

Opposition Leader Scores Costly Patronage

Speech On Budget By Public Works Minister

Legislative Assembly, March 30: Continuing the debate on the Budget, Hon. Dr. W.J.F. MacMillan, leader of the opposition, asked the Premier how many officials had been dropped in government offices in the last year or two.

Premier Campbell: "Two or three." Dr. MacMillan: "There should have been more than that. You have enough officials in the government to look after this Fishermen's Loan business instead of paying a Minister's salary for doing \$15,000 worth of it simply money thrown away."

Hon. Douglas MacKinnon: "Will your hon. friend suggest that those twenty-four buildings built for the use of the fishermen should be left without supervision?" Dr. MacMillan: "Not at all. I do suggest that to pay a member of the Government \$1,700 for going around and inspecting a couple of dozen fish houses in the country is not reasonable. It is just a way of looking after certain friends of the Government. My hon. friend from Morell never did anything in the public service for nothing, but will tell you what he does do. He goes to all the public meetings that he knows the Premier is attending, and tells the people what a wonderful man the Premier is."

Hon. Mr. Cox: "And I believe I am right!" Dr. MacMillan: "He does that on every occasion; and this is his reward." Premier Campbell: "What about the A.R.P.?" Mr. Cox: "What about the three or four months I was acting Minister of Public Works when he was sick? I had to take charge of that department. You are not giving me the credit you should give me."

Dr. MacMillan: "The Minister is not sick now." Mr. Cox: "No, but I had to look after him." Dr. MacMillan: "Well, probably when you were acting Minister of Public Works you were endeavoring to earn your money, but you are not doing it now. My hon. friend's family is pretty well provided for. I think the hon. member's brother is an Old Age Pension Commissioner, and I notice that there has been an increase in the number of engineers and my hon. friend's brother-in-law is now the chief government engineer in this Province."

Mr. Cox: "I understand that." Dr. MacMillan: "I think the country ought to understand it too. We had the Premier's assurance that every bit of unnecessary expenditure is being cut out. What is the necessity of adding to the number of Government engineers at this time?" Premier Campbell: "We didn't add to them."

Dr. MacMillan: "Turn back to the Public Accounts and you will find that a few years ago there were three government engineers. A very expensive family, if the people of this Province have to support them all. I wonder if this gentleman was promoted over the heads of the others who had been there for years and years. I suppose this is a brother-in-law of the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board—that is where he gets his pull."

Mr. Cox: "The Minister of Public Works can explain that to you when the time comes." Dr. MacMillan: "Just another case of playing favorites. You can't persuade the people of this Province that there is any necessity of having four engineers at the present time. What did they do last year? What are they doing now? It is proposed to pay them \$7,300 and \$3,800 travelling expenses—\$11,000."

Dr. MacMillan: "My hon. friend is an authority on pulling the wool over people's eyes. He has had long experience. But I am saying that we did as this Government did today, but with this difference: we put in a sinking fund of three and three-quarter per cent. When our bond was due in 1947, we will have \$1,000,000 to pay it off. But when your million dollars comes due you won't have \$1,000,000 to pay it off, and you will have to borrow \$900,000 to refund it. That is the difference between the financing of the two governments."

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for engineers. I would advise the Minister of Public Works to put them on the secondary roads. Let us see if they can't do something."

Continuing, Dr. MacMillan said to his budget as being the first decrease in liabilities since 1926. Let us hope that that will materialize," he added. "It is eminently proper that he, as leader of the government, should have created one-half the public debt of this Province, should be the first to achieve a decrease. On August 16, 1935, we left a debt of \$4,877,846 and today we find a net funded debt of \$8,685,668 and total liabilities of \$9,465,994, as of Dec. 31 last. There should be a question mark after total liabilities because they are more than that. We have not got any record of the unpaid bills."

Premier Campbell: "That is including the cost of the Borden road." Dr. MacMillan: "Is there any reason why the cost of the Borden road should be left out?" Premier Campbell: "No, but it was under a contract let by yourselves. You will say that we died the country with that debt. We had nothing to do with the contract for the Borden road."

Dr. MacMillan: "Of course you didn't. That was only an election dodge. If we had the contract for the Borden road let before you came into power we had also \$5,500 a mile from the Dominion Government towards that contract. And we had another contract of \$100,000 towards the Rustico Road from the Federal Government. So there is no use talking about our contracts, because we had the money to meet them."

"There was an increase in debt of \$4,538,147 since this Government came into power—the whole debt of the Province practically doubled!" Premier Campbell: "We made provision for that, though, with a two cents gasoline tax; \$50,000 a year."

Dr. MacMillan: "And you should have made more provision, because your very first act was to borrow \$1,000,000 or over, and what sinking fund did you set aside? The sinking fund in the history of our loans—one per cent. You took ten year bonds, and how much will there be to meet that debt when comes due?" Premier Campbell: "We didn't spend that money. We found that money borrowed when we came in."

Dr. MacMillan: "When we came into power we found a lot of borrowings too. That is not the point." Premier Campbell: "That is not the point. The Premier said last year was a difficult time for finance, and they did the best they could. They consulted with the bank and bond houses and they took what they considered was the best bargain. In 1932 we told the same story in this House. We went to Montreal, consulted with those houses, and they advised us, as they advised you, to fund our over-draft."

Premier Campbell maintained that they had called for tenders in this instance, and had improved their position. Mr. Cox: "They pulled the wool over your eyes when you gave them \$12 on a million dollars. You did worse than the Fishermen's Loan Board."

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Speaking in the Budget debate in the Legislature on March 31, Hon. J. P. McIntyre, Minister of Public Works, read a letter from Mr. George McNamee, secretary of the Canadian Good Roads Association, expressing regret at the death of Mr. G. Shelton Sharp, a past president of the Association. Mr. McIntyre paid personal tribute to Mr. Sharp as "a true Christian gentleman, whose word was his bond."

The leader of the Opposition had been critical of his (Mr. McIntyre's) extravagance in the public works department, but if the Conservatives had been "a little more extravagant" on the Borden highway it would have served the public better. The Minister maintained it is a wise plan to widen and grade the roads properly, even if it involves additional expense. Mr. McIntyre referred to the building of the Borden highway at some length.

He defended the contracts given to Mr. A. T. MacKinnon, and said Mr. MacKinnon had not asked any money on the building at Falconwood, which was let by tender like other contracts. Mr. Hunter's fees as chief architect were being paid as being only fair and reasonable. There was "six per cent for drawing the plans and six per cent for supervision of the work." The \$35,000 the Conservatives had paid were for plans for 1,250,000 buildings which never were built. The plans were used only to the extent of \$104,000. The building cost amounted to 35 per cent of this work.

Mr. McIntyre also referred to the plans of the Prince of Wales College, \$2,482. The building cost \$280,000 not counting equipment. "Dr. MacMillan: 'You paid your architect for your plans and equipment; then you paid him a percentage on his own bill.'" Mr. McIntyre denied that this was the case. He said the Conservatives had paid another man to supervise building the Prince of Wales College, which the architect should have done.

He defended the Government's system of employing engineers. The Opposition leader had charged the Liberals with fifty per cent of the total debt. He had made the same charge four years ago, Mr. McIntyre said. "We would be responsible by his showing for \$6,000,000 of the debt."

Dr. MacMillan: "More than that." Mr. McIntyre maintained this left the Conservatives with a clean sheet, whereas they were responsible for \$82,000,000 in 1935 alone, and they had failed to make any provision for over \$700,000 of this.

Dr. MacMillan replied that neither the Liberals made provision for funding the debt, nor the Government. This system had always been followed. A heated discussion followed on this point. Mr. McIntyre maintained that if he had spent "three or four millions on the highways, it was money well spent."

Dr. MacMillan: "It is the money you wasted that I am objecting to." Mr. McIntyre reviewed the history of road travelling in the Province, claiming that he was he who had "found the gravel." Dr. MacMillan: "You found it, all right—over in Nova Scotia!"

Mr. McIntyre said the government had gravel contracts at that time, but that before the expiry of the contracts it had located gravel pits in Prince Edward Island. He quoted correspondence with federal engineers on this subject.

He defended the \$1,700 paid annually to the F. H. Cox as chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board. Anything Mr. Cox undertakes, he said, he does well.

Dr. MacMillan: "For himself?" Mr. McIntyre said Mr. Cox had many duties to discharge. Among other things, air raid precautions were under his administration. He had proved to be a very valuable man to the Government.

Dr. MacMillan: "Not valuable; expensive." Fisheries Mr. McIntyre proceeded to review the lobster fishery situation since the war, and the intervention of the Dominion Government—in developing the American market for the canned product. He did not agree with the rigid inspection methods followed in 1940. In 1941 a different inspector was sent around, lobster prices also went up about 40 per cent.

Total value of fish products in this Province in 1926, Mr. McIntyre said, was \$339,000. In 1936 it dropped to \$953,000. In Nova Scotia in 1926 the total value was \$12,000, and in 1936 it was a little over \$900,000. In New Brunswick in 1926 the fisheries were valued at over \$5,000,000, and in 1936 at 900,000. Yet the number of employees in the industry in the Maritime Province was 38,222 in 1926, as compared with 39,999 in 1936. Other words, 7,437 more in the fishery business in 1936, and a drop of approximately \$5,000,000 in the value of the catch.

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In Prince Edward Island in 1940 the total value of fishery products was \$714,000, in 1941, owing to better prices, the receipts were \$990,000. The fishermen are getting on their feet now, and they do not need so much assistance from the Government.

Mr. McIntyre reviewed briefly the road work done last year in the different counties. He stressed the importance of the work done in seal coating. Dr. MacMillan: "I agree with you. It covers the defects, too, in Liberal roads."

Mr. McIntyre: "We covered a lot of cracks on the Borden highway." The Conservatives, he maintained, had spent \$45,000 on experimental roads, but had not maintained, not even cracks. A total of 63 1-2 miles had been seal-coated last year, and it is the intention to carry on this work as far as finances will allow. The engineers pick out the most badly cracked places for treatment first.

Mr. MacMillan: "The system is all right in theory; it is not good in practice because there is political discrimination. The complaint that no Conservatives can get a job." Mr. McIntyre: "I think it is the other way. They are giving us the tickets for employing too many Conservatives. I may say that in my ten or twelve years I never heard any one from working on the roads for political reasons." He came to the Government, and the road-master's system of expenditures, making estimates year after year. Since 1935, he maintained, expenditures usually have been below the estimates. Even in the election year of 1939 the estimates were exceeded by only slightly more than \$1,000.

Dr. MacMillan: "You must have spent in 1940 on snow banks, because that is the time you had the election." Mr. McIntyre said he was always opposed to spending money on the eve of an election.

The Guardian, he said, had complained of the condition of the dirt roads during Exhibition week last year. It was impossible to make any secondary roads last year. In the seven months from May to November it rained three months and averaged an average of every second day. "How could you scrape a road under those conditions?" he asked. "If the Lord Almighty was here you couldn't do anything."

Transportation He cited the efforts he had made at Ottawa in connection with replacing the lost car ferry steam. The suggestion that a new ferry could be built by some United States firm had been investigated. The Department of Docks and Fisheries, New York City, had a boat, but it was not an ice breaker. The Four Rivers Shipbuilding Co., Quebec, Mass. also were asked to ask Canada for shipbuilding space for themselves. Every shipyard in the United States is asking Canada for space.

The Gramp Shipbuilding Company, of Philadelphia, had been mentioned as being willing to turn out a boat in eight or nine months and take P. E. Island bonds in payment; but Hon. Mr. Howe informed the speaker that they too were taxed to capacity. Inquiries were also made with regard to a boat built for the City of Boston. Mr. McIntyre inquired from the Mayor of Boston, who informed him that the boat was not available. These inquiries had been made last July, before the United States entered the war.

Hon. Mr. Howe had assured the speaker that this Province would be taken care of. If anything happens, some boat will be available within twelve hours. "They tell us that they can't build a boat now owing to the war effort," he added. "They say 'You are not starving down there. You have a reasonably good service. And when you look at it straight in the face, that is true.' Referring to Falconwood Hospital expenditures, Mr. McIntyre said the estimate was \$120,000. The Opposition had reduced the vote last year by \$10,000."

Dr. MacMillan: "Just a waste of time." Mr. McIntyre said the member for Carleton Place (Mr. MacPhee) knew it was a waste of time when he made the motion. When the \$110,000 was spent he (Mr. McIntyre) would have to get more to keep the patients from starving. They gave him an additional \$15,000.

Dr. MacMillan: "Was there anything stolen out there?" Mr. McIntyre: "Well, there might have been." Dr. MacMillan: "As a trustee you ought to know."

Mr. McIntyre: "If I knew there was, I would give the name very quickly." Mr. MacPhee: "Was there anything missing?" Mr. McIntyre: "There was a lot of people working there who are missing."

Mr. MacPhee: "Are the employees who are missing associated with the goods that are missing?" Mr. McIntyre: "I don't really know. If I did I would tell you."

Continuing, the Minister reviewed Falconwood expenditures. One item was \$5,000 for the purchase of wine which had to be ordered and paid for last fall, after the loss of the car ferry. They had spent less in 1941, notwithstanding that there were twelve more patients than in 1940. Last year they fed the patients for seven and one-third cents a meal, or twenty and three-quarter cents per day. Consumption of meat, fish and bread had been reduced and kitchen waste and extravagance curtailed. Details in saving in tea, molasses, sugar, etc., over 1940 were given.

Dr. MacMillan: "You must have been running wild in 1940." Mr. McIntyre said he did not think there was an institution in Canada that was being run as economically. The hospital and sanatorium costs, he maintained, were twice as high.

Mr. MacPhee: "There is no comparison at all in the matter of service." Mr. McIntyre: "I'm just showing you how economical we were. I was running wild in 1940."

Mr. MacPhee: "If there is any credit due to my hon. friend I am willing to give it to him." Living costs last year, he said, showed a 14 per cent increase over the preceding year.

Concerning the coming plebiscite on selective service, Mr. McIntyre thought "ill advised for any one to say that his neighbor's son should be fighting in the war." It was the true spirit of democracy. The Dominion Government is asking relief from its plebiscite, but that did not mean concession if the plebiscite passes. He argued, we may want our soldiers to go to Alaska, Newfoundland,

or the United States to protect our own shores. At present they can't send anyone to Newfoundland, even without his own free consent. Mr. MacPhee: "That is not what the Prime Minister says."

Mr. McIntyre: "My hon. friend knows that under the Military Act you can't send them outside of Canada."

Mr. MacPhee: "The Prime Minister says you can." Mr. McIntyre: "That is overseas." Mr. MacPhee: "Well, you disagree with Mackenzie King in the matter."

Mr. McIntyre: "Well, I don't want to disagree with Mackenzie King (Laughter). But my impression is that you can't send soldiers outside Canada."

Mr. MacPhee: "Your contention is much more logical than Mackenzie King's but at the same time it is not his." (Laughter).

Mr. McIntyre joined with the Opposition leader in urging the people to vote "Yes" in the plebiscite. He thought, however, that the voluntary system had been working satisfactorily up to the present. He reviewed figures of enlistments and war production and concluded with a lengthy reference to the Dominion Government's position on political matters at that time.



Yes, YOU BOYS AND GIRLS can help win the War!

What if you can't fly a bomber, or drive a tank, or help make guns and ammunition? You can do your part in winning the war. When you boys go out and cut lawns or collect paper and scrap, you are doing a man's work. That releases one more man for the armed forces or to work in a munitions plant. When you go to the store and carry parcels home you relieve a man; you also relieve a truck and make more tires and gasoline available for carrying on the war. When you girls wash the dishes and help with the housework, your mother doesn't need to get help. That means more hands to work in munitions plants. When you bring dad's slippers, do little chores for him when he is tired, he will be able to do better work and more work next day—perform a bigger part in winning the war.

This message is issued by the Department of Munitions and Supply for Canada

BRAVE MEN SHALL NOT DIE BECAUSE I FALTERED

down there. You have a reasonably good service. And when you look at it straight in the face, that is true. Referring to Falconwood Hospital expenditures, Mr. McIntyre said the estimate was \$120,000. The Opposition had reduced the vote last year by \$10,000.

Dr. MacMillan: "Just a waste of time." Mr. McIntyre said the member for Carleton Place (Mr. MacPhee) knew it was a waste of time when he made the motion. When the \$110,000 was spent he (Mr. McIntyre) would have to get more to keep the patients from starving.

They gave him an additional \$15,000. Dr. MacMillan: "Was there anything stolen out there?" Mr. McIntyre: "Well, there might have been."

Dr. MacMillan: "As a trustee you ought to know." Mr. McIntyre: "If I knew there was, I would give the name very quickly."

Mr. MacPhee: "Was there anything missing?" Mr. McIntyre