

# THE LEADER.

VOL 17.—NO. 11.

REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 4, 1899.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## BUDGET STATEMENT BY MR. ROSS

Detailed Explanation of Territorial Revenues, and of the Services Upon Which the Various Amounts of Money are Applied.

## THE GOVERNMENT'S PROVINCIAL ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSITION

The Public Lands to be Claimed as a Provincial Asset—Division on Dr. Patrick's Resolution Relating to Registry Offices—"The Leader's" Detailed Assembly Report Continued.

### A DILIGENT MONDAY

Ushered in the Concluding Week of the Session.

### TIE ON THE FIRST DIVISION

Patrick's Registration System Resolution—Bennett Was on Thin Ice in Respect of a "Fair" — Important Measures Dealing With Irrigation Districts, Agricultural Societies and Fences.

MONDAY, April 24.  
From the standing committee on Standing Orders Mr. Gillis reported favorably on the petition for a charter for the Edmonton Club, and favorably on a petition for amendment to the Calgary General Hospital Ordinance, recommending granting of permission for introduction of Bills on the respective subjects. The report respecting Calgary Hospital recommended the refunding to the petitioners of the \$100 fee deposited with the Clerk of the House.

#### COURT RECORDS.

Dr. Patrick asked: Have any representations been made by this Government to the Government of Canada as to the need of provision being made for the safe keeping of such records of the Supreme Court as are in charge of the deputy clerks of the Court?

Mr. Haultain's reply was in effect: Yes; the matter had been brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice time and again; the fact being that not only in the deputy districts but in one of the judicial districts there were no proper means for the safe-keeping of the valuable documents of the court.

#### CALGARY FAIR GRANT.

Dr. Brett asked: Is it the Government's intention to assist by a grant of money the proposed midsummer fair at Calgary?

Mr. Haultain replied that the Estimates for the year had been placed in the hands of members, containing all the financial propositions of the Government for the year; that contained no grant to the Calgary fair, and the hon. gentleman had taken it for granted therefore that the Government did not propose to ask the House to vote such a grant.

#### DIVISION ON THE QUESTION OF LAND REGISTRATION DISTRICTS

Dr. Patrick, seconded by Mr. Rosenroll, moved the following resolution: Resolved that the power to make Ordinances in relation to the classes of subjects now dealt with by the "Lands Titles Act 1894," should be vested in this Legislative Assembly, and that two lands registration districts each served by one registry office would be quite sufficient to serve the needs of the people of these Territories.

Dr. Patrick referred to the fact that one of the powers of the Assembly was to legislate on the subject of property and civil rights, such legislation being, however, subject to federal Act—the Lands Titles Act—so far as land titles were concerned. It would be readily agreed that in the days of immature organisation it was advisable that the administration of so important a subject as land titles should remain under control of Parliament. But now that the Territories have a comparatively large legislature, with an array of legal talents, and a presumably fair knowledge of the subject, the time had come when the Assembly should be entrusted with the management of the registration system. One good reason for the request for the transfer was that the system was being maintained expensively. For the past seven years the average cost had been \$17,500 yearly, with average receipts of \$10,500. The fees were very high, ranging from \$4.35 upwards. The cost of effecting the transfer of a \$25 lot was \$4.35 which everyone must admit was unduly excessive. A noticeable fact was that very great difference prevailed between the proportionate receipts and expenses of the various offices—there were five offices. Regina very much more than paid expenses. The Calgary and Edmonton offices receipts and expenses ran about even with the expenses of the former slightly higher. The expenses of the Prince Albert office had always exceeded the income, and at Battleford, while the salary of the late registrar was \$2,000, the receipts had ranged from \$70 to \$120 annually. Sir, we wonder that the expenses of the system were \$7,000 in excess of the income. It was his belief that with a reduction to two offices the expenses could be reduced so as to not only make the system self-supporting but to lessen the fees fully fifty per cent. Before the branch roads—the C. & E. and P. A. branches—had been constructed, there was probably some reason, if not absolutely sound, for the maintenance of the outside offices, but now that was reasonably quick communication between all parts of the country to permit of registration business being done by mail. He understood that legal firms right in towns where registry offices exist, do business with the offices by mail for the sake of keeping the records of their own books. He would point out that if there was any good reason for an office at Battleford there was equally good reason for offices at Yorkton, in Souris district, and at several other places. If there was need for five offices, there was equal need for ten. In this department every extra office meant a large additional expense, because at the head of each office there required to be a legal man—a fairly expensive man. In the past two years the

cost of the system had been reduced somewhat, but was still in excess of the receipts. The receipts of the various offices in the last Division fiscal year were: Regina, \$7,427.33; Edmonton, \$2,485.45; Calgary, \$3,531.60; Prince Albert, \$737.50; Battleford, \$82.29. The Battleford office was now vacant, which was one reason for his resolution. Here was an opportunity to lessen the expense. He did not know of an appointment being made to the vacancy, and the resolution would be fair warning to any applicant for the position that he need expect no consideration when the system was transferred to that Assembly.

Mr. Haultain was sure that everyone would agree to the first part of the proposition. They all knew that in their work of legislating, they very frequently ran up against the federal Land Titles Act, which curtailed and restricted their powers of legislation. The memorial on that part of the subject was by no means new. It was a matter of practical convenience, and there could be no question that the local legislature would be proper body to deal with, and should have power to deal unrestrictedly with questions of property and civil rights. In very many of the subjects with which they had to deal, as for instance, schools, local improvement, noxious weeds, the question of land and land titles was involved. There were now of course sections in the federal Act making sales under the Assembly's authority practicable, yet there would be many advantages if the system were wholly transferred to the legislature. Mr. Haultain referred to the requests made for the transfer in former years, and read to the House a representation made by this Government to Ottawa last January. On the second question of the resolution he could follow Dr. Patrick's argument to a large extent. There was no doubt that the system should be centralised. The very basis of the system was centralisation. The service would be better and more complete by a reduced number of offices. Yet he thought it would be better not to involve the House in a discussion on that point at this time—when the Assembly had the power it would be early enough to debate the matter of reduction.

Mr. Ross—On whose behalf is the hon. gentleman asking delay?

Mr. Bennett—I state that I was asked to have the bill delayed—not the third reading especially—but the members expected to back before the bill got out of committee.

Mr. Ross—On whose behalf is the hon. gentleman asking delay?

Mr. Bennett declined to give a name. He thought that courtesy would lead the hon. the commissioner to accept his statement.

Mr. Ross—I certainly do not desire to be disengaged, but surely when a request of this kind is made the delay should be given. In fact it would have been the courteous thing for the members wishing the delay to have spoken to me.

Mr. Bennett—There are only two members away—the hon. gentlemen (Mr. Bennett) attempted to arrange for a pair for one of the absent members. I should like to ask him if that is the case.

Mr. Bennett admitted that he had asked a member to pair.

Mr. Haultain as the hon. gentleman mentioned to arrange a pair?

Mr. Bennett said he was authorised to have the member for St. Albert record against the bill; with that answer the Attorney-General would have to be satisfied.

Mr. Haultain—The hon. gentleman will either satisfy me now or later. I understand he attempted to arrange a pair, and I also understand that he had no authority to make any such arrangement.

In further cross-firing Mr. Bennett contended that he had reasonable authority to arrange a pair for the member for St. Albert.

Mr. Ross finally said that as the House now knew for whom Mr. Bennett asked the delay he would ask that the bill be allowed to stand.

Mr. McCauley's Game bill was given third reading.

**HORSE BREEDERS.**

Mr. McDermid moved second reading of a bill for the protection of Horse Breeders. He said that mechanics, threshers and other classes were especially protected by law, and equal necessity existed for the protection of horse breeders. The operation of the proposals of the bill would tend to encourage the breeding of pure bred stock. Second reading agreed to.

**DENTISTRY.**

Mr. Brown moved second reading of a bill to amend the Dentistry Ordinance. One principal change proposed was to incorporate a reciprocity provision as affecting British Columbia and Manitoba. Like the Territories, those provinces are not in a position to grant dental diplomas, but dental licenses.

Their license is now recognised by while they do not recognise ours.

The bill provided for reciprocity in recognition or otherwise. The bill would also prevent the admission here of men bearing diplomas from certain foreign dental institutions which do not require certain courses of instruction, institutions which grant diplomas to men without their serving an apprenticeship, without their attending lectures, etc. The admission fee was proposed to be raised from \$25 to \$50. The fees in Manitoba and B.C. are \$100. Another provision required dental candidates to have literary standing equivalent to N.W.T. second class non-professional certificate; and, for territorial dental students, prescribed attendance for at least one year at some recognised dental institution.

Second reading agreed to.

**IRRIGATION DISTRICTS.**

Mr. Cross proposed for second reading a bill to amend the Irrigation Districts Ordinance. The amendment provided that a two-thirds majority shall be necessary for the formation of a district. The present law operates on a bare majority. Mr. Cross said he was thoroughly in favor of the principle of the irrigation law, and hoped and believed it would eventually result in great good for the country.

Unfortunately under the Ordinance there had been only one district formed, and in that district there had been

DR. DEVEBER introduced a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Ordinance. Bill read a first time.

Bills to incorporate the Edmonton Club (Mr. McCauley) and to amend the Prince Albert Irrigation Ordinance (Mr. Cross) were read the first time.

**RETURNS.**

Mr. Haultain laid on the table Returns showing copies of Orders in Council relating to the Public Service and giving the technical requirements of all offices and qualifications of their occupants—moved by Dr. Patrick.

**QUERIES.**

Dr. Patrick asked when the report of the Supt. of Education would come down. Mr. Haultain said, Very soon—he had been expecting it to be ready every day.

Dr. Patrick wished to know if there was to be any report from the Yukon Commissioner. Mr. Haultain said the Government had received the report, and he would undertake to see that it was brought down without a motion.

**SOMEBODY WAS SAILING CLOSE TO THE WIND.**

When the order was reached for third reading of the Villages bill.

Dr. Brett asked that the order be stayed until next day. Two members were absent.

Mr. Ross—Have the members asked or intimated that they desire the bill to be delayed for their return?

Dr. Brett—Not to me, but others.

Mr. Ross—If the hon. gentleman whom they asked would—

Mr. Bennett—I state that I was asked to have the bill delayed—not the third reading especially—but the members expected to back before the bill got out of committee.

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Mr. Bulyea instanced the union of the Indian Head, Qu'Appelle and Fort Qu'Appelle societies which now hold joint shows very successfully.

The bill proposed to vary the method of distribution of grants. At present there were no direct encouragement to large membership. It was now proposed to divide the grants on per capita basis.

The new method of distribution, applying to local grants, would not come into force until next year, but would continue for the present year. The annual meetings of societies would be held in each December, and the grants for the year would be available as soon as the Assembly passed Supply—early in the new year. Next December the societies will get the grant for 1899, and a couple of months later that for 1900.

The fees in Manitoba and B.C. are \$100. Another provision required dental candidates to have literary standing equivalent to N.W.T. second class non-professional certificate; and, for territorial dental students, prescribed attendance for at least one year at some recognised dental institution.

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Unfortunately under the Ordinance there had been only one district formed, and in that district there had been

very much trouble and litigation. He had a petition from owners in that district—owners holding 70 per cent. of the land, but who found themselves in the minority, and did not wish to see the responsibility assumed of giving power to borrow and tax to the extent permitted. In the district of Springbank the land may amount to \$4.00 per acre of all irrigated land. In addition to which a family takes up \$1.00 an acre may be levied. In reality organisation under the Ordinance makes owners liable to enormous debt, and this fact, backed by the experience in the one district organised, convinced him that almost perfect unity and harmony should prevail in any district on the question of organisation, before success in the operation could be expected. For these reasons he proposed to raise the necessary majority to a two-thirds vote.

Mr. Bennett said that the one irrigation district in the Territories was in West Calgary, and the law firm of which he was a member had had charge of one side of the litigation that had arisen in connection; he had, therefore, some knowledge of the matter.

Mr. Bennett believed there was not a better drawn or sounder Ordinance in the book.—Ordinance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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