

# THE LEADER.

VOL. 19.—NO. 7.

REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 3, 1902.

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## ADDRESS ADOPTED

After a Short But Interesting Debate in the Assembly.

## PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY

The Subject Which Received Most Attention—Speeches by Dr. Elliott and Mr. Fisher—Mr. Haultain Outlines Government's Position—Mr. McDonald Speaks of Delays—Dr. Patrick Wants Two Provinces.

MONDAY, March 24.

The debate in the Legislative Assembly on the Address in reply to the Speech was a short one this year and the great question of provincial autonomy was the subject which naturally received the most attention. Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2.30 p.m. Mr. D. H. McDonald moved: "That an order of this House do issue for a return showing what action has been taken by this Government on the resolution passed by this House at the last session regarding the liquor traffic."

Mr. Haultain said he thought the hon. gentleman would attain his object as easily and more reasonably if he put it in the form of a question rather than a motion for a return.

The action taken by the Government on this question was necessarily in the form of correspondence with publishers, government officials, and others among them being the authorities in South Carolina, Sweden, and other places where a system similar to these exists. The replies were in the form of letters, pamphlets, blue books and other works on the subject which the hon. gentleman would understand could hardly be copied within reasonable time. Mr. Haultain did not think the information obtained by the Government was for the information of the House. Their instructions were to enquire into the matter. It would be quite impossible within the limits of a year probably to bring down any such return as this because it would involve writing out a number of long reports in technical language. He thought the hon. gentlemen should be satisfied to receive a statement that the Government had been writing all the information, literature, and documents possible on the subject in accordance with the resolution of the House.

Mr. McDonald said he could quite understand that it would be impossible to get the return in time in view of their experience of the difficulty of getting much shorter papers in previous sessions.

Mr. Haultain—I do not propose to bring these papers down because they are not matters in which the House is particularly interested at the present time.

Mr. McDonald—I must say this is very unsatisfactory; it will not be satisfactory unless the papers are laid before the House.

Mr. Haultain—Does the hon. gentleman wish to press the matter?

Mr. MacDonald—Certainly, the motion before the House.

A vote was then taken, two members supporting Mr. McDonald and the remainder of the House voting with Mr. Haultain. The Speaker declared the motion carried.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Dr. Elliott (Wolseley) then rose and cheered to move that a humble address be presented to His Honor.

He made an eloquent reference to the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, to the great object lesson their world-wide tour was to the un-British world, and to the interest the Duke and Duchess took in Canada as was made manifest by the address of His Royal Highness in London where he spoke of Canada's need of population.

Mr. McDonald—an appeal was made to their best.

Referring to the influx of immigrants Dr. Elliott noted the fact that every man in the West seemed to think his district the best and the new settlers seemed imbued with the same pride for they think they can pick out a better one and the vast majority of them go out to new portions of the country. This large immigration would entail a very great expenditure on the part of this Government in building roads and bridges and opening up schools. He considered the federal government would only be doing its duty if it dealt very liberally with the people of the Territories.

Speaking of the big crop of last year, Dr. Elliott said the crop bulletin issued by the Territorial Department of Agriculture was probably more reliable than any issued by any department in Canada. That document was an interesting document showing that the whole area of the Territories was confined to East Assiniboin but West Assiniboin, Saskatchewan and Alberta were also included. There was a crop of 13,000,000 bushels of wheat and 11,000,000 bushels of oats and yet only a very small portion of the best of the land had seen the plow. At Rostherne 500,000 bushels of wheat would this year be exported and the district of Saskatchewan would, in a very short time produce a million bushels. And wheat was not the only grain grown in the Territories. Of the 11,000,000 bushels of oats the vast bulk of it was grown west of the 3rd meridian and one-third of the total crop of the Territories was grown west of the 3rd meridian.

THE GRAIN BLOCKADE.

We have, continued Dr. Elliott, not only grown a vast amount of grain but we have experienced a great deal of trouble in exporting it, and I must congratulate the Minister of Agriculture on the efforts put forth in an endeavor to bring public opinion to bear on the C.P.R. to get them to move the grain.

It is all very well for people

1,000 miles to the east to talk of the being no blockade in this country but there is no one telling them who have stood in their offices and seen hundreds of loads of grain standing on the streets and the elevators closed because they could not get cars and were taking much less for their grain. There was a standing offer by some people of five cents over and above the market price, provided the grain was loaded on cars, but the C.P.R. in its wisdom did not see fit to supply farmers with cars. They had loading platforms and other facilities but the cars did not come. After public sentiment had been worked up to its highest pitch and the Minister of Agriculture, boards of trade and others had brought pressure to bear, the C.P.R. at last made a move and decided to allow some of the grain to be shipped via North Portal and other roads to the American side where there was room to store it, but I am sorry to say that their efforts have not continued as long as they should have done.

accepted by the Government in settlement of the taxes referred to, and the date of settlement.

In regard to these Mr. Sifton said there was no objection to them. The staff of the local improvement branch was very busy, but the returns would be brought down before the end of the session.

Mr. McDonald—Will the hon. gentleman say these returns will be brought down as soon as possible?

Mr. Sifton—They will be just as soon as the notices of this year's assessment are issued, which the hon. gentleman will realize is also an important matter as we need the money.

Dr. Patrick (Yorkton)—Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be a little more definite and say if they could be brought down before the budget debate?

Mr. Sifton—Yes, they will be brought down before the budget debate. The motions were then agreed to.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Upon the Orders of the Day being called Mr. McDonald rose to a question of privilege. He said a motion had been brought up in the Senate of Canada within the last few days. He would call the attention of the Government to a question asked in the Senate on the 21st of March by Senator Perley. Mr. McDonald then read from a newspaper report as follows:

Senator Perley enquired if the Government of the North-West Territories made application to enter confederation under full provincial autonomy, and so, what were the terms and conditions?

Mr. Scott said an application had been made for the admission of a portion of the Territories, but nothing had been done, nor was it likely to be done. The proposal was made and could not be brought down without the leave of the North-West Government.

In answer to Mr. Loughhead, he said the matter had been referred to the present session.

Hon. Mr. Loughhead said the North-West Territories had not applied to Ottawa for admission in favor of provincial autonomy, and the present government were understood to be adverse to giving the Territories autonomy. He was sure there would be no disappointment in this regard.

Mr. Scott said the papers were several questions to be settled, such as whether there should be one province or several; and where the capital should be.

Mr. McDonald continued said: This came as a surprise to a large number of people in the North-West. After years of delay on this question and after the leader of the Government.

Mr. Haultain here raised a point of order and Mr. Speaker ruled Mr. Scott out of order saying: "This is referred to in the Speech."

Mr. Haultain—The hon. gentleman might call the attention of the Government to certain statements. I do not object to that.

Mr. McDonald—Our desire was to find out if the papers were held secret at the instance of this Government and for what reason.

Mr. Haultain—No, the papers were not held secret at the instance of this Government.

Mr. McDonald—it's a question then between you and Hon. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Haultain—Does the hon. gentleman wish to press the matter?

Mr. MacDonald—Certainly, the motion before the House.

A vote was then taken, two members supporting Mr. McDonald and the remainder of the House voting with Mr. Haultain. The Speaker declared the motion carried.

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THE LEADER ON THE OPPOSITION.

Mr. McDouall on rising to reply was greeted with cheers. He said: Mr. Speaker, if there was no other reason why I should get up on this occasion, if nothing else would bring me to my feet, I should take the opportunity to congratulate the hon. member who has just taken his seat, upon his fervent and loyal speech and the eloquent tribute he has paid to the representatives of the British Empire, who have passed through this country during the past year. We have had the pleasure of hearing the hon. member before.

He speaks in a language which is not the language of his youth, but we can

afford to say that during the term of his legislature he need not apologize to anybody or take a back seat for any

And when we consider the expense the farmers of this country have gone to in building warehouses—in 14 towns at least 400 buildings costing at least \$20,000—to store wheat and with hundreds of thousands of bushels lying today in great danger of having a considerable portion destroyed if stormy weather comes.—I say when we consider these things and all that the farmers have done for the C.P.R., they should in all fairness and honesty have the everything possible to prevent the damage of having the crop damaged by having it put on the market before spring opened.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

I am pleased to notice in His Honor's speech that the Government has been in communication with the federal government but that no answer has been received. This certainly is a disappointment to this House.

Mr. Sifton—The hon. gentleman will be just as soon as the notices of this year's assessment are issued, which the hon. gentleman will realize is also an important matter as we need the money.

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Mr. McDonald then read from a newspaper report as follows:

Speaker he has made. I congratulate him on that account.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure with the rest of the members of this assembly, possibly not those entirely in the confidence of the Government, we were surprised at the opening of this House to find the bill of fare presented to us in the condition it is. We have had during the past years, questions of importance that have been before the Territories for some time, brought before this House and discussed by the members of this House, and for which the members of the C.P.R. have been asked.

Further, this has been dealt with at present with regard to the admission of a portion of the Territories as a province.