

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
First Session — Eleventh Legislature
1st Day

Thursday, February 10, 1949

10 o'clock a.m.

This being the first day of the meeting of the First Session of the Eleventh Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan for the despatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour the Honourable John Michael Uhrich, Lieutenant Governor the Province, dated the twenty-seventh day of January, 1949, John Mason Parker, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Commissioner designated by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for administering the Oath to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, attending according to his duty, John M. Telford, Clerk of the Executive Council, delivered to the said John Mason Parker a roll containing a list of the names of such members as had been returned to serve in this Legislature, which are as follows, viz.:

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SASKATCHEWAN
REGINA, FEBRUARY 7, 1949

To: J.M. Parker, Esq.
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

This is to certify that by reason of the dissolution of the Tenth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan and in virtue of writs of election dated the nineteenth day of May last, and addressed to the hereinafter mentioned persons as returning officers for the electoral divisions in the Province set opposite their respective names for the election of members to represent the said electoral divisions in the Legislative Assembly, the following persons have been gazetted as duly elected to represent the electoral divisions set forth below, as appears by the returns to the said writs, deposited of record in my office, viz.:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Member Elected</u>	<u>Returning Officer</u>
1. Arm River	G. Herman Danielson	S.D. Brun
2. Athabaska	Louis Marcien Marion	Harry Gordon
3. Battlefords, The	Paul Prince	C.L. Simpson
4. Bengough	Allan L.S. Brown	Wm. Surdia
5. Biggar	Woodrow Stanley Lloyd	James B. Currie

<u>Division</u>	<u>Member Elected</u>	<u>Returning Officer</u>
6. Cannington	William John Patterson	Albert Bell
7. Canora	A.G. Kuziak	Mike Sleeva
8. Cumberland	Lorne E. Blanchard	Robert M. Locker
9. Cut Knife	Isidore Charles Nollet	B.G. Woodward
10. Elrose	Maurice John Willis	Cecil Reed
11. Gravelbourg	E.M. Culliton, K.C.	R.P. Sinkinson
12. Gull Lake	Alvin Cecil Murray	F.V. Davies
13. Hanley	R.A. Walker	F.H. Walker
14. Humboldt	Arnold W. Loehr	Edward Loehr
15. Kelvington	Peter Anton Howe	W.D. Bowerman
16. Kerrobert-Kindersley	John Wellbelove	W.F. Cooke
17. Kinistino	W.C. Woods	H. Paine
18. Last Mountain	Jacob Benson	E.J.H. Lanham
19. Lumsden	William Sancho Thair	M.S. Hesla
20. Maple Creek	A.C. Cameron	Ernest Frei
21. Meadow Lake	Wm. T. Lofts	H.C. Parkhouse
22. Melfort	J.G. Egnatoff	Martin McLaren
23. Melville	V.P. Deshaye	W.C. Northgraves
24. Milestone	J. Walter Erb	E.B. Moats
25. Moose Jaw City	John Wesley Corman, K.C.	
	Dempster Henry R. Heming	F.W. Ingram
26. Moosomin	A.H. McDonald	N.W. Noren
27. Morse	Jas. Gibson	P. Unroe
28. Notukeu-Willowbunch	Niles Leonard Buchanan	J.R. Mayhew
29. Pelly	John G. Banks	Alex Klimchuk
30. Prince Albert	Lachlan Fraser McIntosh	Wm. Berezowski
31. Qu'Appelle-Wolseley	F.M. Dundas	J. Hamblin
32. Redberry	B.L. Korchinski	Paul Wozny
33. Regina City	Clarence Melvin Fines	
	Charles C. Williams	Geo. W. Thorn
34. Rosetown	John Taylor Douglas	A.W. Keith
35. Rosthern	Walter A. Tucker, K.C.	C.B. McLachlan
36. Saltcoats	A.A. Lopton	V. Rooke
37. Saskatoon City	John Henry Sturdy	
	Arthur Thomas Stone	Roger Carter
38. Shellbrook	Louis W. Larsen	V.W. Davies
39. Souris-Estevan	J.E. McCormack	E.J.B. Quist
40. Swift Current	Harry Gibbs	Roy Trumble
41. Tisdale	John H. Brockelbank	Greville Jones
42. Torch River	John R. Denike	Stan Meeks
43. Touchwood	Tom Johnston	Noel West
44. Turtleford	L.L. Trippe	A.E. Jacques
45. Wadena	F.A. Dewhurst	C.W. Roberts
46. Watrous	James Andrew Darling	John Riben
47. Weyburn	Thomas Clement Douglas	E. Robins
48. Wilkie	J.W. Horsman	W.A. Haight
49. Yorkton	Arthur Percy Swallow	John Popoff

J.M. Telford
Clerk of the Executive Council

The said Commissioner having previously administered the Oath to the members who appeared, and the members having subscribed the Roll containing the Oath, they took their seats in the Assembly at 3 o'clock p.m.

3 o'clock p.m.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat on the Throne.

The Honourable Mr. Williams, Provincial Secretary, then said:

I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he will defer stating the reasons for which the Legislature has been summoned until the Legislative Assembly have elected a Speaker. It is, therefore, His Honour's pleasure that the Legislative Assembly do now proceed to the election of a Speaker.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Chamber.

The Honourable Mr. Douglas (Weyburn), addressing himself to the Clerk, moved, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Fines that Tom Johnston, Esquire, Member for the Electoral Division of Touchwood, do take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

The question being put by the Clerk, it was:

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, that Tom Johnston, Esquire, do take the chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

The Clerk having declared Tom Johnston, Esquire, duly elected, he was conducted by the Hon. Mr. Douglas (Weyburn) and the Hon. Mr. Fines to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the Assembly for the great honour they had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be their Speaker.

Thereupon he took the chair and the Mace was laid on the Table.

3:15 o'clock p.m.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor re-entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne.

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Mr. Speaker then addressed His Honour to the following effect:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR, —

The Legislative Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, although I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and country, hereby humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable Mr. Williams, Provincial Secretary, then said:

MR. SPEAKER, —

I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to His Majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all seasonable occasions and that its proceedings as well as your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to open the Session with the following speech:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

It is my privilege to welcome you to the First Session of the Eleventh Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Important steps have been taken during the past year to improve the economy of Saskatchewan, and to distribute more fairly to the citizens of the province, in the form of social services, a portion of the wealth which the people produce. Notwithstanding the threat of drought during the early summer an average crop was harvested in the Province, but unfortunately large areas suffered near or complete crop failure. Employment

has remained at a high level. New sources of wealth have been found, and it is anticipated that economic activity will continue to provide favourable opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mineral production in 1948 reached an all-time high and the outlook for 1949 is more favourable than at any time in the Province's history. Prospectors operating under the Government assistance plan have already discovered considerable wealth, and the extension of this programme in the coming year promises to reveal additional deposits of base metals and uranium. Geological and geophysical surveys will be carried on in the field; scientific research at the University will co-ordinate the information thus secured; knowledge so acquired will be made available for the further development of Saskatchewan's mineral resources. In the course of this Session, you will be asked to approve legislation designed to facilitate these objectives.

Exploration for petroleum is assured in large areas by agreements which, at the same time, reserve for the Province a percentage of all productive areas which are discovered. Four years ago, the petroleum industry was almost non-existent; in 1948 the value of production totalled almost one million dollars. With full realization of the value of these products to the Province, this work will be further encouraged.

The Government has announced a new potash discovery in the past year; progress has been made in ceramic experimental work; sodium sulphate production on a large scale has been achieved by the Government-owned plant at Chaplin; research into briquetting techniques has proceeded. The Government has continued to move toward its objective of promoting the greater development of the natural products of the Province, and this work will continue during the next year.

Forestry activity has been based upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and important forestry research and education are being carried on. You will be asked to approve legislation removing certain areas from forest reserves for the purpose of increasing the agricultural land acreage in the Province.

You will also be asked to approve legislation designed to create the machinery for a long-term programme of rural electrification, the basis of which will be joint participation by the Government, local organizations and individuals for the construction and operation of transmission lines.

For the purpose of overcoming some of the natural hazards and uncertainties of agriculture, my Government proposes to initiate a broad programme of irrigation and water conservation in co-operation with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation

Administration. An Act to facilitate the conservation and development of the agricultural resources of the Province will be presented in the course of the Session.

A new Conservation and Development Branch will be established to implement new policies directed toward achieving greater agricultural stability and security for Saskatchewan farmers. Provision will be made to promote the re-settlement of farmers living in sub-marginal areas. Engineering assistance will be made available for individual water conservation and drainage work. Grants will be paid to rural municipalities to assist in the new programmes and policies, thus carrying forward the advances made in the field of agriculture during the past year.

In co-operation with local committees, the Agricultural Representative Service is working in almost every rural municipality and local improvement district in the Province. The contribution of the local agricultural committees has been invaluable and merits special mention.

The fodder conservation programme directed to obtaining a better balance between the livestock population and feed resources of Saskatchewan has reduced farmers' dependence upon outside sources for costly feed supplies.

Provision for an active programme to meet the increased grasshopper menace in 1949 has been initiated.

Progress has been made in the control of animal diseases. Ten veterinary districts are now operating with practising veterinarians, and fifteen more have been organized. Scholarships have been awarded to students now receiving training in veterinary science. Legislation will be presented to amend The Veterinary Services Act for the better control of Bang's disease.

The decision of the Privy Council holding the 'crop failure clause' of The Farm Security Act to be *ultra vires* will necessitate legislation designed to give all of the protection which it is constitutionally possible for a provincial Legislature to extend to needy debtors, and especially to farmers in crop failure years. You will, therefore, be asked to enact certain amendments to The Moratorium Act enlarging the powers of the Government to declare moratoria for the benefit of debtors in crop failure areas, and of individuals burdened with certain classes of debt.

Amendments to The Legal Profession Act will be presented with the Object of enabling the members of that profession to establish a fund to indemnify persons who may suffer loss through the default of a solicitor.

In its second year of operation, the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan provided hospitalization for more than 150,000 persons. By virtue of hospital construction grants, a number of new hospitals were completed last year. Eleven new union hospital districts were created. For the purpose of fully utilizing the Dominion health grants there have been established a Division of Research and Statistics and a Health Survey Committee. These agencies will lay the foundation for establishment of a complete programme of health services through joint Dominion and Provincial participation.

Legislation will be introduced to provide for the compulsory pasteurization of milk in all cities and certain towns in the Province.

The new Regina Cancer Clinic opened in the spring of last year, has made available to the people of Saskatchewan the most modern facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The untimely death of Dr. Allan W. Blair, late director of cancer services, removed one of Canada's most capable and devoted scientists and public servants. The Government pays tribute to his monumental work in the field of medicine.

The mercy work of the air ambulance service increased, almost a thousand flights having been completed in 1948. Additional services are being given in health regions, and new nursing homes were established in the northern areas. Legislation will be presented to provide psychopathic treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts. Steps have been taken to implement certain recommendations of the Penal Commission by emphasizing training and rehabilitation rather than mere custodial care of adult and juvenile offenders. A major step in carrying out this programme is the construction of a modern industrial school for boys.

In the past year, a supplementary cost-of-living allowance has been paid to old age pensioners. Social aid payments have been increased by fifteen percent, commencing in November, 1948.

Certain amendments to The Larger School Units Act will be introduced. The new curriculum for grade twelve, to be introduced this year, will complete the reorganization of the high school courses. Revision of the elementary school curriculum is being planned with a view to its implementation in 1952.

School districts have been assisted in meeting building costs to the extent of more than one million dollars. Plans providing assistance for a comprehensive school building programme will be submitted. In the course of the Session, you will also be asked to approve legislation establishing the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Legislation will be presented to establish procedures for collective bargaining between teachers and trustees.

The University's School of Agriculture building, soils and dairy laboratory, medical building and gymnasium are nearing completion and will be ready for use in the next year.

Legislation will be introduced to establish a student aid fund, the purpose of which will be to provide assistance to teachers in training, university students and nurses. Amendments to The Teachers' Superannuation Act will also be introduced to make provision for dependants of teachers who die in service.

The continued rise in the cost-of-living has worked great hardship upon all persons, and especially wage-earners in the Province. One of the consequences of this situation was the unfortunate strike in the Bienfait-Estevan coal field. As a result, the Government proposes to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate certain aspects of the coal industry in Saskatchewan.

The decision of the Privy Council affirming the validity of the key provisions of The Trade Union Act will assure continued vigilance over the rights of labour in the field of collective bargaining. Amendments to The Workmen's Compensation Act and The Department of Labour Act will be submitted for your consideration.

Unprecedented flood conditions last spring wrought extensive damage to the province's transportation system. The Government not only took immediate steps to repair the provincial highway system, but gave special assistance to the more unfortunate municipalities. Notwithstanding this emergency, the Government succeeded in building 578 miles of roads, gravelling 1,175 miles and black-topping 175 miles of highways. Progress has been made toward the completion of an agreement with the Dominion Government for the construction of a trans-Canada highway, and the Government will continue to press for the completion of such an agreement.

Legislation will be presented in the course of the Session to give effect to a policy of decentralized administration of local improvement districts. Provisions will also be made by legislation to advance the date for the nomination and election of municipal councils. During the year, the Government referred The Railway Assessment Act to the Court of Appeal for an opinion as to its constitutionality. Confirmation of the right of municipalities to tax railway property will have the effect of increasing municipal revenues by substantial sums.

Co-operative activity in the Province increased during the past year. A Co-operative Extension Services Branch is being established for the purpose of assisting the development of co-operatives. It is proposed to stimulate interest in secondary industries and to this end, a consultative committee of business

and trade personnel will be set up. The Government has placed before the Board of Transport Commissioners the case for more equitable freight rates and it will urge these views before the Royal Commission on Transportation.

The Automobile Accident Insurance Act has continued to protect people in the Province, and amendments will be introduced to further extend the scope of the plan.

The birth of a son to their Royal Highnesses, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh has been the occasion of general rejoicing in all parts of the Commonwealth, including Saskatchewan. The indisposition of His Majesty, the king, has been cause for regret and concern. The people of this Province hope and pray for the rapid and complete recovery of the King's health.

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year, together with the Estimates for the year beginning April 1st, 1949, will be submitted.

I leave you now to the business of the Session with full confidence that you will favourably discharge your duties and responsibilities in the best interests of our Province, and may Divine Providence continue to bless our Province, and guide the Legislature of Saskatchewan in all its deliberations.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Chamber.

The Assembly then adjourned at 3:25 o'clock p.m.