

Liberal Record Scored In Debate

Opposition Criticism Answered By Comparison Of Conditions Under Liberal Rule. Debate Continued By Messrs. McIntyre, Strong, Larabee, McNutt, J.A. Campbell, And Hon. Walter MacKenzie.

Good progress was made yesterday afternoon and evening in the Budget debate in the Legislature, where the record of the Stewart Government, criticised by the Opposition, was contrasted by Government supporters with the record of the Liberal administration amid applause from Conservative benches. The speakers, in order named, were Messrs. J. P. McIntyre (Lib., Second Kings), Heath Strong, K. C. (Con., Fourth Prince), J. J. Larabee (Lib., Fourth Queens), Thomas MacNutt, (Cons., Third Prince), J. A. Campbell (Lib., Fourth Kings), and Hon. Walter MacKenzie. The latter speaker moved the adjournment, and the House adjourned until 10 a. m. today.

Continuing the debate at yesterday afternoon's session, Mr. McIntyre said it had been necessary for the last Liberal Government to initiate a new road system to meet the increased demand for good roads at shipping points and elsewhere. The Government, after due consideration, divided the Province into twenty-five road divisions, placed a highway superintendent in charge of each division and equipped him with a road grading machine. This method, Mr. McIntyre believed, would have been followed by the Conservatives had they been in power at that time. In addition to the heavy graders, six 30 h.p. tractors were purchased, and with this equipment, the Liberal Government in three years widened 900 miles of road and machined over 2,700 miles.

Credit for the initiation of a practical road graveling policy was taken by Mr. McIntyre. At that time the Liberal Government did not know that there was any gravel in the Province that would be used on the roads. They called for tenders for gravel for one year, the Government was almost forced to give a three year contract. They did, however, have engineers from the Department of Mines, Ottawa, come here and survey the gravel pits. The money granted each year for road graveling was only sufficient to meet the contract requirements, so that no money was available to open gravel pits. Shore gravel was, however, used to some extent. When the three year's graveling program was up and the contracts expired, more attention was given to local gravel. This method, Mr. McIntyre contended, was unavoidable in the circumstances.

Road Graveling

The gravel placed by the Conservatives, Mr. McIntyre contended, was of less value inasmuch as it was not pure gravel and would not be as permanent as the imported material. The small cost under the Conservatives was due to it having been placed near the pit. If they had to transport it from Nova Scotia, as the Liberals did, the cost would have been much greater.

In some cases, Mr. McIntyre admitted, the cost of gravel placed on the roads under the Liberals was \$4.00 a ton, in other cases it was under \$3.00.

There was no reason why Falconwood and other Government institutions should not be operated at a less cost than last year, Mr. McIntyre continued; because living expenses had declined 20 per cent and in some cases 50 per cent.

Mr. McIntyre quoted a letter sent out by the Department of Public Works on June 26, 1931, cautioning highway superintendents against unwarranted expenditures. Despite every precaution, he said, it was difficult to avoid election expenditures on the roads as "the people insisted on making them."

Continuing, Mr. McIntyre said he regretted to learn that tenders had not been called for re-planking Hillsboro Bridge.

Mr. McIntyre Corrected

Hon. Mr. Stewart corrected this statement. New tenders had been called for this work two or three weeks ago and had been duly advertised in the press, he said.

Mr. McIntyre replied that he was glad to receive this informa-

tion. He thoroughly approved of the tender system and hoped the Government would continue to practise this method.

The Conservative pre-election platform was reviewed by Mr. McIntyre. A promise to push for a subsidy settlement at Ottawa had been made by Premier Stewart. That was six months ago and the Premier had not implemented his promise yet. "Possibly if we give him time he may be able to implement that plank in his platform but so far he has not done so," Mr. McIntyre added.

The abolition of the School Superintending Department was strongly urged upon the Government by the speaker.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "Why didn't you abolish it?"

Mr. McIntyre: "I will admit that we should have abolished it, because I don't think it is of any use. It is going in debt every year and you can get school books in any store just as cheap, or cheaper. It is only a white elephant and my advice to the Government is to abolish it."

Charges Extravagance

The criticism of the condition of the Liberal asphalt street work on Malpeque Road, prior to election, was assailed by Mr. McIntyre. He also charged the Government with extravagance in employing a Purchasing Agent and purchasing new cars.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Do you think I ought to have one?"

Mr. McIntyre: "I think you ought and I think you'll buy one."

The removal of the gravel on Queen Square and the permanent paving of the square was also condemned by Mr. McIntyre as extravagance. Trips of Government members to and from Ottawa were referred to slightly.

Mr. McIntyre said he had been mistaken in referring, on a previous occasion, to two prohibition officers as being employed at the same time at Souris. His reference had been to a prohibition officer and a Provincial Policeman. The employment of these two men constituted a greater expense, he said, than was the case under the Liberals.

Criticises Enforcement

The present enforcement of the Prohibition law Mr. McIntyre thought was disgraceful. Men had come into the Provincial Building drunk, he charged; and this was happening "every day."

Two elections had already been won by the Conservatives on Old Age Pensions, Mr. McIntyre maintained. Notwithstanding this they had made no move to implement their promise. He understood that other Provinces were taking advantage of the Federal increase to 75 per cent of the total payment, but this Government had not stirred a finger.

Fishermen today, Mr. McIntyre continued, are in the same predicament as are farmers, and not much can be done for the industry unless world markets are opened up. The present condition the speaker blamed on high protective tariffs.

Admitting that the unemployment relief money was difficult to handle, Mr. McIntyre maintained there had been political discrimination shown under the Conservatives for which there was no excuse.

Debtors' Issues

The Government's debenture issue to pay bank overdraft and rebuild public buildings was criticised by Mr. McIntyre. The Liberals, on the other hand had been justified in their borrowing, he said, because they found a new source of revenue in the Domestic Companies Act.

The per capita debt of the Province was shown by the speaker to be the lowest of any Province in Canada; also we have fewer municipal debts. That did not justify the borrowing of \$2,000,000 and there would be no need for this borrowing if the Bennett Government had kept its promises, Mr. McIntyre thought. We would have plenty of employment if the Liberal tariff policies had been put into effect. Mr. McIntyre boasted that if the Bennett Government or the Stewart Government went to the country now they would be badly beaten.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "You are a hard, durable road."

Secondary Roads

The condition of the secondary roads under the Liberal regime was described by Mr. Strong. One man had applied to the road superintendent to make the New Annapolis road passable and he was told to "put some wheat straw in the holes," and he would get along all right. (Laughter.)

The Ford tractors purchased by the Liberals were second hand machines and were today absolutely worthless, Mr. Strong charged.

The Liberal gravel purchases from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia meant that the money was lost to the Island people. Moreover, Mr. Strong pointed out that the imported gravel grinds together and wears and blows away, whereas the local gravel binds well and makes a

Mr. Heath Strong

Replying to some criticism of the Opposition, Mr. Heath Strong (Fourth Prince) scored the suggestion of Mr. L. E. Allen that the Premier's car should have been charged up to "technical education." Mr. Strong was surprised at this suggestion, but he recalled, on another occasion that a school of whales had been stranded in Prince County and the Liberals had charged up the cost of burying these animals to "technical education," so the member from Summerside undoubtedly had a precedent in the actions of his own party.

The charges of extravagance advanced by Mr. McIntyre were then referred to. Mr. Strong contrasted the Liberal ex-Minister's plea for economy with the statement of Mr. McIntyre before the election that the Province should "broaden out" and be prepared to spend more money. The McIntyre highway had cost \$27,000 a mile and it continued to flourish it would cost over a million dollars.

Mr. Lea: "Do you suppose we had any intention of building a road at that cost?"

Mr. Strong: "We didn't know what your intention was. You occupied the position at that time of a practical dictator. The leader of every other Government that ever came before the people had a platform, but my hon. friend, for the first time in the history of the Province, came to the people without a platform. He was bound by nothing." (Applause.)

The Last Advocate

Mr. Lea's comments on the tariff would indicate that he is "the last surviving advocate" of free trade, Mr. Strong taunted.

The loss of the Cuban and United States markets to our potato growers was referred to.

The forthcoming Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa will furnish an opportunity for pres-

ing still further for a removal of the British potato embargo, Mr. Strong said.

The importance of the poultry and silver fox industries was also strongly emphasized. The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Sharp, is President of the Canadian National Fox Breeders Association. Mr. Sharp cited the publicity which the fox industry and, incidentally, this Province, had received through the co-operation of the Association at the great British Industries Fair. He also dealt with the prospects of the fox industry and emphasized the continued necessity of breeding for quality.

Necessary Employment

The services of men sufficiently well off to possess a truck had to be engaged by the Government in order to enable the poorer men to get work on the gravel pits under the unemployment grant, Mr. Strong pointed out in defence of the Conservative policy of distributing the work under the federal grant.

Mr. McIntyre's statements notwithstanding, Mr. Strong insisted that there had been political road-work undertaken during the last provincial campaign. Mr. McIntyre stated he had written to the highway superintendent, but perhaps these instructions had not been received.

In Fourth Prince, Mr. Strong had reason to believe the Liberals got all the work and the Conservatives did not get a chance to commute their taxes.

The Opposition leader had neglected his duty, Mr. Strong charged, in the Fourth District of Prince. He cited numerous instances of work which should have been attended to in the District and which had been neglected under Liberal rule. Mr. McIntyre's criticism with respect to securing federal financial aid was dealt with.

The only money the hon. member had ever obtained during his term of office was the \$90,000 that the Hon. R. B. Bennett gave Mr. McIntyre when the Bennett Government took over the reins at Ottawa.

Conditions Compared

Mr. Strong reviewed trenchantly the conditions prevailing in Prince County Jail under the Liberal administration.

The fiasco of the Montreal detective brought here and sent home again after he had uncovered evidence which would have resulted in the conviction of several leading bootleggers, was referred to.

"Those cases," said Mr. Strong, "were adjourned to Charlottetown. The bootleggers all came down on one train in the morning; they called it the bootleggers' train; and they went back again in the evening, quite happy. There had been no trial."

"That detective," Mr. Strong charged, "had them all cold. He had the biggest bootlegger in the town cold; and they knew it. But they let him go, and that bootlegger was never caught under Liberal rule. At the time Mr. Sharp ran his by-election against Mr. Campbell, that same bootlegger went and drove voters to the Falconwood Poll on election day. Further than that, he was never fined until the other day under this Government, when he was convicted and fined \$400."

Mr. Lea: "That must have been the second offence."

Mr. Strong: "All this time my hon. friend from Rustico was 'standing by.' They dismissed all these cases right under his eyes. The hon. gentleman told us the other night that they drink whiskey by the glass down in Rustico. I don't know about Rustico, but I do say that if he wouldn't stand by so much and get busy he would get some of these fellows behind the bars where they deserve to be."

Liberal Methods

The Liberals when they came into power had filled the jails "until the bootleggers' feet hung out the windows." Then, in the last year of their regime they passed a "Ticket of Leave Act" "to let them out the back door."

The Chairman of the Liberal Prohibition Commission, Mr. Strong declared, was well known to be one of the strongest Liberal partisans in the County, and if there was one thing more than anything else which had brought about the defeat of the Liberal Government it was the partisan way in which that Commission did its work.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, had appointed a man on the Commission from Prince County who in 1927 had supported the Liberal party.

The Liberals, Mr. Strong continued, "had inaugurated the Prince Edward Island navy and they built the first boat in O'Leary where you could not float a tarpaulin." This boat was intended to enforce Prohibition and it was hauled overland and tied up at a wharf.

"They put a good Liberal in charge, paid him \$75 a month. He was there for three months and I don't think he even landed a bottle of liquor. The whole cost was \$800. She stood at the wharf like a ship of state. They might as well have sent up the member from Rustico and added him to the crew. She was 'standing by' just as the was doing in Charlottetown."

Mr. Strong then took up the financial situation, showing the extent to which the Liberals had increased the debt and how they had then appealed to the people without a platform.

Mr. Lea had made reference to the slim margin of votes obtained by some Conservative members. Mr.

Livestock Encouragement

Mr. Strong agreed with Mr. Lea that the Government should make a strong effort to encourage live stock and dairy production. He was a strong believer in the advantages of these lines of production.

The very best type of cattle should be produced by our farmers, he continued. Scrub cattle are not worth raising and this fact should be emphasized. He instanced the success of dairy farmers at Bedouque this year.

While cheese seems to be going off the market so far as this province is concerned, we can confidently look to better prices in but-

Strong turned the tables by citing Mr. Lea's own majority. "A little smaller margin would have put the hon. member from Rustico in the Opposition leader's chair tonight," he said. "It would have put several other members on that side of the House out in the cold. So I think honors are pretty nearly even on that question."

The people in Summerside were quite able to fill the vacant Public Works portfolio with the proper man, and they were in no doubt as to the political party to which he belonged, Mr. Strong said in conclusion.

MR. J. J. LARABEE

Mr. J. J. Larabee, who followed Mr. Strong, congratulated the Speaker and referred fittingly to the death of Hon. P. A. Scully and Hon. Leonard McNeill.

Admitting that the Liberals had spent "considerable money" during their term of office, Mr. Larabee maintained that these expenditures were justified and challenged the Conservatives to name any expenditures which should not have been made. He instanced roads and bridge work done by the Liberals in his own constituency.

With regard to gravel, Mr. Larabee believed that there was little difference in the results obtained from imported and local gravel. Both kinds gave satisfaction in his district.

The low price of agricultural products was referred to. This brought the speaker to the tariff question and to the subject of Reciprocity.

If anyone needed protection today it was the farmers and not the millionaire manufacturers, he said. Mr. Larabee cited prices previously paid for farm commodities and the more reasonable rates at which farm implements could then be purchased. Premier Bennett's "blasting powder" had been of no benefit to our farmers, he maintained.

The low price of eggs was referred to especially by the speaker, who said this product should now be selling at 40 cents a dozen.

The Conservative platform had been largely borrowed from the Liberal policies, Mr. Larabee maintained. Their promise to enforce Prohibition had not been carried out. He instanced the disturbance in the jails. The Government had even had a fire in one of the jails, "the same as they had in nearly all their public buildings," Mr. Larabee added that he did not wish to blame the Government for the Falconwood and College fires.

The Falconwood fire investigation had revealed only one thing—that there was carelessness on somebody's part. When the firemen had arrived certain members of the staff who should have been on duty could not be found.

Mr. Larabee disapproved of the appointment of a Purchasing Agent and enlarged in the dangers of placing the temptation to "graft" within any person's power. The agent appointed, he said, had been a strong Conservative worker.

MR. THOMAS McNUTT

Congratulations to the Speaker and to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne were tendered by the next speaker, Mr. Thomas MacNutt. Mr. MacNutt also expressed deep regret at the death of the late Hon. Mr. McNeill.

The Opposition leader was commended upon his fair remarks on the Draft Address.

During the past four years the Province had gone in debt to the tune of \$1,331,581. Had the Liberals been returned to office and carried on at the same extravagant rate, what would be the situation in another four years time? That was a matter for the people to consider. The opinion is general, Mr. McNutt believed, that the situation would be very much worse than it is today.

The importance of agriculture was strongly urged by Mr. McNutt, who expressed the hope that everything possible would be done by the Government to encourage this industry. He agreed with the Opposition leader that dairying was of outstanding importance.

He was gratified to note that the standard of our cheese and butter has been well maintained.

The difficulty experienced in marketing potatoes owing to the financial depression in other countries, was discussed. The potato slump has shown that it is unwise to place all our eggs in one basket. The policy of mixed farming is, after all, the best.

The bonus paid to encourage horse breeding in the Province was spoken of approvingly; also the assistance given to the boys and girls livestock clubs, which was having a very beneficial effect.

Our farmers today are desirous of working on the roads to enable them to buy the necessities of life, and the speaker believed it would be wisdom on the part of the Government to economize on road ma-

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The farmers would sooner pay a reasonable tax than see the Province go bankrupt, he thought. Yet during the years the farmers were able to pay their taxes the Conservatives had reduced taxes to the extent of \$360,000.

Mr. Campbell defended the poll tax and regretted the opposition to it by the Conservatives.

If there ever was a time in the history of the Province when our claims should be pressed upon the Dominion Government it was at this particular time, Mr. Campbell continued, (applause from Mr. LePage). The farmers were encouraged to believe that this would be done, he declared.

If the Conservatives can now economize on road expenditures, they can give the credit to the Liberal Government which had done so much excellent work on the roads during the past four years.

He would not be surprised if some of the Conservatives were afraid to go to bed at night, Mr. Campbell said, for fear they might see the ghosts of people to whom they had promised old age pensions.

Mr. Campbell was surprised at the reading by Mr. Bethune of a letter of a Liberal member (Mr. B. W. LePage) to an elector. Every member, he thought, might be placed in "the same position." If every member did not write the same kind of letter, they had all promised "pretty much the same thing." It was hardly fair to mention personal matters of this kind in the House, he argued.

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Deep regret at the passing of Hon. Mr. McNeill was expressed by the next speaker Hon. Mr. Walter MacKenzie.

He had every respect for Mr. Lea as a farmer, Mr. McKenzie said, but when he heard the Opposition leader stand up and say this Province is in a satisfactory condition financially he could not accept the statement. At 10:50 Mr. McKenzie moved the adjournment of the debate.

CONCERN FELT

(Continued from Page 1)

Irish Free State that "the constitution being the people's constitution, anything affecting it belongs to internal sovereignty and is a purely domestic matter. But besides these legal and constitutional considerations there is another paramount consideration more than sufficient in itself to make the Government's decision final and irrevocable. The people declared their will without ambiguity. The abolition of the oath was the principal and paramount issue before the electorate. The oath has been the cause of all the strife and dissension in the Irish Free State since the signing of the treaty. The people, and not merely those who supported the government, regard it as an intolerable burden, a relic of medievalism and a test imposed from outside by threats of immediate and terrible war." And, mak-

ing his first speech in the Irish Senate, Mr. De Valera echoed "We got a mandate from the people and that mandate we intend to carry out. There is an overwhelming majority of people in this country who want to remove that obstacle (the oath) to permanent peace."

Dulanty's statement did not mention the land annuities, but the position has been taken in the Irish Free State that the annuities are not mentioned in the treaty and that the Government of Ireland Act in 1920 made them the property of the Irish Parliament.

As the British Parliament will rise next Thursday until April 5, it is considered unlikely there will be a full debate on the situation before Easter. But that such debate must be held was taken for granted tonight.

When the Statute of Westminster, giving the Dominions the right to enact legislation without regard to its possible repugnance from the standpoint of the United Kingdom, was before the House of Commons, a group of critics, of whom the principal was Winston Churchill, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, held its passage would permit De Valera to abolish the oath unilaterally.

BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 22. (A.P.)—Sir Dawson Bates, Home Minister, announced in Parliament today that the Government had placed a ban on Republican demonstrations in Northern Ireland during the Easter holidays. The Home Minister said such demonstrations were likely to create a breach of the peace.

Sir Dawson was asked by a Nationalist member for removal of posters in Newry advertising a meeting to commemorate "the men who died for Ireland."

The Minister replied that the meeting would not be allowed.

NEW ENEMY

(Continued from Page 1)

ported last week. E. Korchlin, French Consul General, was one who died of the disease. Steamers entering and leaving Shanghai are required to take special precautions against smallpox, while Hong Kong has ordered that all persons arriving there from Shanghai must be vaccinated before they may enter the port.

Famine

Famine, not a new condition in China frequently visited by drought and floods, has driven the people again to eating the bark of trees and the chaff of threshed grain and weeds, said Sir John Hope-Simpson, British director of the China famine commission. The income from special Chinese taxes for relief of sufferers from last year's floods in the Yangtze Valley has been cut from \$750,000 to \$175,000 a month as a result of the hostilities, Sir John said. The crisis required desperate measures. The commission is forced to depend almost entirely on the sale of wheat, donated to the food relief organization, for income and must raise much more money, he said. John D. Rockefeller has been asked to give \$1,000,000 to be matched by public subscription.

Floods Feared

Unless the dykes on which nearly 500,000 flood victims are employed are rebuilt within three months, there are likely to be new disastrous floods similar to those of last year, a complaint against Japanese air patrols continuing to fly over the area behind the Chinese lines was filed with the League of Nations enquiry commission by twenty-five British and United States residents of Shanghai. From Soochow came reports of Japanese air raids, with the wounding of a peasant couple by a flying Japanese machine-gunner over Hangchow. Japanese aviators denied they had fired on Hangchow or any other Chinese position since the cessation of hostilities. Dr. M. F. Young of the Presbyterian Mission at Soochow, however, said the low-flying planes menaced safety and created a state of tension. Japanese army officials said they had no intention of stopping the patrols, which were merely watching Chinese military operations, until a truce is finally effected.

Ice Conditions

(Canadian Press)

MONTREAL, Que., March 22.—Ice conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence were very satisfactory, according to a survey made between March 17 and today by the C. G. S. Montcalm. Little heavy ice was reported in the ship lane through the Cabot Straits.

In the narrowest part of the Straits between St. Paul Island, just north of Cape Breton, and Cape Ray, Newfoundland, the Montcalm reported open water from a point eighteen miles southeast of St. Paul to about four miles off Cape Ray.

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No More "Monuments"

"There is one thing we will have to cut out," Mr. McNutt continued. "That is the raising of costly and extravagant highways as monuments to our public men. If monuments are to be built, I think they should be placed in our cemeteries." (Applause.)

Mr. McNutt warmly approved of the appointment of Hon. Dr. MacMillan to the portfolio of Public Health and Education.

Criticism had been offered to the effect that the Conservatives had not implemented their election platform. Mr. McNutt was confident that at the opportune time every plank in that platform will be implemented. At present it will take all the thought and attention of the Government to rebuild, in a manner adequate to the needs of today and of future generations as well, the public buildings which have recently been destroyed by fire. The Government's ambition in this regard, he thought, should be such that it can be said of them as was said of the Confederation Fathers: "Providence being their guide, they builded better than they knew."

In conclusion Mr. McNutt dealt eloquently with the reputation and record of his District which was one, he said, of which any representative might well be proud.

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