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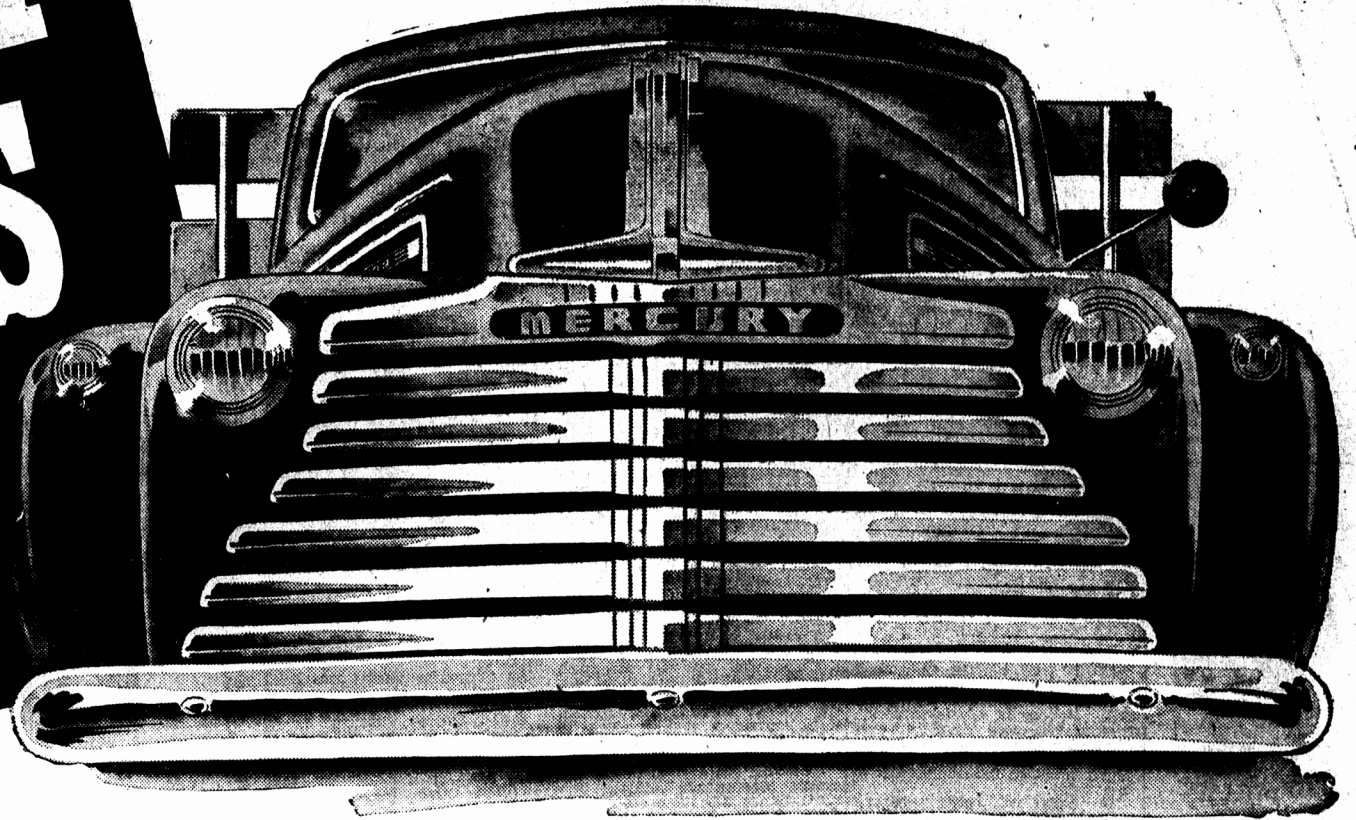
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HOUSE IN COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 9)

Mr. Bell: "Then I would ask how many receive travelling expenses?"
Mr. Hughes: "Four, I would say."

Mr. Bell: "To my mind there are only three men entitled to get paid: Mr. Gallant, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wright."

Mr. Hughes: "Those are the only ones. Portfolio members get \$50 and nothing else."

Mr. Bell said that the member for Charlottetown also got travelling expenses. Five members of the Government were residing in the city and none of these was entitled to expenses for travelling across the street to attend Government meetings, he maintained.

Hon. Mr. Hughes: "That is not for attending Government meetings. It is for the ordinary expenses throughout the year."

Mr. Bell: "Where do you travel?"
Mr. Hughes: "I travel 12,000 miles every year on Government business."

Mr. Bell: "You should have a separate item for travelling."

After further discussion on this point, Mr. Bell made a motion which was defeated, to have the system changed.

Deputies' Salaries

Hon. Dr. MacMillan called attention to the inequality in the salaries of deputies.

The Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and Public Works get \$2,500 each; the secretary of Education \$2,400; the Deputy Minister of Welfare, \$2,300; the Deputy Provincial Treasurer \$2,200. Those with the longest record were the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Agriculture. Why were men brought into other departments at higher salaries? he asked.
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "That is what they are getting. That is all I can tell you. In the case of Col. Fielding, Deputy Minister of Welfare, he said it was customary to take service men back after being discharged, and his salary was the same as the total amount he formerly received."
Mr. R.R. Bell said he understood the dairy superintendent and field representatives in the Department of Agriculture had received increases in salaries, but not the Deputy Minister. Why was this, he asked. The Deputy was doing a splendid job, and was in a position of great responsibility. He should be the first to have his salary raised.
Hon. Dr. MacMillan also urged the claims of the Deputy Ministers of both Public Works and Agriculture.
Mr. R.R. Bell said there was an understanding that when the Province gets a settlement at Ottawa, there will be some adjustment made in some of the salaries.
Hon. Mr. Stewart: "The idea that when we get a substantial increase from Ottawa there would be a revision upwards."
Dr. MacMillan: "The mistake was made when you appointed new Ministers at higher salaries."
There was further discussion on this point, several salary discrepancies being pointed out by the Opposition.
Mr. Strong called attention to a discrepancy of \$875 in the Public Accounts with regard to teachers' superannuation fund. Hon. Mr. Hughes explained that this represented a payment to the director of education to bring him under the fund.

Everything was settled years ago. Here we are going to expend \$10,000 this year, and next year, and so on. I think it is a waste of revenue."
Premier Jones: "Why should the Dominion Government subsidize it then? Because we are paying only one-quarter of the survey."
Dr. MacMillan: "The Dominion Government is paying three quarters?"
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "This represents about 25 per cent of the cost of a proposed survey of the Island. The Dominion is doing the rest."
Dr. MacMillan: "It is going to cost this Province probably \$80,000 before it is finished."
Mr. Hughes: "\$80,000 or \$70,000 anyway."
Dr. MacMillan: "And the Federal Government three or four times that? That is \$280,000. I submit that this amount of money might have done this Province a great deal more good in some other projects."
Mr. Hunter: "Last year my hon. friend's estimate was \$30,000 or \$40,000. I asked the question. Now it is going to cost us \$80,000 or \$70,000."
Mr. Hughes: "There has been \$4,000 or \$5,000 spent in ordinary expenditure so far in the last two years."
Mr. MacKenzie moved that the item be struck out. His motion was lost on a straight party vote.
Under the item of Credit Unions, Mr. MacKenzie referred to the strong cooperative movement in his district, and to a request that all cooperative societies be under a Government office.
Mr. Speaker Cullen referred to the flourishing cooperative organization at Moreil.
Hon. Mr. Hughes said the Government had arranged to pay co-operatives and credit unions a lump sum if they would do their own auditing, and they accepted and seemed well pleased.
A motion by Mr. Bell to reduce the salary of the secretary of the Department of Reconstruction from \$2,200 to \$1,800 was defeated on a standing vote.

Cadastral Survey
Mr. R.R. Bell took exception to the provision of \$10,000 for cadastral survey.
Dr. MacMillan: "It is a land tax survey, is it not?"
Mr. Matheson: "Does it change any line fences? The people will own their own properties just the same."
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "You're right in the thick of a settled portion of the Province, but the old land lines are gone in the wooded areas."
Mr. Bell: "I don't think we have had a law suit in my experience of over twenty years in our courts."

Extra Mural Treatment
On the subject of Health Tax, Dr. MacMillan said the Government had collected \$60,000 and had spent only \$10,000 on extra mural treatment for tuberculosis victims.
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "We don't recognize that the tax was collected specifically for that purpose."
Dr. MacMillan: "You are not dealing fairly with those helpless creatures." He cited a case of a man in Charlottetown with a family of eight children, who was receiving \$50 or \$35 a month. When family allowances were introduced they cut him 50 per cent.

Public Accounts
Under the item of Dominion-Provincial tax suspension agreement, Dr. MacMillan asked for an explanation of a discrepancy in the Public Accounts to which he had previously referred, amounting to nearly a million dollars. One of these items appeared up to 1937 as a credit account against the Dominion. It so appeared in the 1945 account, but in the intervening years it was debited against the Province. This meant that the Public Accounts were incorrect for a period of eight years under Liberal financing.
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "I wouldn't say they were incorrect."
Dr. MacMillan: "I pointed it out in the Budget debate. Have I got to go over it again?"
Mr. Hughes: "I don't see any need for doing it."
Premier Jones: "You admit they are correct now?"
Dr. MacMillan: "I have got to have an explanation as to what happened between 1937 and 1938."
Mr. Hughes: "It was not treasurer then."
Dr. MacMillan: "Why did you make the change back in 1945?"
Mr. Hughes: "I didn't make the change. The auditor is responsible for the Public Accounts."
Dr. MacMillan: "The Government must accept responsibility."
Mr. Hughes: "The auditor can refuse to make a payment."
Dr. MacMillan: "The auditor is not above the Government."
Mr. Hughes: "He is a servant of the Legislature."
Dr. MacMillan: "Then I think we should have an investigation. The Government has repudiated its responsibility."
After further discussion, Mr. Hughes suggested, as a reason for the item being restored to the credit side in 1945, that "a more thorough study of the finances is now being made. If there was anything not properly stated—"
Dr. MacMillan: "You needn't mince matters. You can say it was most inaccurately stated, to the extent of over \$600,000."
At the suggestion of Mr. Eugene Cullen the provincial auditor, Mr. Massey was called. He made a statement reviewing the history of this account. It had been very much debated at the Dominion-Provincial Conference, the Dominion taking the view that it is a debt of the Province. "I think it is not a debt, and that they owe it to us," he said. He did not think he could elaborate on the matter at present, but in his opinion this amount was not due to the Dominion Government.
Dr. MacMillan: "I quite agree with that."
Premier Jones requested the leader of the Opposition, in view of Mr. Massey's statement and the fact that the matter was up for

discussion at Ottawa to "let it stand as it is."
Dr. MacMillan agreed to do so, "for the present."
Mr. Bell was overruled on a point of order when he asked the auditor to say he thought of the practice of putting P.E.I. bonds in the provincial sinking funds.
Naval Barracks
Mr. Bell asked for information regarding the arrangement in renting the Naval Barracks to the Dominion Government.
Hon. Mr. Barbour: "We gave it to them for \$100 a month, which is about one-third of what we should have got for it. We asked them last July for \$300 and they didn't answer, so we sent their cheque back."
Mr. Bell: "Do you expect to collect it?"
Mr. Barbour: "We may have to give it to a lawyer to collect."
Mr. Bell asked for an explanation of the item in capital revenue of \$20,000 for Fishermen's Loans.
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "It is a revolving fund."
Mr. Bell: "Every other year we had a Fishermen's Loan Board report tabled. We have none this year."
Mr. Hughes: "It was an oversight of mine, for which I am responsible. I have no chance now to table it."
Mr. Bell: "Still and all I think we should have the report!"
Mr. Hughes: "I have admitted that."
Mr. Bell: "Still and all I think we should have it."
Mr. Strong asked if it was not possible to improve the system of collecting the tobacco tax. There was a loss of revenue through lax collection methods.
Hon. Mr. Hughes: "In reality I doubt whether it is advisable to do much at present. There is some reasonable prospect that we may be able to collect it more efficiently after the Dominion-Provincial conference."
Premier Jones: "The Provinces are fighting to put on sales taxes."
Mr. Hunter: "This work of the Legislature is out of balance. We loaf around for weeks doing very little, then we rush through estimates amounting to over three million."
Mr. Strong: "I think there should be a change too, and it would have a tendency to cut down long speeches. We know why these night sessions are held. They suppose that after the first hour or two these items will go through without too much examination."

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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