

THE LEADER.

VOL. 21.—NO. 34.

REGINA, N.W.T., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1904

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

The Important Feature of Last
Week'sittings of the Legis-
lative Assembly.

Tuesday, September 27th.
The Legislative Assembly got down to business today and in the course of an hour and three-quarters disposed of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor. After the presentation of a couple of petitions, and the adoption of the report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills Mr. Greeley, (Maple Creek), moved that "a humble address be presented to His Honor, thanking him for the gracious speech with which he opened the Session."

tically pays no revenue into the Territorial treasury. He receives the best fits of roads, bridges, fire-guard etc., that are being paid for by the small property owner who does not own very many head of live stock and these small property owners naturally feel that their taxes are not being fairly distributed. Very many of the large companies are paying quite substantial sums into the Territorial funds, but there are a large number of people who contribute practically nothing to the maintenance of district roads and who should be in some way got at. I had hoped that this municipal legislation would come up this session and result in placing these matters in a more satisfactory position than they now are.

Adequate Money Grants.

I am very glad to note that the Parliament of Canada has seen fit to give us approximately at any rate, adequate grants. (Hear, hear.) After all, while we have got an increased vote this year, we also have an increased number of people coming in on that vote. I do not think this increase is anything to crow about. (Laughter.) While we are all pleased to know there is an increased grant yet it had been held back for a long time and much of it will be required to meet accumulating necessities. I do not consider the mere fact of receiving a few dollars more or less is any reason why we should be denied the exercise of the right of self government by the people of this country. We all agree in the expressions of regret that the establishment of the Territories on the provincial basis has not been materially forwarded during the past year. I feel sure the House will press for it until we reach that status. I need no reason, nor have I heard any argument advanced why we should not become a province.

Mr. Bennett — One or two provinces?

Mr. Greeley — I will say why we should not receive provincial rights—

Mr. Bennett — Hear, hear.

Mr. Greeley — If that is satisfactory to the hon. gentleman. I am myself in favor of provincial autonomy and the people of this country as a whole are in favor of it. It seems to me that all the evidence goes to show this. Every agitation for enlarged local powers in the local improvement districts, in towns desiring to become cities, etc., are only applications for provincial rights, for after all what is a province but a large improvement district. (Cheers.)

Mr. McIntyre Seconds the Motion.

Mr. A. D. McIntyre, (Mitchell), in responding the motion said—
Mr. Speaker—It is with pleasure that I rise on this occasion to second the resolution moved by the Honorable Member for Maple Creek to express the sense of appreciation the House has of the gracious speech with which His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor opened this session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories on Thursday of last week. I understand that this occasion marks the commencement of His Honor's second term of office and I am sure I but give utterance to the feelings of the Members of the House when I say that we all trust that His Honor may be granted health and strength to perform the duties devolving upon him in his high office with that unflinching courtesy and graciousness which we have all experienced from time to time.

We can all join with His Honor in thankfulness at the continuation of the prosperity which has marked the history of the Territories during the past few years and we may hope for its continuance for an indefinite period. Hard times will no doubt recur, and seasons will come in which the climatic conditions will be such as to cause disaster and loss to our crops, as I expect to learn from His Honor's speech, has been the case in a few localities this year, but I

(Continued on Page 3.)

A Question of Taxation.

The speaker expressed his regret at the intimation in the Speech that it was not the intention of the Government to bring down any very large measures and stated his willingness to stay there a while longer and thresh out some of the important legislation which had been promised. He referred more particularly to the question of municipal organization and taxation. They all remembered the work done last session and he regretted to say there did not appear to be anything forthcoming in the Speech to lead them to infer that this question would come up this session. The people in this district did not care particularly for any large municipal system but the question of taxation was one that re-interested them deeply and required some attention.

There is, said Mr. Greeley, considerable dissatisfaction in some districts, more particularly the stock-growing sections, in regard to taxation. This comes particularly from the smaller landlord, who feels that they are not being quite properly dealt with, perhaps, in the matter of taxation. The range conditions are somewhat peculiar. It appears to me there is no law nor any reason why anybody should own anything but stock. The condition of affairs is that a man may go unto that district with from 100 to as many thousand head of cattle as he wants to and go elsewhere and carry on his operation and by not leasing land pro-