

THE LEADER.

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Regina, N.W.T., Thursday, April 23, 1908.

CANADA'S GREATEST BUDGET.

To every business man there comes once a year the time to take stock, to reckon up receipts and expenditures, and ascertain his profit or loss. If the year's business shows large increases, if his receipts exceed his expenditures by a good margin, if he is enabled to wipe out all old debt or part of a mortgage, he is well satisfied with the result of his labors. In the same way the people of Canada, irrespective of party, will experience a feeling of deep satisfaction at the showing made in the annual balance sheet of the country as presented to Parliament last week by the Finance Minister. It showed the largest revenue in the history of Canada and a surplus of \$7,291,398. The revenue for the current year is larger than ever and Mr. Fielding estimates that it will meet all expenditures and leave a surplus of \$13,000,000, sufficient to meet all charges on both ordinary and capital account and wipe out all additions to the debt during the last four years.

The tariff stands unchanged so far as its general features are concerned, the Government refusing to accede to the demands of the manufacturers, supported by the Conservative party, for a higher tariff. There are some amendments to the free list, but the most important departure is the imposition of a surtax of one-third, in addition to the general tariff, upon all imports from Germany. This is an act of retaliation upon that country for refusing to accord to Canada the same terms as are given to Britain and her other colonies. A duty of \$7 per ton may be placed on steel rails as soon as the Canadian mills are capable of supplying sufficient rails of the required standard to supply the needs of railways in Canada.

The budget will be especially welcome to the West for it shows that the Government are not unmindful of the wishes and the necessities of the West as regards the tariff and Mr. Fielding's words as to the sentiment of the West and how its people should be treated, which are published in another column, will be endorsed by our people.

The speech of the Finance Minister was admirable in every way, confident but not too boastful, and breathed in every word a manly, independent Canadianism. The attitude which Germany persisted in maintaining has been met in that spirit. The same spirit is manifest in the references to the preference given to Great Britain and to reciprocity with the United States. As Kipling put it, Canada is mistress in her own house and she intends to so order it, without fear or favor, that the interests of her own children will be advanced.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

The Speech of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in opening the Legislative Assembly on Thursday last lays before the House questions of tremendous importance and of pressing necessity to the people of the Territories. The great question, and by far the most important one—the granting of provincial institutions to the Territories—occupies a foremost place. Until this country is granted such institutions it will remain crippled, its progress and development greatly retarded, creeping when it should walk, walking when it should run. While in every other department of western life—with the possible exception of railways—great advancement is being made and new and large ventures undertaken, so far as our local legislative powers are concerned we are compelled to practically mark time. Such a condition of affairs is most damaging at the present time and prevents us from taking full advantage of the golden opportunities which are now offering. The granting of provincial institutions to the Territories is today one of the most important questions which can possibly engage the attention of our Federal Parliament. It affects not the Territories alone but the Dominion as a whole. It is high time the Dominion Government were done with their present policy of delay in this matter and grasped hold of the situation and dealt with it promptly. It has got to be done sooner or later and the sooner the better for all concerned.

Bound up with the provincial question is the financial one. Money we need and must have. The Territories cannot thrive and develop on a revenue smaller than that of a moderately sized city. We have an empire to provide for and an empire in the making which is the time when large expenditures must be made. The despatch from Ottawa, published in THE LEADER last week, indicates that the Government are going to do better by us

financially than in past years and we hope the treatment will be more than mere justice.

Closely interwoven with the question of autonomy—in fact everything hinges on that—is the vital matter of the transportation facilities of this country. How bad conditions now are it would be impossible to set forth within the scope of many articles, but it is not necessary to do so; we all are too painfully aware of the true state of affairs. The local Government is not to blame; it is powerless in the matter; the Dominion Government has a very large problem to solve, and while perhaps there are some remedies that could apply which have not been applied, still they are also in many ways powerless. The main responsibility rests with the Conservative party, which by their short-sighted, unstatesmanlike policy delivered this great North-West country bound hand and foot to the C.P.R. The head officials of the Company rival Ananias in the stories they tell to the people of the East, and a unanimous, authoritative and strong declaration by the Assembly as representative of the whole North-West may open the eyes of the manufacturers, merchants and legislators in the East and show them the true condition of things here and lead them to realize that little reliance can be placed in the statements of these railway officials. Such a declaration may arouse public opinion in the East and compel the C.P.R. to do its duty and fulfil its contract obligations.

These and other important matters will occupy the attention of the Members, and, although the Assembly has little power to deal with these great questions, it is gratifying to all North-Westerners to see that the Government is fully alive to the situation and intend at least to let the Dominion as a whole know how badly handicapped the Territories really are. It is to be hoped their efforts will not be in vain but that energetic action will quickly follow.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT from Ottawa, a statement of which appears in another column, that the Government will convey to Regina, Moose Jaw and the other "Townsite Trust" towns the parts of the trust property which went to the Government in last year's division, is very welcome. Further it is a token of the tenacity of purpose of the Member of Parliament for this district. Mr. Scott, with the authorities of Moose Jaw and Regina, had been for a year pressing for this action, but after the conference with Mr. Sifton in January he alone retained any hope of eventual success. Not discouraged by repeated refusal of the action, Mr. Scott renewed his advocacy with even more vigor, and the desired action has at last been decided upon by the Government, an action which is little enough compensation for the robbery which—with Government neglect if not connivance—was for twenty years practised against these towns by the precious Trust. The Government would introduce a number of Bills in order that they might be printed, distributed and time given for consideration, but only the more pressing legislation would be put through before the adjournment. The House then adjourned till Monday afternoon.

By Dr. De-Veber asking for amendments to the Ordinance incorporating the city of Calgary; from the Calgary Hospital praying for certain amendments to the Ordinance incorporating the hospital; from Frank Oliver, M.P., and others praying to be incorporated as the Western Canada Historical Society.

By Mr. Brown (North Regina)—From the Toronto General Trust Corporation praying for incorporation.

By Mr. Smith (Moosomin)—From the town of Moosomin, praying for amendments to the Ordinance incorporating the town so as to enable the town to manufacture milk.

Mr. Haultain presented the report of the special committee appointed to draft the select standing committee of the House. The report was concurred in.

Prior to making a motion to adjourn Premier Haultain said that it would probably be necessary, owing to the position of the finances, and the fact that yet the Government had not received information from Ottawa relative to the grant to be made to the Territories.

The Premier then congratulated the mover and seconder on the able manner in which they had performed their duties and went on to speak of the King's illness and Coronation. He dwelt on the significance of the latter ceremony and amid hearty cheers spoke eloquently of Britain's freedom for the free people. While it had been a great year in Imperial events it had also been a momentous year for the Territories. In speaking of their growth and added responsibilities they did not do so in a pessimistic or hopeless spirit. All they asked was that they should be in a position to meet those responsibilities, and he believed they were fully as capable of doing so as the people in any other portion of Canada. This was in fact the burden of the Speech from the Throne. It would be an unfortunate thing if the people of the Government and Legislature of the Territories should have to approach the Government of Canada with the methods of the unfortunate widow, as referred to by the hon. member for Saltcoats. It would be unfortunate for the Dominion Government to be placed in the position of the unjust judge, forced to recognise the widow's rights by reason of her importunities. More forcible means than those employed by the Territorial Government to gain these rights could not have been used than were used. They had resorted to every short of force.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR LARGER GRANT.

The financial question, said the Premier, is one of the immediate present. We have a plain duty to the people at the present time. In the financial statement we submitted to the Federal Government we took the ground that the company must manage its own affairs. In a letter to the Minister of the Interior, dated 31st January last, I said: "We demand that system of government under which we shall have as full opportunity for the exercise of our citizenship as our fellow-citizens in the provinces. The local Government and Legislature should have full and free scope of action left to them on many subjects which relate to the prosperity and happiness of the country and the North-West will not be satisfied until this is granted." That, said Mr. Haultain, is the position we take.

TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.

With regard to the transportation question Mr. Haultain said that conditions had reached such a point in this country, and so vitally affected the people, that we thought the Assembly was justified in "resolving" a bill on a subject which was outside their jurisdiction. We may have to wait two or three months for the bill to be introduced and then it will be necessary to pass certain pressing legislation, probably those private Bills which had been advertised the legal length of time so as to enable these companies to carry on business. He, therefore, asked the Members to help the Government to expedite the business which was pressing and suggested that the gentlemen having charge of private Bills should present them as soon as possible. The Government would introduce a number of Bills in order that they might be printed, distributed and time given for consideration, but only the more pressing legislation would be put through before the adjournment. The House then adjourned till Monday afternoon.

(Continued on page 8.)

THE INCOMING thousands of settlers are taxing the abilities of railway companies, hotels, manufacturing concerns and merchants, and proving scores of cases that their equipment is inadequate for the work to be done. A striking case of how far short are present day facilities to present day requirements is continually being demonstrated at the Dominion Lands Office in Regina. The agent and all his assistants are working like Trojans but it is impossible to keep abreast with the work, which has assumed enormous proportions. The work of recording entries alone now requires the undivided attention of two men while the correspondence has increased so greatly that it is utterly beyond the capabilities of the staff to attend to it promptly and still perform their other duties. Consequently something must suffer unless the staff is increased to once. The country cannot afford to have any part of the service suffer, therefore the staff must be increased without delay.

MONDAY, April 20th.

The House did not sit over an hour today but in that space of time considerable business was transacted and the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne passed. The Speaker took the Chair at 2:45 p.m. Petitions were presented as follows:

By Dr. De-Veber asking for amendments to the Ordinance incorporating the city of Calgary; also asking for amendments to the Municipal Ordinance to enlarge the powers of Lethbridge.

By Mr. Sheras asking for the incorporation of the Bishop of the Russian Greek Catholic Orthodox Church.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Young—To incorporate the Western Canada Historical Society; to amend the city charter of Calgary; to amend the Ordinance to incorporate the Calgary General Hospital.

By A. S. Smith—To amend the Ordinance Incorporating Moosomin.

By Premier Haultain—Respecting Foreign Companies; Voluntary Wind-up of Joint Stock Companies; to Secure Uniform Conditions in Policies of Fire Insurance; respecting Mutual Fire Insurance; to provide for the payment of Succession Duties in Certain Cases; respecting Notaries Public.

By Mr. G. W. Brown to amend the Ordinance incorporating Regina Hospital.

Before the Orders of the Day were called Premier Haultain laid on the Table of the House the correspondence relating to the Memorial of the Assembly of May 2nd, 1900, upon the financial and constitutional position of the Territories; also the report of the Attorney-General's department with reference to liquor licences.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne was then moved by Mr. Finlay (Medicine Hat). After touching briefly on the King's illness and Coronation, the general prosperity of the Territories and the consequent increase in responsibilities devolving on the Assembly, the speaker referred to the efforts made by the Territorial Government to secure provincial autonomy and failing in that, a largely increased grant. He said that the grant was being strongly in favor of provincial autonomy and stated that he could not understand why the Dominion Government should persist in refusing to give it. He would not uphold the Government in doing wrong. He was there as a North-West man to uphold the rights of the North-West. The Dominion Government was doing a great injustice to the North-West by not granting what was their due. They had by giving the Territories ten members in the House of Commons acknowledged that there was a population of 250,000 in this country, and why then, asked the speaker, did they grant us provincial autonomy? Why not give us a larger grant? After touching on the question of transportation, the public domain, transfer of land titles offices, etc., Mr. Finlay declared in conclusion that he would be thoroughly independent in treating all questions and he hoped the House would continue to carry out that inde-

CANADIANS, and the people of the Territories especially, extend a warm welcome to the Barr colony and the thousands of other British immigrants now arriving in our midst. That they will have difficulties to face and some hardships to bear is not to be denied, and in this respect they will simply be on a par with all pioneer settlers in a new country, but they will not have to endure what our settlers endured in the years that are past. Their path should, however, be made as easy for them as possible and the Dominion Government should use all the influence and power it possesses to compel the C.P.R. to build the railway for which surveys have been made between Saskatoon and Battleford. This would greatly facilitate the forwarding of supplies and will also serve one of the oldest settled communities in the Territories. This portion of the line should be completed before the snow flies again. It is imperative.

pendent spirit which it had maintained to the present time.

MR. MACNUTT SECONDS.

Mr. MacNutt (Saltecoats) in seconding the Address in Reply said he would not deal with the many questions referred to in the Speech as in the later discussions in the House these would be fully dealt with. On the subject of provincial autonomy, however, he expressed himself strongly, and said that should not be held on the territories as separate from Parliament at Ottawa. The correspondence which had been laid on the Table of the House showed the strenuous efforts made by the local Government to secure autonomy and he believed in keeping up the correspondence until the Dominion Government became so weary of it that they would grant the request. It was an injustice for the Dominion Government to send in immigrants from all parts of the earth by tens and tens of thousands and not provide the wherewithal to give these people educational, transportation and other facilities necessary in the country. On the question of transportation Mr. MacNutt said the natural resources of his part of the country could not be taken advantage of for lack of the necessary facilities.

PREMIER HAULTAIN.

Premier Haultain was the next speaker. He said that under extraordinary circumstances he would address the House just then. The usual procedure was for the leader of the Opposition to follow the mover and seconder and make what criticisms he could offer on the policy of the Government, and then the leader of the Government spoke in reply. He took the absence of any such speech from the leader of the Opposition, or his representative, as significant, and as implying that as the Speech from the Throne contained subjects of such overwhelming importance to the Territories as to warrant the attention of the Opposition were not to join with all the other Members in trying to come to some united action on those important subjects. (Cheers.) This condition assured well for the successful meeting of the difficulties of the unfortunate position in which they found themselves at present.

The Premier then congratulated the mover and seconder on the able manner in which they had performed their duties and went on to speak of the King's illness and Coronation. He dwelt on the significance of the latter ceremony and amid hearty cheers spoke eloquently of Britain's freedom for the free people. While it had been a great year in Imperial events it had also been a momentous year for the Territories. In speaking of their growth and added responsibilities they did not do so in a pessimistic or hopeless spirit. All they asked was that they should be in a position to meet those responsibilities, and he believed they were fully as capable of doing so as the people in any other portion of Canada. This was in fact the burden of the Speech from the Throne. It would be an unfortunate thing if the people of the Government and Legislature of the Territories should have to approach the Government of Canada with the methods of the unfortunate widow, as referred to by the hon. member for Saltcoats. It would be unfortunate for the Dominion Government to be placed in the position of the unjust judge, forced to recognise the widow's rights by reason of her importunities. More forcible means than those employed by the Territorial Government to gain these rights could not have been used than were used. They had resorted to every short of force.

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