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### DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

(Continued From Page 1.)

springs eternal in the human breast; and we will all hope that such conditions will ever be confined to but few localities and over small areas. In the district with which I am most familiar we have had no such trouble this season. Indeed the eight elevators which we have in my own town of Rosseraie bid fair to be too few to accommodate the crop of the district. I have similar reports from other places north and south of my town all along the railway line which runs through a country that not many years ago was considered to be hardly fit for settlement. To-day we have one railway running through it north and south, and we have two others constructing their lines as fast as they are able, in order to tap and secure a part of its large export trade.

I was particularly pleased to hear His Excellency, the Governor General in this city the other day, in talking of his journey through the Territories, speak in highly commendatory terms of the Saskatchewan country. The wealth lying practically dormant in the Valley of the Saskatchewan is something those of us who are privileged to live there have long realised, but as I say, it is particularly pleasant to find gentlemen whose exalted positions give great weight to their words speaking in such favorable terms of our country. Lord Lorne who is the only other Governor General of Canada besides Lord Minto, who has travelled through this country in the manner he did, who got around the country on horseback instead of looking at it from the rear platform of a railway train, had also nothing but words of praise for the "fertile belt" of the Territories. Evidently their opinions will be the opinions of Canada, which will look to the Saskatchewan Valley as being the fairest portion of the finest part of the Dominion.

His Honor's words respecting Lady Minto find an echo in all our hearts. Her Excellency's labors in behalf of cottage hospitals and the training of nurses have already done much to relieve pain and suffering in many a prairie home, and will yet do so.

It is with some regret that I learn that the Government does not propose to introduce legislation this session dealing with the larger questions. The beginnings of the municipal system introduced last Session has met with so much approval in my district that I would have been pleased to have seen the more advanced measure which was promised introduced this session. But perhaps the education in the elementary principles of self-government which last Session's enactment affords, is sufficient for present day needs. But my constituents want good roads



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and other public facilities, and they are prepared to do everything and to undertake any responsibility necessary to get them.

His Honor makes reference to the Private Bills that are to be brought in to the House. I speak under correction but I think I am safe in stating that no session of this Legislature ever witnessed the introduction of so many petitions for legislation upon its second day as has this one. These facts all speak of the great interest being taken in our country and the march of progress going on before our eyes in every direction.

We were all glad to learn that the Dominion Government has recognised the necessities of the Territories in the unprecedented increase to our grant, which for the first time in the full amount asked for. There is no Member in this House I feel safe in saying who has not time and again, felt the pinch of poverty in our public finances. I do not suppose that the present remarkable increase will anything like meet all the requirements of the country, for as usual the "supply" will create a "demand." But I think we should all recognise one fact evidenced by the large increase in our grant. We have all heard the small grants we have had in the past attributed to the difficulty met with by the Dominion Government in interesting Members of Parliament from Eastern constituencies in western affairs. The fact that such a large grant has been given for this year without any criticism shows, to my mind, that that difficulty has been done away with. Though we have not been successful in obtaining provincial institutions, yet I am hopeful from the fact I have just mentioned, that we are within a reasonable distance of it.

Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure I second the resolution before the House.

#### The Opposition Leader.

Mr. D. H. McDonald, leader of the Opposition, followed. The Speech he said, does not contain very much definite information as to what is to come before the House this session. We have an intimation that it is not proposed to bring forward any large public legislation. The Government is apparently making a mistake, or else they made one last session, for last year when the Local Improvement Ordinance was under discussion for several days we were all led to understand that that legislation was only temporary and that further legislation on a much larger scale would be brought down at the present session. As at that time, so do I now object to the earing of the districts. It is far too expensive legislation in its present form for the people of this country. So long as we have these small areas equipped with a staff able to administer a much larger area so long will the ratio of expense be too great. It is not too late yet for the Government to take back statements they have made. (Laughter.) This municipal taxation is one of the greatest questions we have to deal with and one that comes directly before the people. The Member for Maple Creek referred to the fact that the people who own large herds of cattle and horses do not pay taxes in proportion to their wealth. My opinion is that all men should pay taxes in proportion to their wealth, irrespective of the fact whether that wealth be in lands or cattle. The hon. gentlemen took exception to the exclusive-land tax. He must have forgotten that a few years ago the principle was introduced into the School Ordinance of taxing lands only, and on that occasion he supported it. I am glad to see him coming around to our way of thinking and I hope that, with a few others, he may be able to bring the Government around to the Opposition way of thinking.

#### Favors a Cattle Census.

Another matter which I brought up a few years ago was touched on by the hon. Member. After quoting agricultural statistics he said there was reason to believe that in the other branches of industry in the Territories the same gratifying and propitious increase was taking place, although there were no statistics to prove it. It is true we have no definite information on the flocks and herds of this country. This is a matter I impressed on the Government before, that they should take a census of the cattle every one or two years.

The people in the East, I believe, do not realize our wealth in this respect and because of this our people are losing money. There is not sufficient competition among buyers of cattle in the Territories and I believe the Government should place themselves in a position to advertise our resources in this respect the same as they do in regard to our grain production and make the facts generally known before the cattle buying season opens.

The matter of bringing down of the Public Accounts and Departmental Reports has been referred to. This brings up the question of the date of meeting of this Legislature. I objected last session to the season when we are now called together. I do not think the session should be held towards the close of the Government's financial year. We are not in a position to say whether all the money has been spent or not, and a return of the special warrants for 1903 was only laid on the table a few days ago. Such a state of affairs does not exist in any of the provinces. As soon as the Government gets over its scare of general federal election I trust they will get back to Spring Sittings.

I note with surprise and regret that the speech contained no reference to certain things transpiring in the history of Canada which are of great importance and especially so to the North-West. There should have been some reference to the fact that this country is going to have another transcontinental line going through the heart of the North-West. (Cheers.) This is a very important matter and will result in a large increase in the population and wealth of the Territories. There should, I think, have been some references also to the extension of another line of railway and that in a very short time Edmonton will be reached by another transcontinental line. We in Eastern Assiniboia have also secured railway communication which has proved a great boon to us.

#### Received Full Amount Asked For.

I quite agree with the Government in expressions of pleasure that this year we have received all the money we asked for.

Dr. Patrick—Possibly they did not ask for enough.

Mr. McDonald—Well, then it is up to them.

Proceeding Mr. McDonald took

strong exception to the method of voting the Estimates in bulk. The principle of voting many thousands of dollars for roads, bridges, etc., in a bulk sum was altogether wrong. The Members of the House should know on what works the money was to be spent and if the House was in session at the proper time of the year,—in the Spring,—they could have some information given them as to what public works were to be carried on.

Taking up the question of provincial autonomy, Mr. McDonald said he sincerely hoped that when they next met together, whether at a legislature of the North-West Territories, or as a provincial legislature, that at that time the provincial question would be settled. I believe, said the speaker, that we should have this question settled by this time. (Hear, hear.) I am sincerely in favor of getting autonomy, but I understand this Government has made it a consideration that there must be one province. As you know, we of the Opposition do not agree to that. I believe a majority of this Legislature is now getting to that way of thinking. All we have to do today is to keep plugging at the Government and they will come around on this as they have done on many things. I do not believe there is anyone in Canada who believes that the whole North-West will be formed into one large province. This is a matter in which we are not the only people interested. When we become a province or provinces we enter into confederation with the other provinces and they will have something to say about our size. During recent years we have been growing in population, our representation in the House of Commons has been increased, and we now have a larger force at our back and should therefore be in a position to obtain better terms than we could four or five years ago. I do not know, therefore, but that we have been actual gainers by the matter of provincial autonomy being postponed for a few years. However, I believe the time has come for the granting of provincial institutions and I hope the Government will have better success before the House meets again.

**Principle of a Land Tax.**

Premier Haultain was received with hearty applause on rising to reply. After complimenting the mover and seconder of the Address for their very able speeches, and expressing the pleasure the House had received in listening to them, he proceeded to congratulate the House itself on another feature of this year's debate, namely, the resumption, if not of the Opposition itself, at least of the leader of His Majesty's loyal Opposition. For several sessions past it had been his lot to follow the mover and seconder of the Address without having the benefit of the friendly advice and criticism of the leader of the Opposition. It was a matter for congratulation that what he at least considered a good old custom had been revived. He had not taken the Opposition into his confidence when assisting in drafting the Speech and the omissions to which the hon. gentleman had referred were for the purpose of giving the hon. gentleman something to say and an opportunity of making the stereotyped objection of all Oppositions that there was very little information contained in the Speech.

As to no mention having been made to the proposed new transcontinental line, all he would say was that the Government had not been advised officially with reference to it, nor had they been taken into the confidence of the promoters at least so far as the locating of the line was concerned, and they did not know where it would run and could not say whether it would be tacked on the old Hudson's Bay route or not, or where it would go.

#### No New Municipal Legislation.

In his remarks Mr. McDonald made a few criticisms to some of which he would reply briefly. The question of taxation is, I quite admit, said Mr. Haultain, a very important one, and one of the most important that this Legislature, or any legislature, is called upon to deal with. I might remind the hon. gentleman, however, that the Committee of this House, after many sittings last session, came to a definite conclusion in favor of the principle of taxation of land alone. Whether that is suitable to purely ranching areas is, of course, a question of argument. It was, however, most unanimously endorsed by the Committee which was composed of nearly every Member of the House. The only alternatives are a cattle tax, which many of our municipalities are unable to cope with. We propose to continue our policy and proceed slowly with the conditions and according to the conditions. I feel quite sure in saying that the moderate amount of self government they will have will afford sufficient opportunity to the people of the country to exercise themselves in local self government for another year to come. For that and other reasons which will come up later we do not propose to go on with that legislation. Having studied this question so very carefully and most exhaustively, and in view of what I may term the almost disgraceful condition of our town and village municipal system, we have come to a conclusion as to the policy that had better be pursued. The Government intend to ask for a vote—and I may say at once a very substantial voter—what we term a commission to study this question. We want to get the very best men, not only in this country alone, but on the continent, to investigate this subject and draft for us a complete municipal system, both city, town, village and rural. In these days when we are laying the foundation of the institutions of this country we cannot spend money to better advantage than in the establishment of sound institutions. Much of the legislation of this House has been largely experimental and to meet conditions of the time being and much of it is of an undesirable nature.

#### The Money Grant.

The next question taken up was that of the increased money grant received from the Federal Government. He looked upon the financial question and the provincial question so closely allied that it was impossible to consider the one without considering the other. Any attempts to make an argument on the financial side without considering the constitutional side was, he declared, an attempt to divorce two subjects which should not be separated. The main position, continued Mr. Haultain, is largely due to the constitutional position. The argument has been made before, and will be made again, that we should be better off under the provincial system. This is the burden of my remarks this afternoon. Whatever we received in a financial sense we are entitled to. I do not propose to refer to comparative generosity. Men who are only receiving what they are entitled to do not have to refer to these things. We have received a

#### Very Substantial Increase.

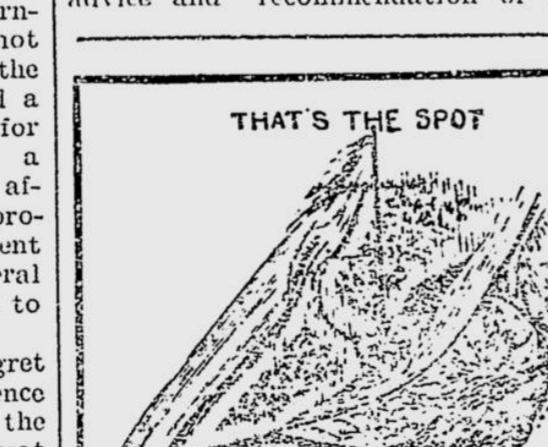
to our Parliamentary vote and I am very glad that such is the case, and we will have no difficulty in knowing where to put it. This increased vote will be, as one of the speakers said this afternoon, only a temporary alleviation of our position and will only go to meet accumulated needs which have increased from year to year under insufficient grants.

So far as the provincial question is concerned, we in this House are on that. I regret that the leader of the Opposition sounded even the one discordant note this afternoon of one or more provinces. The deciding of that question rests with Ottawa. What we want is provincial institutions and the right to

Mr. Haultain outlined the procedure followed by the Department. At the beginning of the year certain works were decided upon as necessary and the work was commenced. It was very possible after a certain amount of work had been done, that conditions arose which made it necessary to discontinue this work and apply the money to some other work which demands immediate attention. The detail of the work, continued the Premier, makes it quite impossible for any legislature to undertake to vote the money in detail. The system, I quite admit, is not a good one and it is not a desirable way to spend public money of any amount, and more so as the amount of money at our disposal increases, still under our present circumstances, we are forced to.

Mr. Haultain after expressing surprise that Mr. McDonald should have raised any objection to the date of the holding of the session went out to express his pleasure at having the distinct statement from the leader of the Opposition that he personally is in favor of provincial autonomy. It was the first time in the history of the House that the hon. gentleman had openly, publicly and solemnly declared that he is in favor of provincial autonomy.

Mr. Haultain interrupted to say



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manage our own affairs. I have opinions, and others have strong opinions possibly, as to the area within which these institutions should be put in operation, but I consider that an unimportant item in any discussion raised in this House. We should drop that and be united on this question as far as possible, and I believe we can continue to be united so far as we have been in the past, that is to say that this country should have provincial institutions. We have required them for the past three years and if we require them then, we require them much more to-day. (Cheers.) Dr. Patrick (Yorkton), followed for a few minutes. After making a passing reference to the question of municipal legislation he devoted his remarks solely to the question of providing educational facilities in the foreign communities now located in the Territories.

Considerable comment was caused amongst the Members by an article in the Winnipeg Tribune with a faring headline "Cabinet Crisis in the North-West Territories," in which it was stated that Premier Haultain and Mr. Bulyea had disagreed on the question of provincial autonomy and territorial centre.

No Cabinet Crisis.

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The Address was then adopted and ordered to be engrossed and presented to His Honor and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, September 28th  
The House sat only for a few minutes today. The first part of the (Continued on last page)