E DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY IN THE TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE.

Bennett of West Calgary "Shoots His Bolt" Against the Administration—The Life of the Government not Seriously Endangered—The Aspiring Leader of the Opposition Preaches the Doctrine that the "End Justifies the Means," and Wants to See a Government With a Policy to "Make Things Happen"—Serious Charges Against the Executive Freely Made, but Easily Disposed of by Mr. Bulyea, Commissioner of Agriculture, Who Replied for the Government—Very Effective Reply Made by Dr. Patrick to a Portion of the Theories and Fancies of Mr. Bennett—Condensed Summaries of the Speeches of the Mover and Seconder of the Address in Reply, and the Other Members Who Joined in the Debate.

ICE BROKEN.

leneuve Moves the Address in Reply

R. LAKE SECONDS IT.

Creditable Maiden Speeches Members for St. Albert and ell.-The Assembly's Welcome ut.-Governor Forget is the Reverse of Perfunctory—n Tributes to the Memory of te Governor Cameron.

THURSDAY, April 6, 1899.

eaker took the chair at 2:45.
of members to compose the Committees of the House orted by Mr. Haultain from committee.

McKay, Bennett and McDon- notices of questions to be ask- overnment.

ultain gave notice of Bills to e Clerks and Deputy Clerks e, respecting winding-up Joint mpanies and respecting In- sons.

tion of Mr. Haultain it was re- at whenever the order paper cleared at 5:30 o'clock there e a night session.

HE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

ILLENEUVE (St. Albert) was d upon rising to move the of an address in reply to the overnor's Speech. After refer- he pleasure the opportunity him, he pleaded his newness ouse and in the country as jus- a for asking the House not to uch from him, but to accept nd in the spirit in which they ered any remarks he would Mr. Villeneuve thought one of y features of the public affairs erritories was their freedom leral party differences. (Hear, He congratulated the members overnment upon their having

ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES

inion politics and united to r the benefit of the country. not been sent by St. Albert to his out and out support—or out opposition—to the Government elp so far as he could the con- n of the good work of the Gov- t and work for the welfare and ity of the North-West. He ot pretend that all had been rfectly—perfection was not of rld. The question, however, ad the Government done what hin their limited power and au- ? Had they done all that was under the difficulties existing? ught in a general manner it be said that they had. On that any rate the House should not critical. Laying down the pro- n that men who had borne the the day should enjoy the posts or and distinction, the speaker e people of the Territories could ngratulate themselves on the on to the lieut.-governorship of o had devoted so great a portion ife to work in this country as Governor Forget. (Applause.) uarter of a century he had been ted with public affairs here. No nomination could have been

Mr. Villeneuve referred fitting- he death of the late Lieut.-Gov- meron and the departure of the and Countess of Aberdeen, and ly re-echoed the welcome con- in the Speech to Earl Minto. French Canadian he was glad to all expressions of loyalty and tism that could be given to Bri- onnection. The French Canadian

ESSENTIALLY LOYAL

itish ties, and he might repeat a distinguished man had said, he last gun in defence of the Bri- ag will certainly be fired by a h Canadian. (Applause.) The e would be gratified to learn that usiness had grown to the extent rrant a new permanent member Executive Council. It was a of progress, and the public would e the benefit of their business re- g prompt attention. Respecting rdinances Consolidation he believ- e Commission had rendered a service to the country. The work rgently needed, and the Govern- deserved credit for the creditable in which it had been performed. as not a printer, but so far as he l judge, the Consolidated Ordin- s as a typographical model was inly most creditable. (Hear, hear.) he subject of Local Improvement, Villeneuve claimed that his dis- might be termed the pioneer dis- in local organisation. The people e had not been slow to advantage nselves of the Ordinance, which a great boon. Of course if the ner settlements were not obtaining full benefit of the system, it would ell to seek a remedy as was indi- d in the Speech. On the water stion he could say that St. Albert well favored; that district seemed ave every natural advantage in ation—(hear, hear)—but he was dy to recognise the necessities of er parts, and he conceived it to be duty of every member to seek to ward the interests of the whole Ter- ories. The House would certainly rove the attention being given to riculture. The progress and success this country depended entirely upon riculture and whatever would pro- te this would promote the interests everybody. It was encouraging to te that the people were availing emselves of the facilities afforded by Government for improvement inality of the herds of cattle. Mr. lleneuve referred to the proposed

EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Calgary, hoping there would be one o farther north, and to the other bjects mentioned in the Speech as re- uring consideration. He would not into detail, but simply said he heart- y approved of the principle of improv- g the laws wherever improvement as found necessary and possible. In onclusion Mr. Villeneuve said we had country to be proud of, a country of mmense possibilities and unlimited re- ources, and all should join hands, with- ut regard to local or personal ambi- ions, and if that were done they would ave the satisfaction when their labors losed of knowing that duty was done nd service rendered to the country at arge. (Applause.)

Mr. LAKE (Grenfell) seconded the ddress. He said the sentiment of the whole Territories was one of gratifica- ation at the appointment of Lieut.- Governor Forget, who was a genuine Northwester. It was the first time the Ottawa Government had seen fit to encourage home industry in that particular way, and he hoped the precedent set would never be departed from. It was important that men occupying high positions should be conversant with the needs and every day wants in the spheres in which their duties are cast. Lieut.-Governor Forget was intimately acquainted with these needs. The interest felt by the people in this high office was shown by the shock felt by all when the late Lieut.-Governor Cameron died. Mr. Lake added his testimony to the general regret at the departure of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, who were loyal and warm friends of the Territories, and who had certainly shown a more active interest and had oftener visited the North-West than any of their predecessors. The acquaintance Lady Aberdeen had made with conditions in outlying and scattered settlements suggested the scheme of the

VICTORIA ORDER OF NURSES.

Mr. Lake said the time would come when people would look with gratitude to the name of Lady Aberdeen on account of the Order.

The extension of practical and effective organisation under the local improvement system at so small a cost to the ratepayers was a consideration which should strike everyone strongly. When we were competing with sister provinces for immigration, it was a splendid point in our favor that taxes were small. Men who labor under heavy taxation in older countries, if they are shrewd men, will not overlook the point when seeking new homes and thus the Territories would secure the best classes. The situation regarding organisation presented many difficulties, but it had come to the alternative of organise or retrograde. The tied-up lands were a great handicap, and the Government were entitled in his opinion to great credit for the measure of success they had been able to obtain with the system of local improvement. One result of the extension of organisation was the expansion of business in the offices, the necessary result being mentioned in the speech, namely, the calling of another permanent member of the Council. Mr. Lake alluded to the Consolidation of the Ordinances, which gave the Assembly a clean sheet to commence with, and touched on the water question, picturing the unbearable hardships of the farmer who lacked water on his farm, and the virulent anti-immigration agent constituted by a deserted homestead. In Mr. Lake's opinion there could be no question as to the advisability of experimental stations. The country being young, and having little accumulated experience, stood in greater need of the free intercourse of ideas, the free interchange of the results of practical experiments. Every such facility given was a contribution to our source of wealth. In conclusion, Mr. Lake expressed the idea that the address in reply should be viewed as a formal act of courtesy not intended to provoke, and not furnishing appropriate occasion for controversial discussion. He would deprecate the custom he saw prevailing in other legislatures of very long and contentious discussions at such a time. All the subjects mentioned would come up again, when more data was at hand and when the subjects could be better and more intelligently dealt with. He believed it was customary for new Members to offer some sort of apology for their newness, but in view of the comparative numbers of new and old Members on that occasion he thought he could dispense with the custom—(laughter)—else some of the older members might be led to make apologies for their position. (Applause.)

DR. BRETT (Banff) was heartily applauded when he arose. He had listened to the members from St. Albert and Grenfell with satisfaction, and congratulated the House upon their addition to its debating powers. He also felt like congratulating both the mover and seconder for what he termed wholly unique addresses. They

EXHIBITED AN INDEPENDENCE

of which he never heard the like on such an occasion. That probably augured well, and indicated that independence would be the guiding motive of that Assembly. Dr. Brett said regarding the late Lieut.-Governor Cameron that such men were bound to be admired even by those differing politically. The elevation of Mr. Cameron was a fitting tribute to life-long public service. After making fitting reference to the Aberdeens the doctor joined in congratulating the Territories upon Mr. Forget's elevation. The present lieut.-governor was indeed an old friend. That House had asked time and again the appointment of western men to western offices. He was glad the principle had been recognised at last, and "more than that," said Dr. Brett, "the man has been appointed whose equal could not be found for the position." Turning to less agreeable duty, the speaker proceeded to criticise some points of the Speech. He scarcely agreed that the consideration of such Speeches was no time for controversial discussion. Usually the Speech contained the essence of controversial matter. He could agree, however, that the minimum was in the present sample. It was barren so far as outlining any such programme as might have been expected. He would notice only a few points. There was the stereotyped reference to prosperity. No Speech lacked that. Sometimes it was true, and sometimes it was not true in quite the same degree. Fortunately there could be no question of the truth on the present occasion. A pertinent question was, What had

MADE THE PROSPERITY?

It was fitting now that every member should enquire for himself, Was prosperity due to natural causes, or had it been promoted or assisted by the policy or conduct of affairs by the Government? Certain lines of action had been followed. Would prosperity be greater to-day if other suggested policies had been adopted? Was the present prosperity as full as possible? If so, then give due credit. If otherwise, then ask, Whose fault was it? He did not propose to answer these questions. Let each member consider them and answer them for himself. It was mentioned that a third resident minister had been called. Dr. Brett would not say he was not required. But he could not fail to ask if the increase in ministers, in staff, in expense, was not out of all proportion to the augmentation of revenue. The Consolidation be noted had been completed. It had been two years in hand. The House would naturally expect complete laws. Of course changes would always be necessary. Otherwise it would be nonsense for the members to assemble—they would have nothing to do. Changes were inevitable and inseparable in our conditions. But when they considered that two years had been spent in perfecting the laws, it was surprising to find amendments proposed already—for instance to the Judicature and Elections laws. Surely if any law could be made permanent it was that relating to legal procedure. This was a peculiar time to be amending the Elections Ordinance. If there was any time that such law ought to be amended, the House would agree that that time was not just after, but just before a general election. The Local Improvement was another Ordinance he saw was to be amended. That law had received a great deal of consideration, and he contended that if the Government had accepted the suggestions he had offered in previous years there would not now be necessity for so quickly mutilating the volume of laws just consolidated. That was one Ordinance which should not be continually tinkered. The defects were those he had seen two years ago—they were not defects shown by operation. He approved the principle of the Ordinance, and had

DONE HIS BEST WITH PEOPLE

who were not satisfied with it, to get them to understand it. The Government were of course not responsible for all the Ordinances passed since 1888, but were responsible since 1897, which included the Consolidation. The changes to be made now would have been better made last year. Dr. Brett agreed that the Government should have a policy on agriculture, and it was highly desirable that the policy should be inaugurated on right lines. Referring to the Calgary experimental station, he said the House was in the dark, but he was informed the station was to be operated on land not owned by the Government, but leased. It was wrong to spend public money on private property. Land was cheap. To buy would cost little more than to rent. He was further informed that the place selected was not most desirable, being off the main trail. He noted the Public Accounts were to be laid before the House. They were always thankful for that. These Public Accounts were to cover 16 months. That was a long time. Accounts ought to have been prepared for the 12 months ending last August, so that candidates in the elections could have given all possible information to electors. Each riding knew so much money, $250,000 more or less, was expended, and that only $3,000 or $5,000 perhaps had been spent in it. The people naturally asked, Where did all the balance go? "I felt the lack of information," said the doctor, "—or, well, I didn't really, but I might have." (Laughter.) In conclusion he said he would leave the questions to the thought of the members. He had been thinking them over. If there was not much in the bill of fare, still there was some food for reflection. (Applause.)

MR. ROSS, Commissioner of Public Works, was suffering from a very severe cold and craved the indulgence of the House. He said it was only right for His Honor's advisers to reply when the Speech was subjected to criticism by the

OSTENSIBLE LEADER

of the Opposition. He thought he would express the sentiment of all the older members when he said the task of moving and seconding the address in reply had never been undertaken with better success than on that day. The hon. members from St. Albert and Grenfell understood the duty fully and carried it out accordingly. (Applause.) He would like to add his quota to what had been said of Lieut.-Governor Forget. As a member of the old North-West Council and first Assembly he had been brought into intimate association with the then Clerk of the House. When he (Mr. Ross) entered the House in 1883, young and entirely lacking experience, he found Mr. Forget, who was then both clerk and librarian, a perfect encyclopedia. In many matters he and other members looked to Mr. Forget for assistance and guidance. Always willing, and more than that, always capable of giving information and assistance, Mr. Forget was of the utmost value to that early Council in this country. He need not say that he with others regretted exceedingly the death of Hon. Mr. Cameron, a warm-hearted, whole-souled Highland Scotchman, who in his lamentably brief term exhibited his high sense of the duties of the position of lieut.-governor. Mr. Cameron was still comparatively young, yet had well earned the reward from his party which everyone regretted he lived to enjoy so short a time.

Mr. Ross was amused at the statement of the member for Banff that there was nothing in the Speech—nothing contentious, while at the same time he tried hard to make a contentious discussion. There was perhaps not a great deal in the Speech, yet when compared with the Speeches in other legislatures it would be found to contain as much meat as any of them. At all events as much was foreshadowed as the Government deemed proper to foreshadow, and the Government held nothing up its sleeve. Take the question of water supply. Perhaps that was of small importance to the member for Banff who resided in the mountains and was supplied by nature's profuse and plenteous streams, but to other portions of the country the water question was intensely interesting. Dr. Brett's allusions to prosperity were peculiar. Was there any or was there none? The hon. member did not know. If prosperity had come and the Government had had something to do with it, should the Government be given any credit? The House was left to answer. Dr. Brett did not know. If it was here and the Government had not brought it, should the Government be condemned? Dr. Brett couldn't tell. Mr. Ross said he also would leave the House to answer. He would merely say that no local Government would try to take credit for the prosperity at present abroad in the whole of Canada and in which the Territories shared. The statements that there was now a third member of the Council and a larger staff were both true. He believed the conditions justified the increases. The duties devolving upon them had been too large. He could say for himself that the Public Works, Agriculture and Secretary's departments were more than any one man could adequately attend to; due consideration to agricultural subjects could not be given. If any appointment could be justified surely it was that of an

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

in this agricultural country. The staff would increase from year to year so long as they endeavoured to cope with the duties incidental to the present system. The municipal and school organisation work was practically all done in the offices—work that was not done in any provincial government offices. To compare the staff here with that in a province was unfair, yet he was quite ready for the House to make the comparison with Manitoba without the consideration of differing conditions he had alluded to. Taking one item of work in the Public Works office, namely, the direction of work in 450 local improvement districts, would give an idea of the labor involved. On the subject of Consolidation Dr. Brett, who was fully aware of the circumstances, quite neglected to state the circumstances which made the completion of the work inadvisable last year. The work was now completed. It was of course not perfect. Even if it were perfect now, it would not be so next year. Dr. Brett declared the Election law above all others should have been perfected last year. Well, the House could congratulate itself that the Election law did contain imperfections, because by them Dr. Brett had been enabled to slip in. Had the law been perfect the hon. member for Banff would not now be in the House. (Laughter and applause). They were all glad that he had got back. He was always a critic, but was always a fairly easy one, who worked no great injury. Mr. Ross hoped that the Local Improvement law would be found to need amendment from year to year, because he considered it the basis for municipal institutions—a sure foundation upon which the people would build and keep pace with the requirements of the country. There had been a contention against the principle in 1897, but now all were agreed that the law was good. If a poll were held to-day 90 per cent. of the people in the districts organized would be found in favor of the system. Districts which had been overlooked were sending in and asking why they were not getting a share of the benefits of the law. It was realised by all even in 1897 that the law was less suitable for some parts of the country than others. The House adopted what was believed to be best for the majority. With some experience and after much study they would now attempt to meet the peculiar conditions of the minority sections without impairing the principle of the system. Answering the criticisms upon the Calgary experimental station plan, Mr. Ross said that if irrigation experiments could be made of any service, that service would be of very great value to the large semi-arid region. The Government were making what they believed an advisable arrangement for land four miles from Calgary—land already under a ditch, owned by a company which had already made a large expenditure largely in the nature of an experiment. It was his belief that a company which was itself financially interested, and interested in every way in making a success of irrigation farming, was the best calculated to carry out the Government's experimental plan. They did not propose to buy land, but that was not necessarily any great barrier to a proper safeguard of public interest. They might lease for a term of years, and contract for the privilege of buying at the end of the term.

The member for Banff would like to have had the Public Accounts available at election time. Mr. Ross reminded the House that the financial year closed Dec. 31; the elections were in the previous November. Adopting Dr. Brett's custom he would leave the question to be answered by some other person as to how the Accounts could have been made available at election time. Dr. Brett admitted that he himself had not felt the lack, which was satisfactory to this extent that it showed that the great outrage had not worked any harm in Banff district.

Mr. Ross congratulated the House on the many acquisitions to its strength. As the patriarch of the House which he was in length of time served—while the hon. the Speaker was the patriarch in point of age—he would presume to say without any intention of flattery that he believed the House was equal to any that had preceded; he would not say it was better, but they could hope that it would, before the close of its term, demonstrate that it was. (Applause.)

MR. MCKAY (Prince Albert West) rose in his place after an absence of four years from the chamber, and was given a very hearty reception. He had been classed at election time, by a paper said to be

THE GOVERNMENT ORGAN,

as an Oppositionist. To begin with, Mr. McKay wished to correct that classification. In his campaign he had in some things criticised the administration, but he had not been sent to the House tied to either support or oppose the Government. His constituents sent him to approve what he could approve conscientiously, and to oppose what seemed in his opinion to be unworthy of support. (Applause.) Mr. McKay believed this country was on the eve of great prosperity. All we needed was development, and judging from indications to be seen in the better settled parts, the outlying sections could find good cause to hope for early development by extension of railways — perhaps transcontinental lines. He said that when this country becomes adequately supplied with railways to carry out its products, it will be in a position second to no part of the world. He was pleased to see a local man made lieut.-governor. The Territories had been fortuuate in its governors, bnt it was right that only local men should be appointed. Those in charge of affairs had found the necessity of a third resident minister. Whether all could or could not agree with the necessity, yet all would agree that a happy choice had been made in the third minister. (Hear, hear.) He opposed the experimental station policy as being beyond the financial power of the Territories, and contended that the duty lay with the Ottawa government, whose revenue was elastic while ours was arbitrary. He believed the compulsory principle had been adopted in regard to local improvements before the country was ripe for the change. There had been necessity for stringent regulations to cope with the non-resident owners, and the struggling resident and actual settler had also to bear those stringent regulations. The measure was very drastic, properly so perhaps as related to non-residents. The Overseers were endowed with authority greater than a supreme court judge, and in a majority of cases were not fully aware of their responsibilities. However the law was now established, and it was the duty of the House to make it as workable as possible. The water question was becoming a serious one in many locations where a few years ago there was no lack. As an old timer in the country Mr. McKay said he knew of many places where years ago there was abundance of water and where the water has dried up. He trusted the promised Public Accounts would be found to give more detailed information than previous issues.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

EVENING SESSION.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Speaker resumed the chair. It had been rumored and expected that Mr. Bennett of West Calgary intended entering the debate with an onslaught against the Government. When the sitting opened Mr. Bennett was not in the House, and

MR. HAULTAIN arose to close the debate. He explained his somewhat unusual position in the debate as leader of the Government. Under an ordinary and well defined party system there would be a regularly appointed leader of the Opposition. In the absence of any regularly formed Opposition or recognised leader of the Opposition, and as there was possibility of hearing from members or leaders of an Opposition or Oppositions, he had postponed his remarks, it being generally understood that the leader of the government had a right to reply to the chief criticisms levelled against the administration. He presumed that the House had now heard the principal criticism, and he would make his own remarks brief. The Premier heartily complimented the mover and seconder of the address, and agreed with Mr. Lake that if any apology were called for it was the old members who should apologise for their continued existence. (Laughter.) The seconder also laid down the proper position as regarded the occasion of the address, that it was better to leave the controversies to a later stage. While there was perhaps controversial matter in the address, it was not placed in a controversial way. In fact the Address in Reply was framed, as far as possible, to avoid controversy, and a member voting for its adoption was not committing himself on any important question one way or the other. The Premier alluded to Mr. McKay's statement regarding his (Mr. McKay's) attitude and wrong classification by a newspaper characterised as a Government organ. He said if it was a question between the statement of Mr. McKay and a statement appearing in any newspaper whether an organ of the Government or not he could assure the House that he was perfectly ready in the latter event to disown the organ and accept Mr. McKay's frank and fair statement. In his opinion Mr. McKay's position fittingly belonged to every member of the House, and was a creditable and proper position. It was right that members should deal with the propositions of the Government on their merits; and he was glad to hear that that was Mr. McKay's attitude. The hon. member for Banff had referred to the speeches of Mr. Villeneuve and Mr. Lake as being unique because of their independent expressions. If the hon. member was referring to things within that Assembly, then he (Mr. Haultain) could say the statement was very wide of the mark. There was nothing unique about the independence of the hon. mover and seconder. On no previous occasion had there been any symptoms of dependence. There had never been any servile following in that House. If their tone was independent, it was simply characteristic of the North-West Legislature as it always had been found. The member for Banff's

VAGUE AND MYSTERIOUS

reference to prosperity had created apprehension in Mr. Haultain's mind—it had a familiar ring, and seemed like an echo from another arena. If he were not introducing a foreign subject, he might say that, belonging to the political party to which like himself Dr. Brett owed allegiance—a party which at least was accused of claiming that good harvests and the conditions of prosperity were managed by Acts of Parliament and affected by governmental intervention;—belonging to that party the member for Banff might consistently give the North-West Government a measure of credit for the favorable conditions which are found to exist throughout the country to-day—some little measure, after thanking Providence and the weather and other toward conditions. (Laughter.) The Speech, continued the Premier, in one respect was like the speech of the member for Banff,—it contained both hopes and regrets. The first part dealt with some causes of congratulation, and unfortunately some regrets were expressed. He desired simply to re-echo all that had been said respecting Lt.-Governor Forget. It would not be fitting in his position to attempt any eulogy. He endorsed Mr. Lake's remark that in that case the proper course had been followed in appointing a North-West man and thus giving recognition to home industry. In their choice the Dominion Government had made no mistake. The appointment had been favorably received throughout the whole Territories. Any eulogy from him respecting the late Lieut.-Governor Cameron, too, would be unbecoming at that time. Hon. Mr. Cameron had made his reputation in the larger field of Dominion politics, and of any man in the sphere in which Mr. Cameron had moved and been an influence, there was bound to be very marked differences of opinion. But no one could say that from the very moment of his entrance upon the duties of the office of Lieut.-Governor he had not shown a keen interest in this country—shown that he was resolved to devote his time and the strength of his high position to promote the interests of the country. (Applause.) The Premier repeated that the Speech should be dealt with in a non-controversial spirit, particularly the first Speech given by His Honor. It seemed to him that the reply should be made as unanimous and as courteous as possible. Of course he did not wish to deprecate criticism or stop debate, but upon the subjects of the Speech criticism could be made much more appropriately and perhaps very much more effectively later on in the session. The foreshadowed subjects of legislation,—on each one of them a bill would be brought in. On other matters—matters of administration—well, the Supply Bill had to be introduced, and when it came down there was opportunity to discuss all such matters. Every subject would come up later in more definite and practical form. In other legislatures, it was true, very extended debates on the address seemed to be the rule, but judging by what we heard of the debates themselves and their effect, it would certainly seem that a different course would cause no loss. The Saturday Review, he thought it was, which said that the debate on the Address in the Imperial Parliament was a "rambling discussion upon things in general," and suggested that if those who participated had written an article or hired a hall an equally good result would have been accomplished. The member for Banff made the usual criticism in perhaps different words that the Speech was remarkable for what it failed to contain—that it was barren or at least meagre—that no useful legislation was promised, etc. Whether the criticism was merited or not it was certain that the Speech seemed to contain nothing upon which the hon. member could declare his own position, and it was fair to ask if the remark should be taken as coming from one who was

HUNGRY FOR WORK,

anxious to be making himself useful, or was it simply the commonplace remark of an Oppositionist who felt a compulsion to criticise. As the House had no recognised Opposition, the Premier supposed they would have to assume that it was the remark of one who was disappointed that he could not at once roll into hard work. Leaving aside that question, however, Mr. Haultain challenged comparison with Speeches made to any other Assembly or to Parliament. He said the statement could not be contradicted that none of them contained mention of anything like the variety of important subjects contained in the Speech for which he and his colleagues were responsible, and this notwithstanding the more extended work and greater organisation of provincial assemblies or the federal Parliament, with their well developed parties and greater scope. The statement that the work of the country had increased so as to necessitate a third member of the Executive Council was important, and would come before the House again in a practical way. Unless the House saw fit to vote Supply and provide for that third member, his services could not be continued. The matter of the Consolidation of the Ordinances was by no means unimportant. The remarks of the hon. member for Banff on that subject, coming from an old member, were not very appropriate. That hon. member had been in the House and knew perfectly well what had caused the delay. The delay was made at the request of the Commission, and this Dr. Brett knew or should have known. The Commission was first appointed in 1897, and in 1898 after they had gone through the work, they advised various changes before the Consolidation should be completed and adopted. Mr. Haultain thought it was desirable that the delay should have occurred. The Consolidation now contained the whole of the work of the last Assembly, and was certainly much more complete that if it had been issued earlier. In any event the delay was not caused by the Government, the country had not suffered but benefitted, and to-day the whole law was to be found in one volume. Dr. Brett spoke of amendments he had proposed to the local improvement law in former years; he advised that those amendments ought to be made now, and at the same time protested against the Consolidated Ordinances being amended. That was a lesson to the House in consistency. Dr. Brett had much fault to find with the local improvement Ordinance. At an election meeting in Banff district (at Jumping Pound) the hon. member had referred to the Ordinance in very different terms. Mr. Haultain quoted from a report of Dr. Brett's speech at the meeting, highly commending the Ordinance. The report went on to say that Dr. Brett declared he "had always taken an active part in the business of the House, that he had always held that the Statute Labor law was good, and that the people would like it when they got a proper understanding of it." This was the way, said Mr. Haultain, that the member for Banff expressed himself when he was not filling in the time allotted to the gentleman who assumes to lead Her Majesty's loyal Opposition.

Dr. Brett—If you will permit me, I will say that I always approved the principle of the law, and said nothing this afternoon inconsistent with that approval.

Mr. Haultain—The explanation does not meet the point. To-day the hon. gentleman criticised the law as it stands. At his election meeting he approved the law entirely and completely. The Premier, continuing, said that another very important subject mentioned was that of water supply. He was sorry that it was so important, and that its importance had to be admitted in the Speech, and in speeches in the chamber. He felt very much disinclined to include reference to it in the Speech and to so advertise the fact of its importance to the world. But it was one of the conditions the Government was compelled to deal with, and which had to be considered. If it were not in the Speech, the bill of fare would be lacking still more and the hon. gentleman from Banff would have still greater reason to complain. Then there were the subjects of stock inspection and farming experiments, both highly important. Another subject was that respecting elections. The hon. member was very free in criticisms after the event. The Speech accurately indicated the position. It was the test made by the general elections which showed the weak points in the law. The involved questions arising in the Banff election, for instance, called for remedy. He would not say it absolutely, but believed that the imperfections of the law influenced

THE RESULT IN BANFF.

On that score the Premier was not complaining. On the contrary he welcomed Dr. Brett back to the House. But Dr. Brett was as much a party to the law as anyone else. Had he not always "taken an active part in the business of the House?" He had always been a critic. The Assembly surely could complain that the hon. gentleman had not given the advantage of his knowledge and prescience regarding the election law in 1897 or 1898, so that that Chapter of the Consolidated Ordinances would not be demanding amendment. References to the law of partnership, winding up joint stock companies, villages, swelled the list of important subjects embodied in the Speech. The bill dealing with the law of Partnership would be found very important. The Speech itself refuted the statement that it contained reference to no useful legislation. Of course whether the legislation as finally adopted would prove useful or not would depend on the consideration given by the House. On the other hand, continued the Premier, the Government purposely refrained as much as possible from preparing any legislation not urgently required. The Consolidation was just out. Of course some amendment was necessary, but especially at this time no changes should be made just for the sake of doing something.— It was Sir Geo. Cartier who said he would never be satisfied until a session could be met with only one Bill—the Supply Bill. Certainly at this stage the fewer bills the better, especially of the tinkering sort. Dr. Brett's references to the incompleteness of the statute law did not fall with good grace from one who had sat through three legislatures and always "taken that active interest in the business of the House." It was late in the day to find the existence of this incompleteness. Mr. Haultain thought that no one who would read the titles of the various Ordinances and look even casually into them—many of them embodying the results of the experiences of older countries adapted to our special conditions—would find any warrant for the contemptuous declaration made with a wave of the hand that the statute law of the Territories was so incomplete. The Assembly of the Territories had been in particularly good circumstances, free from the drawbacks and sidepullings of other Assemblies, for exercising the function of legislation, They had not had the sometimes necessary but in many respects undesirable features of party strife to contend against, and had been able to devote an unusal degree of single mindedness to the work of legislation. The Premier declared he was ready to stand on the declaration that the North-West statute law was in a high degree complete and useful in comparison with other countries. It was not perfect. The House was but human, as Mr. Villeneuve had truly said. The member for Banff seemed to think there something needed to be done, but was at a loss to know just what was required. He reminded the Premier of that curate out of employment who in the disputations anent the claims of the high churchmen, low churchmen, and so forth, took his stand on the declaration of "No Views," and immediately gained employment. Mr. Haultain hoped that the criticisms would take more definite and practical form when the questions come before the House. After all, however, Dr. Brett had always been a friendly critic, and Mr. Haultain only wished his Government might always meet with criticisms as friendly and fair as his had been in the past. (Applause.)

THE DEBATE BREAKS OUT AFRESH.

MR. BENNETT (West Calgary) had come into the chamber near the close of the Premier's speech. When the latter sat down the former arose. Mr. Bennett's opening sentences proclaimed him a voluble, eloquent and pleasing speaker. He commenced by saying that while he was probably the youngest man in the House, yet he represented a most important constituency, upon which fact he would rest his justification for joining in the debate. With this brief preliminary he plunged into his topics. After the speeches made last fall at Calgary by the hon. the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Public Works, the House might have expected on this occasion the presentation of a programme meriting their consideration. Every man who realised the great possibilities of this country and took a proper interest in public affairs certainly was looking to see the great problems treated,—was looking to see some indication that the problems presenting for solution by the administration of these Territories would be grappled with by the Government. He would say nothing in a spirit of captious criticism; his remarks would be offered rather in the spirit of determination to aid to the full extent of his poor powers the promotion of the welfare of the country. The Speech, in its reference to the Lieut.-Governor, noted the fact that it was twenty-five years ago that the North-West Territories began to be organised. Twenty-five years, thundered Mr. Bennett, was a long time. Twenty-five years was a

QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

Almost twenty-five years ago Hon. David Mills, then Minister of the Interior, now Minister of Justice for Canada, in a speech referring to the North-West alluded to the Territories as being then in their minority, and declared that they would presently attain their majority, after which time they would be expected to do the work of a grown-up country,—act the part of a grown-up man. On this day, twenty-five years later, it was surely not too early to ask if the time had not come for the people of these Territories to assume the status contemplated by Hon. Mr. Mills. Continuing, Mr. Bennett declared that problems momentous, gigantic, of the utmost seriousness, confronted the country, and with which it behooved the Assembly to deal. In the light of this declaration Mr. Bennett ridiculed an address given by the hon. the Attorney General in October last at Calgary. Mr. Haultain had professed the Government's inability to deal with the large questions of competitive freight rates, elevator monopolies, or the matter of arranging for the people of Calgary a schooner of beer for five cents. (Laughter.) Mr. Haultain had accentuated the need of the cultivation of the philosophy of dullness. Mr. Bennett said that while the Attorney General had not mentioned his name everybody knew that the remarks had sarcastic reference to his (Mr. Bennett's) election address. The speaker thought the framers of His Honor's Speech must have spent a great deal of time in the study of the philosophy of dullness, for if ever there was a document distinctly the evolution of such study that document was the Speech. But if the Government were unable to cope with the momentous questions, he (Mr. Bennett) had a mandate from the people of West Calgary to endeavor to have them dealt with. Were not the people of these Territories interested in the question of competitive freight rates, the putting an end to railway monopoly, the question of the elevator monopoly? Would not effective dealing with those questions benefit every man in the country? He said that Mr. Haultain's remarks at Calgary were an insult to the intelligence and knowledge of the people who suffered from elevator and railway monopolies—people who are hampered and oppressed at every turn by monopolies, and who intend to remain no longer content to helplessly bear the drawbacks and burdens imposed by the monopolies. The majority of the members of the present Assembly were new men; they had come in with no set ideas of Opposition,—had come in open-minded, ready and anxious to support every step in the line of progress. But if they found the Government pursuing its old policy of "drift," instead of seeking to grapple with the problems of the hour, then it was the duty of the members to oppose that Government no matter by what or whom it was composed and without regard to any services the members of it may have rendered to the state in days gone by. If the Government failed in the duty of the hour it was entitled to Opposition. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bennett declared that no man had more unbounded confidence in this country than himself. Looking back over the twenty-five years' history of the North-West, it was fair to ask whether this Government had done aught to facilitate progress or bring about the prosperity which was being felt in some measure by the people to-day. This Government had gone to Ottawa year after year asking this thing and that thing. Whatever was