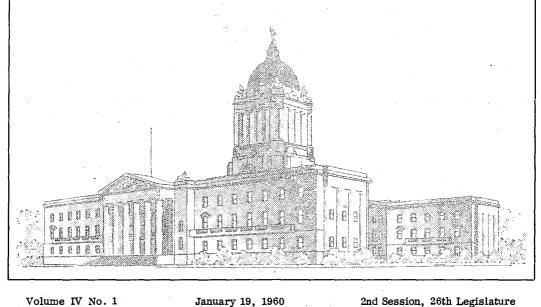


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Volume IV No. 1

January 19, 1960

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, January 19th, 1960.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying a Mace followed by the Speaker, Mr. Abram Harrison Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Charland Prud'homme, Q.C. entered the House.

His Honour Errick F. Willis, Q.C., the Lieutenant-Governor, entered the Chamber and seated himself on the Throne.

HONOURABLE ERRICK F. WILLIS, Q.C. (Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

I welcome you to the second session of the 26th Legislature of the Province of Manitoba.

I should like first of all, on behalf of all the people of the province as well as on my own behalf, to add an expression of united goodwill and appreciation to my distinguished predecessor, the Honourable J.S. McDiarmid, for the many services which he and Mrs. McDiarmid rendered to our province over the years.

I am happy to report that there has been substantial and satisfactory progress in all the principal fields of responsibility of the provincial government.

The 1959 provincial road building program completed was the largest on record. Another large highway program, including access roads, Roads to Resources, and natural resources development roads will be proposed for 1960.

The year 1959 will be recorded as a difficult year for many Manitoba farmers. Excessive moisture conditions blighted any hope of a harvest for many whose farms were located in the agricultural area east of the Red River. The unprecedented heavy snowfall of early October, and subsequent sub-zero weather, extending over a wide area of the province abruptly ended the completion of what appeared on many farms to be a promising harvest.

While in the more favoured agricultural areas production was reasonably satisfactory, I note that approximately one million acres of unharvested crops representing 20 to 25 million bushels of grain and other crops remain snow-covered with little hope of salvage value.

While the estimated value of Manitoba's 1959 total agricultural production of approximately 321 million dollars is slightly more than one million dollars higher than that of 1958, I must emphasize that net farm income for the year just closed will be lower than that of 1958.

To prevent heavy liquidation of livestock from farms upon which unthreshed crops and feed supplies were buried by the early October snowfall, my Government is providing transportation assistance programs on the movement of feed grain, hay, straw, shavings and sawdust into the stricken area. As a further measure of assistance to farmers who have harvested less than 50% of their total crop acreage, my Government is sharing with the Government of Canada an acreage payment program. My Government expects that these programs of assistance will require a heavy provincial outlay.

My Government is pleased to report that, at the request of the province and with its co-operation, a comprehensive economic land classification study has been undertaken by the Economics Division, Canada Department of Agriculture. This study will provide the basis for sound land use and agricultural development policies. An expanded weed control program is to be undertaken in co-operation with municipal authorities.

My Government is pleased to report that the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation which has been functioning over the last ten months has approved loans totalling approximately \$4,000,000.00. My Ministers inform me that the newly established Crop Insurance Agency will shortly be offering to farmers, in three test areas, comprehensive crop insurance.

Recent surveys indicate that only 7% of farm homes in this province are equipped with modern water supply and sewage systems. My Government, through the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and Conservation, is introducing a useful program to assist rural people to plan and install their own modern water supply and sewage disposal systems for their farm and home.

During the past year my Government has undertaken essential engineering investigations consequent on the major flood protection program recommended by the Royal Commission on

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(Hon. Mr. Willis, cont'd.).... Flood Cost Benefit. These investigations are now nearing completion and you will be asked to provide additional funds to put under way the next step in implementing the program. In addition you will be asked to provide funds to carry on other water control and conservation programs throughout the province.

Increased sums for agricultural research at the University of Manitoba will be proposed.

You will be asked to consider legislation in respect to the administration of recreational matters and certain changes in a number of Acts administered by the Department of Mines and Natural Resources.

Industry is flourishing in Manitoba. The value of factory production in 1959, 743.6 million, is a record for the province.

Since the Manitoba Development Fund commenced operations in 1959, loans totalling \$2,905,000.00 have been approved. The fact that the larger part of the investment is being made in rural areas illustrates my Government's policy of industrial decentralization.

My Ministers have welcomed the appointment of the Royal Commission on Transportation to inquire into the problems relating to railway transportation and the inequities in the freight rate structure. My Government favours retention of the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates and is actively opposing the request of the railways for any changes in this contract which for so many years had been a bulwark of prairie agriculture. My Government will also propose to the Royal Commission new methods for removing inequities in the freight rate structure which adversely affect the well-being of industry and agriculture in Manitoba.

My Government is pleased that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has selected Manitoba for a new atomic energy research and development project. Negotiations regarding the location of this development are now proceeding.

My Government records with satisfaction the early success of the school divisions and the increased provincial financial support provided for in the legislation presented and passed at the Special Session of the Legislature held in October and November, 1958. There has been an increase of 11.6% in the number of boys and girls enjoying high school education in the province with an increase of 30% in rural Manitoba alone.

You will be asked to vote the largest appropriation in our history for the support of education for the fiscal year 1960-61. Appropriations to assist the University of Manitoba will also be the highest on record.

My Government has received the final and completed report of the Manitoba Royal Commission on Education and desires to acknowledge the faithful discharge of their duties by the members of the Commission. The Report makes a number of recommendations for education in Manitoba. My Government is studying the extent to which, and the ways and means by which, the recommendations of the Commission might be implemented in the public interest, and policy on all these matters will be announced in due course.

I am informed that good work has been done in the field of rehabilitation of offenders and that probation services will shortly be made available in most of the province,

The House will be asked to set up a Special Select Committee to review and to report at the next session on onus sections in our provincial statutes.

The House will be asked to set up a Special Select Committee to consider certain amendments to the Rules of the House.

Amendments will also be offered to the Rules of the House and to The Regulations Act to establish a Standing Committee of the House to review all regulations made pursuant to statutory authority.

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections will be asked to consider certain amendments to The Election Act.

My Ministers tell me that good progress has been made in the field of health and public welfare during the last year, including reassurance of the effectiveness of the Salk Vaccine polio immunization program and of the Hospital Insurance Plan which is now well established and functioning effectively. Further details of plans for increased provincial responsibility in the field of health and public welfare will be made known to the House during the session. I believe you will be particularly interested, however, in the action which my Government proposes to take after study of the report it has received on people of Indian ancestry in (Hon. Mr. Willis, cont'd)....Manitoba. During the coming year it has been decided to institute an experimental program of community development in certain selected areas where that type of activity looks promising.

Manitoba will participate with the Federal Government in World Refugee Year and has agreed to accept tuberculous immigrants for treatment in our sanatoria.

As a result of continued experience gained in the administration of the Hospital Insurance Plan, an independent Hospital Survey Board has been established to make a detailed study of the needs for future hospital expansion throughout the province. The Board will report its findings and recommendations to my Government during the coming year. You will, however, be asked to grant financial help to a number of hospital building projects for which interim approval is expected.

The quality of care of the mentally ill will be improved by the provision for increased teaching staff and medical residencies in our institutions and the standardization of training curricula for psychiatric nurses.

My Government has already announced that the Social Allowances Act will be proclaimed on February 1st when the Department of Health and Public Welfare will begin to receive applications and to make allowances available to needy pensioners and to the aged and infirm requiring care by some other person or institution or nursing home. The Department of Health and Public Welfare will at the same time assume the full cost of all children committed to the care of the Director of Public Welfare and to the Children's Aid Societies. My Government will ask for substantial increases in expenditures to finance this first and biggest step in putting into effect the social allowances program. A further substantial appropriation of funds will be sought for the construction of elderly persons' housing accommodation.

Since the report of the Greater Winnipeg Investigating Commission was tabled last year, my Government has been diligently considering the many questions rising from it. My Ministers have met with representatives of the municipalities concerned and have the benefit of the views of the official spokesmen on behalf of each of these municipalities. You will be asked at this session to consider legislation providing for the establishment of a central control of certain essential common services in the Greater Winnipeg area.

The Licence and Registration Suspension Appeal Board has now begun its operations. You will be asked to consider changes in the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund and connected matters. My Government also proposes to extend the safety program to larger areas of the province.

Arrangements are being made by the Manitoba Power Commission to distribute power to Churchill commencing in 1960.

Under a recent decision of the Hydro-Electric Board which has been approved by my Ministers, an immediate start will be made on the development of the Grand Rapids site on the Saskatchewan River approximately 250 miles north of Winnipeg. My Government has the assurance of the Board that the interest of residents in the area will be protected. This large and important hydro-electric project is estimated to cost more than 140 millions of dollars and will require five years for completion. It is the intention of the Board to schedule the work on this project so that initial generation and transmission of power to southern Manitoba may be achieved by the autumn of 1964 if the electrical needs of the province require it. My Ministers regard as of the greatest importance the decision to proceed with this great new project, not only for the purpose of providing an ample source of electrical energy but also as a stimulus for the development of our northern territories and of the resources of the lower Saskatchewan and upper Nelson basins.

To ensure that the personnel program of my Government may provide the most modern concepts and techniques, the first major revision of The Civil Service Act since 1948 will be placed before the Legislature.

You will be asked to consider the capital appropriation which will be required for these and other purposes of the Hydro-Electric Board, the Manitoba Power Commission and the Manitoba Telephone System.

Estimates for the requirements for the public services of the province for the next fiscal year and the public accounts for the last fiscal year will be placed before you for your consideration.

In leaving you I pray that you may have the guidance of Divine Providence in your deliberations and decisions.

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In leaving you I pray that you may have the guidance of Divine Providence in your deliberations and decisions.

MR. SPEAKER: Oh Eternal and Almighty God, from Whom all power and wisdom come, by Whom Kings rule and make equitable laws, we are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province. Grant, Oh Merciful God, we pray Thee, that we may desire only that which is in accordance with Thy Will, that we may seek it with wisdom, know it with certainty, and accomplish it perfectly for the Glory and Honour of Thy Name and for the welfare of all our people. Amen.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce, that leave be given to introduce a bill No. 1 an Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

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

MR. SPEAKER: In order to prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy of the address of His Honour which was read. I beg to inform the House that Frank B. Skinner has been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms for the Second Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Education, that the votes and proceedings of the House be printed, having first been perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that the Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes: Law Amendments; Public Accounts; Municipal Affairs; Agriculture and Conservation; Public Utilities and Natural Resources; Privileges and Elections; Private Bills; Standing Orders; Printing and Library; and Industrial Relations; which several committees shall be empowered to examine and enquire into all such things and matters as may be referred to them by this House and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon with power to send for persons, papers and documents and examine witnesses under oath.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Health and Public Welfare, that a committee of seven persons be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed a list of members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by this House, and that such Committee shall be composed as follows: Honourable Messrs. Roblin, Lyon, McLean. Messrs. Alexander, Campbell, Molgat and Paulley.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, that the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, be taken into consideration tomorrow.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion, and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 the following afternoon.