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Estimates Discussed In The Legislature

Provincial Legislature March 18. House in Committee on Supply. Supplementary estimates for the year ending March 31, 1944. Mr. Bernard in the chair.

Mr. McPhee asked what permanent bridge work had been done for an expenditure of \$21,200 in the accounts. Hon. Mr. Barbour said he did not have the information.

Mr. McPhee asked for details of money expended on fishermen's loans, which was left blank in the estimate. Mr. Hughes said this information was not available.

Mr. McPhee: "How can we in the Opposition perform our duty to scrutinize the estimate if the Ministers are not able to give it to us?"

Mr. Hughes: "Under normal years there would be a sum of \$30,000 put in this estimate for the year."

Mr. McPhee asked what amount of loans had been made.

Mr. Hughes: "If the Opposition wants that information I could instruct our clerks to get it for me, but if the House wants to rise shortly I am afraid I will not be able to do that. The House will be a long time sitting if everything has to be prepared."

Mr. McPhee: "How many loans have been made since the beginning of the year to fishermen?"

Mr. Hughes: "I couldn't make that statement."

Mr. McPhee: "Give us an estimate."

Mr. Hughes: "I wouldn't do that because the Opposition is critical."

Dr. McMillan: "You should have had your information ready when the estimates were filed."

Mr. Hughes: "Any question my hon. friend places on the order paper will be answered as soon as can be got the information."

Dr. McMillan: "I am not talking about the order paper, I am talking about the estimates."

Mr. Barbour explained that on maintenance of highways they had exceeded their estimate last year, and the estimate of the eighteen months' expenditure would include this amount.

Limestone

On an item of \$6,000 for limestone Premier Jones explained that this was to install machinery at Grapeau, Quebec, to crush the lime smaller for the use of potato growers. One half of this expenditure would be rebated by the Dominion.

Dr. McMillan: "Does my hon. friend mean that the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island put machinery into Quebec?"

Premier Jones: "Yes, the agreement is that they supply us with 20,000 tons of lime each year for three years."

Mr. Heath Strong: "Do we own the machinery?"

Premier Jones: "No."

Mr. Strong: "Then I will ask the promoter how he figures out that it is capital expenditure."

Mr. Hughes admitted that as an accountant he did not approve of this system, but it had become the practice of putting all extraordinary expenditure into capital account.

Dominion Grant

Mr. McPhee asked if the estimated Dominion grant, \$691,811 was the same as last year. Hon. Mr. Hughes replied in the affirmative.

Mr. McPhee: "Is it anticipated that there will be any change in this amount as a result of discussions at the proposed Dominion-Provincial conference?"

Mr. Hughes: "I would hope that there might be, but the terms of that conference are not far enough advanced yet."

Mr. McPhee: "Has there been any correspondence?"

Mr. Hughes: "Very little. The auditor, I understand, is going to Ottawa shortly. The meeting is to be held Monday."

Mr. McPhee: "Has there been any broad basis submitted to the Dominion Government or settled by the Provinces, in reference to submissions to the Dominion at the conference?"

F.W.O. FEES

Mr. McPhee: "What are the fees now per each particular year at the University College?"

Hon. Mr. McMillan: "The first two years it is \$10, third year \$75 and the fourth year \$160. That is for the University College. For the country it is \$5 the first two years. For the Commercial course it is \$30. I am not sure about the third and fourth year for country students. It is very much less, I think probably \$25 and \$50."

Mr. Heath Strong: "Where do the ferry fees come from, the Rocky Point ferry?"

Mr. Hughes: "All ferries."

Mr. Strong: "I thought you did not charge anything on the Georgetown ferry?"

Mr. Hughes: "Oh yes."

Falconwood Income

Mr. McPhee: "What was the income from Falconwood Hospital last year?"

Mr. Hughes: "\$16,206."

Mr. McPhee: "Is that all patients' fees?"

Mr. Hughes: "Practically."

Mr. McPhee: "What is the rate paid at Falconwood for a person who is able to pay?"

Hon. Mr. Barbour: "I don't know."

Dr. McMillan: "\$5.00."

Mr. Strong: "The Minister does not know that? I think we are going to educate him as we go along."

Mr. McPhee: "I notice an estimate of \$5,000 from domiciled companies. That is a decrease."

Mr. McMillan: "That revenue is taken over by the Dominion Government now, but we are allowed to charge a small fee up to \$100."

Mr. McPhee: "It is merely a registration fee."

Mr. McMillan: "That is all."

Dr. McMillan: "That is the bargain we made with the Dominion Government turning out?"

Mr. McPhee: "I thought, I think it is to our benefit."

Mr. McPhee called attention to fishermen's loans appearing in capital revenue. He presented this as just a revolving fund. "The promoter, who is chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board, has given us no account of this. What are the loans for?"

Mr. Hughes replied that the loans were for the purchase of gear, and in many cases loans to organizations to enable them to purchase fish. The fishermen's unions are dealing in fish now.

Provincial Sanatorium

Mr. Heath Strong: "What is the Sanatorium extension going to cost?"

Premier Jones: "The cost would be less than \$200,000, and then it will have to be filled up afterwards. We would say roughly about \$250,000, of which the Dominion Government promises \$75,000. There will be three contracts, two of which are awarded."

Dr. McMillan: "Will the Premier give the conditions now under which the Dominion grant was given? What were the terms of reference under which the order-in-council was granted?"

Mr. Heath Strong: "I have seen the order-in-council yet. It was just a gift toward the building of the Sanatorium. And what we look in T. B. soldiers and accommodated them there."

Mr. McPhee: "How many soldiers were there?"

Premier Jones: "I presume all we have wouldn't be very many."

Dr. McMillan: "I was wondering how many beds you would have to provide."

Dr. McMillan: "This is not the first time this has been drawn attention to. I would ask the Premier, don't you think it was about time that you had seen the order-in-council?"

Premier Jones: "Yes, I agree. I will have a look at it next week."

A Grave Injustice

Dr. McMillan: "I don't consider that this Province has been dealt justly with by the Dominion. This is the ground I have taken for several years. I don't see any reason to change it. \$75,000 is not enough from the Dominion Government at this time. The injustice that has been done the T.B. patients in this Province since this war began can only be measured in one way, and it is a terrible yardstick: by the number of the people who have died because they could not get into a Sanatorium. When this war began the Department of National Health was responsible for making provision for the treatment of infectious and contagious diseases. The grant to the Charlottetown Hospital finally came through, but not till after strong protest had been made."

Hon. J. A. Campbell at this stage made a speech denouncing the Conservatives for having opposed the building of the Provincial Sanatorium. This was emphatically denied by Dr. Mc-

Sanatorium

Mr. Hughes: "Ten or eleven, I believe."

Dr. McMillan: "Last year there were about the same number, and the year before, probably not so many. What does that mean? Ten or twelve of our own people cannot get in. They could not get in last year or the year before. Where are they today? A good many of them died. I am sure that if this department had been awake to its responsibilities they would have made provision for Sanatorium treatment for soldiers in Prince Edward Island three years ago. Any department should have anticipated what was going to happen."

Dr. McMillan recalled the Sanatorium built during the last war at North Wiltshire at a cost of nearly half a million dollars and compared this to the \$75,000 grant now being offered. "And what are they going to exact for it? They will say to the Premier when this institution has been built, 'We will take 75-250 of those beds; or one third of your institution for the use of soldiers.'"

"Surely, here was one point on which consideration might have been given to this Province. Their general argument is that they cannot expend war money in this island. We have no industries, etc. Georgetown harbour could have been utilized the same as Picou harbor if there had been any judgment exercised in the matter. Why couldn't a dry dock have been built in Charlottetown. Why hadn't there been any provision here for repairs if proper foresight had been exercised? That car ferry never has been lost if they had done that, and we wouldn't be hanging on by a shoestring to the mainland as we are now. And now this injustice on top of all the rest. They know capacity to handle our own citizens we have not got nearly enough, yet they have made us handle all our own military cases as well."

Dr. McMillan also charged the Federal Department with having discriminated against the Charlottetown Hospital when the grants of \$1,500 were made to the Prince County and Prince Edward Island hospitals for the treatment of infectious and contagious disease. The grant to the Charlottetown Hospital finally came through, but not till after strong protest had been made.

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Health Services

In reply to other questions, Mr. Hughes said a full time nurse was being obtained to work in the venereal disease campaign. The grant for this work was \$2,400.

Dr. McMillan emphasized the gravity of this disease urged the Government to do everything possible to curb its progress. There is ample authority in the Public Health Act to enforce compulsory examination and treatment in suspect cases. He also stressed the need for greater expenditure in the public health department.

The estimates also include a grant of \$2,000 for physical fitness services.

Mr. Heath Strong: "How do you propose to expend this?"

Mr. Hughes: "We would like to have suggestions."

Mr. Strong: "You have no programme mapped out by either government, Dominion or Provincial."

Mr. Hughes: "There is no programme mapped out by either government, Dominion or Provincial."

Mr. McPhee: "You should see that the nutrition and physical fitness programme go together."

Mr. Barbour: "I think it is more in the way of supervised playgrounds, etc."

Mr. Strong: "The Summerdale Youth movement, will they get a grant from this?"

Mr. Barbour: "They probably will."

Hon. Mr. McMillan, discussing the federal health insurance scheme, said that as first proposed it could not be entertained by this Province at all. It would cost the Province, over and above the amounts contributed by individuals, about \$600,000. He had hopes that the proposal now almost ready to be presented to the House of Commons would be more acceptable. He agreed with the leader of the Opposition in approving the Maritime hospital insurance plan.

Falconwood Hospital

Mr. Bell asked if there was any attention to increase wages at

Falconwood during the coming year.

Mr. Barbour: "No general increase."

Mr. Bell: "Any increase for the attendants in the men's ward?"

Mr. Barbour: "We have \$5,000 for permanent employ of the attendants in the men's ward? \$50 to \$60 for attendants is the regular pay."

Mr. Bell: "If I understand they get \$50 a month with a bonus of \$50 a year. My information is that some, at least the day men, wait fourteen hours a day. They get one day off in ten. It seems very small for these men."

Dr. McMillan: "Now that my hon. friend has some experience in office, I would ask him what are the chances of saving \$20,000 a year at Falconwood?"

Mr. Barbour: "I may say that since I visited the mental institution at North Battleford, run by Dr. James MacNeill, I changed my mind somewhat about the institution and the farm in connection with it. We are hopeful that we may be able to produce more on this farm of ours than we have. Last year we had to buy a lot of mill feed and a thousand dollars worth of potatoes. The cost of help is increasing all the time. I know that for some years I have sat in this House and I thought that upwards of \$20,000 might be saved if there was proper management there. But perhaps I am looking more to the farm than should be run on a business basis. Now I think that more patients should be worked on the farm, and that they should have the attendants looking after the patients in the field. I think we can raise more garden stuff and take care of it. The main thing is that we would provide more work for the patients."

Dr. McMillan: "I am glad my hon. friend took that trip to the west. He agreed that the proper function of the farm was as an adjunct to the institution in the treatment of the patients. He went on to cite the report of the superintendent, Dr. Murchison, showing that an average of fifteen patients had been employed daily on the farm. The attendants should be in charge of those men. That would mean employing a few more attendants, but it was a move in the right direction. He believed a good flock of hens could be kept there profitably."

Dr. McMillan urged the Government to give consideration to Dr. Murchison's recommendations in 1943 regarding the need of increased accommodation and equipment at Falconwood.

There was further lengthy dis-

Discussion on the question of salaries of government officials, particularly in the Old Age Pensions Department.

Official's Salaries

Mr. Hughes said he believed, as an accountant, that every man's salary should show in some part of the Accounts, also that no man in the permanent employ of the Government should receive pay from any other source. All deputies should receive the same salaries. Technical men should be employed as technical advisers and not as deputies. He hoped some time to be able to put a measure through to this effect.

Mr. Heath Strong said he understood the soldiers' dependents' committee holds meetings in the old age pensions office. If that be the case, the Dominion Government should pay rent for the use of the room.

Hon. Mr. Barbour believed that as officials are concerned, the Government should deal fairly with all. He agreed there was too much disparity between the salary received by the superintendent of old age pensions and the assistant superintendent. "I think," he added, "we are safe enough to leave it to the Government to adjust after they find out what other monies are paid to both of them."

Mr. McKenna commended the Minister's attitude in this regard.

Dr. McMillan: "I too am prepared to leave it to the consideration of the Government, and hope that before another year there will be an adjustment made. I have been one of those who have been criticised by my own party in keeping officials when they belonged to another party. Very strong pressure was used to have me remove Dr. McLaughlin as acting superintendent at Falconwood. I know a certain doctor in this city who never forgave me because I wouldn't give him the job. One of the strongest supporters of ours in King's County came in demanding that I would remove Inspector Kines because he was a Liberal."

Premier Jones: "It has been demanded that we should remove him because he was a Tory."

Dr. McMillan: "Another delegation demanded that Col. Stewart be removed."

Mr. Heath Strong: "You have a Civil Service Act now. You can remove them without cause."

Dr. McMillan: "I don't think there is any deputy who is getting too much. I want to say about the Deputy Minister of Public Works



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IN MEMORIAM

MR. WALTER FISHER

Walter Fisher passed away very suddenly on the morning of Monday, March 27, 1944, at his home at South Lake, and it can be truly said that a pall of gloom was cast over the surrounding country as citizens heard the almost incredible news that this respected and beloved friend and neighbour had departed this life. Mr. Fisher had apparently been in his usual robust health and had just finished his work for the day, when the end came suddenly and without warning at the early age of 56 years. Walter Fisher was one of the outstanding farmers in the community and had by industry and good management built up a fine home and farm property. In his relations with his fellow men his honesty and integrity won the respect of all classes. His genial, kindly disposition made friends of all who came in contact with him and his charity and willingness to help those in need was proverbial. Few, indeed, within his sphere of influence who cannot recall some act of kindness or assistance in time of stress or need. Hospitable in his home, a great worker in all pertaining to the betterment of the community, ever faithful to his Christian duties, truly a good and useful citizen, his loss will be keenly felt, not only in the home but in the country at large. Left to mourn a loving husband and father are his wife, three sons and three daughters; Stanley, St. Columba; Alfred, with Canada Army Overseas; John, at home; Mary, Mrs. Leonard Ford, Everett, Mass.; Ellen and Genevieve at home; also two sisters and two brothers, Frank R. Reading, Mass.; Edwin, with Canadian Army Overseas.

Card Of Thanks

Mrs. Walter Fisher and family wish to thank their Pastor, Rev. R. J. MacDonald, and all their friends and neighbours for their kindness in their recent sad bereavement and acknowledge with sincere gratitude the many Messages of sympathy, Mass Cards and Spiritual Bouquets received. 3-28-44

LINEN LESSONS

Worn out linen a problem? Here are tips on how to make every bit you possess work overtime.

(1) Rip worn sheets down the middle and seam under edges together. Now the thin spots are on the sides where it doesn't matter.

(2) Pillow cases of tubular material can be turned, too. Cut off the seam at the end and make a new one so that again the thin spots are on the edges.

(3) Washcloths out of bath towels. Cut out the good spots and hem.

(4) Sew worn linen face or dish towels together, criss-cross. Makes one good strong one.

(5) Pot holders from bath mats—salvage the pieces that are still usable.

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Commencing the first of April we are discontinuing the contracting and jobbing part of our plumbing and heating branch of our business. We will still continue to carry in stock along with our General Hardware a line of plumbing and heating supplies for sale.

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