

I will give you a grasp of financial and business conditions



INVESTMENT ITEMS is a complete review of Canadian investment and business conditions...

MANY leading papers quote from every issue.

YOU will profit in your investment affairs and your own business by reading it.

SEND your name and address now, and we will forward you a copy.

Royal Securities Corporation, Limited

HALIFAX Branch Office: Royal Bank Building, Sackville 471. CHARLOTTETOWN Representative: 94 Great George Street, Telephone 800.

Mr. J. D. Stewart in a Magnificent Speech

(Continued from page 7.)

House. In 1920 they passed an Act providing for the borrowing of money and the funding of the automobile taxes for the purpose of raising the money to carry on this scheme.

Section 4 of that resolution specifically states that the amount to be devoted to low-lying and swampy roads and culverts. This is exactly what we have been advocating right along.

There is another phase of this question to which I wish to refer, and that is the providing of the sixty per cent. to carry on the scheme. My hon. friend the Leader of the Government has taken a most remarkable attitude, he has preached loudly and long that this highways scheme, entailing the construction of these roads, will not cost the taxpayers of this Province one cent.

This was what he HAS BEEN telling us, but now what does he say? In delivering his Budget speech, what does he give as one of his reasons for increasing the taxes? "Why," he said, "we had to take the auto license fees out of the revenue and to replace that money we had to increase the taxes."

UPKEEP OF ROADS

There is another phase of the subject, and that is the upkeep of these roads. This is a very vital matter, and it is being very seriously considered by the people of this Province today.

When I read the Speech from the Throne I gathered that we might have some concrete remedy this year; that some legislation might be introduced leading to repair of these roads on which so much of the people's money had been spent.

While my hon. friends have been paying so much attention to the construction of these Highways, what has become of the ordinary public roads of this Province? I was very much surprised that the Commissioner of Public Works in speaking on the Draft Address dealt with practically every subject under the sun except his own Department.

PERMANENT WORKS

If they found all these steel bridges erected when they assumed office, what have they done to continue permanent public work throughout their term of office they have spent the magnificent sum of \$33,883! (Laughter.)

And what have they done? We know that steel bridges will deteriorate if not looked after. We know the effect rust will have on them.

A MEMBER: That bridge was in the Cardigan district. MR. STEWART: Will my hon. friend tell me that the people who were painting it belonged to the Cardigan district?

LAND CLAIMS AGAINST DOMINION

There is another matter to which I referred before, and it is rather a disappointing subject. It is very disappointing to the people of this province, and that is the way in which the claims of the province have been handled by this Government.

The delegation of which Premier Arsenault was a member had presented a claim for \$200,000. They obtained \$100,000 without having realized a single claim.

This statement was made a few months before the present Premier came into office. What happened to that wonderful opportunity of pressing our claims? What became of it? It was gone completely out of sight before my hon. friend got to his seat!

My hon. friend in his Budget speech made rather a sorry statement with reference to the figures he cites. He says that the Government has reduced the indebtedness of the Province by practically \$100,000.

PREMIER BELL'S PILGRIMAGE

Now he says that very shortly a delegation will go to Ottawa, or somewhere, to press these claims. We have had three and a half years of opportunity for the sending of delegations, but up until the present nothing except one solitary pilgrimage, made by himself, when he wended his way to Halifax (Laughter.)

I do not care to refer too much to figures. They are rather a dry subject, but there are just a few comparisons which I would like to make, because my hon. friends have boasted that they are the greatest Government this Province has ever seen; that the Bell Government will go down in history as the Peerless Financiers.

During the corresponding years of this Government they had an average revenue of \$852,000. Almost double the amount; over \$300,000 more per year, or during the total period the gross revenue of practically \$1,000,000 more than the Conservatives during the corresponding period.

A COMPARISON IN LIABILITIES

As I have already said, the Liberals found the net liabilities of the Province \$1,096,385. That year their Outside Auditor showed the gross liabilities to be \$1,443,685.

revenue and liabilities; one Government, with a smaller revenue, decreasing the liabilities by practically \$100,000 in four years; and the other, with a larger revenue, increasing the liabilities.

Now there is the matter of interest. I remember when my hon. friend was in Opposition, this was one of his stock arguments to show that the liabilities of the province had increased.

INCREASE OF INTEREST

Let us examine this matter of increase in the interest during their term of office. This increase of \$10,000 does not include the interest on the \$300,000 borrowed for highways or the interest on the highways overdraft during the year, because both these latter items of interest are charged in the highways account in the Public Accounts, which are kept entirely separate from the ordinary expenditures.

It would be reasonable to suggest that the overdraft would be greatest in the fall of the year, before the revenue from the taxes came in,—we will say about September.

There was another stock argument advanced, I think by the hon. Commissioner of Agriculture, and it is being passed around like the story of the hundred vacant schools, from one gentleman to another; and that is the "exceeding of the estimates."

My hon. friend in his Budget speech made rather a sorry statement with reference to the figures he cites. He says that the Government has reduced the indebtedness of the Province by practically \$100,000.

Does his own Public Auditor say to this? On page 10 of the Accounts the Auditor says that the liabilities at that time were \$1,397,060—just \$300,000 more than my hon. friend puts it at.

DISCREPANCY IN THE REPORTS.

Does my hon. friend know that there is a discrepancy between the revenue and expenditure as shown by the Provincial and Outside Auditors?—that the revenue and expenditure do not bring out the same results as appear right on the face of the Public Accounts?

Now let us take for a minute the highways report. That account professes to be made up to October 31st last, and to balance. But nevertheless on page 10 of the Outside Auditor's report in the report of the Bank Account we find at that same date the highways improvement account set down as a debt of \$74,949.

My hon. friends have spoken of what they have done, and have sung loudly and long of their great performances. I want to look at some of their promises. Their first promise was to make revenue and expenditure meet. I have referred to this before, and I think I have shown by their own figures that they have increased the liabilities of the Province practically \$300,000 after taxing the people to the tune of \$200,000 a year more!

Snowflake Ammonia advertisement with image of product and text: 'Softens Water Removes Grease Saves Soap'.

THE MUSSEL-MUD BEDS.

They did give the Conservatives some credit for getting mussel-mud, but they said: "You did not go far enough." The Premier in Opposition was very enthusiastic over this matter and understood that a spur line was to be built to Richmond Bay so as to get the mud in abundance for everybody.

The next promise made was to reduce the cost of the management at Falconwood Hospital. How have they succeeded in doing this? In 1918, the last full year we were in power, the cost of maintenance was \$89,761, and in 1921, it was \$119,000.

The next promise made was the dismissal of "useless officials."

MR. STEWART: I am just coming to that. I am going to come to that in a way that you will enjoy very much (Laughter and applause.)

USELESS OFFICIALS

I remember on another occasion when this was brought up that the now member for West River, that chivalrous and redoubtable political knight (Hon. G. E. Hughes) came to the rescue of the Government and said: "OUR officials are doing something! They are working!"

There are "useless officials" for you! Men who will drag the tax-payers of this Province into the Courts and attempt to make them pay taxes which they have already paid.

We asked some questions concerning public affairs here a few days ago on the floor of the House. What kind of treatment did we get? The Leader of the Government practically refused to answer, and gave some flimsy excuses, notwithstanding those useless officials of his he could not give an answer to the questions because they dealt with matters not all within the last year.

Here is another promise I find in their manifesto—to send an expert among the fishermen to instruct them. How many fishermen, I wonder, have met that expert? I have not heard that he was seen at all.

Again, we were told that "the Federal Government is to be urged to extend assistance to returned soldiers. There were many promises made to returned soldiers. How have they been carried out?"

MR. STEWART: Who asked you to do that? Who made the suggestion that the soldiers be exempt from taxes? The Leader of the Opposition! And you would never have thought of it had it not been for him, and you did not dare to back out of it when it was put up to you on the floor of the House.

HON. MR. LEA: You had the chance the year before.

MR. STEWART: We did not put the taxes on. The returned soldiers were not home at that time!

They can waste money on the Highways scheme, but when it comes to the health of the people of this Province, to taking care of the health of their growing children, they have not got one cent to spend, nor a word of encouragement for the people who are trying to carry on the work.

There is just one other matter, and I am sorry to have to refer to it. It concerns something which the Leader of the Government said in his Budget speech, and is unworthy even of him, if HE were looking for a Judgship he would do this and do that!

INSINUATIONS AND INUNDOS!

That is the way my hon. friend speaks. He does not come out with what he has to say, but deals in insinuations and inundos—making statements of this kind and leaving his listeners to draw their own conclusions. ery well. I will draw the conclusion! We will take him at his word. Who are these gentle-

(Continued on page Nine)