

Government Commended For Increasing Grants To The Three Hospitals

Opposition Members Find Little To Criticise, And Much To Commend, In MacMillan Government's Health And Educational Activities—Rustico Liberal Member Set Right As To Relief Expenditures.

The activities of the Provincial Department of Health and Education, headed by Premier MacMillan, gave little scope for Opposition criticism when the estimates for the department came up for committee reading in the Legislature last week. There was general commendation of the manner in which this department has been conducted, the Government's contribution of an additional grant of \$1,000 to each of the three hospitals being approved unanimously.

On the subject of the Government's distribution of unemployment relief Mr. B. W. LePage's criticism was shown by Hon. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Bethune to be based on erroneous information.

Opposition criticism was concentrated chiefly on finances under the item of interest. It was at this point, after Messrs. McIntyre, T. A. Campbell and Lea had spoken, that Mr. W. H. Dennis inadvertently gave his colleagues away by suggesting that the House "forget politics for a while."

The Education estimates (\$348,800) came up for discussion. Mr. McIntyre asked why the increase over last year's figures.

Premier MacMillan explained that there was an addition of five teachers to the teaching staff. There was also an increase in stipends and in first class salaries, as well as \$7,500 set aside for teachers' pensions.

Mr. McIntyre said he had been criticised, while in office, for incurring travelling expenses of \$300 in going to Regina. He cited travelling expenses incurred by the present Premier on a mission to Ottawa, and claimed that there was more ground for criticising "this item than for the criticism to which he had been subjected as Minister of Public Works in attending the Regina conference.

Premier MacMillan replied that he had no knowledge of any member questioning the travelling expenses of any member of the Government. So far as his expenses to Ottawa were concerned, he was not going to offer any explanation. If the public did not consider his services worth the travelling expenses, they would have to get someone else to perform the duty.

Mr. Campbell's Contentions

Mr. T. A. Campbell said that while it was the duty of the Opposition to criticise, he could commend the action of the Department of Education and of the Minister, who was entitled to a good deal of credit, with regard to the Carnegie grant which was available to the Province for a number of years but Mr. Campbell's information was to the effect that while large educational centers have had the facilities of the Carnegie Corporation open to them for some years, these particular grants were made available to the smaller centers only in the year 1932. The grants in question, he maintained, were not available during the term of office of the LePage Government. Moreover, he contended that they were grants to "all the Provinces" whereas the domiciled companies tax was obtained in competition with all the Provinces.

Mr. Dennis thought the Minister should "let his feet and give us a serious talk on education." He understood that 300 teachers graduated from the Normal School last year, and at that time there were 300 teachers without schools. That would give a surplus of 500 teachers. The question is, what are these young men and women going to do. He believed something radical would have to be done to cope with this serious situation. With regard to the superannuation fund, Mr. Dennis objected to the payment of \$500 for administering this fund, as he understood the man doing this work already receives a salary of \$1,000.

Importance of Agriculture

Premier MacMillan said there is no doubt that the profession is over-crowded. He instanced the medical profession. There is, he pointed out, more opportunity on the farm. Farmers maintain that it is a poor profession, but in the not very distant future the Premier believes more attention will be paid to the soil, because undoubtedly it affords the best profession of all. It gives more contentment and real happiness, where people love the work, than any other occupation.

Replying to a question by Mr. LePage, he said that there were 330 first-year pupils at Prince of Wales College this term. Mr. LePage: "Is that more than last year?"

Premier MacMillan: "I think it is a few more. It is a large number. In regard to administration of the teachers' superannuation fund, I may say that the work involves not only the part that is paid by this Government. It is deducting the amounts that are paid into the fund twice a year, and keeping the accounts of these moneys, that make the additional work. We know," the Premier continued, "that Education is a difficult problem. The cost is advancing year after year. Over some of it we have no control. We cannot control, for example, the output of first-class teachers, or the amount of supplements that the people of this Province will vote. All that we can say is that the number of pupils in the Prince of Wales College this year is an indication of the desire of the people of this Province to give their sons and daughters the very best education possible. After all, I think it is money well spent. We are hopeful that we will get valuable service out of the new professor of Sociology and Economics, and that as he becomes acquainted in this Province we can send him out through the country to deal with farmers' clubs and those other meetings that are taking such a hold on our people now. Our sister province of Nova Scotia has had a similar grant which has been obtained for the teaching of sociology and economics in this connection.

Corrects Mr. Campbell

"I am not claiming credit at all in getting this Carnegie grant," Premier MacMillan continued. "We will say that the money has been obtained, that it is here, and it is intended to be used for the benefit of the people of this Province, which has been obtained for the teaching of sociology and economics in this connection.

Hospital Grants Increased

Premier MacMillan pointed out that the Government has increased the hospital grants by fifty per cent. He wished it was possible at this time to do more towards financing these vitally necessary institutions. The position of our hospitals is a deplorable one. In other provinces they receive municipal as well as provincial assistance. All they were formerly receiving in this province was \$2,000, and this Government has increased the grant to each hospital to \$3,000.

Suggests Model Farm

Mr. Allen suggested that the Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture, should endeavor to establish a model farm, which would be entirely different from the Experimental Farm operated by the Federal Government. He quoted Dr. Stanley of Dalhousie University, as expressing satisfaction with the establishment of the Summerside High School. Mr. Allen wished to express to the Premier his appreciation of what the Education Department has done to bring the High School up to the twelfth grade. Unfortunately, there seems to be no coordination between the High School and the Prince of Wales College. He hoped the Superintendent of Education would eventually have the barrier removed, so that they would work more in conjunction with each other.

Mr. T. A. Campbell asked what fees were charged the students at Prince of Wales College in the various years.

Premier MacMillan replied that for the first and second years the amount is unchanged, \$10 to city students, and \$5 to rural students. For the third year the fees are \$75 and \$50; and for the fourth year \$150 and \$100. The fee for the commercial course is \$35 for Charlottetown students and \$20 for those from outside the city.

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Discussing the estimate for Public Health (\$32,000) Mr. LePage said he realized that the Department had been very well looked after. This was something which he could sincerely commend the Government. He had been interested in inaugurating the Health Department under the last Government. He had also been chairman of the Sanatorium Committee when the Liberals were in power. "While the Sanatorium is not as large as we would like to see it, nevertheless, with the education we are getting through that institution, it ought to better the condition of those people very much," Mr. LePage said. He concurred in the need of more money being granted to the Hospitals; in fact he did not think they are yet receiving sufficient. He did not think it was long before more money well spent would be spent by the Government in assisting both the Sanatorium and the different hospitals. There are a great many patients unable to pay, and the hospitals are taking care of them. "We shall have to find the money, even if we have to curtail our public works," he believed.

Suggests Health Tax

Mr. LePage: "Does my hon. friend ever consider raising a health tax very important thing?"

Premier MacMillan: "It will come to that eventually."

Mr. LePage: "It is just getting to this point, that the hospitals are compelled to raise their rates on those unfortunate who go to hospital. If they raise their rates on the paying patients to make revenue and expenditure meet, they are taxing the few to assist the many who cannot pay. If it is true that almost 50 per cent who enter a hospital are non-paying patients, then it means that the other 50 per cent are shouldering this burden very largely. My reasoning along that line always was that the healthy fellows, who have never had to go to hospital, should be taxed." He thought this matter should be given "greater consideration" by the Minister of Health.

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Mr. T. A. Campbell said that one of the charges against the Liberals was that they had nearly doubled the interest rates, from 47,000 to \$140,000. This criticism had not been correct, but under this Government, he maintained, the interest charge has increased from \$140,000 to \$222,000. The money spent over \$700,000 had been incurred on "really ordinary account." The alarming fact was that the increase in interest was being paid up notwithstanding that capital expenditure is very rapidly increasing in proportion to the ordinary expenditure. Mr. Campbell figured that the total ordinary expenditure, including sinking funds, was \$892,920 in 1928; \$908,944.63 in 1929; \$1,277,400.85 in 1932; and \$1,392,735.70 in 1933. These figures represented ordinary expenditure for the first two years of Liberal and Conservative rule respectively.

Road Machinery Omitted

Hon. Mr. McPhee: "Are the road machine purchases included in the ordinary expenditure for the years you mention?"

Mr. Campbell: "I am just taking them from the Public Accounts."

Hon. Mr. McPhee: "Will the hon. member just answer the question. Are the road machine expenditures in the figures for the years he has given us?"

Mr. Campbell: "I don't think they are included." He maintained that in any event the comparison showed an ordinary larger expenditure under the Conservatives.

Hon. Mr. MacPhee: "Might I ask another question? Is the maintenance of the Police included in the figures you hon. friend has given?"

Mr. LePage: "That is not capital expenditure."

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Hon. Mr. MacPhee: "We want to know what they mean."

Mr. Campbell said there was no Provincial Police in 1928 and 1929. There were three or four constables, and their expenditures are included. A few trivial items of this kind did not make up the difference, because the increase was nearly \$1,000,000 between the two periods compared. He had prepared to admit that there might be some verities between the total expenditure and the ordinary. The total expenditures for 1928 and 1929, he said, were \$2,316,222, whereas in the first two corresponding years of this Government they amounted to \$3,710,239.

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Mr. Allen: "Under the unemployment scheme they made loans of hundreds of thousands of dollars, for which they will never get any return."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "The Federal Government loaned to the four Western Provinces \$42,000,000, which the Western Provinces used for their expenditures for unemployment relief; but that \$42,000,000 is to be paid back the same as any other loan."

Mr. Allen: "We didn't get a cent along that line."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "We could borrow as cheaply on the market."

Mr. Allen: "I don't know if the Government had not done this and that in making the bond issue they had not called for tenders. Mr. McIntyre said there must have been a commission on these bonds. The Government did not say who got the commission, but they had asked him on different occasions who got the commission on the \$100,000 road machinery which they said he had bought over the telephone. Did the Government telephone their order to Toronto?"

Cites N. S. Issue

Premier MacMillan: "How were the last Nova Scotia bonds sold?"

Mr. McIntyre: "I don't know. I am not dealing with Nova Scotia. I am dealing with this Government."

Mr. LePage could not understand why the debt, both federal and provincial, is not refunded. This would save the Province about \$400,000. No effort had been made in this connection, he maintained, because the "big interests" in Canada have these bonds and are controlling Parliament. The Province might refund its bonds at 4 1/2 per cent interest without the aid of the Dominion at all.

Mr. LePage: "What interest is now being paid on the overdraft at the Bank?"

Premier MacMillan: "Five and one-quarter."

Mr. LePage thought it should be reduced to five per cent; that was all that was charged in 1931.

"Forgetting Politics"

Mr. Dennis: "Forgetting party politics for a moment, Mr. Chairman— (Conservative laughter). "I say forgetting party politics for a moment, there should be a campaign of education put on by the Government to show our people the big advantage it would be to them to loan their money to the banks. Give them to understand that they are getting a higher rate of interest than they are getting from the banks. Then we will be financing the people's business with the people's money." The trouble, he thought, was that the banks have that peculiar faculty of making their education so good that they get along without them."

Mr. T. A. Campbell said it had been contended that the late Government should have funded the overdraft. Against this he argued that almost 50 per cent of the Nova Scotia had funded, in September, 1932, an overdraft which had been carried by the banks from March, 1931. If the LePage Government was negligent in not funding the overdraft, it was negligent in the early summer of 1931, what about the Nova Scotia Government which allowed a two million dollar overdraft to remain in the banks until the fall of 1932?

Mr. Allen asked what the interest was on the loans?

Premier MacMillan: "Four per cent."

Mr. Allen believed if the public knew they could lend money to the Province at fifty per cent, higher than the rate on the loans, they would make a good appeal.

Comments Premier's Efforts

On the subject of Legislative Grants (\$45,000) Mr. Allen referred to the good work which the Premier had done in obtaining a reduction in motor car rates on the Car Ferry during the summer season last year. Unfortunately the old rate was restored in the Fall, and it is difficult to reconcile people to a return to the higher rate. He understood a further attempt would be made to have this rate reduced to a minimum. He believed the Premier would "go after this vigorously" as he was well within his rights in doing so.

On the subject of Direct Relief Payments (\$25,000) Mr. Cox said that the Government are looking after relief, they overstep the bounds in some cases.

Mr. LePage: "I don't think the money was distributed to the Western Provinces."

Mr. LePage: "What about the road machines?"

Mr. McIntyre: "What about culverts and bridges?"

Premier MacMillan: "We had

when one goes around boasting that he is a 'Farmer Premier,' what would you expect?" (Laughter). The item carried.

INTEREST

Speaking on the item "Interest" (Bank interest, \$10,000, Loan interest, \$15,000, Debentures, \$197,000) Mr. McIntyre said this was an increase of \$24,400 over last year. The Liberals, he said, had been accused of leaving an overdraft at the Bank of a million dollars. The Conservatives have still \$545,000 of an overdraft, according to the Public Accounts. If that be the case, the Conservatives have only paid off \$454,000 of the Liberal overdraft, and to do so they borrowed \$1,200,000. In the past two years they had borrowed \$1,400,000, and they had added to that \$257,000, plus interest, which makes \$2,057,000 or thereabouts. In all Mr. McIntyre figured the Conservatives had borrowed \$1,887,000. They say that was to pay off the Liberal overdraft of \$1,000,000 and build Prince of Wales College and Falconwood Hospital. Deducting what they paid on the overdraft would leave \$1,202,500. The combined cost of Falconwood and Prince of Wales College was \$453,000, which would leave \$749,500. This, he maintained, was the cause of the interest charges going up.

Mr. T. A. Campbell said that one of the charges against the Liberals was that they had nearly doubled the interest rates, from 47,000 to \$140,000. This criticism had not been correct, but under this Government, he maintained, the interest charge has increased from \$140,000 to \$222,000. The money spent over \$700,000 had been incurred on "really ordinary account." The alarming fact was that the increase in interest was being paid up notwithstanding that capital expenditure is very rapidly increasing in proportion to the ordinary expenditure. Mr. Campbell figured that the total ordinary expenditure, including sinking funds, was \$892,920 in 1928; \$908,944.63 in 1929; \$1,277,400.85 in 1932; and \$1,392,735.70 in 1933. These figures represented ordinary expenditure for the first two years of Liberal and Conservative rule respectively.

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should be given a sufficiency of coarse foods. Flour, potatoes, etc., should be bought by the carload. The merchants had no right to get profit on the total expenditure. Any quantities of cheap fish could be purchased. A lot of the money received from the Dominion Government, he maintained, has been wasted. At Rustico, \$1,500 had been spent; about 120 men worked at a job that was "absolutely worthless" and he would say that three-quarters of them did not need relief money. Most of them, he said, had money in the banks. The work consisted in moving sand on a beach and had resulted in "gutting the beach." It would have been better if the Government had spent the money in building some cottages.

Mr. Campbell criticised as "quandering" the federal expenditure for building clay from the Driving Park at the Provincial Exhibition grounds to fill in the railway property near the Kensington rifle range.

Premier MacMillan, in reply to a question asked with regard to the distribution of direct relief payments in Charlottetown, that the Federal pays one-third, the Provincial Government one-third, and the city the remaining third.

Gasoline Rebates

Mr. Campbell said he was informed that gasoline rebates were being refused to parties who were otherwise entitled, because they had not purchased their gasoline through licensed dealers.

Mr. McIntyre: "Anybody can get a license who is dealing in gasoline."

Premier MacMillan: "That is according to regulations. It is not Mr. Campbell: 'The onus is on the person to inquire whether the dealer is licensed or not.'

Premier MacMillan: "Yes, especially when the dealer makes a profit of refusing."

Mr. Allen suggested that small tickets in duplicate might be furnished. Where a person expects to get a rebate, he would be given the top section of the ticket, the lower part being left in the book. At the end of the season the book boxes would be returned to the office. This would do away with the difficulty of the present system, and would protect the treasury.

FEDERAL AID ACCOUNT

In connection with the item Federal Aid Account, gross expenditure under Federal Relief Act 1933, (\$251,500), Mr. LePage asked how much of this money had already been expended.

Hon. Mr. Sharp replied that \$139,990.91 had been expended to March 31st.

Mr. LePage: "Do I understand that this money will be expended this year for the relief of unemployed, or will it be spent on ordinary work and the real unemployed receive very little relief?"

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "So far as my hon. friend's question is concerned, I may say that this relief money is secured under some twenty-two different projects throughout the province. I presume that he has reference to the work that was done in the Rustico district where he claims that a sufficient amount of money was not given to the deserving poor, while some other people received what might be considered as a large amount of relief money. On certain projects we have the removal of clay, cutting bushes, gravelling, etc. In the work done at Rustico it was not possible for very poor people, who perhaps have only a few dollars, to be employed without also having to work in conjunction with certain people who might own a horse and cart, or a team of horses and wagon, in order to convey the clay and gravel to the point of distribution on the road. The ordinary poor individual who is only supplied with a shovel cannot possibly do the work where clay has to be removed to a distance.

Relief Distributed Equitably

"My hon. friend," continued Mr. Sharp, "asks what we have done. I may tell him that we have not made political capital out of relief" (Applause). "We have not endeavored in any way to try to benefit politically by this distribution of unemployment work. We have, as I said, twenty-two projects. We have a large number of men who have been employed, up to Dec. 31st last, 5,833 persons. Dependents on these given employment numbered 16,169, making a total number of 22,002. The total number of men-days worked on a wage basis was \$7,242, and the total amount of wages paid to the end of the year was \$125,490.72."

"I cite these figures to show that we have endeavored wherever possible to distribute this work fairly and among the deserving people. In some cases, however, we have had to use men who had horses and carts in order that the proper distribution might be made of the clay or gravel that was hauled. Otherwise, we would have tried to give it to the very deserving poor, regardless of their political affiliations or of anything else." (Applause).

Mr. LePage submitted that the "absolutely worthless" work within two miles of the work they could have profitably spent the money in filling in lowlying places, instead of which, he said, they had spent it on "ruining" the beach.

Mr. LePage Answered

Mr. D. F. Bethune said the last speaker was somewhat astray. The Cape Road to which he referred was built about five chains long, about 24 feet wide and two feet deep. They also filled in about two chains in front of the Painter store, leading to the Cape Road, to the depth of about 12 inches. They also built a road on the Gallant

SOON

MUNICH, Germany, April 2.—Cupid was invoked by German youth today to solve Germany's unemployment problem in a speech delivered from a dumping cart at Unterhaching. He spoke on the first anniversary of the historic Reichstag at Potsdam when the Nazi leader was given dictatorial powers.

"B" setting aside 150,000 marks (approximately \$55,000,000) the Chancellor said, "for loans to re-employ the unemployed for 300,000 men married off by 1935."

Other features of the government's huge job creation program included 300,000,000 marks (some \$119,100,000) for tax loan certificates and 600,000,000 (about \$260,200,000) for road construction.

Hitler reiterated Germany's determination to keep the German mark at its present parity.

Addressing himself to foreign nations, dictator said: "May statesmen of other nations at last realize we desire nothing except in freedom and peace to contribute toward creating a better world."

Regarding the government's economic policy for the ensuing year, he asserted "every attempt at raising prices for dividend purposes will be mercilessly thwarted."

"Business and industry will be freed of theories and of restrictive legislation and every decent entrepreneur will be encouraged. Never again will presents be handed out to industry."

Government aid will be extended only for political frustration of the economic life. Let the indolent and indigent and unintelligent industrialist or businessman perish—we do not care.

"We are determined to solve the unemployment problem," he continued, "because it simply must be solved, but this can be done only with the support of the people. The government cannot work a miracle of regeneration."

Mrs. Helen King, of Sandridge, England, is recovering from the effects of swallowing a bottle which contained pills she was advised to take.

Misses' Edinmont for Colds

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Stock Quotations

TORONTO, MONTREAL AND PARIS MARKETS CLOSED HOLIDAY

Markets At A Glance

(Canadian Press)

Toronto and Montreal—Markets closed.

New York—Stocks closed unchanged.

Winnipeg—Wheat closed lower.

New York—Cotton lower; rubber higher; coffee and sugar unchanged.

PRODUCE

(Canadian Press)

MONTREAL, April 2.—Eggs were slightly cheaper on the Montreal dairy and produce market today while butter advanced slightly and other items in car lots or less of eggs were quoted at 20 to 21 cents a dozen for A large, 18 to 19 cents for A medium and 17 to 18 cents for A pullets. Receipts totaled 1,881 cases.

No 1 grade butter in car lots or less was generally quoted at 30 to 32 cents a pound. Light receipts of new butter including a fine home-to market, there being practically no Quebec butter available.

Quebec potatoes were quoted at 11 1/2 cents a pound for current make Ontario with lower part being left in the book. Red and white and the best of the book was offered for sale during the day.

Quebec potatoes were quoted at \$1 to \$1.05 per 80 pound bag and New York at \$1.08 to \$1.10 for 80 lb. for similar quantities. Prince Edward Island potatoes in 50 pound bags sold for \$1.39 to \$1.40.

Road and breastwork. In that project 116 people were employed.

"My hon. friend," continued Mr. Bethune, "complains about some rich men getting the money. I do not know who was going out there to hand-pick those people. The work was left in charge of the tax collector, who is a competent person, and for that I am very glad. I may tell the hon. gentleman that we got good results.

Currencies

(Canadian Press)

NEW YORK, April 2.—The Canadian dollar ruled a trifle sluggish in the foreign exchange markets today and failed to advance to its old average. The Dominion dollar closed at par, off 1/32 cent. The pound sterling advanced to 48 1/2 cents, from 48 1/4 cents, and the French franc closing at 6.98 was unchanged.

GRAIN

(Canadian Press)

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EXCHANGE

(Canadian Press)

NEW YORK, April 2.—(AP)—Foreign exchange steady. Great Britain high 5 1/2; low 5 1/4; close 5 1/4; 10 day bill 8 1/2; France 6 1/2; Belgium 23 3/4; Germany 30 1/2; Canada par.

Closing exchange rates:—At New York and London, Canadian dollar 1.00; franc 6.98; gold—U. S. dollar 50.67 cents; Montreal and Paris markets closed.

N. Y. CURB

(Canadian Press)

Stocks closed.

Amer. Can. R. Co. 19 1/2
Int. Harb. 19 1/2
Gen. Elec. 17 1/2
Can. Pac. 17 1/2
U. S. Steel 17 1/2
Int. Paper 17 1/2
N. Y. C. & H. R. 17 1/2
St. I. & N. 17 1/2

Fish Quotations

(Canadian Press)

BOSTON, April 2.—Every vessel arrived at the fish pier here today. Wholesale quotations:

Large cod 4 to 5 cents
Market cod 4 to 5 cents
Haddock 7 to 8 cents
Flounders 5 to 8 cents
Herring 3 to 4 cents
Hake 3 to 4 cents
Pollock 4 to 5 cents
Mackerel 3 to 4 cents
Gray sole 5 to 6 cents.

Miscellaneous

NEW YORK, April 2.—Index of 8 staple commodity prices. (Dow Jones) equals 100, 1924 average equals 230.59.

Today 137.5 new day 137.5.
Week ago 137.9 versus ago 138.8.
1933 high 148.9 1933 low 78.7.
1932 high 168.