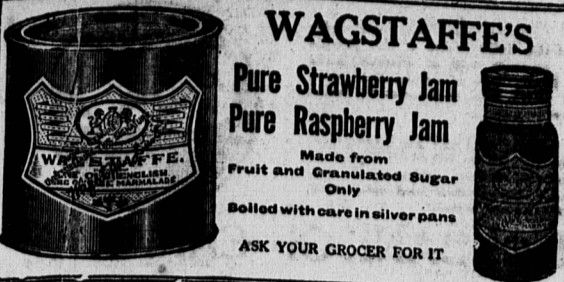


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WANTED—Few tons pressed straw A. R. McKay, Lawdals Farm, Charlottetown.

Scathing Indictment Of Bell Government

Continued from Page One.

The Dalton Sanatorium has been done away with. The Premier will say that these were Dominion matters. Yes. But they were established here for the benefit of returned soldiers and it was the Premier's duty to see that they were kept up.

In the case of the Dalton Sanatorium, this was dismantled and the Government did not lift a finger to stop it. Everything that was there would have remained there as a gift to the Province had they done anything in the matter. Thousands of dollars worth of furniture and hospital apparatus would have remained in this province for the asking! The corporation that had charge of the sanatorium at Coburg went to the Government and said: "You've had our place for two or three years, you may just as well leave what is there." And the Government readily agreed. And so it would have turned out here if the Government had taken action at all. The Government, when forced to, appointed a delegation to go to Ottawa requesting the Federal authorities to come to their aid in keeping it open. After the horse was gone they tried to lock the stable! If it is re-opened now everything will have to be re-purchased. The Government has no money, they say, to keep this institution up. Possibly they had not. But what has become of the \$50,000 which they received from the sale of liquors? This might well have been applied to the relief of the sick and afflicted and the sum would have been quite ample. This, by the way, was money that our friends opposite declared we should not have taken: they had no qualms of conscience in accepting the \$50,000 and employing it to ordinary expenditure. I trust that in the future the institution will be opened; but for all time to come this Government will be under the charge of having allowed it to be dismantled.

So far as returned soldiers are concerned, let it be understood that our friends cannot take a single bit of credit for anything the Federal Government has done for them. Six hundred soldiers have been established on lands in this Province. They have done well indeed; it is a wonder that with the little encouragement received from the Provincial government this line of activity was not abandoned like the others.

I find that the government is now singing the praises of the Canada Highways Act, and that about sixty miles of roads have been built. The Government can well say in the words of Horace, "The times have changed and we have changed with the times." On the floor of this House only two years ago the Canada Highways Act was denounced as "an infernal scheme." The Liberal press of the province spread broadcast the statement that the then government was embarking on a scheme that would cost us hundreds of thousands—yes, millions of dollars. And then, no sooner got into office but they adopted it! However, it is yet too soon to judge of the work done. We know that ordinary roads were neglected and no work done on them the past summer. If I have a word to say to the Commissioner in this matter it is: that I think he is embarking on the scheme without due preparation; that before starting this work he should have first created a department to deal with it. He should have had the roads surveyed and blueprints made of them. Then he would have known the roads that first required attention and those are the low-lying roads that connect highways. It is true that he has made a beginning on some of them; but he also made a beginning on others that could well have waited. The result of what he has undertaken is this, that as the same set of officers are dealing with the permanent road work and with the other work of the department to either. It is a little too soon to judge of the work done last summer. Many people think that the money spent has been more or less wasted; that clay roads, no matter how good, will stand Spring and Autumn frosts, and that the rains will wash the soil into the gutters, necessitating a new road. I am not prepared to say this, but I will say that never will we have good highways in this province until they have been surfaced with some hard material, such as gravel, which will last for years under ordinary traffic.

We are informed that a hundred concrete bridges and culverts were built last year. Some were built where there was absolutely no necessity for them. I know of four wooden bridges in splendid condition—only built a year or two, and within a few miles of each other, where the material was just as sound as the day it was put in—which were all taken up, piled on the side of the road and replaced with concrete ones. Was that because there were no other bridges that needed attention, or was it because some political heelers needed work and got it? The people in the vicinity wondered what the object was in tearing up these good bridges.

We come to this paragraph in the address: "It is the policy of my Government to give the people benefit of more efficient schools." This brings to mind an incident which occurred during the past year that has certainly not been in the interests of education, nor a credit to the Government. I refer to the Prince of Wales College fiasco. I am not going to discuss the question as to whether the professors at Prince of Wales College were entitled to more wages or not—that point is not in question. The point in question is this, that a deadlock which

should never have arisen was allowed to exist for a year without any attempt at a solution. The Government had all last spring and summer in which to deal with the question, to decide whether they would increase these teachers' salaries or whether they would not. Had they decided to refuse the teachers' terms, allowed them to resign they would have had all summer to fill their vacant places. The Government was in the same state of indecision about this as it has been in a great many other matters. The Premier made certain promises and when afterwards reminded of them, he said that any promise made by him did not count! In other words, that his word was no good. A sad admission for a Premier to make—that any promise made in the Premier's office could not be relied upon; unfortunately for the people of the province they now realize that this is only too true.

And so, when the beginning of the term came, the Government found they were up against a situation which they were not able to meet. They accepted then the teachers' resignations, closed the college, and advertised at home and abroad their inefficiency. They sent an intermediate to deal with the teachers, to bring them back again by all means. After that intermediary had pledged his word to the professors—ever then the Government could not make up their minds in the matter before. I am not pleading here for the teachers, I am speaking on behalf of the public. A situation arose that should never have arisen simply because the Government had not the firmness to deal with it in time. I doubt if even today the question is solved for good.

"Elementary music and the art of singing are being taught in the Prince of Wales College with a view to their introduction and practice in the common schools."

This seems to be the most important thing in the address, at least it is the only item of activity the Speech foreshadows. Our friends opposite have become very musical all at once. No doubt they have behind the discord among their followers—a discord initiated even within the four walls of parliament, in caucus and out of caucus. There has been discord abroad and at home, and now the Government is about to initiate a school of music for the purpose we are to suppose, of teaching the coming generation to sing more in unison the praises of the Bell Government. Well, there will have to be a great change. First you will have to eliminate all those who are now singing out of tune. It will be hard for the Government to change that tune from a dirge to a hymn of praise. If we are to judge from the address it is no instruction in music the Government needs but a few lessons in English grammar.

We are informed that the Department of Agriculture has undertaken to hold a Provincial Horse Show for the encouragement of horse breeders. This is not altogether new. It is by no means an innovation. We have had horse shows here before the war. At the outbreak of hostilities they were necessarily abandoned for a time. The Commissioner of Agriculture is merely picking up the threads where they were dropped during the war.

We are further told in the address that a limestone crusher is about to be established at Minnigash but we are not told what has become of the splendid mussel mud digging plant at Moreil. If my information is correct the Government has dismantled it and sold it as junk. My latest information is also that hundreds of dollars paid in advance for mussel mud still or was up to a short time ago, held by the government and the parties could not get either mud or money. Who does not remember the Premier's dream of putting a mud dredge on Richmond Bay and building a railway on the mud to haul the mud. The fate of the mud dredge is the history of what happened to every progressive movement initiated by the late government; they have all been allowed to decay and die.

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VICTOR COYLE

culture nor any member of the government can claim the slightest credit when all that is being done is to continue the good work initiated by his predecessor. "By arrangement with the Federal department of Labor this Province was permitted to share in the proceeds set apart for technical education in Canada, and in use that money for agricultural instruction purposes. An Agricultural and Technical High School was thereupon established at Charlottetown. We have not the information to speak on this at present. We do know that a very valuable building (which does not belong to the government, the first place) has been taken over and that the Lieut. Governor of the Province is being kept out of residence. The land is vested in the Lieut. Governor, at least it is for his use; and it is present the Government is usurping that property. When arrangements were made with the Lieut. Governor to vacate it was our understanding that for the time being he would be supplied with a proper residence; and these arrangements were made for the duration of the war and a reasonable time thereafter and so long as it was needed for use of returned men, after which it was to be returned to the Lieut. Governor, unless other satisfactory arrangements for its occupation were made with him. The Government has no right to occupy this building, without the consent of the Lieut. Governor, and second, without providing him with a suitable residence.

The advisability of establishing an Agricultural school depends upon the benefit that is to accrue from it, and whether or not equal or greater advantages could not be obtained otherwise. I am fully in favor of agricultural education provided that it can be given here as well and as cheaply as it has been given in other places. That is a question which I have not the information to decide. I am not going to pronounce on it at present because we require further enlightenment. If we find that the Minister is deserving of credit then we will add our meed of praise; if not, then we will have to criticize.

The next paragraph of the address begins: "It is hoped and expected that advantage will be taken of the accommodation to hold short courses in Agriculture for farmers and farmers' sons."

I suppose the Commissioner of Agriculture remembers, not so very long ago, when short courses of his kind were being held in the land, and when as many as five hundred students were taking advantage of them? I am very glad he has decided to resume them. We are told that there has been conference with the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick regarding the presentation at an early date of certain claims of the Maritime Provinces against the Federal Government. I trust that early in the session the result of his conference will be laid before the House. We will expect to see the minutes of the conference, showing what had taken place, and how it tended to give us an understanding that the Premier was the deflected delegate to it. It has been the invariable custom to have the Attorney General, on account of his position as legal advisor to the Government, attend such a conference. I understand that the Attorney General was not present, why he was overlooked I don't know.

But why make a new presentation of this case? It was prepared and presented before a few days ago, when short courses of his kind were being held in the land, and when as many as five hundred students were taking advantage of them? I am very glad he has decided to resume them. We are told that there has been conference with the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick regarding the presentation at an early date of certain claims of the Maritime Provinces against the Federal Government. I trust that early in the session the result of his conference will be laid before the House. We will expect to see the minutes of the conference, showing what had taken place, and how it tended to give us an understanding that the Premier was the deflected delegate to it. It has been the invariable custom to have the Attorney General, on account of his position as legal advisor to the Government, attend such a conference. I understand that the Attorney General was not present, why he was overlooked I don't know.

I have not seen that the Government here have taken any exception to the statement made by Mr. Crerar, leader of the Agrarian Party, in connection with the Western provinces' claim to their natural resources. Mr. Crerar said: "The Western provinces are entitled to their natural resources, but we shall resist equity in favor of any other province." It must be understood that this Government has endorsed this statement, since they have not taken exception to it. I have had occasion to say, and I will say again, that I have no sympathy with the West in this matter. I am not going to say that those provinces in 1905; their natural resources were held back by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the governments of these Provinces accepting the condition on the understanding that they would get a subsidy in lieu of the resources. Until the population of each province had increased to a million they were to receive to subsidy which amounts to \$1.25 per head of population and when they reached a population of one million then they were to get \$1,250,000 each. The Western provinces claim that they should have got these resources at Confederation; and because they did not get them they intend retaining their present subsidies to make up for the amount lost in the past. But the argument is this: If they did not get their natural resources they should not have accepted the statute without objection. We were willing that they should retain the subsidy they get at present; but as to the subsidy that would be accruing in future, if they get their natural resources, this amount should be divided among the Maritime Provinces to make up for the fact that we are giving something to them that belongs to us. But they are not willing to concede us anything; and that is the position, according to Mr. Crerar, that the Western Provinces still take. They want both natural resources and subsidies, and their dictum has been accepted by this government without any protest. I hope when he replies that the leader of the Government will be able to explain what he means by "extensions of boundary lands" mentioned in the address.

committee to meet but towards the last of the session they did meet, and managed to waste considerable time over trivial matters that didn't amount to anything. One of the things asked for by that Committee was that the Provincial Auditor should make out a statement of the assets and liabilities in the same way as has been done in former years. This was requested by the whole committee, and the auditor prepared the statement accordingly and the committee accepted it. Naturally we of the Opposition who were on that committee, expected that it would be embodied in the report of the Committee. I left the city on the eve of the closing of the House—the work of the session being, as I considered, all over,—and went home with the understanding that the report would cover everything that had come before the committee, including, of course, the auditor's statement requested by the Public Accounts Committee. You can imagine my surprise when I found that this statement had been omitted from the report. I gave instructions that a minority report should be prepared to include it. This, which was made out by the hon. member from Souris, was received and read. This being so it should have been engrossed in the journals of the House. But the leader of the Government opposed this action by getting up and making a motion that the report be NOT included in the Journals of the House. For what reason? No reason was given whatever. No precedent could be quoted for such an action. There have been precedents to allow the bringing in of a minority report by a committee when the majority of that committee would not permit certain things to go on the report of the majority. These minority reports have always been received in the House and engrossed on the Journals of the House. Never has an Opposition been refused this privilege. In this case, indeed, it was not so

much the report of the members of the opposition as it should have been the report of the whole committee, because it was the whole committee that had ordered the auditor to make the report. It really should have been embodied in the main report, and when it was not then the majority on the committee had the absolute right to prepare that report and not only have it received and read but engrossed on the Journals of the House. What more autocratic action can be perpetrated in the House than for the leader of that House to set up and deny to the people the right of having public reports made public? I was astonished when I heard of it—astonished that this large majority should have stood for such an action. Why was it done? Why? Because there their own officers laid bare the misrepresentations of the Government. It did not agree with the stories told by the Government in this House. I am quite certain that if the Government had known the Public Accounts committee were getting this report prepared they would have instructed the auditor not to prepare it! They did not want it; if so they would have prepared it themselves and published it as was done in former years. It showed that the Opposition was right, that the big trumped-up fictitious debt did not exist; and so they thought the problem had been solved and that the public would still believe that exploded theory of the big deficit. I proved last session, by figures that not a single member of the government dared contradict, that in the years we were in power—from September 1911 to September 1919, during which we expended \$23,000 on permanent public works besides the extraordinary expenditures of the war, the Governor General's visit here, the Prince's visit, and other expenditures—in all that period of heavy expenditure

(Continued on page seven)



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