

UNANIMOUS

(Continued from Page 1)

Lea and seconded by Mr. McIntyre. The original resolution read as follows:

WHEREAS the population of this Province depends for a livelihood upon the products of agriculture, fisheries and fur-farming;

AND WHEREAS during recent years no sufficient or profitable market for our products has been available owing to the high transportation charges and tariff regulations;

AND WHEREAS the natural market for Maritime products is in the eastern part of the United States of America;

AND WHEREAS the present time appears favourable to the opening of negotiations with the Government of the United States of America for a reciprocal trade arrangement or treaty with that country;

THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature join with the Legislatures of the other Maritime Provinces in urging upon the Federal Government the necessity of opening negotiations and continuing same with the Government of the United States of America with a view of obtaining an entry for our products into the natural markets to the south by a reciprocal trade agreement.

Mr. Lea's Motion

In moving the original resolution, Mr. Lea said it opened up again the subject of Reciprocity with the United States. It has been admitted that the natural flow of trade on this continent is north and south, rather than east and west. Previous to Confederation the Maritime Provinces enjoyed reciprocal trade with United States and were very much better off as a consequence.

This was particularly true of Prince Edward Island. The Confederation Fathers could not foresee the difficulties that would arise by reason of tariff barriers between this country and the great Republic to the South. The long freight haul and the continuing increasing transportation rates have acted as a barrier against Maritime agricultural products in Central Canada.

Therefore we have almost been deprived of the markets we were supposed to enjoy under Confederation while at the same time we have lost our manufacturing industries which have gone to the large Central Provinces, who have been benefited at the expense of this section of Canada.

Our natural market is therefore to the south, as evidenced by the United States market for Prince Edward Island feed potatoes. The falling off in that market recently was due to circumstances over which we did not have control, but in spite of the duties that are against Maritime products we would be badly off but for the United States.

The speaker cited the continued large U. S. market for cows. Formerly there was a splendid market for milk and cheese. In that great market of 120,000,000 population there were many more opportunities of disposing of surplus products than there is in Canada.

Now that the Democratic Party is in power in the United States, Mr. Lea submitted that the time was opportune to press for reciprocal trade arrangements between the two countries. There is now a general recognition by leading statesmen that high tariffs have contributed to the present depression.

The Federal Government has evidently forgotten the Maritime Provinces, Mr. Lea continued. The Western Provinces have received bonuses but any request for better rates, etc., from this part of Canada is not given the slightest attention, he maintained.

Now was the time, he concluded, to induce the Dominion Government to obtain for us our natural market in the United States.

Mr. J. P. McIntyre

The importance of obtaining access into every market that can be opened up was urged by Mr. McIntyre in seconding the resolution. He referred to the conferences leading up to Confederation and to the inducements held out to the Maritime Provinces at that time, of ready markets for our fish and agricultural products, our lumber and our coal.

These products, Mr. McIntyre continued, failed to find the promised markets in Central Canada and the result was the loss of the New England market which we had sacrificed by entering Confederation. He referred to the Reciprocity Issue of 1911. The defeat of Reciprocity meant the loss of the greatest opportunity we had had in generations.

On the resolution before the House there should be no difference of opinion. Political motives, Mr. McIntyre urged, should not intervene.

MOVES AMENDMENT

Hon. G. Shelton Sharp
Hon. Mr. Sharp then moved to

amend the resolution as it appears at the beginning of this article.

The members on this side of the House, he said, are certainly in favor of any measure in the interests of the farmers and fishermen. A great deal has already been done at Ottawa last year in the trade agreements negotiated between Canada and other Empire countries. With the negotiations of those agreements, trade immediately began to flow, but Canadian producers were handicapped in the early months of the agreement by reason of the exchange situation. During the last few days a stabilization fund has been provided by the Federal Government whereby the pound value is stabilized at \$4.60 on a list of farm and fisheries commodities. The actual value of the pound sterling is now \$4.11 or \$4.12 and the difference will be the amount we will receive in addition to present prices in the British market. The Federal Government has thus indicated its interest in the farmers and fishermen and it is prepared to go a long way to assist them in obtaining markets.

A great deal had been said by opposition members in the Budget debate about the sugar tax. They did not realize, said Mr. Sharp, that if this tax goes towards exchange value of the pound sterling, it will be very well expended.

We can rest assured that from now on our products will continue to find an increasing market in the old land.

The increase in canned lobster as a result of the Bennett Government stabilization measure was cited. It meant receiving \$13.35, where formerly the packer received \$12.00 and that should be very pleasing to the hon. members from Morell and St. Peters.

Mr. Sharp did not wish to thresh old straw of the Reciprocity question. He instanced, however, the "jacking up" process followed by successive U. S. administrations against Canadian products. The failure of the King Government to prevent the exploitation of the home market by American products was reviewed. This failure resulted in the Hawley Smoot tariff which was practically prohibitive, with the result that United States sold us \$400,000,000 more than we sold to them per year, under the latter years of the King Administration.

Mr. Dunning realized that fact in 1930 when he introduced countervailing duties. The trouble was that Canada did not have much tariff to lower while theirs was high.

The Bennett Government established a policy of dealing "man to man" with Washington. The result was that in the next two years the tariff was stiffened and U. S. trade with Canada dropped some \$250,000,000. Immediately a change of heart took place in United States industries. Canada was the second largest market United States had and they looked for ways and means to regain that market. To do so she had to make certain concessions and today we have reported negotiations for a rapprochement of reciprocal trade. The result is there is a grand opportunity. They are knocking at the door asking that trade relations be established with us and we are prepared to establish it on fair and equitable terms. We do not want to make any hurried agreement. The arrangement must be over a term of years and we must also see that any arrangements made do not conflict with Empire trade agreements. In moving the amendment he was expressing exactly the viewpoint expressed by Premier Bennett and agreed to by the Conservative leaders throughout the length and breadth of Canada, Mr. Sharp said amid loud applause from the Conservative benches.

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie

In rising to second the amendment Hon. Mr. MacKenzie said he would feel like supporting the resolution if he thought the Opposition were sincere. But it appeared to be a pet hobby of Liberals to preach free trade in Opposition and practise Protection when in power. The good U. S. markets of 1861-65 he had heard on good authority were due to the Civil War in the U. S.

The Liberals were in power with a strong majority in 1911 and could have put through reciprocity if they wanted to, he said. When they were returned to power in later years they had associated with them the Progressive party. Why did they not seek reciprocity then? Mr. King admitted however that his tariff policy was only a chart, on which to get into power.

Mr. MacKenzie believed that the stabilization fund will enable us now to reap great benefits from the treaties negotiated at the Imperial Economic Conference, and for that reason he had pleasure in seconding the amendment now before the House.

Mr. LePage

Mr. B. W. LePage said he regretted any question as to the sincerity of the Leader of the Opposition. We should not play politics

on this question, but co-operate for the good of the country. The British market was "a fair market" but our marketing opportunities were in the United States. There was, he insisted, really no "home market" for our agricultural products. He reviewed the 1911 reciprocity campaign which he said was turned down by the big capitalists. He commended the prosperous times under the King Government. It was doubtful whether the stabilization fund would affect lobsters this season, he said. The British price may go down on these commodities. In any case we must take out of one pocket what we put into the other when we stabilize the value of the pound sterling. He referred to the Cuban market, maintaining that the Conservatives had lost this market by putting a tariff on sugar against which the Cubans retaliated by shutting out our potatoes. If we are to get back to prosperity we have got to forget tariffs. He inveighed against "the capitalists and millionaires who were ruining Canada." He criticised the amendment because "it was just giving a little pay to the Dominion Government."

Mr. T. A. Campbell

Mr. T. A. Campbell commended the statesmanship shown by the mover of the amendment. It was "just a little sugar coating in order to make the pill more palatable at Ottawa." He did not object to this "as long as the sugar coating was not too thick." It was not the purpose of the resolution to interfere with any benefits that have been obtained as a result of the Imperial Conference at Ottawa. That was a very pertinent amendment. "We have no criticism of the effort of the Dominion in negotiating agreements," he said. "Our only objection is that it has not gone far enough."

As to the stabilization provision he was doubtful if this was in harmony with the provisions of the Empire Trade agreements. It was doubtful if it was not in reality a violation of the spirit of the agreements. It was "just a little bit underhand for us to take advantage of the Mother Land in that way." Australia had started to peg their currency and he understood the Conservative Government in Canada gave that as a reason for abrogating their treaty with that country.

England, he said, may see some means of overcoming the stabilization measure. He had an idea of what Messrs. Bennett and Rhodes would do if someone tried to work "that trick" on the Canadian exchange. Manufacturers of different classes of articles in the United States had attempted to do that. Manufacturers of potato bags had offered to accept the dollar at par for their bags and Mr. Bennett had prevented them by a dumping duty. He did not think the British Government would sit idly by, but would make some counteracting provision. He was glad to hear that Conservatives were now prepared to trade "on a fair and equitable basis", but he had his doubts in view of some of the statements of the seceder. The Minister of Public Works was "the most advanced thinker" on the other side of the House but Mr. Campbell believed he was not voicing the real Conservative attitude.

Mr. Lea on Amendment

Mr. Lea said the arguments advanced in favor of the stabilization fund meant that we are to pay for the advantages of trading with Great Britain by taking money out of one pocket to put it into the other.

Mr. Sharp: "Didn't you suggest the same course by inflation?" Mr. Lea said no, that inflation would decrease the value of the dollar and increase the value of all commodities. The money lenders would lose but the producers would gain.

The Conservatives were "blind except to one aspect of the trade question." "You cannot legislate trade east and west that nature intended to flow north and south," he said. Conservatives, he charged, "think they can promote prosperity by making necessities dearer." He commended the Canadian-U. S. trade situation under the King Government.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Why did they adopt countervailing duties?" Mr. Lea: "Countervailing duties were not adopted. The people voted it down."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Why was it proposed in the Dunning Budget?" Mr. Lea: "I will come to that later on."

Mr. Lea discussed the New Zealand butter issue in the last Federal election campaign. He maintained there was no reason for the present amendment; no reason for thinking the Bennett Government. But to show the Opposition's sincerity on the Reciprocity issue they would support it. The Amendment was then put to a vote and was carried unanimously.

Opposition Threshes Old Political Straw In Supply Committee

Technical School And Other Defunct Issues Raised By Liberal Members - Government Speakers Refute "Extravagance" Charges By Citing Expenditures Under Lea Administration.

Provincial Legislature, March 29. Evening session. The House in committee on the Estimate, (Administration of Justice Department) with Mr. Strong in the chair.

The question of coroners' inquest costs was discussed. It was noted that the cost of this item was high last year and that the estimates are high in comparison with the costs ten years ago. The item, however, represented an uncontrollable expenditure.

Mr. LePage referred to the stand taken by the Liberal Government on Prohibition. They could not, he said, be accused of insincerity. He had no objection to putting on more men to assist in prohibition enforcement. There was considerable drinking going on. He would give the Government credit for bringing in Prohibition law amendments, in which they had the support of the Opposition. There was a constable in Rustico in charge of enforcing the law who had not been known as a prohibition man and had never been seen at a prohibition meeting. If this man was getting a salary he should be discharged, as he was not doing his work properly. Mr. LePage said there was a great deal of smuggling going on there last season. Men of approved prohibition sentiments should be engaged, notably Mr. Haywood, Mr. Miller and Mr. Barbour.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Does the appointment lie in the hands of this Government?" Mr. LePage: "I understand you were considering putting on some men."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Through the proper channel, the Mounted Police." Mr. LePage: "I think the Mounted Police will take your suggestion."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "We have already recommended Mr. Barbour." Mr. LePage: "Did you recommend the other men?"

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "I cannot say about the other men but we recommended Mr. George Barbour."

Mr. T. A. Campbell maintained that if all the expenditures in this department were added up the estimates would be considerably larger than is shown. He reviewed the steps leading up to the amalgamation of the Provincial Police Force. The then Opposition, he said, had severely criticised the change. Under the present administration the force had been divided and more expense was incurred. Later the Government saw the error of its way. Shortly after they had disrupted the force and increased its strength by 50 percent, they entered into an agreement for the amalgamation of the whole thing with the Federal Government.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Isn't that good business?" Mr. Campbell admitted it was good business but said it was directly opposed to the Government's attitude when in Opposition. He would not attempt to criticize the R.C.M.P. officers as political heilers because it would not be true. Neither was such criticism true of the Provincial Police force under Liberal rule, he maintained. The people of the Province were paying more than \$15,000 towards R.C.M.P. maintenance by reason of the fact that they pay taxes to the Federal Government for the upkeep of the R.C.M.P. in Canada.

Mr. Campbell compared at some length, the cost of the R.C.M.P. force in Nova Scotia with this Province. The Government's hand had been forced in bringing the R.C.M.P. here, he maintained.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "The Government was not forced into it. Quebec hasn't got the R.C.M.P. yet."

Mr. CAMPBELL: "That is true; and I think it is a mistake on Quebec's part." Mr. Campbell estimated that by adding the federal taxes paid for R.C.M.P. enforcement in Canada it would be found that Justice administration was costing us at least

as much as under Liberal rule. Hon. Mr. SHARP: "Had we never taken over the mounted police, how could we escape paying our proportionate share of the charges the Dominion of Canada pays?"

Mr. CAMPBELL: "We couldn't escape. That is why I say you were forced into it. I think it was a good step, but there was some bungling."

Mr. Campbell said he had not got a satisfactory answer in regard to the number of raids in Summerside since January. He had been accused of stating misinformation but he could say that since the 1st of January there had not been a single Prohibition case brought before the Stipendiary Magistrate of Prince County. The Government was beginning to realize that Prohibition enforcement was a very difficult thing to handle.

He instanced rumor of a cargo of liquor having been safely landed despite the vigilance of the R.C.M.P.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "You don't know that; you are just repeating gossip." Mr. Campbell maintained that the late Liberal Government had been active and vigilant in enforcing the law.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "How about this Government?" "If you go into Prince County in the last few months I don't think you would say that conditions are very good," Mr. Campbell retorted. This was the report that one heard very frequently.

Mr. Campbell cited prohibition convictions in Summerside. There had been 14 men convicted in the last three months. He maintained that "as before" the bootlegger is always one move ahead in the game. The bootlegger has met the shortage of money "by going off the gold standard." "He not only barbers his wares but he goes around soliciting orders under the very eyes of the Mounted Police."

Mr. Campbell maintained that while the estimates for the Department of Justice showed a saving, something should be done to reduce them further in this Department.

Mr. Lea insisted again, on reduction of salaries. He moved the same percentage of salary reduction as in the estimates on education.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan replied to the inferred criticism of the prohibition law enforcement under the R. C. M. P. In the seven months of R. C. M. P. enforcement last year there were 380 searches in Charlottetown and 85 in Summerside. During the first of this year they made in Summerside eighteen searches in January, fifteen in February, and nearly as many in March.

Mr. Campbell: "That is not many it was the practise of our Provincial Police to raid every speakeasy about thirteen times a week."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "Take the whole record. During 1931 the Provincial Police had 143 convictions for prohibition offences to their credit. During the seven months that the R. C. M. P. have been in this Province they have 169 convictions to their credit. 169 in seven months as against 143 for the year under the late Provincial Police Force. Probably that is the best answer I can give as to the efficiency of the present administration."

Hon. Mr. MacPhee pointed out that the Mounted Police also enforce the Customs Act. "When you compare the number of our personnel with the number of the old Provincial Police force, in order to get any parallel your must add nine or ten officials that used to be in the customs preventive service, to the Provincial Police force."

Mr. LePage thought the civil servants would be patriotic enough to take a salary cut. Under Liberal rule times were better and there was no justification for reducing the salaries.

Mr. Allen figured up the provincial debt as amounting to \$40 per head. He calculated that we are budgeting for almost three times the amount of the total taxes collected last year in the Province. This was an alarming situation. We raised \$1,250,000 debentures last year and we will be obliged to raise this year another million if we can manage it. He was afraid we are still a long way from "rounding the corner of the depression." Mr. Allen said he had advocated a reduction in sessional indemnity last year but received no support from either side of the House.

Hon. Mr. MacPhee: "That is more gossip." Mr. LePage: "The present Government is to be blamed for anything that has not been done within a year and a half, what must be said of the hon. gentleman opposite who was in charge of the Agricultural Department for some eight years? He certainly did not succeed in carrying out all the policies he is now advocating. Mr. Sharp understood that in the latter years of the Technical School there were only six or eight pupils taking purely agricultural training. The majority were studying motor mechanics, etc., and omitting the principal subject which should have been emphasized. It was significant that when Mr. Lea was returned in 1927 he made no attempt, during the subsequent four years in which he

of the salaries that were formerly paid, in accord with the estimates submitted to you tonight. Somebody has mentioned Mr. Haywood. The committee knows that that man would be entirely too expensive for us, for my hon. friends paid him \$2500 a year, and his car. I think he was a sort of lay lawyer; that was the position he held. He was not supposed to do this dirty work of going around and making searches. If salaries had anything to do with it, he was the superior officer of the Attorney General, for the Attorney General was getting \$1500."

Continuing, Mr. MacPhee said that Mr. Haywood's salary was but one of many instances that could be cited. He declared that if the Liberals during their four years of office had practised the economies they are now preaching, it would not be necessary for them to make this amendment to the Estimates. (Applause). "It is because the present leader of the Opposition was then the leader of the Government that these officers were employed under him. That is the salary his Government elected to pay during those years; that is the salary we found he was receiving. And I believe the Vendors were getting \$2,000 a year at that time."

Hon. Dr. MacMillan: "More than that." Hon. Mr. MacPhee: "\$2200 I believe. Was that extravagance or was it just evidence of an 'expensive' Government? These are the hon. gentlemen who are coming forward with the plea that salaries should be reduced, when all those salaries have already been reduced by the present Government. I would like any hon. member to point to a single salary in the Attorney General's department that is large. Is there one salary that will compare with the \$2500 that Mr. Haywood received, or with the \$2200 that your Vendors received? I say there is not one; and with that record behind the hon. member I am led to the conclusion that the leader of the Opposition does not intend the committee to take him seriously when he proposes the amendment for further reduction."

"Fault of Commission" Mr. Lea in reply said the Prohibition Commission having been appointed an independent body, the Liberal Government could not interfere with the Commission. If salaries were high that was not the fault of the then Government but of the Commission. The financial conditions now, he maintained, were different and we are facing a new situation altogether. If we go on much longer under this administration without curtailing expenditure we would be where Chicago is now, - facing bankruptcy. \$100,000 should be struck from the Estimates and it was the duty of the Government to find the necessary ways and means.

Mr. Campbell said that one of the first acts of the Government was to reduce Mr. Haywood's salary. If that was right could it not reduce other salaries? He charged political pressure in bringing about Mr. Haywood's dismissal. Mr. Campbell read a letter from the Prohibition Commission dismissing Mr. Haywood and said that there had been such a storm of protest that they had to take him back.

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The amendment moved by Mr. Lea was the same as his amendment to the estimates already passed, namely, that salaries be reduced on the following scale: salaries of persons receiving from \$500 to \$1,000, 5 per cent; salaries of persons receiving over \$1,000 and under \$2,000, 10 per cent; salaries of persons receiving \$2,000 or over, 15 per cent. It was defeated on a straight party vote, 11-15.

After some further discussion, the item passed.

AGRICULTURE (\$47,650)

Mr. Lea asked for an explanation of the estimate of \$18,000 for agricultural short courses and technical training.

Hon. Mr. McNutt cited page 8 of the Public Accounts, covering school inspectors' salaries.

Hon. Mr. Sharp explained that after the closing of the Technical School an agreement was reached with the Federal Government whereby the technical grant could be used for agricultural instruction. The amount expended on agricultural short courses this year was a comparatively small item, covering the expense of thirty or forty pupils who took the short course some weeks ago.

Mr. Lea: "What is the amount?" Hon. Mr. Sharp: "The amount can be stated by giving you the inspectors' salaries and the number of inspectors in the Province plus five of the teachers at Prince of Wales College."

Mr. Lea maintained that this was not a satisfactory explanation. Hon. Mr. Sharp said the expenses of the short course where some 40 farmers' sons received instruction a few weeks ago, had not yet been compiled. The item in the estimates, of \$18,000, was considerably less than the amount which the leader of the Opposition brought down for the same purpose during the last year he was in power.

Mr. Lea: "Not the same purpose at all." Hon. Mr. Sharp: "Practically the same. The amount you brought down was in the vicinity of \$25,000."

Mr. Lea: "We want the actual cost." Hon. Mr. Sharp: "We will be very glad to prepare the answer."

Mr. Lea: "More than that, this information should be forthcoming now."

Hon. Mr. Sharp said it would be prepared as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lea said school inspectors' salaries appeared in the Education estimates. Now, from the answer he had received, it would appear that they are in the Agricultural estimates as well. Did that mean that they were being paid twice, or did the hon. members know what they were voting?

Mr. Lea then took up the subject of the Technical School, established by him under the Bell Government. The total cost to the Province of carrying on that institution had only been \$5,000.

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "What about building and equipment?" Mr. Lea defended the building of the Technical School at considerable length, reviewing arguments he had advanced on other occasions and condemning the Conservatives for abolishing it on coming into power in 1923. He stressed particularly the dairy instruction given at that time. Last year only 2,700 boxes of Island butter were tested. What of the quality of the rest? Under the circumstances it is impossible for the inspector to correct this matter. There is too much competition in the factories. We are still a long way behind what we should be in the quality of our dairy butter. Had the dairy plant at the Technical School been allowed to exist, certificates could be issued to every dairyman in the Province.

Mr. Lea then asked what qualifications were possessed by the additional man employed at Falconwood Hospital at a salary \$1,000.

Technical School Hon. Mr. Sharp said, in regard to the Technical School, it was surprising in view of the Opposition leader's statements that he had not reopened the institution on being returned to power in 1927. If the present Government is to be blamed for anything that has not been done within a year and a half, what must be said of the hon. gentleman opposite who was in charge of the Agricultural Department for some eight years? He certainly did not succeed in carrying out all the policies he is now advocating. Mr. Sharp understood that in the latter years of the Technical School there were only six or eight pupils taking purely agricultural training. The majority were studying motor mechanics, etc., and omitting the principal subject which should have been emphasized. It was significant that when Mr. Lea was returned in 1927 he made no attempt, during the subsequent four years in which he

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Technical School Hon. Mr. Sharp said, in regard to the Technical School, it was surprising in view of the Opposition leader's statements that he had not reopened the institution on being returned to power in 1927. If the present Government is to be blamed for anything that has not been done within a year and a half, what must be said of the hon. gentleman opposite who was in charge of the Agricultural Department for some eight years? He certainly did not succeed in carrying out all the policies he is now advocating. Mr. Sharp understood that in the latter years of the Technical School there were only six or eight pupils taking purely agricultural training. The majority were studying motor mechanics, etc., and omitting the principal subject which should have been emphasized. It was significant that when Mr. Lea was returned in 1927 he made no attempt, during the subsequent four years in which he

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