

# DEBATE ON THE DRAFT ADDRESS CLOSES

## "Rigid Economy" Urged In Maiden Speeches By Messrs. McIsaac & Baker

### Throne Speech Analyzed In Commandatory Terms By Government Supporters From First Kings And Fourth Prince.

Maiden speeches strongly indorsing fulfillment of the "economy" pledges of the Campbell Government were made in the Legislature yesterday by Messrs. P. A. McIsaac, First Kings, and C. C. Baker, Fourth Prince, mover and second respectively of the Draft Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Excepting the Premier, they were the only speakers in the debate, which was brought to a close shortly before 6 p. m. when the House adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

#### MR. MCISAAC'S ADDRESS

Mr. Speaker: In rising to move the debate on the Draft Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I wish first to congratulate you on your appointment to the Speaker's Chair. Your position is a responsible one, and I bespeak for you the co-operation of my fellow members. I am confident your rulings will be just and impartial, and such as to eliminate discord throughout the session.

Our congratulations are also due to the Hon. Mr. LePage on his well merited appointment to President of the Executive Council and to the Hon. Mr. Dennis, another of the veterans of our House, on his appointment to the Portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, and to our newest member Mr. Horace Wright, who recently won his bye-election in Prince County.

I must also express my appreciation of the honor which has been conferred upon me in my being selected to make the motion, though at the same time I must acknowledge it is with a certain amount of fear and trembling I approach this—my first speech in the Prince Edward Island Legislature.

I wish also, Mr. Speaker, to make fitting reference to the losses our people have sustained in the many deaths of only recent date, and to pay my humble tribute to the memory of these illustrious dead.

First, in the passing of our gracious Sovereign, the late King George V., Prince Edward Island in common with the rest of the empire and the world at large has sustained a grievous loss. A noble King who did his duty nobly has gone. We revere his memory, and are happy in the thought that he now enjoys the reward of a kindly life well spent. To our new Sovereign, King Edward VIII., who, we are sure, will not be less great than his father, we renew our pledge of loyalty, and pray that he may enjoy a long and glorious reign.

We have suffered a more immediate loss in the death of our late lamented Premier, the Honourable Walter M. Lea, an eminent citizen, a stalwart Liberal and a noble man. Our party grieves the passing of an able leader, and extends to his family the deepest sympathy. His mantle of Premier-ship falls upon worthy shoulders in the Honourable Thane A. Campbell, who, we are sure, will prove as true to the principles of Liberalism and to the interests of our country as did his predecessor.

To the families of the late Hon. Cyrus Crosby and the late Senator MacLean we extend our sympathy. The one a member of the Local House and Minister of Public Works for many years, and the other a Local and Federal Member, and a Senator for an even longer period, these two gentlemen served their country faithfully and well, and, passing on, ripe with years and achievement, will occupy honored places in our memory.

Lastly, to our fellow member, and my worthy colleague, Mr. H. H. Acorn, we offer condolence on the recent death of his wife, and trust that "time will heal the scar so lately made."

#### Agriculture and Fishing

And now, Mr. Speaker, to proceed as rapidly as possible to the business of our Session. It is most gratifying to me, a farmer, to note that the Speech from the Throne referred in very definite terms to a deep consideration of the problems of the farmer, the fisherman and the fox-rancher. I note also, with approval, that strict economy was to be the watchword of the present Session. May I say, however, Mr. Speaker, that prudent expenditures in the departments having to do with farming and fishing might well in themselves be an economy. Our farmers have passed through six lean years. Now, apparently, the sun of prosperity is again on the ascent. Our Federal Government has ably assisted its rising with the recent negotiation of the Trade Treaty with the United States. Great advantages have existed for our people in trade with the United States, but heretofore they have been prevented from reaping the benefit of the advantages by various American tariffs and embargoes. These trade barriers have to a certain extent been removed. Let us now do our part in giving the sun of prosperity a further boost upward by wise consideration and assistance in the departments which most need it. For example, in the departments of dairying, poultry raising and hog-raising, which to my mind has al-

ways represented the trinity of successful farming, vast possibilities now exist for Prince Edward Island farmers. Hard work on their part, which is, of course, taken for granted, along with prudent legislation and education on ours, should relieve the distress of six long years' standing and put the farmer again on the road of prosperity, which is his due. The fishing industry too, as I have said claims our attention, and it is our duty to search into every available means whereby the lot of the fisherman, which has not been less hard than that of the farmer, be improved as speedily as possible.

#### Seconds Address



MR. C. C. BAKER  
Fourth District of Prince

ple of Prince Edward Island saw fit to elect us without the usual accompaniment of an Opposition, they placed in our hands unusual authority. History was made in Prince Edward Island that day. It was a situation unique in the annals of democratic government. Now the time has come when we, as a body, are to make use of that authority, vested in us by the voters of Prince Edward Island. The eyes of the public of Prince Edward Island, and of Canada, are upon us, noting how we shall fare with no precedent to guide us. We must move carefully. Mr. Speaker, always remembering that unstinted authority may easily run wild. We must conduct ourselves and the business of our Session in such a manner as to prove that lack of an official Opposition does not presuppose unequipped government, and so as to cast no shadow on the fair record of Liberalism in Prince Edward Island, or on the fair name of British Democracy.

#### MR. C. C. BAKER

Mr. Speaker: In rising to second the Draft address from the Throne first, Sir, I must endorse the sentiments of the Mover by congratulating you on the honor conferred on you in receiving this appointment and I have every confidence in your ability to fulfill the arduous duties which will be yours, with dispatch and prestige.

I would also like to congratulate the Honourable William H. Dennis, the Veteran of the House, on his appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture, which position I have every reason to believe he will fill with efficiency and dignity and I would like to take this opportunity of reminding the Honourable gentleman that his Department is of paramount importance to the prosperity of our Province.

Then again, I would like to congratulate my colleague of the Fourth District of Prince on his recent election as representative of this banner Agricultural District. I feel that it is an honor to have a man of Mr. Wright's calibre as a colleague.

My next duty Mr. Speaker, is not a pleasant one, when I take this opportunity of extending my sincere sympathy to our fellow member, Mr. H. H. Acorn, in the recent bereavement he has suffered in the loss of his beloved life partner. I know that he has the condolence of every member of this Legislature.

We most humbly and sincerely accept the courtesy of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in extending to the Members of the Legislative Assembly his gracious thanks for their attendance here today and trust that the Legislative measures passed at this Forty-third General Assembly shall meet with His Honour's gracious approval.

Since the last meeting of the Legislature of our Province, we, as well as all other peoples of this great British Empire, have been called upon to mourn the death of our Beloved Sovereign, King George the Fifth, who, for the past quarter of a century has guided the destinies of our Nation with valour and graciousness in a sufficient degree, to win the loyalty and love of all his subjects, evidence of which has been manifest by an ardent desire to hear his voice over the air in his Christmas Messages seeking the Blessing of Divine Providence for his subjects.—"We truly mourn him." But we feel joyful that we have in the person of His Royal son, King Edward the Eighth, a young Monarch who has inherited all the virtues of an illustrious father.—"Long and wisely may he reign over us."

#### Death of Premier Lea

On January 10th, 1936, our Province as a whole and this Legislative body in particular met an irreparable loss in the passing of the Honourable Walter M. Lea, Premier of the Province. A man of indefatigable spirit and unalloyed reputation, honoured and respected by all, whose arduous work and untiring efforts for the welfare of our Province most certainly hastened its untimely end.

The late Mr. Lea was a man of outstanding ability, not only in public life but also in the private walks of life, a farmer, a true son of the soil, who not only in theory, but in actual practice accomplished

a great deal toward raising the standard of live stock and farm products. In the death of the Honourable Walter M. Lea, Canada has lost a "Statesman."

However, we are fortunate indeed in having to succeed Mr. Lea, a brilliant young leader, in the person of the Honourable Thane A. Campbell, in whom we have every confidence and for whom we bespeak the loyalty and co-operation enjoyed by his predecessor.

#### The Trade Agreement with the United States

As an almost entirely Agricultural Province, we note with pleasure, the ratification by our Federal Government of a Reciprocal Trade Treaty with the United States, which measure we believe, will be a great benefit to Canadian farmers, especially in the Maritimes, and we trust that this step will lead to trade relations with the Republic to the South, thereby finding an outlet for our surplus farm products.

#### Revenues and Expenditures

We feel that new sources of revenue must be sought in order to meet the increased liabilities of the Province. Interest charges have risen with alarming rapidity and a greater revenue is now required, or a drastic curtailment of expenditures must be effected in order that our Provincial debt may not continue to increase to such an extent that we will become insolvent and our Provincial credit jeopardized. The increase in the Provincial liabilities for 1935 being \$952,000, our people can readily see that the situation is absolutely necessary, and we believe that a reasonable effort by this Government toward that end will meet with their approval and cooperation.

#### Carnegie Demonstration

It is unfortunate that at this time of economic stress the Grant of the Carnegie Corporation for a public library service should expire, necessitating the re-estimation of the education work by some other means. A great many applications and petitions, chiefly from Women's Institutes, have been received by the different members of the Legislature that this Library service be continued at its present standard and I have every reason to believe that this matter will be treated very sympathetically by the members and that everything financially and physically possible under the circumstances will be done toward continuing this service at as near the present standard as possible.

#### Dominion-Provincial Conferences

We learn that as the outcome of the Dominion-Provincial Conferences which have been held recently that the all-important problem of unemployment has been considered and that a comprehensive National Commission is to study this question and we trust that their deliberations and recommendations will meet with a full measure of success, in order that the industrial life of Canada may again function normally.

Another outcome of these Conferences which should be of direct benefit to this Province, will be the establishment of a National Park here. Of course, it is required that the Provincial Government shall provide the site for this National Park, which will then be established and maintained at Federal expense. The purchasing of a suitable site will naturally necessitate the expenditure of a considerable sum of Provincial money. However, the initial cost will be the only one and will be a capital expenditure, while the benefits derived will be many. For instance, the employment that will be available to our people in the establishment and maintenance of the Park, also an additional attraction for tourists to visit our beautiful Province. No doubt, there will be some differences of opinion as to the most suitable place among the many beauty spots available, and it behooves those on whom this responsibility falls to choose wisely and well, in order that the greatest benefits may ensue.

#### Agriculture and Fox Industry

It is with pleasure we note in the Speech from the Throne that every assistance possible will be given to the Agricultural Industry, and we trust that when the estimates are submitted, there will be no curtailment, but rather an increase to the industry of our Province. We all realize that if the farmer is not prosperous, then prosperity for our people as a whole is impossible. A great deal toward this end may be accomplished by proper educational methods, encouragement and assistance generally, but particularly by promoting and encouraging the breeding of better live stock and developing markets that will more than cover cost of production.

The fox industry is now an established branch of mixed farming and has for some years past paid large revenues into our Provincial Treasury, but I am sorry to say has received little in return. Up until the present time it has been up to the fox rancher to work out his own salvation in this, the Pioneer Province of the industry, but I regret to say that the other Provinces of Canada and foreign countries are fast forging to the front and unless our breeders get the assistance rendered by other Governments to their breeders, we will become a back number. One of the best arguments for extending aid to this branch of live stock farming is that the revenue derived from sale of pelts is foreign money brought into our Province, while a very small proportion goes out in the cost of production.

We view with alarm, the prevalence of theft of foxes, mostly young, from the ranches, and the failure in many instances to apprehend and punish the thieves, and it is the opinion of many breeders

## Leaves N.B. Colleagues

(Continued from Page 1)

as a piece of Imperial legislation. The first wrong impression which I would like to correct is that the Dominion Government is seeking to force anything on the Provinces in this regard. So far as the deliberations of the Dominion-Provincial conferences were concerned, the initiative was taken by the provinces in all cases. That is equally true of the constitutional sub-conference. The Dominion Government played more the part of a moderator in the discussion, seeking to assist the provinces in arriving at some common ground for the solution of the provinces' difficulties and the difficulties which affect them in their relation to the Dominion.

"The next false impression which I would seek to correct is that this conference was designed to scrap the B. N. A. Act. The B. N. A. Act is proposed as an Imperial statute in the year 1867, and it has stood the test of time pretty well. Perhaps there is no piece of legislation anywhere which for such a long period of time—nearly seventy years—has lived up to its requirements with so little change or amendment. But, as in the case of all good institutions,—as in the case of all excellent pieces of legislation,—the time has come in fact for many years a number of the provinces have felt that it has arrived—when the British North America Act does not fully provide the most desirable constitution, or balance, or distribution of legislation, as between the Dominion and the various provinces.

#### "Shaky" Legislation

"At the present time it seems to be the provinces which are most urgent for a change in constitutional relationships. The Dominion Government has been gradually encroaching on provincial rights in many directions. Decisions of the Privy Council during the past few years have been inclined to lean in favour of centralization—in favour of the validity of Dominion legislation as against that of the Provinces. A great deal of the taxation legislation which is on our statute books is feared to be just a little shaky if it were scrutinized in the cool light of judicial decisions. It might just as well be that the taxation measures of this Province were so scrutinized, we should lose many of the sources of revenue which we now enjoy. So I say that the desire for constitutional reform, for a new declaration of the division of power for the provinces, is not something which the Dominion is trying to cram down the throats of the Provinces. Nor is this a matter upon which either the provinces or the Dominion Government have shown a desire to embark with undue haste. It is a matter which has been under consideration for a great many years, but—partly, I think, owing to the manner in which these Dominion-Provincial conferences have previously been conducted—it has never come to a satisfactory head.

#### B. N. A. A. Changes

"During the recent Dominion-Provincial conferences, one of the subjects for discussion was the proposal of machinery whereby amendments to the B. N. A. Act might be made in future. Now you see that the proposition is not so far reaching as making any definite decision. At the close of that conference it was decided that a committee of experts would be appointed to draft a proposed scheme for the purpose in question. That committee of experts met in Ottawa on Jan. 30 and continued sitting until the early half of February—some twelve or fourteen days altogether. There was a good deal of criticism in the press that this Province was not represented on that sub-committee, but I may point out that there would be a considerable expense in having representation at a committee whose deliberations took so long, and I may also point out that the functions of the sub-committee were merely to draft a proposal which was in turn to be submitted to the sub-conference on constitutional questions which lately convened on March 3rd. They received and considered the draft submitted to them by the committee of experts and after making some amendments the sub-conference tentatively agreed on a form of procedure to be followed in securing future amendments to the B. N. A. Act. That tentative procedure, together with the work of consolidating and revising the present Act and all amendments to date, was referred back to the experts and to officials of the Department of Justice at Ottawa.

#### No Material Safeguards

"Critics of the proposed scheme of amendment—perhaps I should really say critics of what they regard or consider would be the proposed scheme—have warned us against the wiping away of safeguards to provincial autonomy and provincial rights. What safeguards have we at present of provincial autonomy and provincial rights? What is the machinery at present constituted for the amendment of our Canadian constitution? The Canadian constitution as at present constituted can be amended solely by an act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain. Upon whose request? There is nothing in precedent, there is nothing laid down in any way which says upon whose request the Imperial Parliament shall or may amend the constitution of Canada. It has been directly amended by the Imperial Parliament on several occasions, and on practically all of these occasions the amendments in question were secured on the sole request of the Dominion Parliament. On one occasion in which the interests of the Dominion Government were considered to be at variance with the interests of a provincial government of Canada, the B. N. A. Act was amended, I understand, by the Imperial Parliament on the sole request of the Dominion of Canada and in face of the protest of the individual Province whose rights were considered to be affected.

#### Fishing Industry

It is gratifying to note that assistance to fishermen has been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne for I believe that the men who reap their harvest from the seas are in need of further assistance and worthy of every consideration. I congratulate the Fish and Game Association of the Province on their renewed activity toward conservation and extension along these lines and I believe their efforts should have the support of this Government, perhaps by establishing hatcheries from which our streams and ponds might be restocked.

Those officials now have in hand a draft of a revised and consolidated form of the B. N. A. Act, together with all amendments which have been made up to the present since 1867, and incorporated with that the tentative method of procedure which was agreed upon by the sub-conference.

#### A Weighty Question

"I am prepared to admit that this is a weighty question; a question upon which procedure should be cautious and comparatively slow. And none of those conferences took upon themselves the function of making any decision. Everything which has been agreed upon so far has been agreed upon by way of a tentative proposal. When these proposals are incorporated in the consolidated re-draft, they will be approved by the sub-conference and later will be submitted by the members of the Dominion Government and of the various Provincial Governments for the approval of each of their respective parliaments. So that before the Province of Prince Edward Island is committed to any decision, by way of providing machinery for the amendment of the B. N. A. Act, whether in Great Britain or in Canada, the Legislature of this Province will have ample opportunity of passing its considered opinion upon the proposals which are being so carefully and so systematically prepared.

#### OPPOSES N. B. ATTITUDE

"In one of the neighboring Provinces a certain amount of fervour has been worked up in opposition to allowing the Dominion Parliament to amend the B. N. A. Act. I am not expressing any criticism one way or the other; I am merely stating the facts. The press of this Province is repeatedly challenging us to state what stand this Government took in the deliberations of these sub-conferences. No doubt the members of this Legislature will be interested to a certain extent in the same subject. It was decided, at the general Dominion-Provincial conference, that the proceedings at these sub-conferences should be confidential in their nature and that the results only of their deliberations should be made public; that is to say, that the attitude which one province or another might take should not be made public property on a subject of political criticism throughout the country. I may state, however, as my personal opinion that the important point to bear in mind in connection with the proposed methods of amending the B. N. A. Act is not the place where the amendment is to be made. It does not appear to me to be of a great deal of importance whether an amendment to the Act is made in London or in Ottawa. The important thing in my estimation, which the machinery provided for the amendment should be sufficiently clear and explicit and should contain provisions and safeguards which would prevent either the Dominion Government or the governments of the majority of the provinces from over-riding the provincial autonomy and provincial rights of other provinces which might happen to be in the minority. However, I have confidence that if a suitable machinery is drafted as the one which has been drafted and agreed upon by the governments of Canada and the Provinces, then those governments can be relied upon in future years to guard provincial autonomy in just as great and as effective a degree as can the Imperial Parliament in London.

#### The Tourist Factor

"At the present time, the national park idea at Ottawa seems to be directed, to a large extent, to the promotion of the tourist industry. It is considered that the tourist industry is capable of bringing in large revenues, both to the Dominion and to the various Provinces. It is admitted in Ottawa that the province of Prince Edward Island provides particular attractions for tourists, and it is the desire of the Dominion Department to lend every assistance in the development of the tourist industry here, and particularly by way of the establishment and development of a permanent national park.

"The first request is that the Province should acquire a site and present it to the Dominion Government. The expenditure on the part of the Province need not be large. I think an arrangement can be made whereby the provincial expenditure will be very small indeed. I do not wish to go into any details at the present time, as the negotiations are still merely pending, but I wish to assure you that the appropriation which may be sought from this Legislature will not be alarmingly large, and I think that the benefits which will accrue to the Province will be out of all proportion to the amount of money which we will require to expend.

"I may also say that I have impressed on Mr. Crerar and the other Dominion department heads the necessity of having an inspection made during the early summer of those locations in the Province which may appear to be most suitable as sites for the proposed park, and that if in the meantime any particular site is mentioned or any selection made, such site or

selection will only be tentative until such time as the Dominion park officials may inspect every site in the Province and determine which site is most typical of those requirements which meet with the approval of the Dominion department."

#### CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The question of continuing the Carnegie demonstration libraries, said Premier Campbell, has given rise to considerable agitation. Numerous delegations and memorials have been received by the Government during the past few months. "I think," he added, "it is a matter that admits of very little dispute that the service which has been conferred on the Province by the experiment in library services has been very beneficial. It provides for a wealth of literature to be placed at the disposal of the people of this Province, and it is a distinct advantage not only in the direction of general education, but also of general enlightenment and entertainment. Unfortunately, the expiry of this grant comes at a time when we are in very stringent financial circumstances as a province and as a government. Unfortunately, it practically coincides with the expiry of another grant which has been enjoyed by this Province in connection with public health, from the underwriters, during the past five years. Both these grants expire in June next. Unfortunately, the demand for a substantial grant to the library system has its other side—the demand of the people of the Province for decreased expenditure and for retrenchment in the public services. This is a matter which will require the very careful and considered deliberation of each member of this Legislature.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

Continuing, the Premier stated that the unemployment problem had grown in the past few years to be one of tremendous import. It had reached its peak in February, 1932, when there were 1,533,842 persons on relief in Canada. The problem has somewhat diminished but "not appreciably," there being still 1,310,450 on relief. He believed the proposed National Commission on unemployment would effect a great benefit. When the Commission is appointed it will have as its disposal the registration lists which have been compiled during the past couple of months by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Provinces.

He felt it was the duty of all governments to impress on their people that the dole system cannot be continued indefinitely and that those who have been provided for in this way during the past few years must "make every effort to find that employment which the Dominion Government, during the next few years, is going to seek to provide."

#### NATIONAL PARK

"As a member of the sub-committee on the tourist industry," the Premier continued, "I was pleased to support a resolution which provided that national parks should be established in all provinces of Canada where they do not already exist. Up to the present time I understand that the Dominion Government has established in six of the Provinces a national park, at a considerable amount of Dominion expense, but that the Provinces of Prince Edward Island have not, up to the present, been accorded the privilege of having a national park established within their borders. That resolution was carried as a recommendation of the Dominion-Provincial conference. It was submitted to the Dominion Government and the Dominion Government has approved the principle.

"Shortly afterwards the various Dominion Government members, and in particular with the Hon. Thomas C. Crerar, Minister of the Interior, under whose department the National Parks branch is established. Unfortunately this proposition occurred at an inconvenient time of the year, because it was pointed out to me that the first essential step towards the creation of a national park within a province is that the province should convey to the Dominion Government, free of encumbrance, a site selected by the Province and approved by the Dominion Government. This matter did not come to the attention of the present Government until some time last December, and from December until now it was practically out of the question, either for the Province to select a site, or for the Dominion Government to inspect and approve a site.

#### Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks the Premier congratulated the mover of the Speech from the Throne (Messrs. McIsaac and Baker), also the Speaker. He commented on the departure from precedent necessitated by the absence of an official Opposition. He did not think it necessary to prolong the debate unduly, as the time could better be spent in considering legislation and the Estimates which will later be submitted.

The congratulations of the House, he suggested, were due to Premier Campbell, King and his government members and supporters to their victory at the polls. To Hon. C. A. Dunning special congratulations were due upon his election by acclamation in Queen's County. "We trust that in the future he will make Prince Edward Island his home in something more than the political sense," the Premier added. The problems of the Maritimes generally would, he felt, be more deeply appreciated at Ottawa because of Mr. Dunning's representations.

Congratulations were also extended to Hon. B. W. LePage, President of Council, and Hon. W. H. Dennis, Minister of Agriculture.

Separation of the portfolios of Premier and Executive Council President meant no additional expenditure, the Premier said, it was simply a division of work, and he believed these duties could be better managed under the new arrangement.

He also congratulated Mr. Horace Wright on his election to the Fourth District of Prince.

The Premier joined in paying tribute to his late Majesty King George V and in expressing loyalty to the present Sovereign.

He also voiced regret at the passing of Premier Lea, whose aim as a public man, he said, had always been to subordinate the interests of individuals to the wider interests of the Province as a whole. In accord with Mr. Lea's sentiments, he believed the present Government had "a grave responsibility in seeing that minority rights were given due protection."

The Premier referred also to the death of Hon. Cyrus Crosby, a former Liberal Commissioner of Public Works, and to the inability, through illness, of Hon. L. R. Allen to attend the opening of the session.

The trade treaty signed by Premier King at Washington, he continued, was something "which we have been looking forward to for many years." It could not be expected that any treaty concluded so quickly would contain "all that the heart could desire," but it should be regarded as only a beginning of better trade relations, not only with the United States but also with other parts of the world.

The Public Accounts when tabled would show that the financial condition was even more alarming than was indicated during the provincial election, the Premier declared.

He then took up the matters to which extended reference has already been made.