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Mr. Strong Scores "Foggy" Jones Budget Camouflaging Pre-Election Preparations

A Budget speech "wrapped in a financial fog" and bearing all the earmarks of a pre-election campaign appeal, was scored in the Legislature on Tuesday by Mr. Health Prince, K.O., Fourth District of Prince, who charged that the Government under the Jones Government was being financed by the liquor business and predicted that the estimated \$600,000 surplus on ordinary account would "fade away" before the Treasurer could produce it.

Mr. Strong was speaking in the Budget debate. "We have heard from three members of the Government, but the Premier has not yet entered the debate," Mr. Strong said. "Things have been changed in this House since the advent of the Jones Government. Formerly it was the rule for the Premier to deliver the Budget speech, as he was always the Provincial Treasurer. I have no fault to find with the present Provincial Treasurer delivering the Budget. I think the Premier should not leave his speech until the last as he did at the last session. It gives the members no chance to learn what the policies of his department are, or the policies of the Government so far as he is concerned."

Answering some comments by the Premier at the last session, Mr. Strong said he had no ambition to become Attorney General, as suggested. "I have no ambition to handle justice on the one side and liquor on the other," he said.

Mr. Strong said: "You couldn't handle liquor, could you?" Mr. Strong: "I don't want to do it, anyway." The Treasurer, he continued, had argued that ordinary account was the only thing that meant anything in provincial financing. Mr. Hughes: "I don't recall having said that."

Dr. MacMillan: "That is what you said."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS 50c Per Insertion

BIRTHS

DEWAR—At Kings County Hospital, Montague, on April 14, 1947, to Mr. and Mrs. James Dewar, a daughter, Judith Dale, 9 lbs.

MARTIN—At Trail, British Columbia on Feb. 15th 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Martin (nee Vivien L. MacEachern) formerly of Charlottetown a daughter.

MARRIAGES

SCOTT - SINNOCK—At All Saints Church, Vandergift, Pa., by the Rev. Father E.P. Siroccki, on April 8th, 1947, Agnes Rita Sinnock formerly of Charlottetown, P.E.I. to Allan Prenace Scott of Huntsville, Ont.

DEATHS

KEEFE—At "Briarwood", Alberton, on Thursday, March 27th, Mrs. Joseph Keefe (nee Mary Wickham of Summerside) in her 84th year. Funeral was held from Sacred Heart Church, Saturday, where a solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated.

MACDONALD—At Dorchester, Mass. April 16, 1947, Mrs. John MacDonald, (Amy) daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Corish, Keppoch.

AULD—At Kingston on Thursday, April 17, Mrs. Bert Auld in her 76th year. Funeral on Sunday, short service at the MacLean Funeral Home at 1 o'clock. Then to Clyde River Presbyterian Church for service at 2 o'clock. Interment Clyde River Cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Calder and Donna wish to thank all their friends and neighbors for their acts of kindness during their recent bereavement.

N. D. MacLean UNDERTAKER EMBALMER Charlottetown and North Westshore Phone 149

vince. That is what this Government is being financed by—like all other Governments in Canada today.

Resuming the debate on Wednesday evening, Mr. Strong quoted the estimates for the current year, which involved an expenditure of \$5,587,000 less \$320,000 sinking fund. Subtracting ordinary and capital revenue from the expenditures, there would be a net increase in liabilities at the end of March 31, 1948, of \$767,964. "Adding this to the liabilities incurred in the past four years and we have \$2,136,000 of debt increase by the Jones Government, as of March 31, 1948."

He went on to show how liquor revenue has increased since 1936, the last year of the MacMillan Government, when it was \$23,244 as compared with \$598,000 last year.

Hon. J. A. Campbell: "That is good business."

Mr. Strong: "You are quite satisfied?"

Mr. Campbell: "Yes." Mr. Strong: "How long does my hon. friend think the people of this Province can stand the drain of that money going to the distillers and breweries in other Provinces? My hon. friend himself has seen the long list of liquor firms that sold to this Government last year, from different parts of the world. All that money is going out of this Province. It could be used here to buy boots and shoes and farm implements and many other things. Instead of that it is drained away."

Hon. Mr. Hughes: "Would you be in favor of starting a brewery here?" Mr. MacKenzie: "Are you considering it?"

Mr. Strong: "I understand that the leader of the Government had some idea of starting, not a brewery but a factory of some kind for making alcohol. I would not be in favor of it at all, and I am not in favor of the present large amount that is being spent on liquor in this Province. I don't think they can afford it. My hon. friend from Charlottetown says, 'Look at the records of the Police Court, how they have gone down last month; that shows we are enforcing the Act.' This Prohibition Act is nothing more than a joke at the present time. It is not a Prohibition Act at all, or you wouldn't be making half a million dollars revenue from it."

Hon. Mr. Prowse: "There were a lot of sick people last year."

Mr. Strong: "This must be the sickest Province in the Dominion of Canada."

Hon. Mr. Campbell: "There is a better class of people drinking liquor now than there was."

Mr. Strong: "You mean that they have learned how to drink? That you have taught them? That since this Government came into power they have been educated to drink more booze?"

Mr. Campbell: "They don't drink moonshine now."

Mr. Strong: "My hon. friend had better come up to Prince County. The hon. member from Charlottetown (Hon. Mr. Prowse) predicts that there will be a decrease in liquor consumption, but I see the estimates for next year from liquor are still at \$500,000. That is the estimate. I suppose they are all hoping it may go over."

Mr. Prowse: "The estimates may be a little out, you know."

Mr. Strong: "I am glad to hear my hon. friend admit that. That is what I am trying to tell the members of this Government. They are like a fox and a hen. The fox will fade away before next March."

He went on to condemn the sale of liquor under the Prohibition Act Amendment.

Premier Jones: "What will you do with it?"

Mr. Strong: "I am glad to hear we are coming in!" (Laughter). "When we get there we will have to give the people such a piece of legislation as we see fit to give them." He went on to say that what the people were now looking for was relief from burdensome taxes. "You would think the people were thirsting for taxes. That is all they are getting from this Government, and he seems quite satisfied."

Hon. Mr. Campbell: "They are anxious to pay them now."

Mr. Strong: "You heard your colleague sitting beside you complain that prices were going up and he expected by 1948 that there would be next year, but that is just what is bound to happen. Prices will go up till the people of the country can't buy the merchandise. That is what brings on a depression. Taxation relief at the present time is absolutely essential."

Gasoline Taxes

"If the Government was fully satisfied with the agreement it made at Ottawa, why did they impose a 3 cents extra provincial gas tax?" Mr. Strong demanded. Quebec farmers' raising in their cars in the course of their work will get a refund of 11 cents a gallon at the year's end. No others are exempt. But what do we do? We are putting a three cents tax on every user of gasoline in the Province, whether or not they are farmers or fishermen.

"In Manitoba there was a 7 cent tax for the Province and 3 for the Dominion. The Province now has taken over 2 of the former 3 cents tax, making a total of 9 cents a gallon on all users except farmers and fishermen. Saskatchewan has imposed a 2 cents extra provincial tax. I don't know what all users except farmers pay 9 cents a gallon; their 2 cents tax which re-

places the Dominion 3 cent tax has been absorbed in the case of agricultural users."

Hon. Mr. Barbour: "What did Nova Scotia and New Brunswick do?"

Mr. Strong: "They are Liberal provinces; they raised the taxes. Why, he asked, should this Province have to be 'in line' with the other Maritime Provinces in having the highest gasoline taxes in Canada? 'If Nova Scotia and New Brunswick took the Premier to put on 10 cents more, would he follow them? Has he got to do everything they do? Surely he can stand on his own feet. At least the Government of this Province should have given exemption to the farmers and fishermen, of that 3 cents tax.'"

In Ontario, he continued, road users are the only persons to whom the 11 cents gasoline tax is applicable. Motor boat owners, airplane users and farmers are exempt. He cited other figures in this connection from the Montreal Gazette.

He went on to show how personal income taxes, corporation taxes, succession duties, and excess profits taxes have increased in Prince Edward Island since 1942 as shown by a return table in the House of Commons. (The figures were published recently in The Guardian).

These taxes together with Federal gasoline taxes for the same period, totalled \$12,519,000. "This Province got back under the 1941 tax agreement the sum of \$5,875,000, or about \$7,000,000 less than we paid in."

Hon. Mr. Wright: "That was our share of carrying on the war?"

Mr. Strong: "If the Government at Ottawa had not have got up that travagant money, but they were spending money with a lavish hand."

He went on to quote from a newspaper article by Mr. Graham Rogers, to whom he referred as "the head of my hon. friend's propaganda ministry." The statement showed that this Province pays at least \$10,000,000 a year in taxes, direct and indirect, and in freight on goods; or over \$100 for every man, woman and child.

Mr. Bracken's Statement

Mr. Bracken had been charged with saying this Province received too much under the Ottawa agreement. Mr. Strong continued. He refuted this statement by quoting Mr. Bracken's words in Hansard, which were to the effect that Prince Edward Island received the most per capita, but that "nobody criticizes that very much because it is a small Province."

He also quoted Premier Jones' statements at the plenary sessions of the Dominion-Provincial Conference, in which the Premier showed that this Province was not fairly treated as compared with Saskatchewan, and that we require a programme an annual revenue of \$5,325,000.

Mr. Strong noted that there is no specific amount set down in the estimates for regional high schools. In his budget presented at the Dominion Conference the Premier said the operating costs alone of regional high schools would be \$300,000, and transportation \$55,000. To build them the capital expenditure would be \$2,394,000. All that is set down in this year's estimates is "a sum sufficient."

Mr. Strong suggested that one good place to start the program would be in the Town of Kensington.

Mr. Barbour: "Do you think we can reduce taxes and put on these improvements at the present time?"

Mr. Strong: "You told us this tax agreement was such a grand affair. I thought you could build anything at all. You are budgeting for a surplus."

Mr. Barbour: "We can build them, sure!"

Mr. Strong: "I am glad to hear you. But you told the people you wouldn't have to tax them under this agreement."

Mr. Hughes: "It is like the old fellow's 'It's plumb and three inches over.'"

Mr. Strong recalled that in the Liberal election platform of 1943 the people were promised that electricity to all parts of the country would be "greatly extended." Nothing has yet been done, and in this year's estimates there is not one cent for rural electrification.

Mr. Pleasant Line

He asked what the Government's intentions were with regard to taking over the Mount Pleasant line. "Are you going to buy it?"

Mr. Barbour: "Yes." Mr. Strong: "When?"

Mr. Barbour: "As soon as we can."

Mr. Strong: "Where are you going to get the light?"

Mr. Barbour: "I think in Summerside."

Mr. Strong: "Where is the estimate for that?"

Mr. Barbour: "We have authority to spend \$2,000,000."

Mr. Strong: "Under what heading?"

Premier Jones: "Power." Mr. Strong: "There is nothing in your bill about power, not a thing."

Premier Jones: "How much would it cost to buy that line?"

Mr. Strong: "I have no idea. The War Assets Corporation own it now."

Premier Jones: "We should get it at 8 percent."

Mr. Strong: "You should get it cheap, because it is no good to the Government at all."

Premier Jones: "It is not very well braced."

Mr. Strong: "Well, you can put on a few braces. You had better take the line. I wonder if my hon. friend can give us any information now about the election."

Premier Jones: "We don't have to go to the country until June 1948."

Mr. Strong: "I am fully aware of it, but I don't think anyone would wait that long. This Budget looks very much as if my hon. friends had election ideas."

Mr. Barbour: "It must be a good Budget."

Mr. Strong: "After listening to the Provincial Treasurer when he dealt with the surplus he anticipated on current account, and his supporters hammering their desks, I decided right away that this is an election Budget."

Mr. Strong took issue with Mr. Prowse on his argument that corporation income taxes were taken off merchants' profits and not passed along to the consumer. He cited the heavy taxes paid to the Dominion by local theatres, electric light plants, and other businesses.

Liberal Question Answered

"My hon. friends say, what would you do about this agreement?" Mr. Strong continued. "I say this, that the bargain was forced upon us and we had to take what we could get, because of our necessities. If the Island's case had been presented differently, no doubt special consideration could have been obtained for our special claims. But when we could not get special consideration the only thing to do was to leave the door ajar, and we attempted to keep the door open by the resolution we presented to this House. But the Government members voted it down!"

Mr. Strong drew the Government's attention to Plank No. 7 in its 1943 platform. In which was promised "the purchase of more road machinery when it becomes available, the better upkeep of dirt roads and bridges, a better control of winter roads, and patrol of improved roads, and a great reconstruction programme, involving a large extension of waterproof roads."

"I have not heard the Minister of Public Works say anything about that," he continued. "He did say he went to Ottawa and he could not get any money, and so they couldn't build any waterproof roads this year."

He commended the Government for having ordered a machine for laying black top material.

The road from Summerfield Church to Hunter River, he said, was in a very bad condition. He hoped to see it repaired at the earliest moment.

Borden Highway

One fault he had to find with the Minister was the neglect of the main highway from Charlottetown to Summerside and Borden. He quoted in this connection a strongly worded resolution from the Summerside Board of Trade. He hoped the Department would get to work on this highway and have it completed in time for Old Home Week.

Hon. Mr. Barbour: "We will have to rebuild it. We can't build it and have it done before the tourist season."

Mr. Strong: "In the first place along the sides there is a deep gully, in many places two feet. It looks as if the snow plow put the snow up there and the water had no place to run. The result is that the paving breaks off. They have been filling it with mud and stone. I know, but it will need something else." He asked if the two-mile piece of road started last year in his district could be paved this summer.

Mr. Barbour: "It will be hard to say, because if we call for tenders they might want too much money to pave two miles. But with the plant we get I think we can pave it."

Mr. Francis: "That old Borden highway you admit is no good."

Mr. Strong: "It has been down about fifteen years, and it needs looking after. I might remind my hon. friend we got \$5,500 a mile from the Dominion Government for that highway, and that was more than this Government ever got."

Mr. Francis: "Too bad they didn't make a better job of it."

Mr. MacKenzie: "You didn't keep the gutters cleaned, that is what happened."

Road Engineers

Mr. Strong: "The Government has now seven road engineers. Last year they cost \$18,141 in salaries. The estimate for 1948 is \$15,725. That is quite an expense."

Hon. Mr. Barbour: "I don't know whether we've got enough yet."

Mr. Strong: "We only used to have three in the Province."

Mr. Barbour: "That is the trouble. The work was not looked after."

Mr. Strong: "You are going to have so many engineers that you won't be able to house them. What do they do in the winter time?"

Premier Jones: "Two or three more are wanted."

Mr. Strong: "Tell us what they do in the winter."

Mr. Barbour: "We have lots of work."

Mr. Francis: "Building good roads is a highly technical profession."

Mr. Strong: "You can't build roads in the winter time." He went on to criticize the use of government snowplows in clearing streets in Charlottetown.

He spoke strongly about the bad condition of secondary roads. Mr. Barbour maintained that they were "in the best condition they ever were in this time of year." Mr. Strong said that on the contrary they were in very poor shape. He criticized the Minister for budgeting for a saving of \$300,000 on road maintenance, which was where part of the Government's surplus was coming from. Mr. Barbour strongly reaffirmed it.

He urged that attention be given to paving the four miles of road leading from Charlottetown to the Protestant Orphanage, "even though it was in the Premier's district."

Premier Jones: "I've got him working for me, now!" (Laughter).

Mr. Strong went on to deal briefly with Agriculture and Fair-wood Farm.

Divorce Court

He condemned the salaries paid Government members for sitting as members of the Divorce Court, stating that this money was taken from the returned men whose interest they professed to have so much at heart. "Last year there were twenty-seven cases, and I think they got about \$1300,—taken from these poor boys who came home from overseas."

Premier Jones: "What did the lawyers get?"

Mr. Strong: "I never had a case, but I think they went \$300 for one of those divorce cases, that added to the form they have to deposit."

Hon. Mr. Campbell: "It would cost them a thousand dollars to go to Ottawa."

Mr. Strong: "But you were going to do it so cheap and easy."

Mr. Campbell: "That is cheap and easy."

Mr. Strong: "How would you pay \$500 if you came home from the war and had no money?"

Mr. Campbell: "They are quite willing to do it."

Hon. Mr. Hughes: "Why not stay married?"

Mr. Strong: "Then why did you bring up this 100 year old Act against the will of the Legislature? Why didn't you leave it as it was?"

Mr. Campbell: "Every other Province of Canada did the same."

Mr. Francis: "Didn't the Canadian Legion ask for this?"

Mr. Strong: "I am telling you that you went crocodile tears over that."

Mr. Francis: "I voted against it."

Mr. Strong: "Well, they just ignored you."

Mr. Campbell: "If you wanted a divorce what would you do?"

Mr. Strong: "If a veteran didn't have the money what would he do? Would you lend him the money?"

Premier Jones: "I don't think it would average over \$150 a case."

Mr. MacKenzie: "It is getting pretty popular now."

Premier Jones: "And there have been none divorced except veterans."

Mr. Strong: "But still you make them pay?"

Premier Jones: "You are condemning it?"

Mr. Strong: "Yes."

Premier Jones: "We will get the veterans to take note."

Mr. Strong: "I am not worrying about that."

Continuing, Mr. Strong quoted from the Educational Horizon, in The Guardian, the statement of Mr. L. W. Shaw, director of Education, with regard to the shortage of qualified teachers, and to the fact that the salary question alone was not the whole cause, inasmuch as the same problem exists in the Western provinces where teachers are paid more. Teachers for grades 11 and 12 will require to be obtained from outside this Province for the most part. The main difficulty in regional high schools was to educate the pupils to go into the grades.

Mr. Strong dealt with correspondence courses and other educational features, and in conclusion said that one thing which only made trouble in the school districts was the dog tax. "I don't see why something shouldn't be done about that," he said. "It has been shifted from the Department of Agriculture to the school district, and now there is trouble there. Something should be done about it because at every school meeting it makes trouble for the trustees."

Premier Jones: "Where do they want to shift it?"

Mr. Strong: "They want to do away with it altogether."

CANBERRA (CP) — Female employment in Australia, which rose to the all-time high figure of 641,500 in 1943 and fell quickly after the war is going up again. Just now 626,000 Australian women are earning wages.

FOR Competent Insurance Service Have A Talk With MORTON DEW

PUBLIC FORUM CENTRAL GUARDIAN

(Continued from Page 4)

Local responsibility for the financing of these projects.

It is only just however to admit that delegations on Prince Edward Island, especially from rural districts, are generally composed of nice looking people, and happy looking too, as is usually the case with people who are about to ask for and are hoping to receive something they fondly imagine they don't have to pay for; and if the present Premier, who is also Minister of Education, and the present Minister of Public Works really like these frequent delegations, then let the government hold out the prospect of a regional high school for every locality that can muster a delegation to ask for one;—that is of course as part of a longrange policy.

I am, Sir, RETIRED TEACHER New Haven, P.E.I.

NEW HONOR

(Continued from Page 1)

Clergy is Right Rev. Alexander Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa. Since no less than 70 percent of his diocese which takes in parts of both Ontario and Quebec are French-speaking, the hon. conferred on Cardinal McGuigan as Vatican legate is regarded as much greater than a similar appointment to a Congress having a preponderance of English-speaking Catholics.

Spokes French Fluently

It is pointed out that Cardinal McGuigan's knowledge of the French language is much more than purely academic. In the course of his visits to Quebec City, Montreal and other centres where French is well-nigh universally spoken, it has been revealed that he speaks French with easy fluency, and his addresses in that language are marked by the characteristic dignity and simplicity of his pronouncements in his native tongue.

There is yet another reason for the appointment of Prince Edward Island's Cardinal as representative of the head of the Roman Catholic Church to the great ecclesiastical gathering now to be assembled in Canada's capital. Although friendly Christian co-operation has existed and continues to exist between French and English-speaking Catholic clergy, this friendship and spirit of unity has not always extended to the laity under their spiritual leaderships.

There has been a certain distinction between "Irish Catholics" and "French Catholics" with a tendency on the part of each to isolationism within the body of the church itself.

An important factor in Cardinal McGuigan's mission as primate of the church in Canada, it is understood here, is to bring about closer mutual understanding and amity between these two great Catholic groups of the Dominion. Already His Eminence has made notable progress in this respect. He has gone even farther. In Toronto, it is stated that no Roman Catholic prelate since the founding of "Muddy York" a century and a half ago, has ever enjoyed more the genuine respect and esteem of the Protestant population which today is felt and expressed there for Cardinal McGuigan.

It is anticipated here that a large and representative group of Roman Catholic clergy and laity will come from Prince Edward Island to Ottawa for the Marian Congress, (the more so because of the important role being filled by the former Prince Edward Islander who is the Pope's nominee to the gathering).

Cardinal McGuigan will be in Ottawa for the duration of the Marian Congress which opens on June 18 and comes to a close on Sunday, June 22.

PERSONALS

The many friends of Mrs. William Campbell regret to learn that she is a patient in the P. E. Island Hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. J. B. Fleming, his son, Ralph, and Mr. Claude Murphy, all of Charlottetown, and Mr. Dolph Fleming of North Rustico left Thursday by car for St. Paul, Minnesota, to visit Mr. Neil Fleming. They expect to be away six weeks.

Miss Ada Graham, Cavendish, returned to Mayfield after attending the teachers' convention in Charlottetown. While there she was the guest of her brother Austin, and Mrs. Graham.

Mrs. Nelson MacDonald, New Glasgow, has arrived home from St. John after a two weeks visit with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Walter Barwise. She also spent some time with her daughter, Mrs. Robert Stevenson.

REMEMBER TO HAVE BAKED beans and brownbread for supper tonight. Phone 1103-J.

THE WORD BAHAI MEANS light. Tune in to C.F.C.Y. Sunday 2 p.m. subject "The Old Order Changeeth".

FIREMEN CALLED — City firemen were called twice yesterday. The first was a still alarm at the Curling Club at 5 p.m. and the second a grass fire at Villa Street at 9 p.m.

CAR DRIVER ARRESTED — A motorist was arrested yesterday afternoon on Elm Ave. after his car collided with a telephone pole. It is expected the driver will appear in court on a drunken driving charge.

ORWELL DISTRICT REPORTS — Mrs. M. R. MacLeod of Orwell was in Charlottetown recently and made her return to Red Cross Campaign Headquarters reporting receipts of \$27.00 from the district.

FUNERAL YESTERDAY — The funeral of the late W.H.V. Dunbar was held from St. James Church yesterday afternoon where services were conducted by Rev. T.H. Busse and Canon E.M. Malone. Interment was in the People's Cemetery, services at the grave being conducted by Mr. Somers. Pallbearers were Lt. Col. J.R. Paton, W. S. Grant, E. W. McKinnon, P. W. Turner, J.A. Webster and James Brew.

RETURN FROM FLORIDA — Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Flynn, 283 Richmond St., returned to the City last night after spending the past five months in Jacksonville, Florida, with the nephew of Mrs. Flynn, Mr. W.D. Lewis, who operates an orange grove in that section. Enroute from Florida they spent Easter week in New York, also one week in Boston visiting friends. They were accompanied from Boston by Mr. Flynn's sister, Mrs. Reusch, who will spend some months in Charlottetown before returning to Boston.

QUEEN'S COUNTY RETURNS — Mr.