

PREMIER RIDDLES OPPOSITION "MANIFESTO"

Challenges Fair Criticism In Opening Campaign Speech Stressing Gov't Record

Masterly Analysis Of Provincial Political Campaign Issues By Premier MacMillan, Who Will Deliver A Second Address On Tuesday Night, Outlining Conservative Platform.

The record of the Provincial Conservative administration during the past four years, and the unfair nature of much of the criticism made by the Opposition both in the press and from Opposition leaders and spokesmen, was the subject of a masterly broadcast address by Premier MacMillan on Friday night. Following is the text of the Premier's remarks:

Ladies and gentlemen, electors of Prince Edward Island: It is my privilege tonight to begin to discuss the issues of the coming Provincial Election, and incidentally to begin to discuss with you the record of the Government for the last four years in order that you may understand the situation and that you may have the facts placed before you plainly; because it will be your duty within a few weeks to decide what you want for the next five years, whether you want the present Government retained in power or whether you wish to change those who have administered provincial affairs during the last four years and give way to the Opposition, who are so loudly clamouring to attain power in this Province.

Difficult Years

The past four years have not been an easy time to administer government in any Province, or in any country; and in Prince Edward Island are no exception to that general rule. In the first place we have often been the cause of wrecking a Government, but we have been able to carry on to the end of our term and do our work in the interests of the people of this Province, as I think you will agree, faithfully and well.

Prince of Wales College

We have rebuilt Prince of Wales College and it stands today the finest building which I think you will agree reflects credit not only upon the Government but upon the people of this Province. We build that institution with the idea of providing for the necessities of the present and to make some provision for the demands of the future. Consequently we built a solid, fireproof structure and our friends in the Opposition have criticised us for building that institution. One member of the Opposition started out a few years ago and stated that by using the old foundation we could have saved \$25,000. He has travelled far from that statement, and his contention at the present time is that if we had used the old foundation we could have saved \$200,000! I would not be surprised if before this campaign is over he does not make the statement that if we had rebuilt on the old foundation it would not have cost us anything; and that statement would perhaps be as logical as many they are making at the present time.

That building, fully, equipped, cost less than \$400,000. Educationists and those who are acquainted with the administration of colleges and universities tell us that it is a splendid building, that it is a credit to us, and that it was a remarkably cheap building. It is the intention of the Government to give the people of this Province something worthwhile, something to which their boys and girls might go and procure an education.

Carnegie Grants

Not only that, but by some initiative on the part of the Minister of Education, I was able to induce the Carnegie Corporation to take an interest in educational matters in this Province. I was able to find out why they had never considered Prince Edward Island before. I found out that there had never been an agreement between St. Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales College and the necessary agreement has been entered into. The Carnegie Corporation have given us \$30,000 to erect a chair in Economics and Sociology, the professor of that chair to give half his time to St. Dunstan's College. Was that worth fighting for and going after? I think you will agree that it was. The opportunity exists for every man, woman and child in this Province and it was considered the best way to do that was to give them a library system. However, I am not going to deal fully with the library, which now consists of nearly 35,000 volumes, with 21 branches over this Province, within access of every man, woman and child in Prince Edward Island. When the demonstration is completed in 1936 we will have received over \$100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for this Province.

I have asked members of the Women's Institutes, who have been great workers for education and public health in this Province. I have asked the teachers of schools of Prince Edward Island, I have asked the school trustees, I have asked the pupils, I have asked the public generally, whether they would like to have a library system in every town and village in Prince Edward Island. It is not something worthwhile. We have two amounts—\$100,000 for the library system and \$38,000 to endow a chair in economics and sociology and I feel that is something for which I can claim some credit; and I think the \$2,000 which I have received as Minister of Education and Public Health was money well spent when I was able to bring into this Province nearly \$200,000 by using some foresight.

When Dr. Keppel, of the Carnegie Corporation, was here he said he wanted to do something for every man, woman and child in this Province and it was considered the best way to do that was to give them a library system. However, I am not going to deal fully with the library, which now consists of nearly 35,000 volumes, with 21 branches over this Province, within access of every man, woman and child in Prince Edward Island. When the demonstration is completed in 1936 we will have received over \$100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for this Province.

The Falconwood Problem

The next great problem was the Falconwood Hospital catastrophe. We will always remember the kindness of the citizens who interested themselves at the time of that catastrophe and who helped us out in our difficulty of placing the patients. We had to divide them into three sections and secure temporary quarters. We had to buy the Simms Building and fit it up for the male patients. During these difficult years we carried on and the only thing the only word that can be said by the Opposition is "Oh, yes, they spent \$35,000 on plans to build a \$100,000 building." That is all the Opposition can say, despite the fact as soon as we were in power I said to the Premier "I am going to bring an expert from the Mental Hygiene Council of Canada here who will give his services free, to investigate conditions at Falconwood, because I am not satisfied with conditions there." That report was tabled some years ago and the public know what it contains, but before we received that report we started to work to improve the disgraceful conditions found existing at Falconwood.

Another Slander

There is another slander in this connection which has been repeated by the members of the Opposition, that we have rebuilt the west wing as we rebuilt the east wing, and saved thousands of dollars. As I have explained in the Legislature, I have the written opinions of construction firms throughout Canada—the Cape Construction Company, the Stewart Construction Company, The MacDonald Construction Company and others, together with two or three architects, to the effect, that the west wing was not capable of being rebuilt because it was crumbling in ruins, it was so much older. I hope Mr. Campbell will be fair enough in this campaign to forego the slander he has been repeating, that we wasted money by rebuilding the west wing of Falconwood. The reason we did not rebuild it was because it was not capable of being rebuilt. That is the Falconwood proposition, and as I have said before, the care of those patients is the first concern and responsibility of any government. We have endeavoured to deal fairly with them, as we have tried to deal fairly with the people during our term of office.

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Trans-Canada Highway

Now in regard to the highway to Borden, which they say we have no legislative authority for building. Mr. Campbell resorts to a statement that it is a strange thing that unemployment work done last year was not entered into Public Accounts until the next year. They increased that system, that the unemployment expenditure of 1930 was not shown in the Public Accounts until 1931. He knows very well the legislative authority is given when the amount of money required is known, when the project is completed, and the same system is carried on as in 1930.

Public Health

One surprising thing last night was that Mr. Campbell made no reference to the Public Health Department of this Province, nor is there any reference in their platform to public health — one thing which is very important to the people of this Province. What do they intend to do in the matter of public health? They look great credit for the help they gave to the Sanatorium. They helped the Provincial Sanatorium during their term of office by \$50,000 for capital and maintenance, after the Women's Institutes had contributed the rest of the money and had raised over \$70,000. We have helped the Sanatorium to the extent of \$64,000 against their \$56,000, but we are not bragging about it. We are not holding it up but when they hold it up as part of their expenditure why should we not do the same?



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found gravel in Prince Edward Island and used it. We are satisfied that Prince Edward Island gravel will suit the needs of the Province and so long as we are in power, whatever is spent on gravel will not go to Nova Scotia.

They ridicule a section of the experimental road project at Southport which has not stood up. We said to the people of this province, "We are going to try out this experimental road." We built a mile at Hampton and at Southport, and a mile on the North River Road and three miles at Southport. Some of it has been fairly satisfactory but due to defective drainage and soil conditions at Southport some of it did not stand up and it is now being repaired by the company at their own expense. For this we are being criticized. The Patriot newspaper stated "The highway is cracking under the April sun." However before we are through we will know what is satisfactory and what is unsatisfactory so far as economical road work is concerned. The experiment did not prove successful in the first instance why should the government be criticized. We have endeavoured to do something in the interests of the people of this Province and I think those who are in power should be in the next few weeks will see that the experiment has indeed been worthwhile.

They say we are an extravagant government. I suppose if they had been in power they would have done what they did before? They would have made a lot of promises as they are making now—promises they never did fulfil, whether they ever intended to fulfil them or not. I wonder how they would have treated the poor, the suffering, the old people and others in want in this Province during the last four years.

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They scoff at our road policy and say they will look into a system of road building when they get in power. They promise they will investigate, and that is as far as they go. They say they will deal with Old Age Pensions, they promised it in their platform in 1927. Did they put it in operation? Not at all; it was an empty gesture.

Another Slander

There is another slander in this connection which has been repeated by the members of the Opposition, that we have rebuilt the west wing as we rebuilt the east wing, and saved thousands of dollars. As I have explained in the Legislature, I have the written opinions of construction firms throughout Canada—the Cape Construction Company, the Stewart Construction Company, The MacDonald Construction Company and others, together with two or three architects, to the effect, that the west wing was not capable of being rebuilt because it was crumbling in ruins, it was so much older. I hope Mr. Campbell will be fair enough in this campaign to forego the slander he has been repeating, that we wasted money by rebuilding the west wing of Falconwood. The reason we did not rebuild it was because it was not capable of being rebuilt. That is the Falconwood proposition, and as I have said before, the care of those patients is the first concern and responsibility of any government. We have endeavoured to deal fairly with them, as we have tried to deal fairly with the people during our term of office.

Those Ottawa "Plenies"

We sought Unemployment Projects in every way possible. We were not satisfied to sit in our offices in the Provincial Building as the Liberal government did. We went to Ottawa and presented our claims and I am glad to say we were not empty-handed, with nothing but "soose eggs," as the Liberal Government did on nearly every occasion they went to Ottawa.

Public Health

One surprising thing last night was that Mr. Campbell made no reference to the Public Health Department of this Province, nor is there any reference in their platform to public health — one thing which is very important to the people of this Province. What do they intend to do in the matter of public health? They look great credit for the help they gave to the Sanatorium. They helped the Provincial Sanatorium during their term of office by \$50,000 for capital and maintenance, after the Women's Institutes had contributed the rest of the money and had raised over \$70,000. We have helped the Sanatorium to the extent of \$64,000 against their \$56,000, but we are not bragging about it. We are not holding it up but when they hold it up as part of their expenditure why should we not do the same?

Mr. Campbell's Misstatement

We appointed an architect and we showed him the report of Dr. Clark and I was surprised again at the misstatement of Mr. Campbell last night when he said we had to send an architect all over the North American continent to learn something about mental hospitals. That is another misstatement. It is quite true Mr. Fowler went to Toronto and consulted the Canadian Mental Hygiene Council. It is quite true he spent a lot of time visiting institutions. It is quite true that with the Mental Hygiene Council and the Ontario Government he sat in on many conferences to obtain information regarding the latest and most modern mental units in that province.

Something Worth While

The \$90,000, the only money which the Liberal received from Ottawa, was received by the Hon. Minister of Public Works—the Hon. Mr. McIntyre—from "that man E. B. Campbell," who the Liberal party never have the fairness to say one good word.

Tuesday Night's Meeting

There are many other matters of paramount importance to the people of this Province, which I will not have sufficient time at my disposal tonight to deal with. I propose to deal with them at a public meeting in the Capitol Theatre in this City next Tuesday evening, where I will also announce the policy of the Conservative Party and where I will show why Mr. Campbell went very slightly over the question of claims last night and laughed at the increase of \$150,000 in subsidy which we have obtained. I will show why the Liberal Party when they were in power never obtained any increase of subsidy. I will answer the statement they made on the floor of the House, that it was because the Conservative Government of Nova Scotia, under the leadership of Mr. MacMillan, did not cooperate with the Liberal Premier of this Province. I will prove conclusively that it was not the Conservative Premier of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick who the Liberal Premier of this Province; and I will prove over their own signature that what representations they made to Mackenzie King were only laughed at. Since 1912 three increases of subsidy have been made to this Province—\$100,000 in 1912 by the present Chief Justice Matheson, \$125,000 obtained by the Stewart Government from the Duncan Commission in 1926 and 1927, and \$150,000 obtained by the MacMillan Government in 1931—\$375,000 in all.

Farewell Gift For Lady Bessborough

Women of Canada to Present Memento of Years Spent in This Country.

Women of Canada will be given an opportunity to take part in presenting a farewell gift to the Countess of Bessborough. At a meeting held in Ottawa recently over which Lady Perley, wife of Sir George Perley, presided, it was announced that Lady Bessborough had consented to accept a memento of the happy years she has spent in Canada. A movement to present such a gift was launched at the meeting. The national committee includes wives of Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces, wives of federal cabinet ministers, wives of other privy councillors and presidents of women's nationally organized societies.

The following telegram has been received by Mrs. DeBlois from Lady Perley: "A preliminary women's national committee with Lady Perley as chairman was formed in Ottawa June 12th to arrange a farewell gift for Her Excellency Lady Bessborough. As in former years, the committee asks that the wives of the Governors be responsible for securing subscriptions in their respective Provinces. Owing to the departure of Her Excellency in September the committee ask the matter be given your immediate attention." "Would all those interested kindly send their contributions to Mrs. DeBlois at Government House within the next week. No one is asked or expected to contribute more than one dollar."

ANNUAL MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Prince Edward Island Medical Society will be held in the CANADIAN NATIONAL HOTEL, CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JULY 12th.

Business session 11 a. m. Clinical session 2 p. m. Visiting members of the medical profession welcome.

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