

PREMIER ARSENAULT'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

It is now nearly eight years since the Liberal-Conservative party came into power. I do not propose to review all that has been accomplished during that time, but it may be well to deal briefly with the events of the past and lay before you what we propose for the future.

If in a matter of history that the Auditors appointed to audit the accounts of the province on December 2nd, 1917, found the debt to be \$1,072,000. A similar audit made on December 31st, 1918, shows the present provincial debt to be \$1,062,000, or a decrease of debt in seven years of something over \$10,000. In this calculation it is well to remember that these auditors have followed the same method adopted by the auditors appointed by the Peters Government to ascertain the debt of the province in 1891.

This reduction of debt has been effected notwithstanding the fact that the past four years have been the most difficult from a financial standpoint that the province has ever passed through. Faced as we were with a decreased revenue and largely increased cost in materials and supplies, we surely cannot be accused of extravagance when we have come out of that trying period without any addition to the public debt. If we have economized in the matter of Public Works it is for the double reason that every province in Canada was advised to slow down during the war period and that materials such as steel and lumber were so expensive and difficult to obtain that it was unwise to undertake permanent bridge building during the past four years. I feel certain that our policy in this respect was sound and that it will meet with the approval of the electorate. Notwithstanding this temporary cessation of our permanent work program, we still have to our credit the fact that we have built in our time, 2,500 feet of steel bridges, which is

three times the amount built by the Liberals, and have expended over \$220,000 in these and other permanent public works. The total amount spent by the Liberals during the twenty years they were in power for the like purpose was less than this amount. All of this, however, is a matter which I need not dwell upon, for I am sure that the people of this province, being well acquainted with the past, are more desirous of knowing what we propose for the future than of dwelling upon the events that have passed into history. I shall endeavor then to give you a synopsis as to what our intentions are for the future, should the people of the province continue their confidence in us.

Education.

On this point let me say that when we assumed the reins of power we found that the school attendance had gradually decreased from 22,590 in 1890 to 17,078 in 1912.

The reason for this state of affairs was not far to seek. Through a policy of false economy adopted years ago by the late Liberal administration the supplementary Government allowance to teachers was cut off with the result that there remained no incentive on the part of the districts to do their share. The teachers were thus deprived of a part of their already small revenue and lost to a certain extent the interest in the schools. This gradually led to a falling off in school attendance. The present Government has been paying for education an average of \$45,000 per year more than was being paid before we came into power. The supplements voted by the school districts have increased from \$23,792 in 1911 to \$43,630 in 1918, and this year again a further large increase has been made. Many districts have done well, but many others are still below the mark. It is necessary to insure good teaching and to ensure satisfactory results to the districts themselves. At the last session passed an Act which if approved by the people will solve the present difficulty. The system proposed for levying the amount necessary by a departure from the methods heretofore in force we have thought well to give the people an opportunity of expressing their approval or disapproval of the measure by a referendum.

Agriculture.

It is not necessary for me to dwell upon this subject. The proposed program along this line covers a pretty wide range, and of an ambitious nature. What has been done in this province towards the development of the poultry industry, in wool grading, co-operative lamb selling, has not only brought about good financial results but has been of educational value to an extent that is hard to realize. Better grading of other lines must bring about a better class of goods, desirable advertisements of our farm products in the markets of the world, with consequent better prices for the same. The present Government has already been the means of spreading an extent of fifty and sixty thousand tons of manure and other lines of the province. This policy will be continued and enlarged upon with a view of meeting the demand for this valuable fertilizer.

Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

The war being over, it now behooves us to resume our former program of permanent bridge building. Money spent in necessary permanent works is money well invested. A large item of annual expenditure is the money spent in repairs to our culverts and bridges. Build these permanently and the annual saving thus effected will more than pay interest and sinking fund on the amount thus expended. A leading road engineer speaking at the recent Good-Roads Congress at Quebec well said that in this country we have three means of transportation, namely, by railway, by water and by road, and of the three the road transportation is the most important because every passenger and pound of freight transported by railway or by water must first be transported over the highways or roads. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we should have good roads.

The weight of the load to be transported by highway must be measured according to the nature of the road to be travelled and must not exceed the weight that can be hauled over the worst portion of that road. If one mile in ten is bad road or a heavy grade then the load must be measured according to the capacity to haul over that one mile of bad road. How necessary then it is for the farmer, for the merchant and all others who have to transport loads over the roads to have such highway uniformly good. Good roads can only be obtained by thorough drainage. One of the most experienced as well as the best known road makers in Canada has laid down three rules for good road making, which he gives as follows:

- 1st. Drainage.
 - 2nd. Drainage.
 - 3rd. Again drainage.
- We must have thorough drainage if we expect to keep our roads in condition. To that end preparations are being made to survey our roads beginning with those that are most in need of attention in order to ascertain the levels and drainage areas. When this has been accomplished we will give attention to building up a proper road bed lastly covering them over with gravel or other suitable material. By working out from the villages and from the towns these will eventually all become connected and so all our highways will be placed in such condition that they may be easily kept up. During the present summer experiments are being carried on with tractors and other road machines

to ascertain the best and most economical means of road construction. A system of road patrols is also in contemplation, whose duty it will be to fill ruts, repair culverts and bridges so avoiding the delay and annoyance now experienced in having such work done.

Employment.

The question of employment for our returned men and other class of labor is one that has received and

Company of Prince Edward Island for a renewal of its charter comes before the Legislature next spring, the Government lately introduced and has passed by the Legislature an Act enabling the appointment of a Commissioner who will hold an enquiry and report on all matters pertaining to telephone lines in the province and all such lines having any difficulties or grievances requiring adjustment will get the opportunity of being heard.

As a survey of our water powers



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is now being made and as they will probably result in many of those water-powers being developed for electric power purposes, thus furnishing power for agricultural, industrial and lighting purposes at a low cost, it may become necessary at no distant date to enact legislation providing for a Public Utilities Commission such as has been organized in other provinces.

Fishermen and Sailors.

Our fishing industry is only second to that of agriculture. For some years past continued representations have been made to the Federal authorities urging that action be taken to provide a grant for the further development of this great industry. It is pleasing to note that steps were taken recently to place the fisheries under a separate head of Department in this province, after a strenuous fight, succeeded in having our diminishing representation stopped for all time to come.

Provincial Rights.

Eternal vigilance and steady and

firm representation is the price we have to pay for the preservation and restoration of our Provincial Rights. Gradually since Confederation this province has allowed some of its rights and privileges to be overlooked and neglected, and in many cases sacrificed through want of proper and continued representation. Some of our just claims against Canada have been either denied us or only partially recognized.

It is a deplorable fact that under the late Liberal regime in this province and at Ottawa on many occasions our provincial interests were not only neglected but often sacrificed. I need only give a few instances to show that the "eternal vigilance" was not exercised in those cases but that the provincial governments, then in power slept on their rights.

The building of the Hillsborough Bridge is a case in point. When this project of bridging the River Hillsborough was decided on by the Department of Railways the provincial government entered into negotiations for a carriage way on said bridge. The request was granted, but at a cost which involved the province into an annual expenditure of \$12,000 to \$13,000.

New Brunswick and Quebec succeeded in making a better bargain. A few years ago an inter-provincial railway bridge was built between the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. This bridge has a separate carriage way built at the cost of the Dominion for the use of which neither New Brunswick nor Quebec pays one cent.

About the year 1909 the Dominion Government decided to establish an experimental farm here, such as had been established in other provinces. In other provinces such farms had been purchased and paid for by the Dominion Government. The Liberal Provincial Government was then meeting with annual deficits and did not know which way to turn for additional revenue and yet they consented to buy at a considerable expense the land necessary for this farm and to make a gift of it to the Dominion Government, the only province in Canada to sacrifice provincial rights in this way.

We entered confederation with a representation of six members for the House of Commons, although according to population we were not entitled to this number. At the adjustment necessary under the decennial census of 1881 with a Liberal-Conservative Government in power here and at Ottawa we retained our representation of six members, although only entitled to five, but at the re-adjustment after the census of 1891 with a Liberal Provincial Government we lost one representative and again in 1901 with Liberal Government both here and at Ottawa our representation in the Federal House was cut down to four and the same thing would have happened after the census of 1911, but fortunately for us, the Liberal-Conservative Government in this province, after a strenuous fight, succeeded in having our diminishing representation stopped for all time to come.

I now come to the most important as well as the most glaring cases where our provincial rights were sacrificed. Not only were our rights sacrificed but the door was actually closed against us by the very men whose duty it was to have protected the province and fought for its cause.

In the year 1906 a Conference of the provinces was held at Quebec, at which we were represented by three members of the Government. This conference adopted as a foundation for a re-adjustment of provincial subsidies resolutions which had in 1887 been adopted at a similar conference at which we were not represented. Coupled with the resolutions, however, was the following: "Under reserve of the right of any province to now submit to the Government of Canada memorandum in writing covering any claims it may have to larger sums than those set out in said resolution or to additional consideration or recognition."

This was in the nature then of an invitation to any province having any special claims to submit them for the consideration of the Dominion Government. We know how for years previous to this we had been told that this Island had special claims, and that the Liberal Government here was going to press them and have them

considered. These claims had been paraded at each election and made to serve as a bait to induce to return to power a Liberal Government in line with the Government at Ottawa. The opportunity was now offered but instead of our delegates taking advantage of the opportunity as British Columbia did, they remained absolutely dumb and permitted resolutions to be put through recommending large increases to the larger provinces and a paltry \$70,000 to Prince Edward Island, a sum which had been offered this province in 1887 when we were not represented at all, which sum was the smallest amount that could possibly fall to us.

On the other hand the resolution recommended the removal of limitations by which on one item alone, namely on per capita subsidy, the Province of Ontario then got an increase of \$629,000, and Quebec \$429,000 per year, and this apart from what they obtained on other grounds. On per capita subsidy we received absolutely nothing additional, and barely escaped losing over \$5,000 a year on what we had heretofore been getting.

These resolutions formed the basis on which the Dominion Government granted additional subsidies to the Provinces and when these were up for confirmation in the House of Commons in 1907, Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke as follows, showing that our delegates had locked the door on our claims:

"The plan we proposed was that we should revise the subsidies given to the provinces with the clear intimation to them that this was to be a final settlement, that no further claim would be recognized, that each province must carry on its affairs with the means at its command and must not have recourse to this Parliament. We thought we could not do better than have a friendly conference with the provinces and ascertain what only the most they deemed requisite in order to prevent their coming again to Ottawa and knocking at the door of this Parliament."

An honorable member asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier the question: "What will you do if they come back?" to which Sir Wilfrid replied: "The settlement is final and unalterable, they need not come back, the door is locked." And so it was that in 1913 when we went to Ottawa seeking to have our claims recognized and adjusted we found the door locked and it was with the greatest difficulty that we succeeded not only in unlocking it but in having the claim considered. That our efforts were successful, that we succeeded in getting an additional subsidy of \$100,000 per year is now a matter of history. Not only did we unlock the door but we took the money merely on account and left the door wide open so that now these claims are in a better position than they were previous to 1912 by reason that having been recognized and part payment made on account they cannot now be repudiated.

The memorial presented in 1912 did not however include any claim in which the other two Maritime Provinces were jointly interested with us. These were reserved and afterwards presented in 1913. They included:

1. A claim for a share in the Western School Lands interest.
 2. A claim for compensation for the Public Lands of Canada, in which we have a partnership interest, and which were in 1912 granted to Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba as an extension to their boundaries.
- These are a few of many instances where through want of firmness our provincial rights were sacrificed. It must at all times be borne in mind that Prince Edward Island is a province in Confederation and as such is entitled to the same rights and privileges as the other provinces. The fact that we are small in area and in members does not lessen our importance as a province. The fact is that Canada was very anxious that we should enter Confederation. For six years we stood out and only gave consent on certain promises being given, some of which were only late fulfilled and others which are still remaining outstanding and which it behooves us to press to a satisfactory conclusion.

These as well as the claims of this province to a right to similar subsidies as those granted the Western provinces by reason of having no pub-

lic lands are undeniable and must be adjusted. They are not all new claims, some of them were in existence during the period of the Liberal administration, but as according to Sir Wilfrid Laurier our Liberal delegates, among whom was Mr. George E. Hughes, M.L.A., had allowed the door to be closed at Ottawa, and as they had in 1907 made a final and unalterable settlement the leader of the government in 1910 had to admit very candidly that it was no use for him to look to Ottawa for further assistance.

The Liberal-Conservative party when they came in power in 1912, took immediate steps to formulate and present all these claims as well as many others, and as I have already said they succeeded in having the claims recognized and an amount paid on account. During the war the time was not opportune to press them further, but now that we are at peace once more and in view of the reconstruction program to be carried out in this province, we need more money, and with Union Government at Ottawa assured for at least three years to come it is only reasonable to assume that a friendly government in this province will have greater chances of success than an Opposition Government, led by the present leader of the Opposition. Surely the people of the province will have more faith in those men who brought about the Car Ferry, the standardization of the railway, the increase of \$100,000 annual subsidy, the stop in our diminishing representation in the House of Commons, and many other concessions rather than in men who for twenty years did nothing and who, during that time, sacrificed many of our provincial rights and who now come forward and in a program most of which consists of planks long ago part of the Liberal platform, try to parade in borrowed feathers plucked from the cloak of the present Government. The Leader of the Opposition must surely be living in a fool's paradise if he imagines that the people of the province do not see in his platform many of the very principles advocated and carried into effect by the Liberal-Conservative party since 1912 or already announced by them as their policy of the future.

The Liberal-Conservative party is now appealing to the people on the principles of preservation and recognition of provincial rights. If we are to make a strong case at Ottawa, if we are to prevail with the Federal authorities we must as in 1912 have a strong backing from the electorate. Nothing will lend greater assistance or strengthen our case more than an emphatic backing from the people. On the results of the election will depend whether we get additional subsidies from Ottawa. The return of a Liberal Provincial Government would be the surest means of defeating any chance of success and a weak Liberal-Conservative Government would not be regarded at Ottawa as an indication that the province was back of these claims. The present indications point to a return of the present Government with a good increased majority. I now call on the people to give us such backing as will enable us to go to Ottawa and tell Sir Robert Borden and his government that Prince Edward Island appreciates the Car Ferry, the widening of the gauge of the railway, the addition to the subsidy, etc., all of which were conceded by him at the request and on the representation of the Provincial Government working in harmony with our Federal-Conservative representatives, and if such happens then I feel assured that Sir Robert Borden and Sir Thomas White, the Minister of Finance, who have shown themselves to be the friends of the province, will further recognize our just demands and will make such further concessions as will place the Government in a position to carry out the progressive program already submitted to the electorate. Let the people speak, the issue is clear and unmistakable; a verdict for the Leader of the Opposition and his party will be an intimation to Ottawa that we did not want the things that have been obtained and that we are not looking for further concessions. An emphatic verdict for the present Government will be one of appreciation for past concessions and a demand for a just and equitable adjustment of the claims already presented and that it returned to power I promise to press to an adjustment.

SHERIFF COMES OUT FOR TANLAC

"Money Could Not Buy the Good It Has Done Me," He Says In Statement.

"Money could not buy the good Tanlac has done for me, and I gladly recommend it for what it has done in my case," said Hon. Archie R. Anderson, of Houston, Texas, recently.

Mr. Anderson needs no introduction to the people of Texas, as he is unquestionably not only one of the best-known, but one of the most popular men that ever held public office in "The Lone Star" state. After serving as deputy sheriff of Harris county for twelve years, Mr. Anderson was elected chief of police of the city of Houston. He had occupied this office only a short time when the sheriff of Harris county died. Mr. Anderson's friends then persuaded him to make the race for the unexpired term of sheriff, to which he was easily elected. He was honored with re-election seven different times, and served the people in this important office for fifteen consecutive years. Four years ago Mr. Anderson declined re-election and retired to private life. He cast his lot among the people of Houston, and is a large property owner and foremost citizen of that interesting and prosperous city.

"I was in a rundown condition," continued Mr. Anderson, "and had no appetite at all. I could hardly sleep at night and never felt like getting up in the mornings. I was so tired, I had the worst form of indigestion, suffered all the time from gas on my stomach and was continually belching up undigested food. I had to take my coffee without sugar as when I drank it with sugar I would just belch for hours. I would bloat and swell up like I was poisoned and suffered with neuralgic pains of the worst sort, and nothing seemed to help me only in a temporary way. I just can't tell you how I did suffer for the past four years and up to the time I began taking Tanlac, a few weeks ago.

"When I read the testimonials of some who had been relieved of troubles like mine, I felt like I couldn't make a mistake by taking Tanlac and it has done even more for me than I had expected. I began to feel better after taking my first bottle and have just now started on my third and I'm a different man already. I sleep like a log now and eat just any and everything I want without the slightest discomfort afterwards. I am glad to endorse Tanlac because it does the work, and I'm telling my friends just what I'm telling you. I never felt better in my life than I do since taking Tanlac. I am willing for you to publish my statement and let every suffering person who may wish to benefit by my experience with this great medicine.

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PRINCE EDWARD

THE BRITISH OFFICIAL NEWS WEEKLY

ADOLPH ZUKOR PRESENTS

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—IN—

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A PARAMOUNT PICTURE.

There may have been a more famous novel than "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch"—but we don't know it.

There also may be a more lovable screen character than Marguerite Clark as "Lovey Mary"—but we haven't heard of her yet.

Won't you come down and get acquainted with one of the most lovable characters of the screen.

Homely, Humorous and heart-warming story brought to screen from stage original.

COMING---COMING

A Film Review of the Signing of the TREATY OF PEACE

Watch for dates of this— the Greatest Event in the World's History