

# OPPOSITION LEADER ANALYZES THE BUDGET

(Continued from Page Eleven)

Evidently there was a mistake about it after all! (Laughter.) That was one of his serious blunders. It was his promise to the people, his solemn statement on the floor of this House, as leader of the Liberal party, that he was going to reduce taxation; and he made that statement with a full knowledge of the facts. As a matter of fact he attempted to show that the finances at that time were in a very much worse state than they really were. That was the burden of his song, and having that in mind he made that statement.

**Mr. Saunders in 1927**  
In his speech on the budget of the same year he was even more emphatic with regard to his attitude towards reduction in taxes. According to the report of his speech in the Patriot of April 6th, 1927, he stated:

"My friend the Premier took occasion in his statement the other night to tell the country that he was making a reduction of taxes. Well, as I see it, Mr. Speaker, the imitation of another man's policy or a party policy is perhaps the most sincere form of flattery we have in this country. I think that not more than two weeks ago I had occasion in this House to say that our finances were in such shape and I felt that I had the greatest confidence that after the recommendations were made by the Duncan Commission that we would not do anything but a substantial increase in subsidy. In that hope and expectation I think it has been more than realized and we now have the promise of increase of subsidy of \$125,000.

"My friend now says 'We will reduce the taxes.' Yes, as I say: imitation! No initiative! Follow the beaten paths of the Liberal party. It has always been the case and I presume is all that will be. We announced that we would reduce the auto tax and make a downward reduction in taxation generally. So my friend had our policy; and, as I say, he wasn't able to initiate anything new himself and he makes the same announcement now as I made the other day. We are very glad to know that he has come across now. It looks that it is worth while after all for us to point the way in which things shall be done. I am sure the people of the Province will be glad to know that we, the Opposition, while small in numbers, have at least secured that favorable result."

They secured the result, Mr. Speaker, and now they are complaining and finding fault because they did secure it. (Laughter and applause.) That is the situation. My hon. friend from Montague applauds the failure of his own party. I wonder why!

Hon. Dr. Grant: I was applauding that speech you were reading.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: Yes, because it falls in with my hon. friend's opinion: switch about from one policy to another, as the wind shifts. That suits him, and he applauds it. (Applause.)

Hon. Dr. Grant: It's the best part of your speech.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: We will let the people judge of that. That was the situation when the Conservative Government was in power in 1927. My hon. friends wanted a reduction in taxes, and now it does not suit them. Yet these strong, energetic men have not the courage to go back and put the taxes where they were. They are complaining because, according to the leader of this House, we followed their own policy. That, as I said before, is the difference between standing on the outside looking in, and being on the inside and looking out. They boasted of it as a result which they achieved themselves, and now they are squealing about it. (Applause.)

**Placing the Responsibility**

Some of my hon. friends will say: "Well, we were not in the House then. It is true that our leader said that, but we did not authorize him to say it. He said many things that we do not agree with." And, of course, we know that. They would like to make him a scape-goat in many ways. But what followed? A few months after that they put out a platform. We were in the midst of an election then, and all the wise gentlemen who are sitting around these benches were in the field as candidates. They must assume responsibility for their election platform. What did they say on that occasion?

"On obtaining increased subsidy a downward revision of taxation."

They were going to decrease their still further. We had made a reduction but they were going to reduce them still more; and if they ever get an increase in subsidy, of which none of us have very much hope at present, they will have to implement that promise. That is the first promise they made with regard to increased revenue. Since that time they have told the teachers, and my hon. friend from Rustico (Hon. Mr. LeFare) emphasized that promise in

his famous interview with the Teachers' Federation, that increased salary to teachers would be the very first lien upon that increase in revenue. Yet here we have another and earlier promise which must first be implemented.

**Tax Reductions**

I think I have shown the fallacy of their contention that they cannot now do anything because they have not enough revenue, that taxation should never have been reduced, and that as a result of that reduction they have not been able to give \$75,000 increase in salary to the school teachers. Let me dwell on this point a little further. I find that the average taxes collected under the Taxation Act in the first three years that we were in power until the time the reduction took effect—that is from real estate, personal property and income, amounted to \$144,187. I find that last year they collected under those same headings, real estate, personal property and income, nearly \$122,000; so that the loss was only a little over \$20,000 by the reduction which we made. But that is not the whole story. They collected other taxes last year which we never collected—horse tax, road tax and dog tax—and they put into the treasury from that source practically \$28,000. In other words, they lost some \$22,000 and took in some \$28,000 in extra taxes. That is the reason, they say, why they could not increase the teachers' salaries. They did not lose anything by those reductions, and the slightest examination shows that their explanation is a ridiculous one.

I do not think there is any necessity for me to labor that matter any further. We have clearly shown that these are simply childish excuses. They have been caught in their own trap, and they still have pre-election promises to carry out if they ever get that increase in subsidy for which the people of this Province have been waiting.

There is another matter with which I would like to deal briefly; that is the matter of Public Health, and I want to concur in what has been said by my hon. colleague from Charlottetown (Dr. MacMillan). I wish to congratulate the Government on this step they have taken towards the establishment of a sanatorium for this Province. I do not think that any political differences we may have will prevent us from seeing eye to eye in this matter. There is perhaps nothing more important than the health of our own people, and anything that can be done to improve conditions in that respect should be entirely agreeable to every one. I would also like to say a word by way of congratulation to those public spirited citizens outside of this House who have endeavored to help this matter along, both by suggestions and by money contributions. It shows a wonderful spirit among our citizens generally in regard to a matter of this kind which is so important and far reaching.

**Public Health**

But I must stop there, so far as agreement is concerned. I cannot approve of what my hon. friend said the other night with regard to the history of public health, when he made the statement—which is also contained in the speech from the Throne—that they had made a beginning in this matter. When he makes a statement of that kind he is simply giving another exhibition of that egotistical spirit which unfortunately too often characterizes his utterances. His statement, Mr. Speaker, is not correct, and my hon. friend should know it. The appointment of a full time chest diagnostician was not the beginning of Government assistance towards public health by any means. It is only a very small contribution to what has already been done. I find that they are paying about \$1200 towards that gentleman's salary. I asked at the beginning of this session that a report of the public health officer's activities be tabled in as much as he is a public servant; and the House and Province generally should be kept informed as to his work. Apparently there is not any report forthcoming, and we are getting on in the session. However, the point I wish to make is that my hon. friend's claim that the appointment of this official constitutes a beginning in public health work is entirely wrong. If there is any credit to be given to anybody, the credit of beginning this matter and carrying it on up to the present time is due to that splendid organization, the Canadian Red Cross Society, which has been carrying on this work for years in this Province and under circumstances that were extraordinarily difficult. I will go further than that, and give credit to a number of our citizens; men such as Mr. Justice Hazzard, Mr. Pope and others, who have been taking a prominent part in assisting the Red Cross activities in this Province.

**Tribute To Physicians**

I also want to pay a tribute to our physicians who have given a great deal of their time in the interests of this work; in giving free lectures, free clinics, and many other things without any thought of remuneration. There has not been any speech-making about what they are doing. They have not been trying to take the credit for it. They have done it to ameliorate the conditions in this Province, and they are still carrying on their splendid work without thought of reward or praise.

Let us look briefly at the history of public health so far as the contribution of public money is concerned. The first Government money contributed towards public health in this Province was in 1909, when a grant of \$200 was made. That went on practically up to 1914, when, with the Mahillon Government in power, a grant of \$1400 was made to the hospitals, \$100 to the Dispensary, and \$600 for the prevention of tuberculosis. Now, Mr. Speaker, so far as Government aid was concerned, there was the beginning of our contribution towards the prevention of tuberculosis, when the sum of \$600 was given. Then we had the Great War, and the amount was not increased; I think, perhaps, in one or two subsequent years it was decreased; and so the matter went on until 1923, when the sum of \$3,200 was contributed to all these matters connected with public health—children's aid, \$800; the three hospitals, \$500 each; the two Orphanages, \$500 each; and the Dispensary \$200, making, as I said, a total of \$3,200.

**Public Health Grants**

The Government of which I had the honor to be the leader came in in that year. In 1924 that grant was increased to \$5,787. In 1925 it was further increased to \$6,200; in 1926 to \$7,350. In 1927, the last year that we made the estimates, it was increased to \$13,350. So that during the time we were in power we increased those grants for public health activities and kindred charities from \$3,200 to \$13,350. In that time our revenues were increased between twenty and twenty-five per cent, and our grants were increased over three hundred per cent. (Applause.)

Those are the facts as taken from the actual figures in the Public Accounts. Last year, when my hon. friends made up their estimates, they put in this additional \$1200 and they paid it out as part payment towards the salary of a public health official; and they now make the statement that "a beginning has been made" in this matter. You can see just how much actual truth there is in a claim of that kind. It would be very much better if the actual facts were placed before the country. (Applause.)

**Sanatorium**

There is another aspect to this matter of public health. If the Liberal party, when they succeeded the Apsenault Government to power, had done their full duty, if they had dealt with this matter with the ability and efficiency with which they should have brought to bear upon it, we would not be in the situation in which we are placed today with regard to a sanatorium. We all remember the circumstances. It is not many years since that wonderful gift was made to this Province by one of our citizens to whom we owe a debt of gratitude which we shall never be able to repay; one of the most patriotic spirited citizens we have had in this Province in this generation; a man who has deservedly been called the father of an industry which is today bringing in an immense amount of wealth to the Province, who served his fellow citizens in the Legislature and in the Government, and who crowned it all with this magnificent gift of a Sanatorium out of his own private means. What happened to that splendid gift? We had established here, as a result of his munificence, a Sanatorium that would compare favorably with that of any province in Canada. It might be said that there was some fault with regard to location, etc., but all the objections that might be alleged today are no justification for the action of the Bell Government in demolishing that valuable institution.

As we all know, the Dalton Sanatorium was taken over for war purposes by the Federal Government. There could not be any question raised about that at the time. We were in the midst of the exigencies of the Great War; questions of provincial interest, questions affecting our own comfort or convenience, were not to be considered for a moment; and so this institution was taken over. There was, however, an agreement between the Government of this Province and the Federal Government regarding it. That agreement, apparently, cannot be found; but I have discussed the matter with those who framed the document, and I am assured by those gentlemen that there was a

provision in that agreement; for damages in case the institution should not be returned to the Province in the state in which it was turned over to them.

**An Opportunity Lost At Ottawa**

At the conclusion of the war the Bell Government was in power, and the Federal Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Department of Public Works proposed to hand back that institution to the Province. The Province did not want to take it back. I omitted to say that in the meantime while the Dominion Government had control of the Sanatorium, they changed it and added to it such an extent as to render it entirely unsatisfactory for its original purpose. It was no longer fit for a Sanatorium in the shape in which it was proposed to be returned. It was so large that it was impossible for the resources of this Province to carry it on. In the circumstances, what was the obvious duty of the Government of this Province? It was to see that the penalty clauses of the original agreement were carried out, and insist that the Federal Government should pay the damages. And that should have been done before the Sanatorium was taken off the hands of the Federal authorities.

Did the Government of this Province do that? What happened was this, Mr. Speaker. A delegation went to Ottawa in 1921, composed of two representatives of the Bell Government, both of them Ministers of the Crown, and two members of the Dalton Sanatorium Commission. These gentlemen waited on the Government. The written report of that conference does not contain details, but a verbal report was received from those independent gentlemen who came back, and their statements are to the effect that in the interview which they had with the Ministers of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, Public Works and Customs, they were asked what amount of money they would take by way of damages.

Now that was a question which, as you know, could not be answered by that part of the delegation representing the Sanatorium Commission. It would have to be answered by the representatives of the Government, because it was a matter between them and the Government that had taken it over and was now offering to return it. No reply was given to that question. The Minister representing this Government intimated that he had no authority. They were asked if they would accept \$50,000, and I am told that the offer was raised from time to time up to \$100,000 or even \$150,000. I am assured, Mr. Speaker, that \$150,000 could be obtained; but the Minister from this Province was not prepared to make any statement. He would not assume any responsibility, and so that opportunity was lost.

**Bell Government Negligence**

Afterwards, a resolution was introduced in the session of 1921 to take back from the Dominion Government the Dalton Sanatorium and turn it over to Sir Charles Dalton. There was some opposition to this resolution, and it was withdrawn; but the reports of that delegation were tabled and published, and they can still be seen in the records of the public press. While the amounts have referred to are not specified, the reports agree that money could have been received, that the Federal Government was prepared to pay. A year went by, and nothing was done. Again, in 1922, this resolution to take back the Sanatorium and turn it over to its founder was brought up. This time it was passed and a bill was passed in pursuance of it. On that occasion the leader of the Government read a letter from the Deputy Minister of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment—a letter which even the Premier on the floor of the House termed "an impudent letter"—repudiating entirely the agreement of the Federal Government to pay any money, saying that there was no money due this Province and that they would pay nothing by way of damages. And that matter was allowed to rest by the Bell Government. They took the saying of a Deputy Minister, and finally put themselves out of any expectation of getting any money by turning the institution over to its founder. And so this money, which, with interest would be very much larger today and which, if now available for the purpose of tuberculosis treatment would go far to solve our present problem, was lost to the province, and we have to begin all over again.

**A Sad Ending**

There is another matter in connection with the transfer of the Dalton Sanatorium to which I shall have to refer. They did not turn all the property back to Mr. Dalton. There were two pieces of land acquired on two different occasions. The second piece was acquired

about 1918. That lot was purchased with money received from the Federal Government. It was turned back with the rest, but it was not given back to Mr. Dalton. It was sold by the Government of this Province and the money put into current revenue. Now the least they should have done with that money was to set it aside for the original purpose of public health. (Applause.) The money for that land was not paid out of the funds of this Province. It was paid by the Dominion Government; it cost this Province nothing; they sold it, and put the money into current revenue. That is the story of our public health activities, and my hon. friend now has the temerity to say that this Government has made "a beginning" during the past year. Our beginning was made many years before, and this was the sad ending of it! The previous record of my hon. friends is such that there is a lot to be wiped out yet before they can put themselves square as a party with a policy of public health in this Province. (Applause.)

My hon. friend in his budget speech dealt with a matter which, it appeared to me, had very little relevancy. A budget speech, of course, as I pointed out before, is really a financial statement. It should deal with the finances of the Province, with revenue and expenditure. Just what Prohibition has to do with the finances of this Province under the present Government, I do not think very many of us are able to say.

Up to this year the Public Accounts have always contained a financial statement of the doings of the Prohibition Commission. It is a public body, organized under a statute of this Province, and previous Governments of both political parties had considered it a matter concerning which the people were entitled to some information with regard to the moneys received and expended. This year that statement is left out. There is no statement in the Public Accounts that I can find. What therefore has the question of prohibition to do with the budget speech of my hon. friend? We have had no explanation of why in his budget speech he gave such a prominent place to prohibition. He made a great many remarks about Prohibition, but he did not mention the financial side of it at all. He gave no explanation of why the profits received through the Prohibition Commission were omitted from the Public Accounts, and we are still in the dark with regard to that information. However, as he dealt with other aspects of the subject I presume that I may also deal with it very shortly, and chiefly by way of emphasizing what I stated on previous occasions on the floor of this House.

**Prohibition Promises**

My hon. friend says they have given a more efficient enforcement of the Prohibition Act. He did not tell us upon what he based that statement, and, as I previously remarked, he is really not in a position to know very much about it, whether or not the sale and use of liquor is being curtailed. He has been living in a sort of heaven of his own, and I do not think his personal statement would be accepted with very much authority on the matter. However, the question is not whether there is greater activity in the enforcement of the law. That is not the point. The promise which was given, the statements which were made by these hon. gentlemen during the election campaign, was that they would practically wipe out the liquor traffic in this Province; that before the two years had elapsed when the plebiscite would take place there would be evidence of dryer conditions, that the sale and use of liquor would be cut down to a minimum. I submit to this House that there is not any evidence of that at all. We see the same evidence of drunkenness on our streets and elsewhere that we always did. We see it in many places that we should not see it. Those who wish to obtain liquor will tell you whether or not they cannot get it as readily and in as great quantities as they have always done. What justification, therefore, has anyone for saying that there is a more successful enforcement of the Act? It is quite true that they are spending a great deal more money on enforcement; but what benefit is that to the Province if they are not getting results? (Applause.)

**Sale of Liquor**

It is quite possible that my hon. friends may be having more prosecutions—although not so many more, as the records show; but are they drying up the sources of this traffic? Are they stopping the flow of liquor in the Province. I referred before to the amount of money received by the Government vendors from the sale of intoxicating liquor last year.

I had to take it from what I might call the quasi-Government organ, the "Bulletin"; because we have no official figures and we have had no answer yet to a specific question covering this account which we placed on the Order Paper. We have no statement, as we should have, in the Public Accounts, so I shall have to take the most authoritative statement I can find, and that is given in a recent issue of the organ of the Temperance Alliance.

The sales of liquor in Prince Edward Island through the vendors, according to the Bulletin, were as follows:

1925	.....	\$185,725
1926	.....	\$189,100
1927	.....	\$157,157
1928	.....	\$130,000

**What Reduction, If Any?**

There is an indication in those figures that the proportion of liquor drunk has diminished during 1928, but you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that one of the planks of their platform was a reduction in the selling price of liquor. What difference will that make? \$130,000 worth of liquor this year should mean a much larger quantity sold than the same amount in dollars and cents under the previous Government; because we charged more for the liquor. When you take that into consideration, Mr. Speaker, how much have they reduced the sale of liquor through the vendors? (Applause.)

I put this question to an hon. member on the Government side of the House, who, I am sorry to say, is not present today: Would he say that \$130,000 worth of liquor was needed last year for medicinal purposes? He admitted that it was too much. We always recognized the fact that too much was being sold for medicinal purposes. My hon. friends were going to remedy that condition; yet the fact remains that about the same quantity is being sold for this purpose today as when we, the "rum-selling" government, were in power.

**Prince County Jail**

The leader of the Government took great objection in his speech to a statement I had made that there were over twenty people in jail in Summerside when he was away in Ottawa. Perhaps my information was incorrect. I have not the same access to the authentic records as he has; but I got my information from the Liberal press of this Province. I got it from a paper that is published within a stone-throw of my hon. friend's own door-step, and it certainly makes the claim in plain language. I do not think he will deny that the Pioneer is a strong Liberal paper; and there is another paper, the Island Farmer, which is practically another edition of the Pioneer, published under the same management. I have here an extract taken from the Island Farmer of March 20th last, the day after this House opened, and the very day I made that statement on the floor of this House:

"At the beginning of this week there were twenty-one prisoners in the Prince County Jail and many of us are yet at large who should, possibly, be there to put a further strain upon the resources and capacity of the institution."

I do not know whether they deal in liquor at the Pioneer office or not. My hon. friend ought to know; he can see it from his front door. (Laughter.)

"One reason given for the over-crowding at present, is, we understand due to a new money making scheme that is the latest development in the many wiles of the bootlegging fraternity."

So my hon. friend will see that according to the editor of the Pioneer there is still bootlegging, and it is developing, apparently, because they are inventing new methods right under the eyes of this host of prosecutors who were going to revolutionize conditions with regard to prohibition in this province. The article continues:

"In the past, when a man was fined \$200 or so, or so many weeks in jail, the fine was paid by or for the man convicted. Now, it is said, the practice is that instead of the man higher up in the game paying the fine, pro bono publico, the convicted man goes to jail and receives the \$200 or so, plus his free board and lodging in the interval, at the time of his discharge." (Laughter.) That is bad enough; but I direct the attention of my friend the editor of the Patriot to what follows:

"Thus the felon can now take an extended holiday with all found, and still draw wages at a higher rate than most of us, in the newspaper game at any rate, can make with our noses continually to the grindstone." (Laughter.) "Jail, where is thy sting; or virtue, thy reward?" (Increased laughter.)

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**Small Politics**

So far as all, Mr. Speaker, I was

not responsible for the mistake. There was nothing wrong in my statement; I have no responsibility for the Liberal press, and surely I have a right to quote it in this House. That is the situation, yet my hon. friend opened up the vials of his wrath against my hon. colleague from Charlottetown the other night because he suggested that there was some irregularity in connection with the jails. My hon. friend said that was "small politics"; that the hon. member was "wasting the time of the House" with such statements. It is all right, apparently, for a member to spend twenty minutes or half an hour detailing imagined ills and his ill treatment at the hands of the Opposition party, but when another member refers to the conditions in the jails of this Province it is "small politics." Apparently the Liberal press from which I have quoted did not consider it in that way.

My hon. friend made a great ado about prisoners being released from jail under the Conservative Government. Perhaps they are not doing that; but they are taking them out of jail to go and see prize fights and amusements of all kinds, and they are having afternoon calling days for the benefit of the prisoners in jail, and they have the fact placarded in my hon. friend's own town so that all and sundry may know it. (Applause.)

**Where Did The Money Go?**

Now we are going to have a plebiscite. I wonder if all the hon. gentlemen in the government benches are really and honestly hoping that Prohibition may carry when that plebiscite is taken? I have no doubt as to the attitude of the leader of the Government, because he is a temperance man and I have always given him credit for his sincerity in that regard. He is not interested in prohibition revenue, at any rate, because he wouldn't take it. Yet they received \$130,000 from that source last year and the people of this Province do not know where it went. It is gone, and apparently they are never going to know so long as this Government is in power. They are evidently wasting that money, because I submit, Mr. Speaker, that no intelligent man can be persuaded that they have spent \$130,000 properly, plus the fines they have collected, in legitimate law enforcement. There is absolutely no evidence of it. They could not do it and spend the money properly. It is Government money, and these gentlemen should either adopt one course or the other; they should see to it that the money is not received, or, if it is received, the public should know how it is expended. We cannot blame the Provincial Auditor for having that left out of his report, because we know his attitude. We know his insistence in former years that there was not sufficient for a public statement with regard to those funds. Why has he

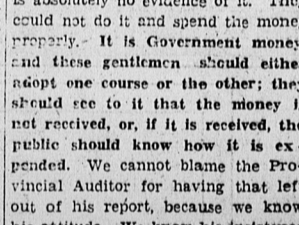
**Conclusion**

I do not know that there is anything more that I have to deal with. Perhaps I have occupied more time of the House than necessary, but I felt that these were matters upon which a reply was needed. I am sorry I cannot offer my congratulations to the Government on its record. In the face of all the statements they made when in Opposition; in the face of the criticisms which they offered with regard to the finances under the previous Government, they spent last year in ordinary expenditure over \$100,000 more than we did in the last full year we were in power, just two years before. There has not been any increased legitimate expenditure to justify such a thing. And the gross figures are much higher than that, for we find that they spent, in every way, over \$300,000 more than we did.

There are very many statements in the Public Accounts that are belocoded; many things that are not shown; many things that will arouse the suspicion of thoughtful men and women in looking through the blue books; and these things have not been explained. After all, it shows very clearly the difference between promise and performance. These gentlemen were very rich in promises; they were very strong in criticism. But their first year's record, Mr. Speaker, has shown them most lamentably weak and inefficient in performance. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

**Awful Pimples On Face and Neck For Four Years**

Mrs. Mary Rail, Eganville, Ont., writes:—"I am writing to tell you that I suffered terribly with awful pimples, all over my face and neck, for four years. I had tried everything, but got no relief until one day a friend told me about



and advised me to use it. I used four bottles and my face is now completely clear of pimples." Manufactured only by The T. Millburn Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

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