

# Speech By Premier In Draft Address Debate

Following is a continuation of the report of the speech by Premier J. Walter Jones in the Legislature on Friday, in the debate on the Draft Address.

The Premier took issue with the leader of the Opposition for criticizing the present Board of Education setup. The old Board did not function very much; it consisted of members of the Government together with the Superintendent of Education and the Principal of Prince of Wales College. It was rarely they ever met and it would, he argued, be a backward step to reconstitute that board.

He also took issue with the Opposition leader on the question of restoring Latin to the curriculum in the one-room schools. "Great Britain they would never think of having Latin taught in one-room schools. It would have to be taught after hours. Latin is a subject which I myself have had a good grounding in, and I appreciate the value of a good Latin training, but I don't see why every youngster who goes to a one-room school should be forced to study Latin. There are only one in twenty or thirty or forty who wish to take up the subject."

### Made Optional

"It was the idea of getting all the pupils of those schools well grounded in English and other subjects that induced us to make Latin optional in one-room schools. We didn't take it out of high school and college curricula. In the College we furnish beginners with a Latin course. For those who wish to take Latin we have the best series of Latin courses prepared by the sisters of Kinkora high school and any teacher who wishes to give the pupils Latin will have the benefit of these lessons.

"Latin is not necessary today for entrance to any university, and I don't see why 95 per cent of the pupils who don't want to take it should be compelled to do so. "Professor Blanchard of Prince of Wales College says that he would sooner have his pupils begin French in the College rather than in the one-room schools. I don't think the Board of Education would advise that, but we don't need Latin in one-room schools. That is the policy of this side of the House, and we will never hear of it as long as we stay in power."

### Composite High Schools

The Premier referred to the number of delegations applying for composite high schools in their communities. He did not think they properly understood what composite high schools meant. They probably want regional schools. Composite schools are intended to give a smattering of subjects of a practical nature. The schools are designed to function in a centre of fifteen or twenty schools, and they would be joined into one unit. "We need to get assessments of the land to permit of taxing it in that one unit which would be equal, and we propose during the next year to set up the assessment body and get busy. There is tremendous interest in getting these schools and we propose to canvas the thing thoroughly to have it all in shape. We hope to have the scheme established by the summer of 1947."

### Health Tax

Referring to the health tax, the Premier said it was never anticipated that this tax would bring in half as much revenue as it is doing today. It is now running over \$200,000 a year. He said it had been put through some years ago by a committee headed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. MacMillan: "When was that committee appointed?" Premier Jones: "I think it was appointed by arrangement between Premier Campbell and yourself."

Dr. MacMillan: "Does the record show that?" Premier Jones: "I don't know."

Dr. MacMillan: "You had better talk about something you are sure of. I was not the chairman."

Premier Jones: "Were you not the man who made that report?" Dr. MacMillan: "Don't you know?"

Premier Jones: "I think the tax was a fairly good tax. We have collected from the tobacco tax about \$78,000 or \$80,000 a year."

Dr. MacMillan: "You don't half collect it."

Premier Jones: "And the liquor tax yields more. I know in some cases these are people who try to get around the tobacco tax, but I think they are being attended to. We get a large amount of tax and by the way it is growing it will be pretty nearly half as much as the land tax. I don't know whether you pay your tobacco tax or not; if you chew tobacco you don't have to pay any."

Dr. MacMillan: "I may have to before this House is through."

Premier Jones: "My hon. friend says this money was to go particularly to tuberculosis. I have read in the papers that this tax should be handed over to the Tuberculosis League to spend. We don't approve of handing it over to any organization. If we tax, we spend the money."

"Although we have increased the spendings on health during the

last few years, we have hardly kept up with this tax; but I believe in the next few years that it will be fully expended. If there has not been enough money spent—if the committee which we have does not give enough—I don't see why men like Mr. Barbour and Mr. Prowse and Mr. Stewart who sit on that committee would not give them all the money they think is right. I don't think the present criticism is justified. There is no intention of this Government to hold up expenditures regarding health. I think you said we didn't spend 10 per cent of the tax on health; that is not true."

### No Hansard

Dr. MacMillan: "I said 10 per cent of the tax collected was spent on extra curricular treatment. Do you deny that?"

Premier Jones: "I had in my notes you said we didn't spend 10 per cent on health."

Dr. MacMillan: "When you say a statement of mine is untrue you had better prove it."

Premier Jones: "It is too bad we have not got a Hansard in the House. I get inquiries from other Provinces for reports of our Legislature, and I have to reply saying we are dependent on the newspapers for a report. There should be a report of everybody's speeches, and we have a little printing machine we can use."

Dr. MacMillan: "Are you going to start a Hansard?"

Premier Jones: "I think so, as soon as we can get started."

Dr. MacMillan: "I think it would be a good thing."

Premier Jones: "We hoped to get started this year."

### Other Health Measures

The Premier went on to describe the measures taken to deal with the polio epidemic which resulted in the establishment of a well-kept clinic. "That was one thing we had to do in an emergency with some of this money that was collected for public health," he said.

"One of the chief reasons we bought Beach Grove Inn was to develop health plans. We obtained this property rather cheap and we are ready to expand in any way that may be decided later. We built a great addition to the Sanatorium which cost over \$400,000 and even more disease free than it is. I can be said to indicate that this Government has been lax in looking after the health of the Province."

"I would like, if there were a doctor on our side, to have a Minister of Health. I would go so far as to say that if the Leader of the Opposition would cross to this side of the House I would give him careful consideration for the position."

Dr. MacMillan: "I wouldn't take any position over there, only the one you are in, because you are making a mess of it."

Premier Jones: "If you don't find yourself comfortable I would like to make you Minister of Health."

Dr. MacMillan: "Is there a Minister of Health now?"

Premier Jones: "Mr. Hughes has asked to be relieved of that office. We have not accepted his resignation yet, but I presume I am Minister of Health at the moment."

Dr. MacMillan: "You can do it all; you might as well continue."

"Last year," the Premier continued, "you would think everything was going to pieces because we didn't co-operate with certain individuals on Reconstruction. Now everything is going all right."

Dr. MacMillan: "You knuckled down afterwards."

Premier Jones went on to describe the work of the Reconstruction Department in securing and distributing war assets and A. R. P. equipment.

After the disastrous fire at the Davis and Fraser plant the Government had obtained a suitable building for refrigeration. This was now being used for fox meat storage. They had been hampered by lack of equipment but eventually they hoped to do quick freezing for small fruits in large quantities, as well as handle dairy and cheese supplies in storage. He was sorry the materials for the refrigeration have been delayed. It may be August or September before freezing can be started, which may not be of much use this year.

### Public Works

Dealing with public works, Premier Jones said this department was becoming very difficult to handle. Delegations were coming in at all times and he wondered how the Minister stood the strain.

Mr. Strong: "Mr. Barbour hasn't tendered his resignation yet?"

Premier Jones: "Not yet; but if you had to deal with all his problems I would say that you would have to."

Mr. Strong: "They have always been there."

Premier Jones said about 200 smaller bridges would have to be replaced to accommodate modern traffic. "Traffic is getting heavier and heavier and the type of bridge built when you were in power wouldn't carry a single load today. They have to be replaced and it would take all the money we vote here for the Department of Public Works to put the bridges in shape."

### Back Roads

"I would suggest to the Minister," the Premier continued, "that he put the emphasis this year on the back roads. Let him widen them, and fix them up before he handles any big projects. It might be to the Government's benefit to borrow money to build great paved roads through the centre of the island, but until the back roads are attended to so that trucks can

get in, I don't think we should borrow money to build highways."

"We can borrow lots of money. We borrowed some the other day, \$1,000,000 for fifteen years at 2 3/4 per cent, and it would take the place of \$1,000,000 borrowed in 1932 which in a few years more we will be through with. We sold those bonds almost at par."

Reverting to the importance of improving back roads, he stated that this will be the programme if I can influence the Minister. Dr. MacMillan: "He will probably not listen to you."

Premier Jones: "No, perhaps not."

Regarding the technical school, he said a great deal of the cost of this school was borne by the Federal Government. If we hadn't provided that school the technical school students would have gone to other Provinces. We have had some 250 to 300 under control in that school."

Dr. MacMillan: "What I wanted to know was the cost. You said it would cost \$90,000 and I see by the Public Accounts for the end of March 31, 1946, that it had cost over \$120,000."

Premier Jones: "Who pays it? The Dominion Government at least pays more than half. The cost of maintenance is the same. They pay the teachers and supply most of the equipment."

Dr. MacMillan: "I am not objecting to that. I wanted to see how accurate you were in your statements."

### Fisheries Convention

The Premier said the Government had invited the fishery experts of Eastern Canada to meet here in convention on April 1, 2 and 3. He emphasized the importance of getting together with the other provinces and we have a little printing machine we can use."

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He referred to the investigation now under way into the herring fishery, towards which this Province is contributing. "Some of our fishermen are seeing it with their ships," he said. "The tendency is to get larger ships to go further out and develop a real industry." He did not see why fishermen from Richibucto and other mainland points should come over here and exploit our salmon and other deep sea fisheries which our own fishermen should be doing.

He noticed that there had been no criticism this year about law enforcement. "Nothing at all about enforcement of the Prohibition Act."

Mr. Strong: "There is no enforcement; that is all there is to that."

Premier Jones said it was "heartening" to the Government to note the mildness of the Opposition criticism. He went on to discuss the 3,000,000 bushel potato order from Great Britain.

### Potato Legislation

"I think," he said, "it is an opportune time for this House to pass legislation to make this Island even more disease free than it is at the moment. We have had, of course, an incidence of bacterial ring rot and we have been fighting it for the last few years and have pretty nearly succeeded. The incidence is 2-10th of 1 per cent. In New Brunswick the incidence is 10 per cent, or thirty times as much. In other parts of Canada they are practically being put out of business because of the prevalence of ring rot."

"Here we segregate all contaminated farms. That made a wonderful impression on the officials, both of Canada and the United States. We have not a single case of bacterial ring rot in all King's County. All west of Summerside is disease free. When we first took up this British sale they said they would take potatoes only from these areas. Finally we got the whole island included, because they had such faith in our inspection and checkup that they allowed us to take potatoes even from those places where the disease exists."

"The price of \$1.65 per 100 pounds at ship side is a price which may be increased, because there is a tendency for the price of potatoes to advance. A lot of these potatoes are certified foundation seed, going for eating purposes to Great Britain, and anybody may exchange his potatoes. They are certified and get certified potatoes in their place at the same price, and plant them. So I think we will have to introduce a bill to make it compulsory that anybody with potatoes to sell will have to have certified disease free seed potatoes."

"If we could control the empty bag situation I think we should clear the whole disease up in a year."

### Milk Pasteurization

Dealing with the proposed campaign for compulsory milk pasteurization, Premier Jones said he knew that in big cities this was absolutely essential. But he had seen milk brought from the stable to the consuming point in other places, and he must say that milk produced here is not produced under nearly as clean conditions as it is elsewhere. There is not enough barn

inspection. He described the proper inspection requirements at some length.

"I am afraid," he added, "that is the worst point in the milk situation in Charlottetown, because if you had good barn inspection I have no hesitation in saying that the milk here without pasteurization would be perfectly good to drink. I think when the report comes in that you will be alarmed at the sediment test. How many will wash their hands before milking? How many look after the health of the people who handle this milk? How many will cool it, etc.?"

Pasteurization under such conditions—that is just cooking up the dirt in the milk. I don't consider that very nice. You want to clean the milk first before you pasteurize. I don't think there is any danger of Bang's disease, however, as it is practically non-existent here."

Mr. MacKenzie asked if the Government had any policy regarding mastitis in the dairy herd.

Premier Jones agreed that this was a dangerous disease, but it is rarely seen and if there is a good veterinary around one can learn to handle it oneself. He regretted very much there were not more veterinary surgeons in the Province. "We would require about fifteen or twenty, and we only have two in addition to the provincial pathologist. The Government is trying to work out a policy to induce more veterinaries to come here. Nova Scotia brings in veterinarians and fixes the hours of work."

Voice: "Eight hours?"

Premier Jones: "They tell me now that their system is not working out so well because the vets insist on a five-day week and quitting before 5 o'clock, and it is practically the same in New Brunswick; so I don't like their system on that score. Like the doctors they won't work after hours."

Dr. MacMillan: "You had better outlaw them." (Laughter.)

The Premier referred to synoptical interim reports which had been tabled with regard to the activities in various departments. These had been prepared by Mr. Graham Rogers. "I hired him temporarily for \$150 a month to write up these, much as a newspaper reporter would see these departments after he walked through them. I print

them on our own machine, and I think there is a great deal of information in them."

Exhibitions

"The Government," he continued, "will require to be more liberal with exhibitions than ever—that is if they promote the things that should be promoted in this Province, such as hog raising and dairy cattle breeding."

Dr. MacMillan: "Are you going to increase the grants?"

Premier Jones: "Yes."

Dr. MacMillan: "That is right."

Premier Jones: "We don't want an exhibition to be the tail on the kite of a horse-race. We like to encourage them all right, but I have heard it said that horse-racing supports the exhibition here. I want to say that that has not been true. The exhibitions have been somewhat supporting horse-racing; it is the other way around. During the war we kept the Old Home Week and races going, and you would think they were doing a favor by keeping cattle and things out there. They were actually making a profit because if they didn't have agricultural exhibits they would be taxed 20 per cent of their receipts. But with a proper agricultural exhibition they got clear of the taxes altogether. 20 per cent of their receipts would amount to about \$9,000 which they would have to pay. They can very well afford to have cattle there at that price."

"The Government should not be asked to put in a whole lot of money that they don't get value for; but in anything that they can get value for they are willing to co-operate."

Matthew Wells Plant

The Premier foresaw the day when the Matthew Wells Company might build a plant that would do all their processing here, if the present experiment in cucumbers and later in small fruits turns out well. "We secured three acres or more of the land at the Dominion Experimental Farm for them," he said. "They didn't want to give up the land but because it was an in-

dustry that was needed so much they gave up these three acres and we allowed a railway siding to cross one of our roads. They will pay for that land \$400 or \$1,000 an acre. We will try to purchase land elsewhere in the vicinity to give to the Farm."

"In my opinion," he continued, "the time has come when it is going to be hard for dairy companies to carry on successfully in this Province. They will have to enlarge. I doubt if this Island is too big for one big dairy company." He instanced the huge plant at Granby, Quebec, where 1,200 farmers have contributed towards the plant which cost over half a million dollars and which is now shipping milk products to all parts of the world. A factory of that kind could be established here and he believed the industry was moving in that direction.

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"Our action is dictated both by considerations of the national interest and of our own interest. We look upon this price reduction as an initial move in what we hope will be a widespread attack on inflationary forces.

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