

LEADER.

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REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 9, 1901.

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N.W.T. LEGISLATURE

Third Session of the Fourth Assembly.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The Governor's Speech and Address in Reply Land Grants for the South African Heroes—Provincial Autonomy—Hall Insurance—Speech of the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier's Reply.

THURSDAY, May 2.

The third session of the fourth legislative assembly of the North-West Territories was opened this afternoon. The bright May day induced a much larger crowd than usual to witness the proceedings. Long before the hour of the ceremony the Assembly hall was thronged with gaily clad ladies, and in the outer set, were also present in large numbers. At 2.40 the lowering of the flag at government house accompanied the departure of the Lieutenant-Governor and soon a cavalcade of North-West Mounted Police, under command of Inspector McElbreen, were seen riding along, escorting his honor with Captain William Brown as aide-de-camp. The state of Dowdney street did not permit a direct journey, and as a direct procession was lent to the approach of the procession by its arrival at the government buildings, they were lined up and as soon the Lieutenant-Governor had alighted arms were presented and the trumpets sounded the royal salute. His honor was conducted by Premier Haultain and Territorial Secretary Bulsey to the Speaker's chair, whence he read the following speech:

MESSAGE AND SPEECHES OF THE LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

It is a pleasure to me to the Third Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly, I rejoice in the fact that the cause of prosperity throughout the Territories and the favorable prospects in the future are very bright for the future welfare of the people.

Several of our people of the civilized world have been mourning the death of our late Sovereign, Her Most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, under whose reign, and beneficent rule the Territories have made unprecedented advances. Her death has been more deeply mourned than her death more deeply re-

gretted than in the North-West Territories. I am sure, I am sure, that in expressing in fitting terms at the earliest opportunity, the grief of the Territories, their deep sympathy with the British Empire, and their devotion to the British Crown, they will be submitting for your consideration a Bill in regard to the subject of the death of our late Sovereign King Edward VII.

It is common with the rest of Canada you must be gratified at the splendid service done on behalf of the Empire by our fellow citizens in South Africa. That some of those who volunteered their services have lost their lives must be a cause of the deepest sorrow and I am sure sympathy for the relatives and friends of those who have fallen as well as the survivors who come to those who have returned.

The universal which, at your last session, you addressed to the Governor General in Council respecting the constitutional and financial position of the Territories was duly forwarded by me to His Excellency, and I will have such correspondence as bears upon the subject laid before you.

Representations have been made to the Dominion Government respecting the necessity of the present inadequacy of the revenue. Parliament has not, as yet, given any indication as to its intentions in the matter and I am, therefore, unable to inform you of the reception given to the requests of my Government, the nature of which you will be made conversant with in due course.

In addressing you on the occasion of your last meeting I referred to "the great disproportion existing between the means of command and the ever growing necessities of the rapidly increasing population of the Territories." As those necessities have still continued to grow with our population, and there is no substantial increase in the revenue, it is to be looked for, I feel it my duty to call your attention to the absolute impossibility of supplying the ordinary services of the Territories with the means at your command.

During the past few months, small pox, which has been epidemic in the States of the American Union, has been in the north of us and also in a number of the Provinces of the Dominion. Measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease and I am happy to be able to inform you that it is being rapidly stamped out.

The great losses to crops annually caused by hail storms, and the hitherto unsatisfactory systems of hail insurance conducted as a private enterprise, have led my Government to consider the subject, and a measure will be submitted to you by which it is hoped an effective and economical system of insurance against losses by hail, administered by the Government, will be offered to those wishing to take advantage of it.

You will be asked to consider a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Joint Stock Companies, by which a more simple and inexpensive process of formation will be provided and a more complete and comprehensive system regulating companies and co-operative enterprises introduced.

Legislation will also be introduced having in view the simplification of the law relating to the establishment and conduct of rural school districts and the method of assessment therein.

The desirability of the consolidation of the basis upon which the Legislative grants in aid of schools are at present made will be generally recognized, and propositions relating to this subject will be submitted to you during the Session.

Your attention will be directed to a Bill enlarging the scope of the Public Works Department by providing means whereby roads at

present impassable may be improved by a system of drainage works, as well as symplifying and cheapening the manner of dealing with the vexed question of roadways.

Measures will be submitted for your consideration amending the law respecting Steam Boilers, Explosive Processes, the Administration of the Courts, the Public Land Improvements, Estimates for the current year have been prepared with due regard to the rapid growth and increased necessities of the Territories.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.—To those and all other measures which may be brought before you I would ask your earnest consideration, in full confidence that under the Divine guidance your labours will have been fruitful and will advance the prosperity of the country.

After a short sojourn in the Speaker's room the Lieutenant-Governor departed, amid a flourish of trumpets. Commissioner Perry and all the officers of the North-West Mounted Police at present in Regina were present in full uniform, and the whole scene was one of gaiety and animation.

Immediately at the close of the ceremony Speaker Eakin took the chair and business began. Mr. A. L. Sifton and Mr. R. S. Lake were introduced, having been re-elected. Mr. R. B. Bennett and the successful candidate at the Moose Jaw by-election, have not yet arrived.

Premier Haultain then introduced a formal bill for expediting legal and constitutional questions. It was decided to take the speech into consideration on Monday, and a select committee was appointed to prepare a list of standing committees. Hon. G. H. V. Bulsey laid on the table particulars of the parliamentary appropriation for the year and also a copy of the correspondence with the Dominion Government relating to the status and financial position of the Territories.

The House then adjourned and the members proceeded to Government House to call on Madam Forcet.