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Text Of Address By King's County Member On Freight Rates Issue

Following is the text of the address on the freight rates issue by Dr. T.V. Grant, M.P. for King's, as given in Hansard report of the House of Commons proceedings for April 21:

Mr. Speaker, my first observation should bring applause from all sides of the house: it is that I am going to be very brief. I sincerely wish to make two corrections, with the necessary trimmings. The first of these is that a few days ago there appeared in the Charlottetown Guardian a front page account of the speech delivered by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) in the House of Commons with respect to the freight rates increase. In this report it was stated that only one member from the province of Prince Edward is and applauded the minister's remarks or joined in the applause during the minister's speech and that member was the member for King's. I felt that it was a compliment to me, although the Ottawa reporter meant it otherwise. That report is incorrect, because I was sitting here and watching the other two members, the hon. Liberal member for Queens (Mr. Douglas) and the hon. Liberal member for Prince (Mr. MacNaught) and they both joined in the applause, very enthusiastically.

Mr. Graydon: Do you have to watch them that closely? Mr. Grant: I do not have to, but I happened to see them that time. Mr. Fraser: I hope you see the point. Mr. Grant: When the hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) interrupts I am reminded of when I was a little boy. We used to have a billygoat which had a very perverted appetite; he used to eat nails.

Commends Fair Treatment

I want to say that I am not finding fault with the Charlottetown Guardian, as that paper has been fair to me for some years; although it is a Conservative paper it has been quite fair. However, I think they should check on their Ottawa reporter, because this is not the first falsehood he has sent down to Charlottetown.

Next I should like to correct a statement made by the Tory member for Queens when he was speaking on this matter. He said that he and other members from the Maritimes had received scores of letters and telegrams and telephone calls in opposition to the freight rates increase. I took the trouble to speak to the two Liberal members from Prince Edward Island and I find that neither of them received any letters or telephone calls. I have received no letters or telephone calls, but I did receive two telegrams, one from the Board of Trade in Charlottetown, and another from the federation of agriculture. I asked other members from the Maritimes whether they had received any letters and they said they had not. The Tory member for Queens was simply exaggerating—a thing which he always does for political purposes. The Tory member for Queens stated his belief that the salaries of the railroad employees should be increased, but he denounced the increase in freight rates, which was simply absurd. He did not tell us, as the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Stuart) so aptly said, what way they had done it when they were in power. When

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they were in power they cut the wages of railroad employees about 20 per cent; they increased the rates and they cut down the service.

In my own county of Kings they closed down one railroad line altogether, and they cut the service on another line to two freight trains a week, and the Post Office Department had to establish mail routes over those lines. It is the way they did it when they were in power. The old-time Conservatives who were here between 1920 and 1935 do not want to talk about that as much as my Tory friend from Queens, who seems to forget that he was here also.

Called To Order

I have just been reading an editorial in the Charlottetown Patriot written by the Honourable Cyrus MacMillan, who is the present editorial writer and who was one of the members of the Duncan commission. It is entitled "Freight rates and common sense."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Mr. Grant: I am not reading the editorial; I am quoting from my own notes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Some hon. members have drawn my attention to the fact that the hon. member for Kings is reading from an editorial which is a commentary upon the present proceedings in the house. If that is so, he should not continue to do so. M. Graydon: He is talking politics.

Mr. Grant: It is the view of the Honourable Cyrus Macmillan, the editorial writer of the Patriot, that the Minister of Transport acted properly in not interfering with the judgment handed down by the board of transport commissioners.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would point out that the hon. member should not read that editorial.

Mr. Grant: I am not reading.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think we should have some understanding in this debate. When an hon. member gets up and makes a statement, whether he takes it from an editorial or whether he takes it from his own mind, as long as he paraphrases he is perfectly within his rights.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The rule is that an hon. member must express his own opinion. It makes no difference when he is expressing the opinion of some person out of the house whether he reads it or paraphrases it; the rule is that he must express only his own opinion and not read a commentary by someone outside the house.

Mr. Chevrier: That is not the rule of the house as I understand it. The effect of your ruling would be that if I were to make a statement in which I quoted a former minister or another individual, I would not be within the rule. Surely that is not the interpretation to put upon the rule.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not the interpretation that I put on the rule. An hon. member may quote another hon. member of the house, but he may not quote people outside this house who are expressing an opinion of what took place in the house.

Mr. Grant: My opinion is that

the views of the Hon. Cyrus Macmillan are right and that the minister acted wisely in directing the board of transport commissioners to make a wide investigation into the inequalities of the freight rates and correct them where necessary. I have read the amendment and the subamendment, I think the amendment can be summed up in the one word "procrastination", while the subamendment could be summed up in two words, "more procrastination". For these reasons I intend to vote against the amendment and the subamendment.

Flood Peak Appears Passed In West

WINNIPEG, April 26 — (CP)—Spring floods tonight appeared to have passed their peak in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but the situation remained critical in Manitoba with many communities flooded out and others engaged in a 24-hour battle against rampaging river waters.

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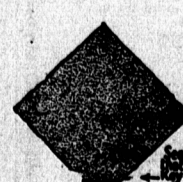
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