored by the government charging exorbitantly for the books prescribed for use in our schools.

I regret too, that the speech forecasts no intention on the part of the government of dealing with one of the province's greatest problems. It contained no word of reference to immigration. The great difficulty under which the province is laboring is the need for domestic and agricultural laborers. Last session the Premier spoke of negotiations with the Salvation Army looking toward the securing of these classes of labor, but nothing has been done and all the burden of Dominion government immigration effort is being used to send people to the West. Prosperous though times are, high as prices are, in the country districts our young people are turning westward. Something must be done. Strenuous efforts must be made to attract people who will do these necessary forms of service. There is too scarcity of lumber laborers. Millmen in and about St. John tell me they could give employment to many more men without displacing any of those now on their pay roll. In the woods the operators have to hunt up laborers. There is no more crying need than the institution of a policy aimed to bring this country people suitable for domestic, agricultural and lumbering labor. The government should urge the Dominion to help the east regarding immigration. It should moreover take some strong action itself.

The reference to the subsidies shows me that we will this year miss an old friend in the government speeches. The Premier and Attorney General take much credit for settlement of the matter. But has it been settled in the way promised? They told us they would agree to no settlement unless the Halifax award was settled too; unless the province received the two million due from the Halifax award and an additional sum of 20 cents for every one of the population.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—One thing at a time.

Mr. Hazen—The Attorney General did not say that in his King's county campaign of 1903. Now his policy of view seems to be further distant. Last year the house was told that a test case in connection with the Halifax Award had been agreed to be submitted for trial. Not one word of that this year. What has become of it? We have been going to have it for several sessions, now we have a merely colorless paragraph assuring us that the government will persevere in seeking a settlement. Evidently they have little hope. They pride themselves on having got \$130,000. They would make us believe this sum a gift, but we pay out of our own pockets every cent of it and more besides. The arrangement can be satisfactory to no one regardless of party politics.

In 1904, Mr. W. S. Loggie, the present Liberal leader in Northumberland, declared in this house his opposition to the arrangement which has now been carried out. It was not, he said, fair to New Brunswick though fair to other provinces. I have other authorities. In 1888 the late lamented Hon. Mr. Blair, and the Hon. D. McLellan, attended the Quebec conference. The conference approved of arrangement similar to that recently made. The Premier then a Conservative, opposed that arrangement and placed his opposition on record. The larger provinces he said had pulled the wool over the eyes of Messrs. Blair and McLellan. He also moved an amendment expressive of non-concurrence in the resolutions of the conference, holding that the proposed financial arrangements were not in the best interests of the

province. Yet those are the very arrangements now proclaimed a triumph of statesmanship. The government's position now is that bound hand and foot to the Dominion, that in such a position financially, it must take any crumbs from the table of its masters at Ottawa. This is not the position taken by Premier McBride of British Columbia. Had Premier Tweedie been in the position he took in 1888 and not been chained and bound as he is, he would not have agreed to an arrangement giving wealthy Ontario over \$600,000 and Quebec over \$400,000 and when he and his supporters vaunt and boast, they are answered by Mr. Loggie in the Premier's own words.

It is customary in this house, to boast of the agricultural policy of the government. In the opinion of the bulk of the farming people they are being starved by the government policy. True, they are making money, but along new lines broken into by themselves without aid from the government or through guidance of government policy. In 1906, 1,320,858 lbs. of cheese were made in New Brunswick. In 1904, 1,866,420 lbs. of cheese were made.

Yet Government supporters talk the success of the dairy policy. One need only look at the closed factories, silent monasteries, to see the real effect of this policy.

We have also a referendum to the International Railway, and it is plain that we are to be asked to guarantee all and to assume an additional liability of \$250,000 or more.

The proposal to hold a Forestry convention is one which must be generally favored, I hope many men can give valuable instruction in matters pertaining to reforestation and kindred subjects.

We have a short reference to the development of provincial coal areas, but while the government may talk of conditions being perfectly satisfactory it is known that this is not so. Senator King and Mr. George McAvity made two or three thousand dollars on what is practically a government owned railroad, repaired at government expense. The house was led to believe that the road would be put in first class condition. From information to hand I do not believe that it is anything like first class condition.

The reference to the lamented death of Lady Grenfell was entirely proper and in the expression of sympathy with Earl and Lady Grey every member will concur. Speaking for myself, I would have thought reference would have been made to the lamented death of Hon. Mr. Blair, the most prominent public man in New Brunswick in the past twenty-five years.

Passing to Restigouche county, I feel that under moral conditions it is my duty to bring to the attention of the house certain matters as showing how the law may be evaded. In the parish of Balmoral in the recent bye-election in Restigouche, Mr. James Reid, M. P., attended as a representative of Mr. Currie, the man who held the poll was Dennis Arseneau, an employee of the government. Mr. Thomas Savole was a representative of Mr. Stewart, who was himself there. Mr. Reid handed ballots with the name of Mr. Currie upon them to the voters. Improper envelopes were given the voters by Arseneau who directed the voters not to direct the men to retire behind the screen when voting. Every one will see the impropriety of this. Mr. Reid has a large ledger influence in the county, hence the effect of his presence under these circumstances. I will submit the evidence of reputable men as I propose to bring the matter up. I make the charge that the Deputy Returning Officer did not carry out his duty; that the proper envelopes were not provided by the Sheriff, and that the Deputy Returning Officer did not properly direct the voters.

Mr. Hazen submitted the declarations of Mr. Savole, and Mr. Stewart in support of his charges. In addition to corroborating Mr. Hazen's statements, the declarations stated that the envelopes used were of brown paper three inches in length and two in width, open at one end and without any flaps; and that, notwithstanding protests of Mr. Stewart, Mr. Arseneau refused to direct the voters as by law required to do. After the reading of the declarations the attorney general said: "You do not say whether or not any of the Stewart voters went behind the screen?"

Mr. Hazen—Don't try to draw a red herring across the trail. Such comment, such unbecoming levity is not what we would expect from the gentleman who has just made a government employee as deputy returning officer. I place the matter before the house and hope that legislation to prevent such things will be enacted during this session.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

Honorable Mr. Tweedie said:—"Before referring to the speech of the leader of the opposition, I wish to congratulate the hon. members for Restigouche and Kent on the admirable manner in which they have moved and seconded the address. I do not remember in my thirty years' experience of this house a more pleasant opening or one in which the speeches were better conceived. The leader of the opposition has delivered a speech in criticism of the government which might have been worth answering more fully if we had heard it for the first time. He says that the speech from the throne was long and dreary. No doubt there were many things in it, which he would like to have had omitted. Some days the poet observes are dark and dreary and no doubt this is the case with the hon. leader of the opposition when he finds so many of his confident predictions falsified. No doubt it is sad news to him to learn that in consequence of the efforts of the government, we are to receive an additional subsidy of \$130,000 a year, from the Dominion. But he says that we should not

(Continued on first page)

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"Book of Sentences."

The first ecclesiastical anthology was the "Book of Sentences," by Pierre Lombard. It was a compilation of the leading arguments of the fathers upon points of divinity, arranged and digested under heads. It is said 244 commentators have written annotations on this book, among others Thomas Aquinas, Guillaume Durand and St. Bonaventure.

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