

\$20,000 Wasted At Falconwood Says Supporter

Mismanagement At Falconwood Farm Denounced By Mr. Barbour In Budget Debate. Mr. Wright Urges Members "More Important Things" Than Balancing Of Budget

Mr. George H. Barbour, Second Prince following Mr. Foley in the Budget debate on Tuesday, called a story he had heard from the senior member from Belfast with regard to the Women's Liberal Club function at the opening of the Legislature. The latter declared that one of the members from Summerside was "the prettiest little man in the whole crowd."

Hon. Mr. Allen: "He is referring to the junior member from Summerside" (Laughter). It has often been said, Mr. Barbour continued, that a strong Opposition makes a good government, but that did not apply during the years 1931-35, when we had a strong Opposition led by the late Hon. W. M. Lea. Did that make a good government? On election day there was not one district in the Province that said so.

"We are without an Opposition, and I say that we have a rare chance in this Legislature to try to do the things that we can have good government with a one-party House," he declared. Prior to the last election Mr. Barbour said there were crowds on the roads, hauling gravel and the candidates "took the work out of the Minister's hands." Even Liberals were hauling gravel at that time. The people were getting more relief than at present, and one of the tasks this Government had to face was "to cut down on relief."

When the Government was formed he wanted to do one thing, Mr. Barbour said. That was to see Mr. Dennis taken into the cabinet. The Premier said all the Cabinet members were "particular friends of mine before the election." Mr. Barbour continued, "They are not now, perhaps, but we will have to let that go as it is."

Mr. Stewart: "Not so particular now." The only reason he had entered politics, Mr. Barbour said, was "the extravagance of the last Government. I thought there was some chance to make revenue and expenditure meet." He believed that by being fair to this district, to the Province and himself he could not fall to be fair to the Liberal Party.

The Liberals had taken office under hard circumstances, with a "Conervative deficit" at the end of the year of \$37,000 on current account. "Last year we had only a \$24,000 deficit on current account,"

and when we take our two years together we have only gone behind something less than \$30,000 a year, which under the trying circumstances I consider is a pretty good showing. To this year's difficulties was added the necessity for providing for the seed shortage, he pointed out. On the subject of the National Park, he did not think that many in his district were very favorable to the proposition, but personally he believed it would be a splendid thing for the Province, even if it cost \$100,000. Last year 9,000 cars came to the Island; next year Mr. Barbour estimated, under favorable conditions, an increase to 12,000, and by 1940 15,000 cars would be crossing. Eventually, he hoped, "the Tourist Association will take this Province out of the red."

Hadn't Changed His Mind "About the claims, I voted for the Act as it was passed, and I haven't changed my mind about it because I have been in Court more than the average layman in the Province," he said. He did not think the Court was for people who do right, but only for those who do wrong. "We have to hold the balance between the taxpayers and the Government," he said. "The Province needs for a National Park. Is it right for this Government to go and spend more money than what is necessary for it? I think the government is justified in the action it has taken up to the present."

"So far as the land which is needed for roads is concerned, it is only a little here and a little there, and it would be a great mistake to hold up the public works program if the Minister had to take this into consideration." Mr. Barbour was appreciative of the work given on the Western Road last year summer and fall, without which he did not see how many poor farmers could have carried on. He also complimented the Minister on the contracts made with regard to graveling and hard-surfacing.

The member from Stratburg, he said, had stated that he did not have any hard-surfaced roads in his district. Mr. Stewart: "I rise to a point of order. I didn't make that remark at all. I said in the programme for the coming year."

Mr. Barbour accepted the correction. He was sure that when the present contracts were completed, other necessary road work would be undertaken. Cost of Justice Dealing with increased expenses in the Department of Justice, he said that since 1918 the cost had risen from \$28,000 to \$79,000. In 1918 we had no provincial police, no county magistrates, no assistant Crown prosecutor, and no R. C. M. P. To pay our taxpayers through provincial and federal channels, pays \$23,300 for the services of the Mounting Police, \$70,000 for administration of justice, about \$15,000 for three County Court judges, about \$28,000 for Supreme Court judges; in all nearly \$200,000.

Mr. Barbour noted that when the Rowell Commission was here the Bar Society presented a brief requesting a fourth Supreme Court judge for this province. "I hope our Government is not taking any hand in that," he said, "because I think the taxpayers in this province are saddled with enough taxes now for the work they are doing." He cited the annual report of

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R. C. M. P. activities covering budget could not be balanced this year, Mr. Horace Wright, Fourth Prince admitted. He differed, however, with some of the members who had criticized the Premier "so severely." After listening to him, all the members should have come to the conclusion that he did "exceptionally well."

I felt that the criticism of these hon. gentlemen would have been much more effective if they had not started in by criticizing the Minister of Public Works on not having given them a sufficient grant for their districts," he said. "When members stand in their places and criticize the Minister for not yielding to their demand, and then again criticize the Government for having in excess of \$100,000 in the budget, so big a deficit, I think they are not doing very well with the members of this House."

He thought the Minister of Public Works should be congratulated on the fact that in the two years, he had been in power, he had come within his estimates. Mr. Wright could "find reason to sympathize" with hon. members keeping their promises to the people. He realized it was very important that plank in the Liberal platform with respect to a balanced budget be carried out. As the only member in the House who was not a candidate in the 1935 election, he could say that there were conditions at this House had a possibility of knowing. The Conservatives had budgeted for a surplus of \$37,000 and no one imagined that the year they would add would be a \$37,000 deficit. There was also the assurance that the highway projects would not cost the Province anything. The Liberal candidate had a right to make their estimate on the figures of 1934, he said.

The National Park, he believed, would bring increased provincial traffic. The expenditures made on public works had already brought in a considerable revenue to the Province. Looking over the Public Accounts, Mr. Wright discovered that during the past years, 1927 to 1937, we spent a total of \$1,805,034 of provincial money on roads. In 1927 the gasoline tax revenue was \$47,933, at three cents a gallon. The total amount at the present rate of 10 cents to \$159,776. We had an actual revenue from gasoline tax in 1937 of \$317,307, which meant, Mr. Wright figured, that we had a right to make the expenditure in gasoline due to the expenditure we were putting on our roads. That amount would provide interest and sinking fund for \$2,500,000 in twenty years and at the end of that time the debt would be paid off and we could start building more roads without any expenditure.

"I am making that statement," he said, "to show that a progressive government might have a large increase in expenditure, but at the same time would result eventually in great benefit to the province."

"I do not think the members of the House need worry too much about that promise to balance the budget, because it may be that in trying to keep that promise we will be doing some little injury to the Province," he continued. He cited expenditures for fox field service, fishermen's loan administration, parish promotion, etc., and asked how these could be eliminated without injury.

The hon. members who had started out to criticize the Government on its expenditures had said they were going to offer constructive criticism but Mr. Wright confessed that he "could not see it." Mr. Wright: "Peg pardon?" Mr. Hughes: "Did you notice that I didn't get a chance to finish?" Ignoring this query, Mr. Wright continued to cite other items of unavoidable expenditure.

There was, he said, considerable Dominion Government relief distributed in this Province. "But that was the policy which they adopted, and the very fact that we are going on economically trying to balance the budget prevented us from getting more relief money. We could have got a much larger amount from the Dominion Government had we ourselves contributed more. The same applies to old age pension. Because we were trying so hard to balance the budget we kept the old age pension at a lower amount than they would otherwise have got. It is good business for us to refuse \$75 for an expenditure of \$25 of our own money. I don't think it is good business to refuse an offer of that kind, and I think if we take the full amount, the largest amount that is possible to get, we go to our old people and it would also go to our business men and a large portion of it would eventually come back to the treasury of this Province."

Mr. Wright cited gasoline rebates to farmers and fishermen as another item that could not be cut down. He then stressed the needs of the Provincial Sanatorium. "Are we going to consider a few paltry dollars ahead of suffering humanity?" he asked. "It was the Province's duty to see that these people were provided for. In all their expenditures which were increasing yearly was it possible to retrench?" Premier Campbell: "You left out the Libraries, in that the list of increases."

Mr. Speaker: "And the Montague Hospital?" Mr. Wright referred to the campaign for education reform. He had long been of opinion that a certain amount had been unwisely spent on education from the provincial point of view. He endorsed as a move in the right direction the short farm and domestic courses, but these were not sufficient; they should be enlarged and extended. This could be done at little extra expense by using the money now spent on 3rd and 4th year college students. Mr. Wright did not think these students appreciated what they were getting. They had instituted a press campaign to try to convince the public that the tuition fees they were paying were unjustified. The facilities provided for those students were not being taken advantage of. There was provision for a much larger class of advanced students than were enrolled in these classes. Mr. Wright endorsed the present school curriculum was one which had not only established a foundation for successful Islanders abroad but as being fitted for those who remain on the land. One reason for

The Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at cents a word strictly payable in advance.

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ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that advertisements for insertion in the Guardian should be received at the office not later than 11 A.M. the previous day.

GOOD FRIDAY AT THE KIRK —As usual, Good Friday will be observed in St. James Church tomorrow, commencing at 11 A.M. when the Minister, Rev. Dr. Moorhead Legate, will be assisted by Rev. A. O. Thomson, D. D., Brookfield.

DISPENSARY MEETING — At a meeting of the City Dispensary held yesterday afternoon it was decided to hold the annual meeting on Friday, May 13th, in the Board Room of the City Hall, and arrangements were also made for the annual collection.

RETURN HOME — The many friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Shay, Winsloe will be pleased to know that they have returned from Boston with their little four-year-old daughter, Janet, who underwent a very serious operation in the Mass. General Hospital and is doing as well as can be expected.

PERSONALS Senator Hughes has returned from Ottawa for the Easter vacation.

Miss Marion Waddell, Tryon, is visiting the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Paynter, Gamble's Corner.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Leavitt after spending the winter in Charlottetown have returned to their home in Alberta.

Card of Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mill and family of Clernont take this opportunity of expressing their heartfelt thanks to friends and neighbours especially J. L. Davison for their kindness received during the illness and death of their little daughter and sister Roma; also for lovely letters of sympathy so thoughtfully sent. L-84-44-14-11.

Trinity United Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 14th 7:00—Chamaine Chorus. 7:30—Special Easter Service — Rev. A. E. MacKenzie, 7:00 Sharp—Heartz Hall, Young People's Choir.

ST. JAMES CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC WORSHIP AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK A. M. THE MINISTER WILL BE ASSISTED IN THE SERVICE BY THE REVEREND A. O. THOMSON, D.D.

"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow." STRANGERS AND VISITORS CORDIALLY INVITED.

CHARLOTTETOWN Fox Club will meet tonight at 8 o'clock. Speaker Mr. Fred Burke. L-101.

TEACHERS — While attending convention visit Purdie-Ferguson's great shoe sale. Bargains galore. L-102.

Farewell Gift

The following address was read to Mr. Douglas, the retiring station agent at Georgetown, on Saturday last, by his fellow railway workers on the Georgetown sub division. The address was read by Mr. Thomas Renton and the presentation of a smoking set was made by Mr. William G. Doyle. Complimentary speeches were made by several in attendance and Mr. Douglas responded graciously thanking those responsible for the gift. Mr. Louis H. Douglas, Georgetown, P. E. I. We, your fellow workers on the Georgetown sub division, having learned of your intention to retire from active service as Station Agent at Georgetown, cannot permit this moment to pass without showing you in this small manner our appreciation of you not only as a loyal, faithful servant of the railway but as a citizen whose interests were given freely at all times to your town and your church and this alone speaks volumes of a man's worth in any community. We do not intend to inscribe in this short address useless words but will merely say that we shall miss your friendly fellowship in the future as we who remain in the service for a time perform our daily duties. However, we realize that your residence is still to be in our town and as such you will be a frequent visitor at the station where you have labored so faithfully and well in the past and we can still have our little discussions and chats in the future. May we congratulate you on your splendid physical condition upon your retirement from the service. We realize that few are in better health than you when their retirement day arrives. In conclusion, our most sincere good wishes go with the accompanying gift and may you long be spared to enjoy it. Kindly convey to Mrs. Douglas our very best wishes for health and happiness in the future.



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