

The Globe.

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SOCIETY SWAYS ON OPENING DAY.

Brilliant Gathering Witness
Legislature's Function.

SOCIAL AND MILITARY.

Changes in License Laws Fore-
shadowed.

Prosperity of the Year a Matter of
Congratulation—Speech Does Not
Contain Lengthy Programme.

Whatever bitterness and party rancor the coming days of the session of the Legislature may hold in store, the opening was a social event in every sense, and doubtless the most brilliant in the history of the new buildings. It was the first opening since the appointment of Hon. W. Mortimer Clark as Lieutenant-Governor, and the plans seemed to have been formed to make it as pleasant as possible to the people who attended. The attendance of military was larger than usual, and the presence of artillery to fire a salute was revived after a lapse of many years. Even the proceedings in the chamber were arranged from a social standpoint, for between the transaction of business there were two lengthy pauses to facilitate conversation. The fresh fall of snow, and the crisp, bright atmosphere gave a lovely setting and an exhilaration to the outside scene, and the Canadian winter was seen at its best.

Address of Lieutenant-Governor.

His Honor ascended the throne, bade the assemblage be seated, after which he read the following speech:

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I take great pleasure in again meeting you as representatives of the Province in Parliament assembled.

The important subject of municipal assessment will engage your further consideration, having the advantages derived from the report of the Royal Commission already in your hands, and the careful and painstaking deliberations devoted to the difficult questions involved, by the Select Committee appointed during the last session of the Legislature. Closely connected with this subject and prominently brought before public attention by Farmers' Associations will be the question of taxation of railways and the determination of a reasonable basis of division of revenue received from this source, as between the municipalities and the Province.

Efficiency of Public Institutions.

It affords me much pleasure to notice the continued efficiency of the

asylums, hospitals and other public institutions of the Province, for which the Legislature has made such liberal provision for many years. You will be pleased to know that buildings to be used as a hospital for epileptics are in process of erection, and are expected to be ready for the reception of patients during the current year. It is also gratifying to notice that several counties that have not yet established houses of refuge for the indigent are preparing to do so. The generosity of the municipalities in this respect is worthy of the highest commendation.

The means adopted for the protection of the public health against contagious diseases have been effective in their results, and the general measures taken to improve the sanitary condition of all parts of the Province have received the cordial co-operation of the local authorities.

A Prosperous Year.

Through Divine goodness, the blessings of a bounteous harvest have been vouchsafed to the husbandmen in every portion of the Province, and it is an additional cause for gratitude that prices for all the products of the farm, and especially for those of the dairy and orchard, have been very satisfactory during the past year. The signs of continued prosperity, not in agriculture alone, but in every important branch of business and industrial enterprise, gave cause for hearty congratulation.

The attendance at the Agricultural College continues steadily to increase. The buildings erected through the generosity of Sir William Macdonald are approaching completion, and for the first time in the history of the Province instruction is provided for the daughters of Ontario farmers. The rapid increase of the membership of Women's Institutes shows that this instruction will be appreciated.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the lumber industry has continued in a prosperous condition during the past year. The strongest evidence of this is afforded by the recent timber sale, at which, notwithstanding that the dues and ground rent were almost doubled, the prices paid were in excess of those received at any previous sale.

In order to further protect the forest wealth of the Province, large additional tracts of timbered lands, non-agricultural in their character, have been set aside as forest reserves, from which settlement will be excluded, and in which it is proposed to apply new conditions as to the cutting and conservation of the timber.

Progress continues to be made in developing the mineral resources of the Province, and recent discoveries of new and valuable ores emphasize at once the latent wealth of our northern regions and the wisdom of providing railway facilities to render them accessible.

Owing to the deficiency of farm labor in the Province and consequent embarrassment to agriculture, special efforts were made by my Government to induce immigration of agricultural laborers from Great Britain, with the result that many farmers were supplied with much-needed assistance during the harvest and autumn season.

Extension of Government Road.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the construction of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, and the advantages which have already resulted to the Province demonstrate the great value of the undertaking. The surveys made during the past year show that the railway

may be profitably prolonged at moderate cost through the centre of the rich agricultural district northwest of Lake Temiskaming, at least as far as the proposed line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. A measure enabling the Government to proceed with the extension will be submitted to you.

There will be laid before you the report of the Select Committee appointed at the last session of the House for the purpose of collating reports of committees or commissions or other authorities on the subject of municipal trading or municipal ownership, or the operation of public utilities, as well as other authoritative deliverances on these subjects.

License Measure Promised.

Measures will be submitted for the improvement of the license laws, the amendment of the assessment act, the conservation of the timber resources of the Province, a bill to enable Municipal Councils in cities, towns and villages by by-law to substitute one board of trustees for the existing High School Board, Public School Board and Library Board, a bill to amend the election act and the act respecting the supplementary revenue of the Province.

The estimates for the current year, prepared with as great regard to economy as is consistent with efficient service and the growing wants of the Province, will be submitted for your early consideration.

Formal Business.

His Honor then retired, and the Speaker informed the members that he had received notice of vacancies which had occurred since last session, and had issued new writs for elections in Muskoka, North Oxford and Sault Ste. Marie. Returns of the elections in Muskoka, Sault Ste. Marie and North Renfrew were then presented.

Party feeling gained a small headway when Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. Mr. Harcourt led to the table the new member for Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. Charles N. Smith, and introduced him to the Speaker. The Opposition had their turn to applaud when their two new supporters were introduced. Mr. Whitney and Mr. Downey led to the front Mr. E. A. Dunlop of North Renfrew and Mr. Whitney and Mr. Foy presented Mr. A. A. Mahaffy of Muskoka.

Old-time Cautions.

The Speaker informed the House, in the language of precedent, that, "to prevent mistakes he had obtained a copy of his Honor's speech, which he would read."

"Dispense," said the Premier, and the second treat was lost.

Mr. Ross then introduced the time-honored bill to provide for the administration of oaths of office to persons appointed Justices of the Peace. He also moved that a committee be appointed to strike the Standing Committees of the House.

The House adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

A Veteran's Dispute.

Mr. MacKay will inquire: Have certain volunteers, under the land grants act, made application to be located in the townships of Paterson and Hardy? If so, have the applications been granted? If not, why not?