

# THE LEADER.

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## THE LEGISLATURE.

### Opening of the Second Session of the Fourth Assembly.

#### TEXT OF HIS HONOR'S SPEECH

Address in Reply Adopted Without Opposition on Criticism, on Motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. De Voe, Mr. Sifton, the New Member for Banff, Took His Seat Provincial Establishment Mooted

#### THE OPENING.

The second session of the Fourth Legislature of the Territories was opened at Regina on Thursday, 28th March, 1900, by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Forster. Twenty-six of the thirty-one Members were in their seats. The function was attended by the usual display, and was witnessed by a large assemblage of spectators. His Honor was attended from Government House to the Assembly buildings by a Mounted Police escort, and arrived at the Chamber a few minutes after three o'clock, accompanied by Inspector Gilpin-Brown, A.D.C.

#### THE SPEECH.

The speech delivered by the Lieut.-Governor was the following:—  
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I have much pleasure in welcoming you upon the occasion of the opening of the Second Session of the North-West Legislative Assembly of the Territories, and in congratulating you upon the remarkable growth in population and material resources which the Territories have experienced during the past year.

The spontaneous expression of loyalty with which all parts of the Empire have given practical evidence of their devotion to the Queen and Imperial interests, will ever mark the past year as a memorable one in the history of the nation. Owing to the non-establishment of the militia system, the Territories were deprived of the privilege of being represented in the first Canadian Contingent, but it must be a matter of pride and gratification to know that in the Second Contingent, and in that corps raised and equipped through the splendid generosity and patriotism of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Territories have now the honor of having given not only a large number of men in the aggregate but, in proportion to their population, a larger number than any other portion of the Dominion, to the Canadian contribution to the cause of the Empire. In this connection you will be asked to concur in a grant made to the North-West members of the Second Contingent, and your assent will be asked to a measure legalising grants made by Municipal Corporations to various patriotic funds.

The financial position of the Territories has been the subject of considerable correspondence addressed to the Federal authorities by my Government. A portion of the correspondence was laid before you at your last Session, and I have ordered copies of subsequent communications to be prepared for your information. The unprecedented rainfall and disastrous floods of the past year brought about a state of affairs which the revenue, already proved to be inadequate under ordinary conditions, was altogether unable to cope with. This state of affairs tended not so much to create as to aggravate and call more pointed attention to the great disparity of revenue existing between the means at command and the ever-growing necessities of the rapidly increasing population of the Territories. It is gratifying for me to be able to inform you that the Federal Government has proposed to Parliament now in session a moderate increase to your annual grant, and a large special vote for the purpose of restoring public works destroyed by the floods. In spite of this very substantial increase to the Revenue, my Government can only look upon it as affording a temporary and partial amelioration of otherwise impossible financial conditions, and will ask you to take action leading to the earliest practicable solution of Territorial financial and administrative problems.

In the administration of the law some changes have suggested themselves as being calculated to bring about greater economy and effectiveness. Bills to secure these ends will be duly submitted to you.

The accounts of the Income and Expenditure for the past year will be laid before you, as will also the Estimates for the current year, which have been prepared with due regard to the efficiency of the several services to be undertaken and the rigid limitations of the revenue.

#### Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I now leave you to your deliberations, in full confidence that the same devotion will be given to the interests of the Territories which has heretofore characterized the labours of the Legislative Assembly.

His Honor having departed, Mr. Speaker (Hon. Wm. Eakin) took the Chair. Mr. Speaker announced that during the recess he had received the certificate of election of Arthur L. Sifton as member for Banff. Mr. Sifton was then introduced to Mr. Speaker by Premier Haultain and Mr. Wallace of High River, and took his seat amid warm applause. The Premier moved for leave to introduce a formal bill, which was read a first time.

On motion of Messrs. Haultain and Ross a select committee was struck to name the members to compose the Standing Committees for the session, and report, after which the House adjourned.

Mr. Speaker took the Chair at 2:55 o'clock.

MONDAY, April 2.

magnificent crops, and magnificent weather for the curing and marketing of the crops. It seemed as if at last

PROVIDENCE WAS SMILING upon these Territories. Business in all lines and branches was lucrative and cheering, one own people were now possessed of confidence, and the people in the Eastern Provinces were gaining confidence in us and in the part of Canada. The North-West was no longer looked upon as a barren or dubious quantity. The people of the East it was no exaggeration to say, now looked on the Territories as the hope and the future mainstay of the industries and manufactures of Canada. That favorable feeling regarding the North-West did not always prevail in the East. There was a time not very many years ago, when Eastern people had small faith, when the Eastern Provinces had more than half an idea that the Territories were proving a big bill of expense with no very sure prospect of a return, and that this country was simply a burden. All that is changed now. There is reason for the changed feeling. The returns compiled by the Agriculture Department show that whereas a few years ago grain exports were the smallest of any part of Canada, today we are exporting grain measured by the millions of bushels annually. Dairying, which a few years ago was languishing and scarcely deserved the name of industry, as far as the North-West was concerned, is now in a thriving state of development, yielding handsome profits to those engaged in it and adding perceptibly to the bulk of our exports and to the name and

FAIR OF CANADIAN PRODUCTS. North-West butter, which a few years ago no merchants hesitated to handle at all, is now becoming an article of standard value not only in the mining province west of us but as well in the markets of the British Isles. (Applause.) Within a few short years the Territories have advanced from the position of the provincial division having the smallest exports, to the position of the division having the largest per capita export of cattle. Looked at from all sides the development of the Territories could not but be pronounced eminently satisfactory to the people of the Territories and to the whole of Canada. (Applause.) Our population was increasing rapidly. For the past year or two the increase in population of Manitoba, the Territories had gone on at a rate of at least 20 or 25 per cent., which was a ratio of annual increase heretofore unparalleled in the Territories or in any part of Canada. (Applause.)

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD. But while in these respects our success had been great, one had been most encouraging, while faith in the country was becoming well established and our credit abroad was gaining a sure footing, there was yet one point of view from which could be seen reason for only chastened rejoicing. It was with sorrow they were compelled to look at the comparative absence of income of the revenue for the local government of the Territories. The revenue had not been increasing to any adequate extent for the proper government of the country, to ensure the proper development of the country, to give sustained confidence to the pioneers who are here and who are coming in to help build up the country, it could be laid down as an unassailable proposition that it was absolutely necessary that

#### LOCAL REVENUE MUST GROW Apace WITH LOCAL NEEDS.

For several years past the local revenue had not been keeping pace with the local needs. What had been done to meet the case? What was done when the revenue became in a sense stationary while the needs kept on growing? This was done: The people consented to a reduction of the school grants, and consented to share in the prosecution and maintenance of public works by means of a Local Improvement system. In these ways the demands on the revenue were lessened. He believed the people had done and were doing all that it was reasonable to ask them to do, but again we are face to face with the problem of insufficient revenue. In this circumstance the Assembly and the people had a duty to perform. The problem must be met and dealt with; it must be dealt with in a way best for the interests of the Territories as a whole. (Applause.) There was possible the method of

#### DIRECT TAXATION.

We have the power and privilege of assuming the burden of direct taxation, but in the early stage of the development of the country, with the people still in the position, and for some years to come likely to be in the position of pioneers struggling and battling with primitive conditions and striving under many incident handicaps for the goal of permanency, he did not believe it would be advisable or in the best interest of the country to apply that method. What was the alternative? Could we look for an adequately increased subsidy from Ottawa? That was a very important question. What answer could be given? He was convinced that we could not look with any measure of hope for remedy from that source, for we did not need to look to Ottawa for any such increase as the circumstances demand. The case had been pressed at Ottawa for years, and while some increases were obtained, every year shows a bigger disparity between the amount we got and the amount we require. Has our case not been properly presented at Ottawa? He (Mr. Brown) thoroughly believed that our case had been presented as properly as well and as forcefully as it could be presented. The leaders of the Assembly, who understood the case at least as well as any men or collection of men alive, had gone year after year to Ottawa hat in hand, as had been said. He believed the federal government understood the case now as well as it ever will understand it. On this subject he did not believe that Ottawa's action depended on whether a Conservative or a Liberal Government was in power. Any government would do the best it could. Did the matter depend wholly on the government, the cabinet ministers, probably we might expect adequate remedy from Ottawa, from either a Liberal or Conservative Government. But it did not lie with them wholly. There were more than two hundred members of Parliament to be consulted, only four of whom were sent from the Territories. He did not want to convey the impression that the Eastern Provinces were hostile to us, or that Eastern members would not grant us what they thought was just and right, because he did not think that would be a true impression. The fact was that the Eastern men, not factio to the House and to the country. The past year had been one of

#### THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Mr. G. W. BROWN (North Regina) on rising to move the Address in Reply were sent from the Territories. He did not want to convey the impression that the Eastern Provinces were hostile to us, or that Eastern members would not grant us what they thought was just and right, because he did not think that would be a true impression. The fact was that the Eastern men, not factio to the House and to the country. The past year had been one of

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