Unprecedented Exposure Of Liberal Manoeuvring At Taxpayers' Expense

(Continued from Page 1)

endeavored in every way possible to promote the interests of this City and the interests of Prince Edward Island in general; and if you see fit to again elect me on the 23rd of July I will go on as I have done in the past, doing my best to represent your interests and the interests of the Province as a whole." (Applause).

Mr. Campbell Peeved

"I had a very amusing experience at Tignish last night, where the opening meeting took place in Prince County, and where the new Commander-in-Chief of the Liberal forces in the field was present. He expressed his anger and his venom because he did not want to discuss the public questions of the day before me. As the chairman ruled, he was there as a candidate, but he was most unwilling to take his stand on the platform before me. I was there in another capacity. It is the duty and the privilege of candidates in their own particular ridings to make their appeal to the electors before any one else has the opportunity of speaking. This did not suit Mr. Campbell, and he expressed his venom in that stentorian voice of his.

"Then he criticized me for not having any policy to put before the people. When I rose to answer him I explained that it had been announced for some days that our policy would be stated at tonight's meeting in this City—which I deem was the proper place to announce the policy of the Conservative party, in my own constituency, before the men and women who have elected me on three different occasions." (Applause).

Inane Misstatement

"The editor of the Patriot states tonight that Mr. Campbell did not have an opportunity of rebuttal. That statement, ladies and gentlemen, is deliberately misleading. **Mr. Campbell was given more than his allotted time, and was allowed to speak until he stopped voluntarily.** But it was the Conservative candidate who opened the meeting, and according to the rules observed between candidates it is the opening speaker who is always given the chance of speaking for a few minutes at the close. So the Patriot editor's statement is just as foolish as many that he is making. **The Liberal candidates had all the opportunity they wanted of speaking. Why put up this claim that they were unfairly treated? That is only a mild example, however, of the kind of propaganda that we are meeting in this election.**

IGNORED OWN PLATFORM

And would you believe, ladies and gentlemen, that during all the time Mr. Campbell was speaking, he never made a single reference to his own platform! **He criticised me as Premier for not coming with a platform, knowing full well that tonight, in the proper place and at the appointed time, our platform would be given to the electors; but what do you think of one acting in the position of Mr. Campbell, and ignoring completely his own party platform!**

"Probably those howls of criticism that Mr. LePage and Mr. McIntyre gave vent to when it was announced that Mr. Campbell was the new leader instead of those two old, tried men—probably there was something behind that criticism after all!" (Loud laughter and applause.

I am very sorry that Hon. Mr. Lea is not himself able to take over the Liberal party leadership. There is no one I would like better to see in the contest. However, he has not been able to do so. I noted that Mr. LePage, in giving an interview to the Halifax Herald, intimated that he was one of Mr. Lea's chief lieutenants. He is one of Mr. Lea's chief's lieutenants—**once removed!** (laughter).

Ashamed of It

Mr. Campbell, as I said, never once mentioned his own platform at Tignish. **That was his first lapse from his duty as leader.** You will recall, ladies and gentlemen, that in 1931, four years ago, they had no platform; they ran on their "record of performance." **This time they have a platform and Mr. Campbell is evidently ashamed of it, because there is so little in it.** Otherwise he would have drawn attention to it, and discussed it at the first meeting in his own constituency. (Applause).

Let us examine this Liberal platform, which the party leader was ashamed to mention, and see the hollowness of it. The first plank is "reduction of expenditure sufficient to balance the budget annually." **That is a nice promise coming from those gentlemen who increased our liabilities by $1,177,000 in a period which they themselves say were prosperous years!** (Applause).

The Premier's Car

Then they go on to promise strict economy and the abolition "of the present extravagant system of furnishing Ministers and officials with motor cars." Fine stuff, that, isn't it? When they had an opportunity of reducing the cars of Ministers, did they do it? Even Mr. Lea took occasion last year to say that when he came into power there would be no more Premier's car. Well, he will not find any Premier's car if he does come in, because this "extravagant Premier" took that car and sold it for $1,000 and put that money into road machinery for the benefit of the people of this Province. **Mr. Lea's son-in-law, speaking last night at Irishtown, said I had no business to sell the Premier's car for $1,000. I suppose he thinks his family may still need it."** (Loud laughter and applause).

"They promise now to "abolish" the system of furnishing cars, and I would ask how these gentlemen propose getting the Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of Public Works, the Dairy Superintendent, the Supervisor of Women's Institutes and Public Health nurses, to the places where their work lies? **That clause is foolish and ridiculous, and I venture to say that if they ever get into power they will not carry it out.**

Another plank in their platform promises "strict control of all departmental expenditures; no increase over the estimates without approval of the Executive Council or Treasury Board". **Nice words, coming from those men who, during their four years, exceeded their own estimates by three-quarters of a million dollars. It is very necessary that this plank should be there, to be of some guidance to them if by any chance they should obtain power in this Province!**

They promise also "prompt and impartial enforcement of all laws, especially of those against intoxicated drivers." If they enforce the Highway Traffic Act as well as the present Government has enforced it, they won't have need of any such plank in their platform. I suppose this refers also to Prohibition enforcement.. **If they enforce the Act as we did they won't have to report to the Legislature, as they had to do at the end of their first year, 100 prohibition cases standing, and at the end of their next year sixty-five such cases standing,—a fine example of prohibition enforcement, wasn't it?** (Applause).

"Investigation into the feasibility of establishing a central jail farm or industrial institution, with labour for prisoners." A fine humanitarian idea if it can be carried out; but they are only going to "investigate". And what does it mean? To build a farm to provide labor for prisoners might be a good thing from one standpoint, **but for every bit of labor you give those prisoners on a prison farm you deprive the labouring men of just that much opportunity of earning for their families.** (Applause).

SOME PHILANTHROPISTS!

This is a fine scheme coming from men who, when in power, when they had delinquent children from Charlottetown and Summerside before them whose salvation depended on strict discipline and moral training, to their eternal disgrace refused to pay for the support of those children in the Reformatory. Those are the kind of philanthropists we have to deal with now! (Applause).

"Investigation into the question of school books, with a view of securing a reduction in the present excessive prices." I may say, ladies and gentlemen, that we have reduced the price of school books to the lowest possible cost. We are just taking enough out of the sale of the books for overhead expenses. But they are going to "investigate"; the same men who, at the end of their four years, **left an overdraft in the School Supply Department of $36,000, due to bad management.** I make that statement because when we put in a competent manager in the person of Mr. George Grant, by salvaging the huge supplies on the shelves he was able to reduce that overdraft in two years by ten thousand dollars. (Applause).

Mr. Campbell cited an example of school books sold at 30 cents in this Province, and in Ontario for six cents. I may say that the officials of the School Supply Department do not know of any such books. We have knowledge of a book printed in Ontario—one of the lower grades of readers—which is marked six cents, and I suppose that is the price it sells for in Ontario. **It is one of the older editions which has been sold in our School Supply Department for five cents.** (Applause).

Cites Reductions Made

There are two other books which we have reduced in price from 85 to 70 cents and from 70 to 55 cents respectively since we came into power. But the main fact about school books is that they do get cheaper books in Ontario because they are sold at a certain price to the people and the difference between that price and the publisher's charge is absorbed by the Ontario Government. We have not reached that stage where the Government is willing to take on, as an additional burden at this time, the absorption of a large part of the price of school books in this Province. If that is what the Liberals propose to do, if they ever come into power they will have some difficulty in making revenue and expenditures meet—which seems to be the chief plank in their platform.

They promise also "co-operation with the Federal Department of Fisheries with a view to securing wider and better markets, fostering greater co-operation for the benefit of the industry, securing lower freight and express rates on fish products, and instructing our fishermen in the best methods of curing and packing fish." A long, nice paragraph, which means nothing. There is nothing in it but what the present Government has endeavored to do and has made some success in doing. I shall deal later with this subject.

GASOLINE PRICES REDUCED

"Restoration of the full rebate of gasoline tax, formerly granted to the agricultural and fishing industries, and a general investigation into the excessive cost of gasoline." That refers to the two cents on gasoline which they claim should have been given back to farmers and fishermen. It takes a certain amount per gallon to administer the department to pay overhead expenses, and we considered that farmers, and fishermen too, might reasonably be asked to contribute something towards the overhead in this department. That is the view taken by ths Government. Last fall, however, we were able to give back one and one-half cent a gallon on gasoline to every motor driver in this Province; so the two cents is practically wiped out and more, **because we effected an arrangement with the gas and oil companies and we secured a cent and a half reduction of gasoline prices to all who are using it in the Province.**

They say we increased the gasoline tax and that the present price is too high. But it was not a direct increase of taxation **because we lowered the fees for registration of cars at the same time.** It was not with the idea of getting revenue out of gasoline that this move was made. It was to make the registration of cars a little more easy on the general car owners of the Province. And so, while we increased the tax from six to eight cents, we lowered the registration fees 20 cents per hundred pounds. For example, if your car weighs 3,000 pounds, you have been saving $6.00 per year in registration fees ever since this measure was put into effect. The first year we scarcely made any profit at all. It is true we made some since, because more cars have been used, but we felt that for those who were coming into the Province the extra two cents gas tax was worth while; and it will be very much more worth while at the end of this season, when you will have, in all likelihood, a hard-surfaced road connecting this city with Borden. (Applause).

Another Liberal pledge is to investigate the feasibility of canning and processing potatoes and other products. Very fine things, with potatoes at six cents a bushel, they would be worth canning, wouldn't they? That is one way in which the Liberal party proposes to find markets for potatoes—by processing them.

Returned Soldiers

"The awarding of at least a fair portion of Government labour to returned soldiers." **It may be necessary for them to put that plank in their platform; it is not necessary for us, because we have given the returned soldiers a fair share of work and we have given them more than a generous share of the appointments that we have made in the last four years.** (Applause).

CONSERVATIVE POLICY

There are other planks in their platform, but time is passing and I purpose to deal at some length to the Conservative platform.

Continued economy consistent with efficiency in the administration of every Department of the Public Service. That is our first plank. I do not accept the criticism of the Opposition that we have been extravagant in the last four years. We say plainly to the people that this has been our policy for the last four years and we purpose to continue it. Of course we expended money, because the spending of money in a great many cases was absolutely necessary; but they cannot point to any item that was spent wrongly or injudiciously. Economy consistent with efficiency has always been a plank in the Conservative platform; it is one that we have always adhered to and one which we will adhere to in the future.

Education Costs

They say, "Look at your increased expenditure in the Education and Public Health Department over the amounts we spent." Mr. Campbell says we have spent $36,000 more on education than they did in one year. Isn't that a nice statement coming from a man who graduated from the Prince of Wales College, and by reason of his education at Prince of Wales College subsequently became a Rhodes Scholar? Does any elector in this Province regret the money that has been spent in education? I can remember, in my experience on the School Board of this City, how education expenditures increased. We are expending now almost three times what we expended in this City when I became a member of the Board in 1915. **Do you regret it? Wasn't it necessary? Are not the children entitled to the best that we can give them in the way of education?** (Loud applause).

A Shameful Statement

Is money spent in education money that was wasted? That is the point of Mr. Campbell's criticism. Isn't it a fine declaration of policy to come from a man who speaks for the Liberal party in this campaign? I say it is a disgraceful statement. And it is on a par with the further statement he makes that $100,000 could have been saved in the building of Prince of Wales College.

We threshed this out at Tignish last night, ladies and gentlemen. If you read the Liberal manifesto, you will find that Mr. Campbell makes the following statement:

"While we do not wish to be too meticulous in the matter of expenditures for educational purposes, the people of the Province feel that the rebuilding of Prince of Wales College need not have cost over $400,000 **and that at least $100,000 could have been saved on that item by more judicious salvage and a little studied economy."**

That was his statement. Here is the correction that appeared editorially in the same issue of the Patriot newspaper:

"The Liberal manifesto which appears in full in today's Patriot contains the following: "The people of the Province feel that the rebuilding of Prince of Wales College need not have cost over $400,000, and that at least $100,000 could have been saved on that item by more judicious salvage and a little studied economy."

"This should read: **'The people of the Province feel that the rebuilding of the College need not have cost the large amount it did, namely over $400,000, etc."**

They evidently didn't believe what was in their manifesto. Reuben MacDonald didn't believe it. He thought he would fix it up for himself—and he is some 'fixer'! (Laughter).

Is that the same statement which Mr. Campbell makes in his manifesto? Of course not. But would you believe that last night at Tignish Mr. Campbell got to the platform twice **and said that both statements were the same!** (Laughter). He tried to convince the audience of that, but he was not quite able to do it as long as I was there. (Applause).

According to the propaganda of the editor of the Patriot there is no Government in this Province at the present time. (Laughter). They have evidently only one purpose in their propaganda—**to kill this man MacMillan. Well, he will take some killing!** (Loud applause).

A FAMOUS PITCH-FORK

In dealing with my remarks the other night over the radio, the editor of the Patriot made this statement:

"Although no doubt the Premier will make a desperate effort to carry the Province, he might as well try keeping the tide out with a pitch-fork."

I have used pitch-forks before now, and I know all about them. But I have been trying for years to get a certain type of pitchfork. **It is the pitch-fork with which Mr. Walter Jones' men chased Mr. Lea's men off his farm at Bunbury when they went after a Holstein heifer which was loaned to Mr. Jones by Mr. Lea as Minister of Agriculture in order that he might complete a Holstein herd to go to Toronto and capture a lot of prizes, and which he refused to give back when he came home.** (Loud laughter).

Mr. Jones, you know, is now running as a Liberal candidate in the Fourth District of Queens. He got the loan of that heifer and he got his prizes, but when he came back he kept the cow. Rumor says that Mr. Lea's men were chased off the Jones farm with a pitch-fork and that the case was not settled until it was tried in the courts. **That is the famous 'pitch-fork' I have been looking for, for the last four years!** (Laughter).

Self-Contradictory

I do not intend to deal further with education; I think I have covered that matter; but it is amusing to note how these educational experts in the Liberal party differ in their opinions. Mr. LePage, for example, is quite emphatic. He said on March 14, 1933, that a saving of at least $50,000 could have been made by using the old foundations at Prince of Wales College. Next year he said the foundations were worth $50,000 to $60,000, and they should have been used," and at least $150,000 could have been saved. Last July, at a Liberal meeting at Kingston, he said $200,000 might have been saved, and he is repeating that statement in the present campaign. But I notice, when he gave his interview to the Halifax Herald a few days ago—and in which he styles himself one of Mr. Lea's chief lieutenants—he says we scrapped a foundation "worth $50,000". **Now you can take those four statements and make what you like of them. They are all there, and they are all different.** (Applause).

SUBSIDY CLAIMS

Now we come to a most important plank in any platform:

"2. Having further established our Provincial claims against the Dominion Government to the extent of three million dollars, to continue to press for a full realization of our claims on the basis of the minority report of the White Commission."

I read you previously, ladies and gentlemen, the Liberal platform. **There is no mention of subsidy claims in it.** Last night Mr. Campbell made the statement that this matter of claims was settled, that the award received was final and unalterable. I just told him that there was no such thing as a subsidy settlement that was final and unalterable. Sir Wilfred Laurier used those same words in 1907, and said there would be no change in our subsidy relations. How many times have they been changed since? I also reminded Mr. Campbell that the door at Ottawa is never closed if there is backbone enough to open it. (Applause).

But they have closed the door; they have dropped any mention of subsidy claims from their platform. It is going to be a forgotten thing with them. And well might it be, because there is no more humiliating page in the history of this Province than the record of the Lea Government in their handling of this question.

"Worth-While"

Over the radio the other night I showed, going back to 1912, that the present Chief Justice of this Province was the man who had the brains and the ability to prepare this Province's case, present it at Ottawa and return with $100,000 of increased annual subsidy for all time to come. That was twenty-three years ago. Figure it up at 5 per cent. and you will have nearly three million dollars, received in cold cash as a result of Chief Justice Mathieson's work, aided by his colleagues in the Government. Wasn't that worth going after? (Applause).

Coming down to the year 1926, after the appointment of the Duncan Commission, the first Stewart Government prepared the case for Prince Edward Island, as Conservative Governments prepared the cases in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and as a result we received an additional annual subsidy increase of $125,000. That Commission recommended a final and complete settlement, which they felt themselves they did not have the power to undertake.

MR. KING'S STATEMENT

The years passed—1927, 1928, 1929, 1930—and still no move on the part of the Liberal Government at Ottawa to implement the Duncan Commission recommendation. Those were the years which they tell us were the most prosperous in Canada's history—years of extravagance and expenditure, of wild speculation and stock gambling, leading up to the crash; years, they tell us, of great prosperity. Why did not they succeed in those years in getting a settlement of our subsidy claims? You know the answer. You know what the Liberal Prime Minister himself said on that occasion. On February 18, 1929 Premier MacKenzie King, on the floor of the House of Commons, in reply to a question as to why, when the claims of the Western Provinces were being dealt with, the other provinces were ignored, said:

"For some reason or other the claims have not been put forward by the Provinces."

One month later, on March 19, 1929, the Liberal Government of this Province, in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Legislature, announced:

"During the year my Government has been vigorously pressing our claims for further increase in the subsidy which we receive from the Dominion."

It is a strange state of affairs, where the Prime Minister of Canada contradicts what was put into the mouth of the Lieutenant Governor of this Province in a Speech from the Throne in this Legislature!

I do not need to say any more on that point. It is paralleled by all the criticism that we are getting in this campaign—a parallel of contradictions.

To give credit to the Premier of this Province at that time—Mr. Saunders—I must say that he did make some efforts. I have here the correspondence between himself and the Dominion Prime Minister which I am sure you will find interesting.

MR. SAUNDERS' LETTER

Here is one letter written Dec. 17, 1928, to the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., in which Mr. Saunders tries to say something about our claims, in which he tries to get an appointment with Mr. King. It is a long letter, and there are some things in it that are very illuminating. For example here is a paragraph, which I shall quote:

"If you will refer to the report of the Duncan Commission you will see that it suggests that this matter (of subsidy settlement) should be carefully investigated and adjusted.

"Now I dislike making any reference to the promise of our Conservative friends, but it is known from coast to coast that our people are unanimous in having the report of the Duncan Commissioners implemented. The Conservatives at Winnipeg pledged themselves, if returned to power, to do this. Our Provincial Premiers in Canada at the Dominion Provincial Conference at Ottawa, in 1927, went on record as saying that something substantial must be done for the Maritimes, especially for the little Province of Prince Edward Island. Premier Gardiner of Saskatchewan said he believed our Province was entitled to at least $100,000 additional subsidy, over and above what we are already receiving, and he would not object if it was increased by $200,000 per year."

There is a Liberal opinion, and look how it coincides with the result. Mr. Gardiner, the Liberal Premier of Saskatchewan, said he considered Prince Edward Island should get $100,000 additional subsidy. **So when we got $150,000 as a result of our presentation before the White Commission last year, we were just doing a little better than one Liberal Premier indicated at that time.** Let me quote further, however:

"Hon. Mr. Brownlee, Premier of Alberta, agreed with what Premier Gardiner stated respecting the Province of Prince Edward Island. I know that you have not forgotten these statements and also what Premier Ferguson stated at a banquet at the Chateau Laurier, that 'some thing substantial must be done for Prince Edward Island— 'they cannot live on potatoes alone.'" (Laughter).

"I want to say right here," continues Mr. Saunders, "our Island has not prospered this year as have the other Provinces of Canada. I really believe that we have not had, for many years, a worse condition than we are at present experiencing."

PROVINCIAL SITUATION, 1929

Those are the words of the Liberal Premier of this Province in 1929—the peak year of what our Liberal opponents claim to have been the prosperous period in Canada's history. (Applause). But Mr. Saunders was telling the truth. Let me quote him further: The condition he describes, he says, is

"Owing to the fact that our Province is largely dependent on its potato crop and this year, unfortunately for us, the bottom dropped out of the potato market. We are an agricultural province, having no manufacturing industries whatever. It costs us about 50 cents to produce a bushel of potatoes and this year the best price realized for our potatoes is from 18 cents to 25 cents. Our farmers naturally had to expend large sums of money in fertilizer, and when they sell at such a great loss you will see how disastrous it has been to us. When you consider the many unfortunate conditions we are faced with I am sure we will be given every reasonable consideration by you."

Almost an exact picture, ladies and gentlemen, of the conditions which faced this Province last year in the potato market, though perhaps less acute in 1929 than 1934. Did you hear any blame put on the Liberal Government in 1929 by any Conservative in this Province because the potato market was bad? It is quite different now, apparently. Everything must be blamed on the Government, even the price of potatoes over which the Government of this Province has absolutely no more control than any of you sitting in this theatre.

NO LIBERAL "SURPLUSES"

The Liberal leader goes on to say that we have only two sources of revenue, namely, federal subsidy and direct taxation, "Notwithstanding our frugal expenditure **we are unable to make revenue and expenditure meet.** All that is bad enough, but to add to our unfortunate conditions, **we have never been able in the history of this Province to do anything for public health."** He adds also that **"we are unable to take advantage of the Federal Old Age Pensions Scheme."**

"What is the solution of our difficulties under such sad and distressing circumstances?" Mr. Saunders asks. . . . "We have not got one mile of permanent roads in the Province AND NO MATERIAL TO BUILD OUR ROADS. We have to import EVERY SINGLE OUNCE OF GRAVEL for road-building, AT A VERY HIGH COST plus the high freight rates. In short, we find our gravel costing us about $3.00 per ton. Rather expensive, is it not? And yet the public demand that we must have reasonably good roads."

"Our teachers today receive an average of $500 per year salary. They are passing resolutions threatening to go on strike unless the Government is willing to increase their salaries. How can this be done?

"These are some of the many difficulties under which we labour, **and unless we can get a substantial increase in our subsidy I HONESTLY THINK THAT OUR ISLAND MIGHT AS WELL HOIST ITS ANCHOR AND DRIFT HELPLESSLY OUT TO SEA."**

A long letter, ladies and gentlemen, written by the Liberal Premier of this Province to the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada on the most important subject that could concern Prince Edward Island, the question, namely, of final implementation and settlement of the Duncan Commission recommendations. He closes by urging Mr. King to fix a date on which he could go to Ottawa and discuss the matter personally with him.

MR. KING'S REPLY

I shall read you now the answer of the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada to the Liberal Premier of this Province. I have made the statement on many occasions that whatever representations were made by the local Liberal Government to the Mackenzie King Government were only sneered at and ridiculed. I purpose now to prove that statement from Mr. Mackenzie King's own words. Here is his letter to Mr. Saunders, dated at Ottawa Jan. 26, 1929:

"Your letter, dated Charlottetown, Dec. 17th, was not received at my office until the 21st instant. **Evidently the date marks the period of the commencement, for I am sure this communication was never written in a single day."** (Laughter).

SNUBS MR. SAUNDERS

What do you think of that for an opening paragraph? If Premier Bennett ever wrote me a letter like that, what do you think would be said about him?

Voice: "I think you would be away to Ottawa in an airplane the next day!" (Applause).

Premier MacMillan: "Let us go on with Mr. King's epistle:

"You have carefully outlined the situation as far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, and **I really do not think that there is anything that could be added by a personal interview. I think, therefore, that your time and mine might as well be spared as far as there being any necessity to supplement the details of the memorandum."**

Denying the Premier of this Province the opportunity of going to Ottawa even to discuss this important matter with him! That was the attitude of Mr. Mackenzie King. Compare that attitude with the attitude of "this man Bennett," of whom they cannot say any good—the man who gave to this Province, in the last five years, nearly One Million Dollars in cold cash! (Loud applause).

KING'S EMPTY PROMISE

Continuing, Mr. King promises to bring Mr. Saunders' representations before his colleagues at the next Cabinet meeting. He concludes:

"That, I really think, is the best way to have the matter of subsidies considered. I need not recall, of course, the slight increase of subsidy which was made a year or two ago as a result of the Duncan Report. The whole question of Maritime Provinces subsidies will come up for discussion as well as consideration this year."

A little different treatment, ladies and gentlemen, from what we received from the hands of the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett! They laugh at our subsidy increase of $150,000 for all time to come. That, according to Mr. LePage, is "not worth talking about." We got something, at any rate, more than the contempt which you will find in that letter. **And these are the persons who are asking to be returned to power, who got nothing but rebuffs from their own Government at Ottawa, when the times, as they say, were the most prosperous in Canada's history! What do they purpose doing now if elected?** (Loud applause).

Mr. King, you will notice, ends by promising to do something in 1929. **Did he ever do it? We all know the answer.** It was just what you would expect from his letter.

SEEKS HELP FROM ROBB

Here is another letter, in which I think you will be interested. It is from Mr. Saunders, Premier, to Hon. J. A. Robb, Finance Minister in the Mackenzie King Government. It is dated Sept. 26, 1929, and it reads:

"As you will doubtless remember, when I saw you in March last, in company with Messrs. Sinclair, Jenkins and MacLean, we discussed the question of increased provincial subsidy. You then suggested that I had better prepare a further case and that you would appoint a committee of three from your own staff to hear our representations and to report their findings to you. You further sugegsted that it would be well to have this conference during this present fall.

"I feel that now is the opportune time to have the matter adjusted, and I am prepared to go to Ottawa at any time you deem advisable. I should prefer an appointment about the middle of November next, provided that the Prime Minister and you will be in Ottawa at that time, as there are certain matters which I would like to discuss with both of you personally.

I would be glad if you would kindly give this matter your favorable consideration, and let me know what time will be most acceptable to you."

ANOTHER SNUB

It is quite evident that Mr. Saunders was endeavoring to get somewhere; but how far did he get? Mr. Robb replies to his request for an interview in the following words, dated Oct. 2, 1929:

"In reply to your letter of the 26th ultimo, while I hope to be in Ottawa myself during most of the month of November, from time to time I will be absent as certain appointments have been made away from the city. In conversation with the Prime Minister, I learned that **he does not expect to be in Ottawa at all during the month of November.** That, however, should not prevent your officers **submitting statements to the departmental officers."**

"DECLINED TO CO-OPERATE"

On Oct. 7, 1929, Mr. Saunders again wrote the Finance Minister. I need not read it all. The gist of it is in the following paragraphs:

"When I saw you in Ottawa last spring, in company with Messrs. Sinclair and MacLean, we discussed this matter" (of sudsidy settlement) "and you advised me to come to Ottawa this fall, at which time you would appoint a committee of experts from your department to hear our representations.

"In the House of Commons last session, **the Prime Minister, in reply to a question as to why a final adjustment had not been made with the Maritimes, stated that claims had not been pressed by the latter.** This statement of the Prime Minister was often referred to by Opposition members in our Legislature last session. Although I refused, in reply to tabled questions, to divulge all that had passed between the Federal and Provincial Governments on the subsidy question, on the ground of public interest;—in justice to myself and in view of the Prime Minister's statement, I announced the arangement suggested by you, namely, that I was to go to Ottawa this fall, and present our case before a committee of experts to be appointed by you.

"You further suggested, last spring, that this Province should come alone, rather than in conjunction with the other Maritimes. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS DECLINED TO CO-OPERATE WITH PREMIER RHODES AND PREMIER BAXTER IN A JOINT PRESENTATION. I ALSO DECLINED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A PROPOSED MEETING OF THE MARITIME BOARD OF TRADE IN THIS CONNECTION."

LEA'S ALIBI FALSE

In other words, ladies and gentlemen, the alibi made by the present Liberal leader and his supporters at the last session of the Legislature, that they could make no headway because Premier Rhodes and Premier Baxter were not co-operating with them, is flatly contradicted in this letter of Mr. Saunders, which shows that it was not they who refused to co-operate, but the Liberal Premier of this Province; and he did so at the request of the Finance Minister in the Mackenzie King Government. (Loud applause).

"Now you are getting some knowledge as to why the Liberal Government, from 1927 until 1931, were not able to obtain anything in the way of increased subsidy for this Province. Does it correspond with the statements made by the Liberal leader and his followers in this campaign and in the Legislature. It does not. But is there any doubt in the world but that Mr. Saunders was speaking the truth in this correspondence? (Applause).

I do not think I need go into the matter any further. The whole thing is there. It is not private property; it was tabled in the House of Commons, and it is my duty, as Premier of this Province, to give it to the people when we are being criticised and told that the increase of $150,000 in annual subsidy which we obtained from the Bennett Government is "not worth talking about." (Applause).

GREAT AT "ASKING"

"Why," they say, "we asked for $438,000!" Mr. Campbell made this statement last night. **But he forgot to say that while their Premier was away at Ottawa presenting this claim before the Audit Board which had no jurisdiction whatever to deal with it, Mr. W. M. Lea, as Acting Premier, assisted by one of the Campbells, was presenting in the Patriot newspaper a statement of claim—not for $438,000 but for Three and a Quarter Million Dollars!** (Loud laughter). **Of course the result of all this bungling and lack of co-operation was just what you would expect—THEY GOT NOTHING!** (Applause).

"We had no trouble, ladies and gentlemen, in getting the Premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to co-operate with us. One of them, Hon. Mr. MacDonald, was leader of a Liberal Government. That made no difference. **We co-operated; we pressed our claims, and as a result we got, for this Province, $150,000 in annual subsidy increase.** And we say the end is not yet, because we have confidence in the judgmnt of that man who knows more about Maritime claims than any person in Canada—the present Chief Justice of this Province. **So far as we are concerned we mean to keep that door open at Ottawa, and we shall endeavor to secure recognition of more subsidy claims from the Dominion Government if we are returned to power.** (Applauses).

AGRICULTURE

Our opponents say, (continued the Premier) that we are doing nothing for Agriculture. But we know the condition of farming in this Province. We know we had to come to the rescue of the Potato Growers Association last year, and again this spring. We had also to finance the purchase of hay and clover seed for the farmers. We are doing something in a practical way to help those who are not in a position financially to help themselves. Our department has done a great deal of reorganization and practical work among the farmers, in order to get them back on a mixed farming basis, which in my opinion is the only sound policy for the farmers of this Province to pursue.

Helping Livestock Industry

The policies of the Department have also been remoulded to provide for a more intensive support of the livestock industry. For many years potato growing has been projected into the forefront of agricultural production and livestock production has been forced into a secondary position. The result has been an unbalanced system of farm production which has in turn brought about an unreliable and independable source of revenue.

Recognizing the permanence and stability of livestock production the Department is attempting to-day to restore livestock and dairying to its proper status in the farm program, and to give every assistance to the farmer in the improvement of his flocks and herds. A large measure of success has already been achieved, and it is our belief, from the increased number of people who are to-day visiting the Department and asking for its services, that the farmers throughout the country are realizing the benefits which it is capable of rendering.

Horse Breeding

The Department is undertaking a more extensive program of encouragement in horse breeding. During the past year a Horse Breeders' Association has been organized, and a branch of the Canadian Hunter, Saddle and Light Horse Improvement Society has been promoted. There is a splendid market for hunters in central Canada and elsewhere, and the development of the best types are receiving encouragement. It is intended to promote the organization of Foal Clubs. Negotiations have been conducted by the Department to have a Federally owned draft stallion placed in the province next year. Under our Federal-Provincial Premium Bonus Policy fifteen Premium stallions have been passed and have been designated for the use of Island breeders. Last year $1,060.00 was paid in premiums for the encouragement of high class horses in the province. The attendance at Exhibitions and observations in the country indicates that horse breeding is coming back to the high status which it occupied in the best years of the industry.

Cattle Industry Promoted

The Cattle industry has received careful attention. Assistance has been given in the selection of improved sires. A number have been imported from Ontario, and there has been a wide distribution of improved bulls in the province. There are now about sixty Bull Loaning Associations established and an additional number of Farmers' Institutes have been formed, through which tht Government gives a bonus for purchasing improved bulls. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting cows with calf within recent years. An investigation is now being undertaken by the Department for the purpose of ascertaining the cause, and to prescribe remedies. **Since coming into power great extension has taken place in Calf Club organization. About twenty-five are now operating. These are proving a great asset in cattle improvement.**

Cow Tests Established

During the past year, in conformity with the wishes of the dairymen of the province, a Cow Testing service has been established. This service will be linked up with the Cheese factories and Creameries, and with the Farmers' and Junior organizations. It is intended to work through this service back to the individual farmer, and to render definite assistance in weeding out unprofitable cows, improve breeding practices and, if possible, to induce farmers to grow larger areas of such crops as corn, alfalfa mixtures and roots. Comprehensive statistical records will be kept in the Department, and a field and Departmental service will be provided, which we believe will exercise a strong influence on the cattle and dairy industry of the province. A number of valuable bulletins have already been issued to farmers under this policy, and it is the intention to produce for distribution from time to time bulletins of a timely nature on informative agricultural topics.

JUNIOR EXTENSION

During the last four year period Junior Extension has received par-

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Prince Edward Island Fox Supplies store and office at 182 Queen St. has been moved to premises of Samuel Kennedy, 134 Kent St.

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