

Record Of Fair And Incompetency

Trenchant Review Of Saunders Government's Mismanagement By Dr. W. J. McMillan In Budget Debate.

(Continued From Yesterday's Guardian)

Following is the speech delivered in the Budget debate by Dr. W. J. P. McMillan, senior Conservative member for Fifth Queens. Dr. McMillan followed Hon. Dr. McNeill in the debate. He began his address on Thursday evening, April 27th:

THOSE "AFFIDAVIT" ALIBIS

Another significant fact is that those who have been fined or convicted recently are not supposed to be Liberals. Probably they are learning their lesson that they had better hand-pick those whom they are going to fine. I think it would be quite possible to submit affidavits bearing on this subject; but I do not propose to do so, because I think the principle is a dangerous one. I do not think you can bolster up a case as a member of this Legislature attempted to do, by submitting declarations from a man who has been a frequent violator of the law. Neither would I give very much credence to the declarations of a man whose own good name and reputation for competency are involved. I do not think that those are proper persons to furnish statements to this House. We can get information enough regarding the Summerside jail through more reliable channels. It is a strange thing, if there were "stills" in that jail during the Stewart Government regime, that it took so long to make that fact known to the public. It certainly did not take two and a half years for us to find it out under this administration. (Applause.) Is it possible that our friends on the other side of the House were asleep when we were in power? Were they like those other prohibition societies and advocates who have a periodical sleep; who wake up on the eve of an election and come out like Rip Van Winkle to support the cause of Liberalism, and when the election is over successfully and the Liberal party is enthroned in the treasury benches, to go back to sleep and to hibernate so that nothing that can be said in the press or on the platform has the slightest effect on them? (Applause) Were those stills in operation when the Stewart Government was in power? I do not think so. My hon. friend the junior member from Summerside (Mr. Allen) is more wide awake than that; I give him that much credit. For if that sort of thing was going on under a Conservative administration we would have heard about it long ago. There surely would have been some clergyman in Summerside who would have raised his voice in protest. Surely the Summerside Pioneer or the Island Farmer would have something to say about it; because they have had some thing to say about the maladministration of the Act even under their own Government, so why should they spare ours? (Applause.)

FALLACY DEEP-ROOTED

My hon. friends say: "Oh well, these are things that are bound to happen." This is another development of Prohibition in this Province, the development of criminals along certain lines, if you can call the man who breaks the Prohibition Act a criminal. It is a debatable question. The whole justification of the Act, of course, is debatable. My hon. friends say: "What about stealing? Isn't stealing going on every day? But that doesn't say we shouldn't pass laws against stealing and make it a criminal offense." Now I would like any member of this House to argue with any degree of success the relative merits of the two laws, against liquor drinking and theft. Is there any analogy or comparison between them? It is quite easy to deal with the law against theft and to recognize its justification. If you are stealing, you are stealing another man's property. On the face of it, it is evident that that is a crime. But is the man who takes a drink of liquor doing harm to his brother, or his neighbor, or to anyone else? He may or may not be doing harm to himself, but can you legislate on the assumption that he is committing a crime? You place this man in the same category as the thief; you say he is a law-breaker and you fine him or sentence him to a term in jail. In fact, you pay more attention to him than to the thief. I say there is no comparison between the two laws. You are not going to stop people that way, because the whole philosophy of prohibition, the whole groundwork and basis of the law is wrong. It is wrong in its principle, it is wrong in its practice. And it is unworkable because you are trying to fix the individual ideas and opinions of a certain group of people on the mass of the people who do not believe in these ideas and opinions. Unfortunately in the past, it has been the will of an organized minority that has carried in this Province. You may say that prohibition has had a majority at every plebiscite; but it is the will of the minority that has dominated. That is why you cannot make a success of it; and you are not making a success of it, whatever you may say to the contrary. (Applause)

CHEAP INSINUATION

There is just one other point in connection with Prohibition that I wish to refer to. Even the right of the city and towns in this Province to vote on this question is being questioned now. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture went to some trouble the other night to show, by the plebiscite returns taken last fall, that the arrears of taxes were attributable to those communities that voted for Government Control. What do you think of a statement like that, coming from a responsible Minister of the Crown? He submitted that the two things are related; that where they voted for Government Control they don't pay their taxes! And when he wanted an example to prove his contention, where do you think he went? Mr. Speaker, he went right up to your own district, into the Third District of Queens. He cited the case of the Monaghan poll, which voted eight for Prohibition and seventy-two for Government Control as an example of a district that does not pay its taxes. I challenged him to say that the people of Kinkora didn't pay their taxes, or the people of Newton, or Borden, Tignish, Hope River, Souris, Kelly's Cross, Rocky Point, Priest Pond, St. Margaret's and all those places, Liberal and Conservative that had voted in favor of Government Control. Was that what the Minister of Agriculture wanted to tell this Province? If so, we had better be careful how we vote, because it is an indication of the way we pay our taxes, and we may be cited in this Legislature as unenviable examples in that respect.

THE MINISTER DREW ATTENTION TO AN EDITORIAL WHICH I BELIEVE APPEARED IN THE GUARDIAN, REFERRING TO THE CHARLOTTETOWN VOTE AND THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY HAVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROHIBITION. HE RIDICULED THAT EDITORIAL BECAUSE IT CREDITED THE PEOPLE OF CHARLOTTETOWN VOTING INTELLIGENTLY ON THIS QUESTION. THEY DID NOT VOTE FOR PROHIBITION BECAUSE THEY KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT IT. THEY HAD SEEN ENOUGH OF PROHIBITION AND THEY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GOVERNMENT CONTROL COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE WORSE; SO THEY VOTED ACCORDINGLY. BUT THE PEOPLE OF CHARLOTTETOWN PAY THEIR TAXES! IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN, MY HON. FRIEND—EVEN WITH THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF PRINCE EDWARD PAYING ONE-FOURTH OF THE TAXES—WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN MAKING UP THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS. THE PAYMENT OF TAXES AND THE ARREARS OF TAXES SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN THROWN

(To Be Continued)

BRINGING UP FATHER

LISTEN! I WANT YOU GUYS TO STOP THIS ARGUIN'. DO YOUSE GIT THAT? AN I THINK YOU'RE THE BOZO THAT STARTED IT—IF YOU DO IT A GIN, I'LL THROW ONE OF THIM GUYS AT YOU.

DON'T TALK BACK TO ME OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT OF THE BUILDIN'—NOW GIT TO WORK.

BUT YOU SAID LAST WEEK YOU'D TAKE AN INSURANCE POLICY FROM ME.

IF YOU DON'T GIT OUT OF HERE I'LL SAY SOMETHIN' TO YOU—NOT FIT TO PRINT—LEAVE OR YOU'LL BE INJURED.

I JUST DROPPED IN—I'M GOING SHOPPING—I NEED SOME MONEY—WELL—I'M WAITING—HAND SOME OVER.

YES MY LOVE.

© 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 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