

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Friday, March 1st, 1963.

Opening Prayer by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees
Notices of Motion
Introduction of Bills
Orders of the Day

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, may I table the following: Public Accounts for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1962; the Report of the Treasury Board on the statement of the Public Accounts for the same year; Report of any Overdrafts or Lines of Credit in accordance with The Treasury Act; Statement of Remissions of Taxation in accordance with The Treasury Act; Statement tabled in accordance with The Public Officers Act; Statement from the Administrator of the Estates of the Mentally Incompetent; and the return required under The Insurance Act.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Provincial Secretary) (Fort Rouge): Madam Speaker, before the Orders, may I table the Report of the Department of the Provincial Secretary, which includes the report of the Queen's Printer for the fiscal year that ended on the 31st day of March, 1962, and the 23rd Annual Report of the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1962.

HON. WALTER WEIR (Minister of Public Works) (Minnedosa): Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, may I lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the year ended December 31, 1962.

MR. MORRIS GRAY (Inkster): Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, on a point of privilege and with the permission of the House, can I take about two or three minutes to present a brief statement on the Brotherhood Week. This legislature was not in session, Madam Speaker, last month when Brotherhood Week was observed throughout the Western world. When referring to it today, I therefore use the first opportunity of commemorating this event, as I did in past years.

In the multi-cultural setting of our province, Brotherhood Week has the great importance to make us look at ourselves and at our neighbors, and to reflect for a while on what is common to all of us rather than to emphasize the points which divide us. This was expressed quite eloquently in an editorial of the "Montreal Star" dealing with Brotherhood Week, from which I quote: "It is not unknown for brothers to become estranged, but normally their relationship is one of acceptance that is not affected by the fact that they look different, don't share all the same tastes, perhaps worship in different churches. The community, like many a dwelling, is a home to people of make-up perhaps quite dissimilar. All have a right, nonetheless, to feel equally at home in it, their human worth and dignity unquestioned. Brotherhood Week is a challenge to rid ourselves of prejudices and misconceptions, and to make it a concern to us that the rights we demand for ourselves are fairly accessible to others as well."

I do hope that these noble sentiments will serve as a beacon of light in this time of strife and international tensions. Thank you.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition) (Ste. Rose): Madam Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Ministers who tabled reports today. Will copies be available immediately for the members?

MR. ROBLIN: I think I can say, Madam Speaker, that sufficient copies have been laid on the table, or are accessible to the Clerk for immediate distribution. May I just correct that by saying that sufficient copies means, in the case of most of these, sufficient for the party groups rather than individual copies, but that copies of the Public Accounts, which I think is of the main interest, are available for all.

MR. EVANS: I think it may be true, Madam Chairman, that the report of the Provincial Secretary, together with the report of the Queen's Printer, was in one copy as tabled, but certainly if other copies are required by the Committee Rooms, I will see that they are made available, or any further copies required.

MR. WEIR: Madam Speaker, there are enough copies for all of the Department of Public Works report.

MADAM SPEAKER: Consideration of the Speech ...

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Madam Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has Rudy Usick been asked to resign from the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation?

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture & Conservation) (Rockwood-Iberville): Madam Speaker, in answering this question I would like to draw to the attention of the House that The Agricultural Credit Act explicitly requires that two of the Directors of the Board of The Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation be representatives of two Manitoba farm organizations. We all know that those farm organizations are non-political. They couldn't exist on any other basis. The one farm organization, The Manitoba Farm Union, has been very forthright in its statements to the public that it wished to maintain its non-political status. The person representing the Manitoba Farmers Union on that board is representing some 20,000 farm people in Manitoba, therefore, it would appear on that count that good taste and propriety would recommend that a person representing them should be non-political. There is in Manitoba a tradition of long standing that people who serve the public in appointed positions on various boards -- public boards -- retain a non-political, or refrain at least from active partisan undertakings. I don't know of any case where this principle has been violated. I believe that Mr. Usick was not asked to resign. I believe it was suggested to him that he would be following acceptable traditions if he did. I want to make it perfectly clear, Madam Speaker, that it has come to my attention that he has no intention of doing so, that as far as I am concerned, or as far as the government is concerned, we are not prepared to force this issue. It seems to me that this is not a matter of law, that it falls into the realm of propriety and good taste and what has been the accepted behaviour by all parties and members of the parties over the history of this province, and I think it is a decision for Mr. Usick to make and not for me.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Madam Speaker, is it not correct that two members of this House, and I think it's fair to say that they're members of political parties, are members of boards. I refer to the member for Brandon and the member for Morris. Certainly they are appointed and they are members of political parties. Is there a difference?

MR. HUTTON: Madam Speaker, since he has asked me, there is a very great difference. These appointments are by statute and there is certainly no provision whatsoever for this -- that the same case applies in the situation under discussion.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Did the recommendation that Mr. Usick resign come from the Minister himself?

MR. HUTTON: No, it did not. The suggestion was made to him and it was not a recommendation. It was just a suggestion.

MR. GUTTORMSON:.....suggestion come from the Minister of Agriculture?

A MEMBER: Order!

MR. GUTTORMSON: Order on what grounds? The Minister has just made a speech and I'm asking a question.

MR. MOLGAT: Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether the members of the Farmers Union have indicated to the Minister that they were not satisfied with Mr. Usick.

MR. HUTTON: No, they have not indicated to me.

MR. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs -- either the present one or the former one. This is the question: Has my honourable friend finalized the locations for the establishment of regional assessment offices in the province and, if so, where?

MR. WEIR: Madam Speaker, yes the offices have been finalized. There are two divisions in Western Manitoba, one located at Souris, another located at Minnedosa, another one located in the southern district at Morden.

MR. SHOEMAKER: A second question, Madam Chairman. Does this rule out then any possibility of one being established at Neepawa?

MR. WEIR: The answer, Madam Speaker, is yes.

MR. MOLGAT: if I could have more clarification from the Minister of Agriculture on my question. It is correct, then, that the Farmers Union, who are represented in this case by Mr. Usick, have not indicated any displeasure? They're quite happy with the situation, so the decision was taken by the government?

MR. HUTTON: Madam Speaker, there's no indication that the M. F. U. is either unhappy or happy with the present situation.

MR. MOLGAT: It is correct then that the government made this decision on its own.

MADAM SPEAKER: Consideration of the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. PETER MCDONALD (Turtle Mountain): Madam Speaker, it is certainly a privilege for me to have this opportunity to move an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, I am sure, on this first session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature for the Province of Manitoba.

Your Honour, I hope that you will continue to enjoy good health and that we can look forward to having you with us for many years to come. The information that you have brought to us yesterday offers us a challenge once again for a forward look for the Province of Manitoba. I consider it a special privilege to represent the constituency of Turtle Mountain, which for many years was represented by His Honour, and for the past three years by our friend Ed Dow, the Mayor of Boissevain.

Turtle Mountain constituency is considered to be one of the most stable parts of our province, and the reason that I believe that this is so is on account of its mixed farming. We have many registered seed growers, Boissevain, Deloraine, up to Elgin and Hartney and Minto and down through Killarney, shipping large quantities of grain out of our province. We also have many large herds of livestock in our constituency -- and not only in quantity, but also in quality. I would suggest that at least 40 per cent of all the cattle that are entered at the Brandon bull sale each year are from the constituency of Turtle Mountain, and even a greater percentage you will find are at our main shows such as Brandon Exhibition, your Red River and other main shows throughout the province. We are very proud of this and I believe it is very fitting that I should mention that His Honour makes no small contribution in the Turtle Mountain constituency with his fine herd of cattle.

I was certainly happy to see that our government has taken at least some steps to help the young farmer get established. Let's not only raise cattle in Manitoba, but let's finish them and fatten them in Manitoba. I believe that this is the backbone of our community.

Turtle Mountain has many beauty spots. We have a lot of lakes, summer resorts. Your government has made a substantial contribution to the development of this area in services to the Brandon community and all up to the Saskatchewan border, and I think we probably have one of the beauty spots that is admired not only by Canada but United States. We do have the Peace Garden. Not only do I feel that it is a beauty spot, but for what it represents between Canada and United States.

Madam Speaker, wherever you go you hear people talk about the high cost of education. I feel that the Department of Education has come a long way in the last few years, and I believe that maybe we were ten to fifteen years too late in starting this program. I think and I feel that the province, and probably other provinces, could look to the Turtle Mountain constituency as a fine example of how a school division can work efficiently and satisfactorily for most of the people, giving each child an equal chance. I believe this has come a long way to help keep the young farmer on the farms.

Madam Speaker, last year I had the special privilege to be a member of the Committee for Economic Future for the Province of Manitoba, and I believe that you will see that our Department of Industry and Commerce will not only be looking to create new jobs throughout our province but they will be making every effort to help maintain the ones that we already have, and I believe this is something that we sometimes overlook. I was very pleased to see the government promote the tour of Europe last year, and also I was certainly happy to see that they are looking forward to a similar tour in the United States during 1963. I believe that if we want to sell our country, sell our products, that we have to get out and sell ourselves.

Under the Department of Health -- we could talk for quite some time about the Department of Health, but I think that as we just look around home we can each say with pride that

(Mr. McDonald, cont'd). our senior citizens are now living very comfortably practically all over our province. I am certainly also happy to see the government of today make some steps not only to help our less fortunate people but also our Indian people. I don't believe in handouts; I believe in helping them to help themselves. I think that a lot of effort has been put into this and I believe that this is a step in the right direction because once they become established they will feel that they are no longer a liability but making their contribution to the rest of Canada.

Under Public Works, I always used to feel that we had to look south of the border when we talked about highways, but today we no longer have to look south of the border. We have many fine highways, and I think something that is very, very important too is the grant system that has been set up for to help maintain highways or market roads throughout the municipalities. This is a very important contribution in order to keep the young farmer on his land and so his children will get the same opportunity by having good roads to get to school. I think that this is very, very important.

I am certainly happy to move, seconded by my honourable friend from Swan River, that a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as follows: We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in session assembled, humbly thank you, Your Honour, for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Madam Speaker presented the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Swan River.

MR. JAMES BILTON (Swan River): Madam Speaker, may I say on behalf of the people throughout the Swan River Valley constituency that I deem it an honour and a privilege to have been chosen to second the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I extend my gratitude to the Premier and his colleagues for having given me this opportunity. Madam, I consider it a privilege also to be in the position of extending congratulations on your elevation to the position of Speaker of this Assembly.

With your indulgence, Madam Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Bert Corbett. He is affectionately known by many of us as Mr. Roads and Bridges. He did not earn this title lightly, for many of the highways in central and northern Manitoba had their start under his direction. For a score and more years he gave leadership in pushing back the frontiers in road-building construction when only thousands of dollars were provided for the purpose. I am also conscious of the fact, Madam Speaker, that I am here to carry on a tradition in the interests of my people as did the late Mr. George Renouf, who served in this Assembly for more than 20 years. He served his people well and I am happy to inform you that his name lives on and is revered in the constituency which I represent. I'd like to go further and say that he was laid to rest in Bowsman, part of the valley he loved, within calling distance of the homestead, the virgin land of which he put to the plow with the aid of oxen many years ago. No words of mine can ably give voice to the loyalty and devotion he extended to his people and, in turn, the Province of Manitoba.

I should like to tell you, Madam, a little of the background of the Swan River Valley. It had its beginning in 1787 when the first trading post was built on the Swan River. Until 1821 the area was the scene of intense rivalry and competition between the North West and the Hudson's Bay Company. Swan River was incorporated as a town in 1908 and the first official census in 1911 records the population of 574. It was late in the last century that the settlers moved in from Old Ontario to give it the beginning in being one of the finest progressive agricultural areas in the Province of Manitoba. The early settlers were followed by people from the British Isles who continued to clear the land and give us the prosperous farming area that it is today.

With the passing of years, Madam, the population throughout the valley had extended to include people of German, Ukrainian and Polish origin, all mingling and working with a will toward the agricultural activities in all its spheres of endeavour. During the recent visit of the Cabinet to Swan River, the government accepted a local suggestion that the Swan River district be named "The Highlands of Manitoba." This I am sure will go far in focusing the tourist potential to the beauty of the mountains, the forests, the lakes and the streams, the like of which are unparalleled anywhere in Manitoba.

(Mr. Bilton, cont'd)

It is with pride, Madam Speaker, that I relate to you a few of the accomplishments of the wonderful people it is my privilege to represent. Last year, for instance, approximately 880 carloads of cattle were shipped from the area. Total grain shipments for one year ending July 1962 amounted to 3,556,000 bushels. The butterfat exports total some \$800,000; poultry exports, \$100,000; and eggs, some \$50,000. Mention, I feel, should be made of the fact that the natural resources of the Swan River Valley not only include its fertile and rich soil, but an abundance of timber in the nearby forest reserves. Madam Speaker, the gross income of the entire area that I represent, which totals a population a little in excess of 16,000 people, was estimated to be \$3,200,000 for the year 1960. I may go a little further. One beekeeper last year handling 24 colonies exported some 250 tons of honey, the finest honey produced in Manitoba. Added to this, Madam Speaker, Aberdeen Angus and Red Poll cattle bred in the Swan River Valley were recently selected as part of breeding stock obtained in this country by a Caribbean nation.

It may be of interest, too, to mention that we have breeding stock imported into the valley from Kentucky and race horses sired by these pedigree animals have made a name for themselves in Western Canada.

May I say that Manitoba's increase in beef production stands at 50 per cent over a five year period. Swan River Valley's beef production has increased more than 100 per cent. In line with this, Madam Speaker, I am happy to inform you that several individuals have established and are presently operating ranches of no small proportions. These men are looking forward with anticipation to the newly proposed extended community pasture in our area. In the days that lie ahead, Madam Speaker, the Swan River Valley will prove to be one of the major beef producing areas in Manitoba.

I am more than pleased that the Speech from the Throne includes assistance to agriculture, with financial provision being made for the establishment of basic herds. This should, and will go far in the beef cattle industry. Added to this are proposals for improvements in the veterinarian service throughout Manitoba, together with assistance to improve swine production. This legislation, Madam Speaker, is important to an industry in Manitoba that will have an impact -- a great impact on the future livestock production of this great province of ours.

While on the subject of cattle, Madam Speaker, I feel I would be remiss if I did not remind you of our Fair and Northwest Round-up. The Round-up with its small beginning some six years ago has developed into one of the major outdoor attractions in Manitoba, requiring no less, amongst other things, than 300 head of horses. You will agree with me when I tell you that it has gone on year by year to greater heights, culminating last year with some 20,000 paid admissions over a three-day period. Our show attracted people from every province and almost every state in the union.

In conveying this information to you on my constituency, Madam Speaker, it is necessary that I comment on the fact that I never cease to be amazed at the lack of interest by industrialists, large and small, in our own Province of Manitoba, in not expanding their enterprises to take in our locality which, after all, geographically, bisects Manitoba. How much longer will they stand idly by and see distribution centers in another province, which services our valley in scores of directions, rapidly expanding to the detriment of the development of an important Manitoba area?

The government will continue to facilitate industrial growth and expansion in industry. It is my feeling, Madam Speaker, that the people in private industry will have to show the red-blooded spirit so evident in our forefathers and move in with operations to a land ready and yearning for development and expansion.

Education facilities in our area have reached a high level with the completion of a \$350,000 collegiate institute. This is to be augmented by three new schools in Bowsman, Benito and Minitonas respectively. Twenty-six additional beds are being added to our hospital. Madam Speaker, I am sure the people throughout Manitoba will applaud this government's insistence in providing funds and giving further assistance to the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded; plus aid to colleges, students and the expansion in technical schools.

(Mr. Bilton, cont'd)

Our senior citizens' home, Madam Speaker, constructed two years ago at a cost of \$240,000, with assistance from this government, has been well received by the pioneers of our area. It has done much to bring pleasure and contentment in the twilight years of these wonderful people who did much toward the early development of Manitoba.

Great strides, government and otherwise, have been made in the development of the mineral resources of northern Manitoba and, as indicated, it is the intention of this government to continue to assist this effort in many of its aspects. Madam Speaker, in my opinion, the development of the Nelson River project, as proposed by this government, is something that staggers the imagination. This can, and will, enlarge the economy of Manitoba to unequalled heights, to say nothing of attracting industry toward producing the finished materials derived from the untapped mineral wealth waiting to be unearthed.

The Premier is alive to the potential and is giving leadership. The day is here for the young people of this province to turn their eyes north and meet the challenge that awaits them. What a glorious challenge it is! It won't be easy. It will in time, however, be rewarding and, as a consequence, Manitoba will not only become great, but wealthy and solidly settled by their endeavours.

Of late we in this province, and elsewhere, have been brought face to face with the fact that the Indian population is crying out for an opportunity to become part of the economic set-up of our country. This government is endeavoring to find a way to meet this need and will, I am sure, do everything possible in a progressive way to find a solution to a problem which, Madam Speaker, did not develop overnight, but rather over the years. I recall, Madam Speaker, while a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on northern and Arctic service some 30 years ago, that the problem we are facing today had its beginning then. These people, Madam, as you and I, were made in the image of God and have a right to their place in the sun and no effort should be spared to put into operation what may in the long term plan become something that we can all feel pride in having a part.

Swan River is the centre of some 1,500 of Indian and Metis people and I am happy to inform you, Madam Speaker, that on a local level an organization has been started, at the insistence of these people, which is receiving the co-operation of the town officials, the churches, the fraternal organizations, service groups and the like.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I feel it will be obvious to all that the Speech from the Throne carries with it, by its progressive proposals, the interests of the whole of Manitoba and the welfare of its people. It is for these reasons, Madam, that I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for its adoption.

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. MOLGAT: Is the motion not going to be moved?

MR. ROBLIN: The motion has been put to the House, Madam Speaker. It has been moved and seconded and we are now ready for the question or whatever other action seems appropriate to honourable gentlemen opposite.

MR. MOLGAT: Madam Speaker, I think it would be rather surprising to the government if there was no motion at this time and, I think, somewhat disturbing to them. I beg to move, seconded by the member for Carillon, that the debate be adjourned.

Madam Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that the House do now adjourn.

Madam Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.