

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

Thursday, February 1, 1951

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

This being the day appointed by Proclamation of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, dated the eighth day of January, 1951, the meeting of the Third Session of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Assembly having met at 3 o'clock p.m.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and, having taking his seat upon the Throne, was 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 Third Session of the Eleventh Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan.

The birth of a daughter to the Their Royal Highnesses, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, has been the occasion of general rejoicing in Saskatchewan as well as other parts of the British Commonwealth.

Since last Session of this Legislature, the international situation has further deteriorated. The Government of Saskatchewan joins with other peace and freedom loving countries throughout the world in the hope that a peaceful settlement to the conflict will be found within the framework of the United Nations.

During the past year the Government of Canada and the Provinces have met in conference to devise an amending procedure for the British North America Act. My Government will continue to urge that there shall be sufficient flexibility in any amending procedure to permit the House of Commons and a majority of the Provincial Legislatures to make such changes in the British North America Act as are deemed to be in the best interest of the people of Canada.

The Government Saskatchewan was represented at a Federal-Provincial Conference convened by the Government of Canada. The Saskatchewan delegation sought to discuss the implementation of social security and economic proposals advanced by the Federal Government at the Conference on Reconstruction held in 1945, but unfortunately the Conference was restricted to matters relating to Federal-Provincial Fiscal Relations and Old Age Security.

Negotiations regarding a new Tax Rental Agreement are continuing.

This Conference resulted in the proposal that the Federal Government assume responsibility for the payment of a forty dollar monthly pension

**February 1, 1951**

without the means to all Canadian citizens seventy years of age and older. The Government of Saskatchewan is still of the opinion that the Government of Canada should provide a monthly pension of fifty dollars without a means test to all Canadian citizens sixty-five years of age and over. In the event that the Federal Government is unwilling to assume full responsibility for all Old Age Pensions that are now being paid in Saskatchewan, it is the intention of the Saskatchewan Government to ensure that existing pensions will not be reduced as a result of this change.

It was further proposed a pension of forty dollars a month with a means test be paid to those in the sixty-five to sixty-nine years age group. This is conditional on the provinces paying fifty per cent of the pension. In spite of the additional financial burden which this will involve, Saskatchewan will be prepared to co-operate with the Federal Government for the establishment of an Old Age Pension for this group.

Arising out of agreement reached at this Federal-Provincial Conference, the proposed Constitutional Amendment permitting the Government of Canada to make laws respecting Old Age Security and permitting the Province to raise revenues by means of a retail turnover tax will be presented at this Session for your consideration and approval.

The devastating effect of the spring floods in the Province of Manitoba was of great concern to the people of Saskatchewan. Immediate steps were taken to marshal the people and resources of Saskatchewan to facilitate the movement of flood control equipment into the stricken areas, and to provide accommodation for five evacuees, including hospital and sanatoria patients. More than half a million dollars was contributed by the people of Saskatchewan to assist in the rehabilitation of Manitoba flood victims. Tribute is paid to those who, with little notice and at great personal sacrifice of time and energy, rendered a neighbourly service in the critical days of the Manitoba flood disaster.

The withdrawal by the Federal Government from the field of price control has contributed to inflation in the national economy to the extent that the cost of living is increasing at alarming rates with disastrous results. The control of evictions and rentals by the Provincial Mediation Board has forestalled some cost-of-living increases that have taken place in other Provinces.

Saskatchewan has joined with the Western and Maritime Provinces in opposing the freight rate increases requested by and granted to the railway companies of Canada. The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to oppose freight rate increases and will advocate a readjustment of freight rates and the removal of the existing discrimination against Western Canada.

The promise of a record-breaking crop was shattered by early frosts and poor harvest weather. The lower initial payment for wheat combined with increased costs of farm production has seriously curtailed net farm income.

Saskatchewan's long-term policy for overcoming natural hazards peculiar to this Province, with the object of bringing greater security to farmers of Saskatchewan has continued to make good progress. Provision is being made to expand programs associated with this long-term policy.

Good progress has been made in land utilization, irrigation and drainage developments. Numerous community pastures, drainage, fodder and water development projects have been developed under the Agricultural Earned Assistance Programme. The benefits of this programme will again be made available to the farmers of Saskatchewan in the coming year.

Classification and disposition of Crown Lands in the interests of proper land use and greater agricultural stability have made continued progress. One million two hundred thousand acres have been scientifically classified for long-term lease disposition. It is expected that the major part of classification of Crown Lands will be completed in the coming year.

The Grasshopper Control Programme of the past year was extensive and effective. The campaign for the eradication of persistent perennial weeds has made excellent progress.

Twenty-two Veterinary Service Districts are now in operation with full-time veterinarians. The control of Bang's disease reached an all time high during the past year. Steps will be taken during the coming year to have the entire the entire Province declared a Tuberculosis free area.

The rate of exploration for oil and minerals has increased greatly over the previous year. A number of agreements providing for continued exploration, including extensive drilling for oil, have been signed. A new oil field near Hearts Hill was discovered. Oil production in the Province now exceeds one million barrels per year.

The Eldorado Mining and Refining Company, a Federal Government Crown Corporation, has proven its uranium ore body and announced its intention to establish a mine and plant a few miles from Goldfields. Two other properties in the far north are rapidly reaching the stage where decisions can be made to operate mines. Extensive prospecting and development work is being done in many parts of the north and in addition to uranium, nickel, gold and copper occurrences have been found.

The-Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company has almost completed construction of a new nine million dollar plant in Saskatchewan to get greater recovery of metals in their operations. The company has also taken a large mining concession in the Province.

The Geological Survey of the North and investigations of clay, magnesium, feldspar and asbestos resources are being continued.

Work in connection with forest inventory, forest management and fire prevention and suppression has made good progress. My Government regrets that the Province has been denied national assistance in this important work because of the failure of the Federal Government to implement the provisions of the Canada Forest Act. Certain amendments to The Forest Act of Saskatchewan will be submitted for your approval.

Biological surveys to make possible proper management of our fisheries have been expanded not only to ensure the future of commercial fishing but also to preserve the necessary resources for angling. Saskatchewan's excellent fishing is attracting a greater number of tourists to the Province. A new Fisheries Act will be submitted for your consideration at this Session.

**February 1, 1951**

The fur conservation programme continues to be popular with the trappers and more fur is being shipped direct to the Fur Marketing Service, thus bringing greater income to the trapper.

Most Rural Municipalities are co-operating in a programme for control of coyotes. Evidence of success of the programme is now apparent.

There was a noticeable increase in attendance at Provincial Park and local recreation centres.

The Government of Saskatchewan has continued to expand the welfare services that are provided to the people of Saskatchewan. Services continue to improve in respect of Child Welfare, Mothers' Allowance and Social Aid cases, Civilian Handicapped persons and Old Age Pensioners. Reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveal a further decrease in juvenile and adult delinquency in the Province.

In order to assist needy families to achieve a greater degree of economic independence, the payment of Mothers' Allowance for dependent children who are attending school is being extended from age sixteen to age eighteen.

Preparations are under way at the present time for the operation of a new Nursing Home for the Aged and Infirm in Saskatoon. Construction on the Melfort Home for the Aged will commence during the coming year.

Saskatchewan is co-operating with the Governments of Canada and the other Provinces in an endeavour to work out an effective national programme for the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

The Corrections Act of the last Session was brought into effect during 1950. To further implement the recommendations of the Laycock Report, amendments to this Act will be introduced for your approval.

Provincial and Municipal authorities, in co-operation with the Government of Canada, have sponsored a plan for Civil Defence. Legislation will be introduced for your approval which will provide for the co-ordination of this programme.

The work of improving our school buildings in 1951 will be effectively encouraged and sustained by continuation of the Government's policy of grants and loans to school boards for capital expenditure.

During the 18 months of its operation the Student Aid Fund has given assistance to one thousand and twenty-eight students. Because of assistance available through the Fund, there is little possibility that any student of ability requiring financial help now be denied opportunity to continue his studies beyond the high school level.

During 1950 about one-half of the Larger School Units passed the trial of five years. Votes on the question of disorganization were held in two units, and both were sustained.

In planning the revised programme of studies for the elementary school, the Department of Education is seeking the extensive co-operation of the teachers and public generally. Major decisions are being made as a result of such group planning, group discussion and group evaluation. As a result of such widespread participation our school programme will adequately reflect the legitimate hope and aspirations of the Saskatchewan people.

Amendments to The Teachers' Superannuation Act, which will extend the credit for war service, will be introduced for your approval.

Through the operation of the Hospital Services Plan and the Hospital Construction Programme the people of Saskatchewan have been provided with the best hospital accommodation in the history of the province. Construction of the University Hospital at Saskatoon and the Mentally Defective Training School at Moose Jaw will go forward during the coming year. Blood banks will be established at Saskatoon and Regina.

During 1950 the Government of Saskatchewan entered into agreement with the Government of Canada for the sharing of certain costs of construction of the Saskatchewan section of the Trans-Canada Highway. Construction of this highway went forward during 1950, and plans are being laid for the acceleration of the construction programme during the coming year. During 1951 the traffic bridge spanning the South Saskatchewan River at Saskatchewan Landing will be completed. The greatly expanded highway construction programme that has been carried out in recent years will be continued and accelerated during 1951.

The Report on Provincial-Municipal Relations will be tabled during the Session. As an immediate step toward the implementation of some of the recommendations of the Report, you will be asked to approve an increase in the grant to Anti-Tuberculosis Sanatoria. In addition, Rural Municipalities will be given increased assistance which will provide for a more comprehensive bridge building programme.

Legislation will be introduced for your approval which will establish a scheme of superannuation for the employees of Urban Municipalities and for the employees of Larger School Units.

A revised programme of apprenticeship and qualification of tradesmen, designed to increase the number of skilled tradesmen in the Province and to secure the highest quality of workmanship will be in effect during 1951.

A Wages Recovery Act to replace the Masters and Servants Act will be introduced for your approval.

The expansion of the Saskatchewan Government Telephone Corporation during 1950 has been the greatest in the history of the system. More than seven thousand five hundred new telephones were added. Telephone services in the towns of Assiniboia, Moosomin and Biggar were converted to automatic. The addition of a substantial number of long distance telephone circuits has resulted in improved service, in spite of increased demands. During the coming year the Saskatchewan Government Telephone Corporation will continue the programme of expansion which, in the past five years, has enlarged the public telephone system by more than one-half.

**February 1, 1951**

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation has made notable achievements in the extension of electric power services, particularly in farm areas. During the past year an additional five thousand eight hundred customers were served and one thousand six hundred miles of power lines were constructed. Over two thousand new farm customers were provided with the convenience and economy of electric power. The Saskatchewan Power Corporation has great plans for the expansion of the entire system to meet the continuing demand.

During the Session you will be asked to approve amendments to The Rural Electrification Act which will enable the Power Corporation to make loans to farmers who are unable to pay their share of the construction costs.

Financial reports of Crown Corporations for the year 1950 will indicate the largest surplus since their inception. These reports will be tabled during the Session for your consideration.

Population movements since 1938 have resulted in a disparity in the number of electors that the Members of this Legislature represent. Amendments to existing legislation will be introduced for your approval which will adjust provincial constituency boundaries and provide for more equitable representation.

A new Elections Act will also be introduced for your approval.

The Public Accounts of the last fiscal year, together with Estimates for the year beginning April First, 1951, 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 the Province, and may Divine Providence continue to bless our Province and guide the Legislature in all its deliberations.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Chamber.

**Mr. Speaker** made the following statement:

Hon. Members will recall that, on May 10, 1941, German bombs destroyed the historic Chamber of the British House of Commons. They will recall, also, that, in spite of that calamity, the British Parliament carried on without impairment of its spirit or break in the continuity of its work.

On October 26, 1950, a New House of Commons, erected on the ashes of the old, was formally opened by His Majesty the King in an impressive ceremony held at ancient Westminster Hall.

Recognizing the significance of the occasion, and believing that Members of this Assembly would wish to congratulate the Members of the British House upon their return to their restored Chamber, the Premier and I joined in sending the following cablegram to the Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons, under date of October 25, 1950:

Colonel The Right Honourable Clifton Brown, M.P.,  
Speaker of the House of Commons  
Houses of Parliament  
London, S.W.1, England

Government and Legislative Assembly of Province of Saskatchewan

unite in congratulating United Kingdom Members of their return to restored historic Chamber of Mother of Parliaments. May the light of this citadel of free democratic institutions continue to shine, as of old, for all the world to see, to admire and to emulate. May it continue to reflect the greatness and enduring qualities characteristic of the British people in war and peace. May Commons' return to own House mark a new era for mankind of international harmony and co-operation.

(signed) T. C. Douglas, Premier  
Tom Johnston, Speaker.

On October 30, 1950, I received the following reply by cablegram from the Honourable Speaker of the British House:

Speaker, Legislative Assembly  
Regina, Saskatchewan.

I have received with great pleasure your telegram of congratulations on the occasion of the opening of our new Chamber. I shall communicate it to the House of Commons when we meet on Tuesday. Please accept and convey to the Premier and Members of the Legislative Assembly our grateful thanks and cordial greetings.

(signed) Douglas Clifton Brown,  
Speaker.

The Assembly then adjourned at 3.30 o'clock p.m.