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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1921

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFENCE

The effect of the castigation administered by Hon. A. E. Arsenault on Friday evening was painfully in evidence yesterday afternoon when the House resumed. His scathing rebuke "You are here because you deceived the people" was consciously or unconsciously the text of the addresses by Premier Bell, Mr. McDonald of Souris and Hon. W. M. Lea who occupied the time of the House during the whole afternoon. Hon. Mr. Bell spoke for about two hours, trying to finish what he had spent two hours on, on Friday. His defence was the argument advanced by the Patriot that "the Conservatives were as deep in the mud as the Liberals were in it" and if he proved anything it was that whatever mud might be clinging to Conservative skirts he himself was in it up to the neck. Because the 1919 estimate given by Premier Arsenault showed a deficit by Mr. Bell's figuring of the eight months of Conservative rule and four months under Liberals, did not pan out as forecasted, then he argued that Mr. Arsenault had deceived the people. He, as usual quoted figures to prove his contention. The figures have been doing duty since the Bell government came into power. On the strength of these figures and the fact that the estimates had not survived the change of government was turned with what was intended to be a withering judgment and pointing to Mr. Arsenault, with dramatic eloquence "Thou art the Man". Throughout Mr. Bell's whole speech there was not a hand clap or other evidence of approval even from his supporters until he had finished. The applause which followed was an expression of relief.

He had intimated on Friday that he would have something to say, when resuming on Tuesday about the Prince of Wales College. He had, but it was cunningly evasive and consisted in a criticism of Mr. Arsenault's reference to an "emissary" from the government trying to effect a settlement. There was not a word about the months of vain effort on the part of the "emissaries" to persuade Mr. Bell to settle the matter; not a word about the promises made to the professors and broken as soon as made, not a word about the final yielding by the government in the face of an almost open rebellion. Mr. McDonald followed the same line, the burden of his remarks being that former Premier Arsenault had misled the people when he estimated a surplus for 1919. He waxed eloquent over the alleged claim by the Opposition press that "the province could be run without taxation, a claim which no opposition or other press had never made. Hon. W. M. Lea had the floor when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

KEEPING THE BOYS ON THE FARM

Every now and again some new recipe is presented to keep the boys on the farm; and every now and then a boy leaves the farm regardless of the prescribed nostrum; in other words, the nostrum does not work. A feature of the prescription, usually given is that the modern ingredient—pleasure, is a large ingredient in the prescription. One of the latest authorities on how to keep the boys on the farm declares that the automobile is the great remedy. The farm that has among its possessions a good automobile or touring car, he declares, will hold its boys; they will not wander away to the city. We make a serious mistake and a most harmful one when we assume that the mere question of pleasure is the inducement to a boy's life that keeps him to the farm or takes him away from it.

CURRENT COMMENT

A mover of the reply to the Speech Mr. Higgs had a somewhat difficult task to perform, and especially for one anxious to preserve his own reputation, and he met the situation with considerable success. In the language of Hon. Mr. Arsenault, he said very little to which the Opposition could not subscribe. At the opening he differed slightly with the Government that he gave UNRESERVED thanks to Divine Providence for the blessings of the year. He congratulated the Government whether with intentional irony we cannot say, on the fact that they were standing—not upon their pre-emption—but "UP ON THEIR POLICY OF LAST YEAR". Acting upon the Federal Government's initiative in High Way Improvement, also met his approval but not without a mild protest against the neglect of the approaches to the city, and the plankways of Hillsborough Bridge. Their TAXATION programme, he fully endorsed with a forecast that "it will need some changes" not unlikely of the character promised him by the Government last year, but in which he was treacherously sold. His most glowing tribute went to the Meighen Government, whose newly inaugurated steamship systems, between this province, Great Britain, Newfoundland, West Indies and the Madalen Islands received his unstinted praise. To these the farmers, fishermen and fishers of industry whose labors had contributed so much to the prosperity of the country, his speech was abundant in honor, but for the Bell Government his misfortunes were "THERE WAS NOTHING TO COME".

Mr. McIntyre undertook the more formidable job of dealing with the "virtues of the Bell Government, and as a result HE WAS DONE SPEAKING IN THE SHORT SPACE OF JUST TEN MINUTES, and part of that time was devoted to eulogy of the mover, and a sympathetic reference to the sad bereavement of the Hon. David McDonald. His vision was more penetrating than that of any one else in the province, for he saw, or pretended he saw a business like government now at the head of affairs. His difficulty was in finding out where the business qualities commenced or in what they consisted. He figured out that the heavy indebtedness was bequeathed to them by their predecessors, in which he was true to logic, but omitted to say that eight hundred thousand of that debt was created by the LIBERAL GOVERNMENTS IN POWER FROM 1891 TO 1911.

Like the others on his side he had to do some chucking over the Agricultural Technical School, the only real one, though of doubtful quality, that the Government with the financial backing of the Meighen Government have actually hatched out in the shape of a new enterprise. He endorsed the Premier on his stand on the "TAXATION QUESTION," we presume with apologies in reserve for his constituents, who asked for his resignation. Due he was there to talk of Government accomplishment, and TEN MINUTES EXHAUSTED HIS SUBJECT.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is about time that the first robin was reported. Murray Harbor is away in the lead in this respect as a pair of robins which regarded Prince Edward Island wither weather good enough for them, has remained during the winter and are now looking for a suitable place in which to build their summer bungalow.

Six Pay Penalty For Their Disloyalty

DUBLIN, March 15.—Six prisoners convicted of complicity with the murder of British intelligence officers, members of the Crown Forces in Ireland, were executed at Mount Joy prison this city yesterday. The men were hanged in pairs at intervals of an hour. Twenty thousand people gathered outside the prison during the hours the executions were going on and all work in the city stopped until 11 o'clock. Even the post-office was closed and the telegraph service was suspended. The atmosphere of the city is rife with anxiety and expectations of fearful developments to follow the hangings. Except for a few lorry loads of military on alert with rifles at the "ready," there was a conspicuous absence of crown forces on the streets today. Of crown forces not an armed soldier was visible.

HELPING HUMANITY

BETWEEN the wheat on our prairie and the daily bread of the people of this country and of distant lands there is a long chain of operations, each link of which is strengthened by banking services.

Food Prices Decline But Other Necessities Higher

OTTAWA, March 15.—Further declines in food prices are shown by the records of the Department of Labor, prepared for publication in the Labor Gazette. The average cost of a list of staple foods in 60 cities of Canada, was \$14.98 at the beginning of February, as compared with \$14.48 at the beginning of January; \$16.30 in January, 1920; \$13.78, in January, 1919 and \$7.73 in January, 1914. The chief decreases for the month were in the prices of eggs, butter, bread, potatoes, with slight decreases in some meats, in bacon, lard, flour, rolled oats, rice, beans, prunes and sugar. Coal and wood averaged higher but coal prices were lower in some localities. Rents were reported to be rising for the spring season.

Jury Cannot Fix Penalty, Mob Did

Negro Taken From Jail at Versailles, Kentucky, and Hanged From Tree Two Miles From City.

VERSAILLES, Ky., March 15.—Richard James, negro, charged with the murder of Ben T. Rogers and Homer Nave, at Midway, this county, on October 8 last, was taken from the Woodford county jail by a mob early this morning and hanged from a tree two miles from this city. The mob composed about twenty-five men, and came to Versailles by automobile. The trial of the negro for the

under his stinging lash. From the commencement of the comedy when they started their campaign of deception in the country, to their prospective and in a final tragedy, he painted their fable past in its dark retrospect, and outlined their fatal future with a prophetic accuracy fully justified by the evidence of all previous national experience. He told them at the outset that it was not taxation alone that had aroused the indignation of the people in this country against them. The electorate of this country were lovers of truth, and if they had gone to them with a straight story and told them that taxation was necessary for the upkeep of the country and the maintenance of our public institutions, our people who have always measured up nobly to every responsibility would not have failed in responding to their duty. Instead, they came to this House and declared by resolution, now upon the Journals, that the small War and Health Tax was not needed and moved that it be abolished. They told them, also by resolution that the Provincial Engineer and the Manager of the School Supply was not required, that the salary of the Provincial Assistant Treasurer should be reduced \$300 and that with these savings, AND THE DISMISSAL OF A LOT OF USELESS OFFICIALS, THE REVENUE WAS AMPLE TO MEET EXPENDITURE.

He further exposed the attitude of the Bell Opposition upon the vote for the educational tax referendum, which they declared was not required, using the same arguments upon which they claimed the existing revenues were sufficient salary without additional taxation. And now when they have reached the pinnacle of power, and by a right-about change of policy and the sacrifice of every political principle, they have aroused a storm of protest and indignation from every quarter of the province, their plea is that they did not know the condition of the country's affairs, that they found things different to what they expected, and with cool simplicity, in the translation of that Latin axiom, their only answer is "The times have changed, and we have changed with the times." The Highways Grant, which they are now hugging to their bosom, is a good thing. It was approved by the late Government, who were denounced by these men because, as they said, we were going to involve the country in hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of dollars, and they voted against the grants in the estimates for this purpose. They went further, and both on the platform and in the Liberal press they denounced it as "AN INFERNAL SCHEME" and it is because of conduct like this that they have earned the contempt of the people. And now they have accepted it, they are working at haphazard. They should have prepared blue-prints and plans of our highways so they would know where to work and what to do.

Again, what have they done for the returned soldiers for whose cause they were in bleeding agony prior to the election. They have closed up the utilities of the province, the only means at their disposal to give employment to these men who have served and honored their country. The reestablishment office, which had found employment for several thousands of returned soldiers, was closed up, which need not have been if the Government had exercised themselves to keep it open. The Publicity Office closed without protest or action on their part. The mud digging plant at St. Peters which not only provided employment but had distributed its valuable soil stimulant to thousands of acres of land in the province, was also closed down by the promised mud digging operations in Richmond Bay, and that branch line of railway that we were led to expect would be now in operation, almost out of the very toe itself, where is it and how fares the returned soldiers and the country from its eloquently described "blessings." Where is the \$2,000 grant which they so solemnly promised to our returned heroes? Some of them went so far as to say that if the Dominion Government refused to give this money that they

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murder of Rogers and Nave, who were employed as guards at a mid-way distillery, ended Saturday night, when the jury reported a disagreement as to the penalty. The two guards were killed while defending the distillery from attack, by a party of armed men who were attempting to remove whisky.

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MY AIM

If any little word of mine May make a life the brighter, If any little song of mine May make a heart the lighter, God help me speak the little word, And take my bit of singing, And drop it in some lonely vale, To set the echoes ringing.

