MR. A. F. ARSENAULT ON DRAFT ADDRESS

In Speaking On The Speech From The Throne Reviewing And Commenting On The Different Departments Of Government Work.

Mr. Speaker, in rising to say a few words on this motion, I wish first to congratulate the mover, the hon. member from the Bedeque district. He has displayed to this House an extensive knowledge of political matters and given some evidence of oratory. Of course, the hon. member is not a novice in the political art. I have been associated with him on several platforms during several campaigns; and I may say that he is even a better critic. He seems to rise to higher planes of eloquence when he is criticising, and we fear him on the platform. I have no doubt that in four years' time, if he should again contest the Bedeque district and be returned to this House—even though Government Control might carry in 1929—he will acquit himself very well as a critic in the Opposition. I recall that he formerly criticised the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King in no equivocal terms, and quite as effectively as he praised him a few days ago in this House.

I wish to congratulate the seconder of the motion. He is a young man whom I have met here for the first time; and he also has displayed great knowledge of public affairs. It is encouraging to us old politicians to see young men coming in and acquitting themselves in a creditable manner in this House. Unfortunately we do not find enough of our young generation interested in learning the art of Government. That is a very important duty cast upon every one of us, to do all we can both in passing laws and having them observed. I think we can all congratulate the seconder of the motion on the able manner in which he has acquitted himself.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to tender my congratulations on having obtained this high position of Speaker. We have known you for many years in this House, and we always found in you a very popular man, yet dignified at all times; and we can expect from you fair play and justice in all debates.

We on this side of the House, as it has been remarked by the speakers who preceded me, are sorry indeed of the passing of one man who was here last year, and was so well known to all of us, in the person of the Hon. Mr. McNeill. He was the highest type of a man; endowed by nature with an attractive personality and physique. He was at all times courteous and kind; refined; a lover of the home, of family and children. In his unselfish zeal he sacrified a great many years of his life in the public service. He exposed himself in those days when automobiles were not in use, when he had to drive long distances in inclement weather, in the interests of the public. And no doubt his many exposures to the cold hastened his death. We shoulud therefore all appreciate the services given to this Province by this great and noble man.

We have also to mourn the loss of Mr. Pope; a man who spent years in Ottawa in the public service, and, when he might have retired and enjoyed a life of leisure, preferred, owing to his great love of his native Province, Prince Edward Island, to return here and labor again in the political field.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish for a few minutes to analyze the thoughts, if any, contained in the Speech from the Throne. In the first paragraph we find an expression of thanks to Divine Providence—and rightly so, for in this Province, perhaps more than in any other province or country in the world, we are blessed with those things that make for health and happiness. Our climate is healthy; we are not disturbed by earthquakes or floods, or any such calamities which often befall other countries. We have a fertile soil. Our people belong to the four principal races of the world. So we have just cause to render thanks to Divine Providence.

It is also mentioned that we are enjoying great prosperity at the present time. This, as has been claimed by many speakers, is due in some measure to the acts of governments that have preceded this present Government; and of course, I do not wish, like my hon. friends on the other side of the House, to give all the credit to the Federal Government. Surely we are entitled to some little consideration when we administered the affairs of this Province for four years, and surely they will give us some credit for having obtained or procured for this Province some amount of prosperity.

In paragraphs 3 and 4 mention is made of the distinguished visitors we had last summer. We were all delighted to have had with us His Excellency Viscount Willingdon, and to have the opportunity of expressing to him, as representative of the Crown, our loyalty and our love for the great Empire to which we belong. His visit has made us feel more strongly than ever our duty towards the Crown and towards our own Province.

We were also pleased to have as a visitor the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin. This was indeed an honor bestowed on this little Province by the Prime Minister of England. I was not here at the time, but of course I followed the speeches that were made and the description of what occurred, and I know that Premier Baldwin was well entertained. It is said that photographs were taken of him; to his right was the Right Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada; and to his left was the Acting Premier of this Province, Hon. G. S. Inman. It is strange how people, on such solemn occasions will look at those things very lightly; for one of the lookers-on remarked that that picture reminded him of the Crucifixion—and you all know the character of the ones who were crucified with our Lord.

I wish also to refer to paragraph 5, wherein the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee is made mention of. This Province is the Cradle of Confederation, and it is only right that we should have great pride in our Province and in our country. Last year I had occasion to cross this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and I was struck with the large amount and extent of our national resources. In Nova Scotia there were the fisheries and the mines; in New Brunswick, farming and lumbering in Quebec, agriculture and manufacturing centres, with Northern Quebec rich in mines and forests, and with vast water power. Ontario, with her large manufacturing and agricultural districts, the northern part rich in minerals and forests; Manitoba in wheat; Saskatchewan in wheat; Alberta, a farming province, with her many lakes and mountains, also a great mining province; and British Columbia, with her forests and fisheries, and the beauty of her mountains. Nowhere can we find a foot-of what we might call waste land; in all sections we see traces of verdure, of life; we see beauties and attractions. Nature seems to have endowed us more than any other country in the world.

I came back through the United States, and for hundreds of miles travelled through burning sands, through waste lands. But in Canada we have really a very rich country, and we therefore should be proud of our country and work one and all toward the development of our vast resources, to attain the destiny which nature has in store for us. We should all remember our history, and remember the lessons that were taught in this celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. We should recall the troubles and difficulties encountered by the Fathers of Confederation, we should all, in the different parts of Canada, have at heart the ideal to work for the development of our country. We should have the ambition to see our country great; to see our country populated by the four greatest races of the world, speaking two languages, professing two great Christian religions, adoring the one God, saluting the one flag, loving but one country—Canada!

Regarding Conferences.

In paragraph 6, mention is made of the Conference at Ottawa in 1927, whereat our good Premier and the Hon. Mr. Inman represented this Province. We have not yet been fortunate enough to see a copy of the brief which was prepared and presented there. We hope in the near future to be treated with a view of that formidable document But we recall the words spoken by our good friend the Premier last session, when he said that this granting by the Dominion Government of $125,000 as an interim payment until such time as the matter of Provincial subsidy could be thoroughly gone into and adjusted, was a "voluntary and generous gift on the part of the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King." I hope he did not repeat those words when he presented our claims,—perhaps he did. He says: "We were there for ten days, and we spoke for three hours and a half; and I wish to congratulate my colleague, Mr. Inman, who accompanied me. He made a great impression and he presented those claims eloquently. We worked together." I also wish to congratulate Mr. Inman for helping the Premier to prepare and present those claims. He has not followed the example of one of the members of the Bell Government who was referred to by Premier Bell in a confession which he made in this House, when he said: "I have done something in preparing a brief to present to Ottawa; I have written a few letters, and I have gone as far as I possibly could. **But I have not received any assistance from the legal minds on my side of the House.**" And, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the present Premier was then a "legal mind" on his side of the House.

They came back from the Conference, and as a result, it is said in the Speech from the Throne:—"We confidently anticipate"— mark the word—"that when such revision is made we will receive a very material increase in our subsidy." So they came back with "anticipations"! I hope that the Hon. Mr. Inman will continue to help the Premier to "anticipate."

We, in 1926, also attended a Conference at Ottawa, and we presented a brief, which meant considerable work. At that time a great many of those Premiers and their attendants did not know very much about our claims. We had to peruse them, had to give them facts and figures. We got them with us; we got them convinced in 1926 that we had just claims and just rights, and that we needed assistance. And since the representatives from the different provinces attending the conference of 1926 were practically the same men who attended the conference of 1927, it is quite easy to understand that they would be sympathetic from the very first, without hearing one word from the present Premier or his assistant, because they were convinced a few months before, by us.

But we came back with something more than "anticipations." We came back with $40,000—something concrete, something in cash. We adjusted this railway taxation which had been pending for some time, and which was neglected or ignored completely by Premier Bell. We came back with this much cash, and we came back also with the assurance that the report made by the Duncan Commission would be fulfilled so far as the cash subsidy was concerned; and it was.

We also made considerable progress in the transfer to the Dominion Government of our oyster beds, which had been hanging for some time. We finally got it almost settled, and no doubt, if Premier Saunders has been able to effect the transfer, that is due to our work there in some measure—a large measure, I would say. I hope, when the agreement is tabled, that we will find that all reservations that were demanded by our then Premier, Mr. Stewart, are contained in the document. I will not go into the terms of it, because I have no copy.

Paragraph 7 mentions our great basic industries; agriculture; fox farming; fisheries. Farming in this Province is a very great industry; in fact, our main industry, and the advent of the seed potato business has certainly revolutionized this little Province. Our farmers are making a large amount of money every year in that business. It should, of course, be encouraged and locked after; and I hope that the present Department will do as much work along these lines as our Department in the last four years has done; for this industry has certainly grown to large proportions, due, in the first place, to the efforts of the farmers themselves and the Potato Growers' Association. This organization has done much to foster in the minds of our farmers the idea of co-operative buying and selling, and to supply fertilizer to them at practically cost price.

Our next great branch of agriculture is fox farming. This is also in good condition. A large amount of money has been realized in the past two or three years from this industry. The farmers have found out that it is a very lucrative branch of their business.

The dairying industry is also on a sound footing, due in large measure to the efforts of the last Government in sending out a man, Mr. McDonald, to the different cheese and butter factories, in co-operating with him and seeing that the cheese makers and butter makers were properly instructed in the manufacture of their products. The industry has succeeded to such an extent that last year our butter ranked first as to quality in Canada, and our cheese second.

This shows that the Stewart Government has been an active Government, looking after the interests of the farmers and dairymen and fox ranchers.

Our Egg and Poultry Association is also on a sound footing, and is recognized as one of the best organizations of its kind in existence.

But I must say that our Fisheries are not in as thriving a condition as the other branches of our industries. Nothing seems to have been done by the Federal Government for years; because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter over which this Government has no control. The Dominion Government has entire control of the Fisheries, and it is unfortunate that nothing has been done. It is quite true that they have started some technical course at Halifax, but it will be difficult for our fishermen, who as a rule are poor, to avail themselves of the opportunity of attending such courses there.

We have heard the Premier state: "Tell me one thing that the Stewart Government has done for our farmers." And he went on to answer the statement himself in the negative. Surely that is an exaggeration! Of course, we have got to expect such statements, coming from the Premier, whom we have known for a number of years. But let us take the Dairy industry to which I referred a few minutes ago. During our term of office we were instrumental —or rather, we organized, this Disease-Free Area for the Province. It cost us about $8,000 to put it through. Our Department of Agriculture was quite active in this matter. Petitions had to be circulated throughout the Province; our Department took charge of that and also transported inspectors throughout the country. We had to pay those expenses and it amounted, as I said before, to over $8,000. This should be a great boon to the Province. It has been remarked that our trade in cattle with the United States has increased owing to the fact that we are now a Disease-Free Area.

Agriculture.

The present Minister of Agriculture says he is about to inaugurate a policy of loaning pure bred sires to Clubs for the encouragement of cattle breeding. I do not wish to say very much on this subject at present, but his system of loaning pure bred sires was the cause, a few years ago, of great difficulties and disputes; and perhaps he had better be careful before he goes too far with this new policy. I advise him to go slowly.

Paragraph 10 makes mention of the need of raising horses in this country. It is a fact that for the past few years we have been importing Western horses; and you can hardly blame our farmers for that. I know that in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta the horses are out all winter, grazing in the field. We have got to build stables for them for shelter, and feed them grain. It is easy for the Western farmer to raise a large number of horses; it is cheap, and they can sell them cheaply to us, because the freight rates over the domains of the Western Progressive farmers have been reduced by the Mackenzie King Government. The Progressives compelled him to reduce the freight rates for them, so that they could ship their horses here—which was approved also by the member from Bedeque (Mr. Wright) in 1921 during the Federal campaign. We find, as a result, that a great number of Western horses are landed here, to the great disadvantage of our Island horse-breeders. However, it should be possible to do something to encourage our farmers to at least raise a sufficient number of horses for their own use. The Minister of Agriculture is promising us some assistance. But again he had better go slowly in that direction. We recall the loss to this Province that was occasioned by his policy of importing horses here. He paid very large sums of money for them, and they were sold at a very small figure. It is hard today to find a colt in this Province from those horses.

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We find in paragraph 11 that the Department of Agriculture is initiating a policy of grading bacon hogs. That is a very laudable object, and I hope they will make our farmers realize that the more attention they give to the grading of all their products the larger their profits will be. It is stated that voluntary grading, which was encouraged by us for four years, has proved to be of great benefit to our farmers. Now, as soon as the present Minister comes back to office, he is not satisfied with voluntary grading, but he wants compulsory grading. He is a great believer in compulsion. When he was in office under the Bell Government I remember that he told the people he would not hesitate to compel them, even if they had to have their noses held and the medicine put down their throats. I hope the hon. gentleman will not go too far along this line again, but will try to exercise a little more persuasion and keep at the voluntary grading and encourage it right along; and perhaps, after a few years, there will be no need of compulsion.

The Minister also informs us in the Speech from the Throne that he visited England. We have not heard him yet, but I presume that we will see some benefit deriving from that visit. There should be. For instance, he tells us that he was looking at the requirements of the British markets. This in itself is a very large subject. Fortunately the merchants here have been preaching to our farmers the requirements of those markets; that they will not buy hogs of a certain type for those markets and that it is necessary to breed the proper stock. Perhaps some more information can be given by the Minister after his visit to those places.

He also looked into the progressive methods of agriculture in Denmark; another big subject. But, Mr. Speaker, the farms there are very small. Conditions are different in that country, and perhaps we should go a little slowly in adopting too many of those measures. However, we shall wait and see what our hon. friend's policy really is along those lines.

He also interested himself in immigration, which is a very big subject, too. But I think we should devote our attention to educating our young boys and girls to remain at home. We have more possibilities here than in many other provinces of Canada, and it is strange that our young men and young women do not realize it. I hope that in the near future they will. I know many young men in this Province who made considerable money in planting a few acres with potatoes and turnips, or in buying a pair or two of foxes, and they are now well on the road to prosperity. If our young people would remain here I think that by working assiduously they should become as prosperous as our boys who have left here and gone abroad. Of course, we can assimilate some immigrants, and it was quite proper for Mr. Lea to take this matter up while in England. **I wonder if he met his acquaintance, Andrew Fraser Mitchell, while over there.** Perhaps we will get some information as to his doings along that line. I hope he has not signed any options on his farm, or anything like that.

Technical education is mentioned in paragraph 13 of the Speech. This is very interesting to those of us who recall the debates of 1923, when the Technical School seeemed to be the big dream of the Minister of Agriculture. Everything had to be "technical" with the Minister in those days; in fact, he became so technical that he wasn't understood during the campaign. We find that owing to the discontinuance of the technical grant we had to discontinue that institution, which, of course was doing a lot of good. It was intended, however, for a large province—for a large centre of population. We retained what we thought was practical in the courses for our farmers here. The Premier says that in that institution they had the latest methods of making cheese and butter. Well, we found that they had the machinery there, but they had no milk. We thought that was not very practical, and instead of that we encouraged those teachers not to stay here in Charlottetown teaching a few only, but to go out to the country and give short courses; and we financed this work by means of the technical grant. It proved of great benefit to a large number of our farmers, and it was certainly better than this so-called latest method of making butter and cheese—without milk!

We also found that the Technical School was too expensive to operate. We simply had to discontinue it, and we got, as a matter of fact, better results, after a couple of years, with those short courses. We found that our butter came up to first quality in Canada and our cheese second; which shows that our system was better than the methods used by our predecesosrs.

Paragraph 14 deals with the Fox Industry. During the four years of our regime we gave this industry very careful consideration and study. We were fortunate in having with us a great rancher and a man who knew every phase of the fox and pelt business, in the person of the hon. member from Charlottetown, Mr. McLure. The Premier today has suggested that perhaps he (Mr. McLure) would give us some more information about the fox industry. No doubt Mr. McLure will oblige him and will give him information that will be helpful to his Government, in the next four years.

It will be recalled that during the Bell administration the fox ranchers were practically always in difficulty over taxation of foxes, and it was even settled that every pair of foxes should be taxed to the amount of $350. We changed that during our term of office, because foxes are foxes, and some pairs may be worth a lot of money while others may be worth considerably less. We showed to the fox ranchers that we wanted to be reasonable and fair, and collect taxes where taxes should be paid, and only then. We also were the first Government to take up this industry and recognize it by voting a large grant in the interests of the fox business. We were instrumental also in having a fox experimental station located in this Province, and we were willing to spend the sum of $5,000 in order to encourage this enterprise. So it must be admitted that the Stewart Government did something substantial for the fox industry.

Education.

Paragraph 16 deals with Education. It is strange that the members of this Government should claim so much credit for having placed the Department of Education in a satisfactory condition. Complaints are even now being made. We recall, Mr. Speaker how these struggles which are now complained of, arose. We need only have to go as far back as 1919. In that campaign Mr. Bell preached that the teachers should get more money, but that there was enough money, if economy were practised, to pay them out of our then revenue. A plebiscite was introduced by Premier Arsenault, and was voted down owing to the fact that Mr. Bell and many of his supporters preached this doctrine that there was sufficient money to pay the teachers if economy was practised. That, I say, was the first cause of these struggles that we still have complained about. In 1920, when Mr. Bell came into power, he had to pay the teachers; they went on strike and he was forced to pay them higher salaries. To do that, as we know, they raised the taxes; and yet the teachers are not receiving sufficient remuneration.

Now we have been looking after Education in the past four years in just as effective a manner as the Bell Government and, I will venture to say, better than this Government will do in the next four years. We spent more money than our predecessors did on Education; last year we spent some $12,000 more than in the preceding years, and we got results from that increased expenditure.

They speak about increasing the number of inspectors. That was our policy as announced in this House last year, and it has been the policy of the Conservative Government for years. It was Premier Mathieson who made it possible for the appointment of nine school inspectors, and it has been our policy right along. At times we only had five because we could not afford any more, but with the additional $125,000 that was promised to us last year from the Federal Government we were able to announce in our platform last summer that we were going to put four more inspectors on, bringing the total number up to nine inspectors—the same policy exactly as my hon. friends are now boasting of having inaugurated.

There is another matter that was boasted of today by speakers from the other side of the House. That is with regard to their attitude towards Public Health. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is very becoming to the Premier and to some of his Cabinet Ministers who were here during the session of 1916. When the War and Health Tax was suggested Premier Bell and his followers opposed it. They would not even allow a small item to be paid that had been advanced for the construction of a sanatorium and they criticized the donor of that great institution, so much needed at that time. They hounded Sir Charles Dalton, this great benefactor to the Province, who did not hesitate to give of his own money and time to construct that institution for the benefit of those poor unfortunate beings who were afflicted with this dread disease. They criticized the building of the institution, and when they came in, in 1920, they allowed it to go to ruin; they did nothing for it; handed it back to Mr. Dalton. And today, the Premier says, there are 100 people or more dying yearly in this Province from the effects of that disease.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the action—or rather the inaction—of Premier Bell and his Government is the cause of a great many of those 100 people dying yearly from tuberculosis. If they had paid some attention and some money, as the Conservatives wanted them to do, to establishing and maintaining a sanatorium or place where tuberculosis could be looked after and cured, we would not have such a large number of deaths from that disease today. They are responsible in a large measure for the neglect of public health. No doubt today there are many dependent children crying aloud and accusing the memory of the late Bell Government in that respect. And there are many graves today that are shaming the memory of that Government for its neglect and calling to their successors to look more faithfully after our public health.

It is surely not very becoming in them, after criticizing for years the paltry sums we were spending on this most important matter, to say that they are now going to do something. The Stewart Government did recognize the need of some encouragement to public health organizations, and we increased the grant to such institutions as the Hospitals, Canadian Red Cross. We expended as much as $3,500 a year. But what did the Bell Government ever do? They refused any assistance. We, as I said, increased those grants during our term of office.

Another matter to which we paid attention was the noble institutions for looking after the welfare of delinquent children. Unfortunately we have too many of these cases in our larger centres, and the Stewart Government, from a sense of duty, voted grants to assist in this work, so that a great many delinquent boys and young men, who perhaps, if they had the chance, would go straight, are now being shown the way. If they are caught in committing breaches of the law such as petty thieving they are punished, but not by being placed with criminals in the dark cells of the jail, where they would hear nothing but vulgar cursing and swearing, and have examples before them that would not tend to their moral uplift. They are not placed there, but they are sent to Reformatories, where they learn to behave, and a large number of them return cured, better citizens, with a desire to live properly and prove an asset to their country instead of a cause of shame.

But what do we find today? I am credibly informed that this present Government is not willing to continue to pay the fees to these Reformatories. If they will not pay the amounts required, those children will not be sent there. In other words, when a child is convicted of a small offence, when he is starting on the way to the commission of big crimes by committing his first offence, the magistrate sentences him to a Reformatory; but he cannot go there. He will get perhaps a suspended sentence, because there is no place to send him. He will go unpunished and sooner or later he will commit other offences, because one of the greatest things to deter these young people from committing further offences was the fact that they would be sent away for some months, perhaps years, to a reformatory. If those young people are allowed to go at liberty after committing their first offence, the Children's Aid Society might as well stop their efforts, because the result will be nil.

The Road Policy.

My hon. friends also talk about their new road policy. They say their policy is to build up the approaches to the towns and villages and shipping centres. Well, that is exactly the policy introduced by us. We wanted to build up those approaches to the towns and shipping centres, because of late years, owing to the auto traffic and to the number of large shipments of potatoes, we are called upon to have bettter roads to meet these transportaion problems. This was the policy of the late Government. We inaugurated a system for the gravelling of those roads approaching the towns and shipping points. We ordered considerable gravel last year. It was late in the year, and, of course, the proper time to spread that gravel is in the Spring or Fall of the year, when the land gets a little moister and it is not wasted. So it has been the privilege of the Liberal Government last Fall to spread some of our gravel on these roads.

I might mention some of the roads where, in order to make a big showing, they spread the gravel so thin that the road masters had to keep the hens off the road in case they might pick it up and cause the gravel to disappear in a few minutes. It was entirely too thin, and the work was entirely lost.

A MEMBER: Where was that—what road?

MR. ARSENAULT: From Summerside to Read's Corner is one place. There were other places. We heard for the last four years the Leader of the Government criticize the Western Road and the alder bushes on it. Really, it was beautiful to hear him! He used to waste half an hour of the time of this House describing the condition of that road—a road, he said, which improved with age under the Bell Government. Today, when they are promising to make our roads more permanent, perhaps they intend to pursue that policy of letting the roads improve with age; so that if they wait long enough, and do nothing, the roads will become better and better, according to their standard.

My hon. friends complain of the great rainstorm of last Fall, when many bridges were destroyed. Yes! It was unfortunate that the Stewart Government did not stay in power until after the rainstorm, and fix up those bridges, because our people might have had the convenience of travelling two or three weeks sooner than they did. I know a bridge on the road from Summerside to Kensington and it was up for—I will say—five weeks. Perhaps my hon. friend will say six or seven.

HON. MR. McINTYRE: I know a lot that were up all summer.

MR. ARSENAULT: It was broken perhaps the first of September—not before that. I went over it later; I can verify the date for the Minister, as I see he is interested. It was open, and we had to go across the field, or rather take another road that was not very good; it was a by-road. That bridge was up for five or six weeks while they were hauling produce. It was really disgraceful. Of course, last Fall was a very rainy Fall, but at the same time, instead of employing contractors who had experience, and who had been building our bridges and knew the proportion of cement and sand to put in, they went around looking for some political friends of theirs, and it took them a great deal longer to build a bridge than otherwise was needed. In certain localities, it might be, they had no friends and they had to go to some other localities for them. I know in my own district there have been complaints that the work cost entirely too much.

I hope that they will be able to give us better roads now that they have $125,000 more to spend than we had. It is just a question of money, so far as I can see. So far as their policy is concerned, it is just the same as our policy for the last four years, and it a very good policy.

So far as Prohibition is concerned, I do not wish to waste much time discussing it. I have talked until I was blue in the face during the campaign, and so did the members opposite. The Premier has charged us that we cannot point to one word to show that our policy was misrepresented by my hon. friends. Well, perhaps that is again an exaggeration! I was present at several meetings, where both the Premier and the senior member from Summerside were present; at one meeting in particular. And do you know, I was frightened myself to hear those gentlemen speak. "Just imagine, if this liquor—this free rum policy—is inaugurated," he said. "Why, it will not be safe to go anywhere with a car. You will meet drunks coming, and they will run right for you and put you in the ditch. It will not be safe at all, and you farmers will be forced to stay at home. And there will be rum shops at every cross roads." That is one of the statements he made.

Then he would cite a case in Kansas City, or some place, where a man driving a car ran over a nurse who was looking after some sick people, and she was killed, and they found two bottles of whiskey in the car. And he would go on to say that some years ago there were lots of people lying drunk in the ditches and drains, and all that kind of thing. We all know that. We all agree on Temperance and the evils of drunkenness. We formulated a policy in the interests of true Temperance, and were sincere about it. The people have said what they wanted. Perhaps they were influenced by those misrepresentations. It is quite possible that they frightened the mothers by telling them: "Your sons will come home drunk, and your young children," and all that sort of thing. At any rate, the people have said that they want Prohibition. We are quite willing to take their verdict. A good many people have said to me: "Well, we can wait two years for Government Control." I even heard a doctor say that liquor was a narcotic—that it was no good for medicine at all. In that case I might suggest that the Premier take the matter up with the Commission, and if that gentleman does not need a prescription book it might be distributed among the rest of the doctors in Summerside. Of course, they had better give him a book before Christmas!

Of course, my hon. friends have only been in power for a few

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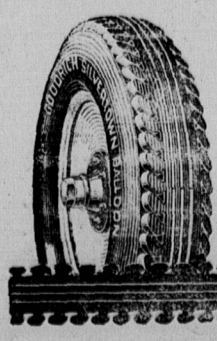

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