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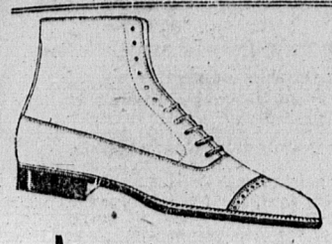

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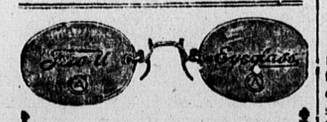

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MR. H. D. MCLEAN SCORES THE PROMISE BREAKERS

Criticizes the Road Policy of the Government as Carried out in Some Districts. Reviews the School Question Taxation and Other Matters Touched Upon in the Speech From the Throne.

MR. H. D. McLEAN member for Souris, began his address by complimenting the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne. It had been said the hon. member from Charlottetown (Mr. E. T. Higgs) who moved the reply, had accomplished a difficult task. At first he wondered where this difficulty came in, as he knew Mr. Higgs to be an accomplished speaker. But he recalled the fact that last year Mr. Higgs had criticised the government on some occasions and had been regarded to a certain extent as the "bad boy" of the House. Now he had been called upon to praise what he had before condemned, and it was no doubt a difficult task. He evidently found little in the speech itself worth commending, and so turned his attention to outside matters connected with the Board of Trade. Considering everything he had done very well.

The speaker wished also to congratulate the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Hon. A. E. Arsenault, for his splendid address. I do not think, said Mr. McLean, that the walls of this House ever heard such an impeachment of a government: I am sure that a government in this House never deserved it more. I was rather amused to note on the faces of the members opposite the effect of that speech, and also to note the effect produced on the same faces by the speech of the Premier. The Leader of the Government is, of course, as we all know, an accomplished speaker, and few can handle words better than he. I think, possibly on this occasion he attempted to give us his masterpiece. The rapt attention he received from his followers leads me to believe he has succeeded fairly well in the masterpiece, too. They all seemed to be in a trance over the words he used and the splendid manner in which he rounded the difficult corners. His speech on this occasion, like Sir Walter Scott's romantic tale of "Wandering Willie," carried a wonderful appearance of truthfulness and it was only after the glamor thrown by the author over his creation had worn off that the barren reality beneath it all could be discovered.

ALLEGED DIFFICULTIES

The Premier has said, continued Mr. McLean, that no government ever came into power with so many difficulties to face and overcome. When he made that statement he said what was absolutely correct. But he went on then to try to show that all these difficulties were piled upon him by the Conservatives. This is where the romancing begins. He went even farther and stated that in educational matters his government found a lion in its patch in the shape of a plebiscite, the defeat of which he blames solely upon the Conservative party. The hon. member from 1st Kings (Mr. D. C. McDonald) also spoke on this question. But I cannot recall any candidate speaking against the plebiscite or referendum. I am sure that in those districts where the referendum was defeated it was not due to the Conservatives, and I do not believe that this part of the Premier's speech will help to inspire the people with confidence in his government.

The Premier also told us that it was his duty on assuming office to go around and inquire into the condition of the finances, in the course of which duty he went into the Auditor's office and asked for a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the past government. To the balance so shown $116,000 was added—and this was handed over to the Patriot newspaper as a statement of the financial condition of the Province. He then went into the Department of Public Works and was astounded when he found the pile of checks that were there. Now, if the hon. Leader of the Government had gone around to these offices and had found conditions as he described them to be, he is certainly more guilty than his predecessors for not at once calling in an outside auditor for which he had precedure and showing the people the exact state of affairs. The public today have really nothing to take for that statement except the Patriot newspaper. And how can this be accepted as evidence when we have been told by the Premier that even the members of his government are not responsible for anything they say or do unless action is taken by an order-in-council?

But in the whole debate in this House, since the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, the supposition that the finances of the country were as stated has been taken for granted. It is also taken for granted that the people will believe this statement. Last year we know what became of the report introduced into the House to show the actual financial standing of the country at that time,—it was thrown out! The hon. members opposite have ignored this in their eloquent speeches; but this is a point which the people will not long ignore.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The fourth clause of the Lieut.-Governor's speech states that during the year 1920 a satisfactory beginning was made in improvements of the highways. As the work has not been carried through to completion I do not wish to offer any harsh criticism on it; but in order that something may not happen again which happened last year in our district I shall have to put forward a few observations. We learn from the speech that about sixty miles of the worst stretches of road in the Province have been undertaken and carried well through to completion. We have a road leading from East Point to Souris, a certain section of which some of the highway money was expended. I take no objection to that, of course. I like to see the roads in my district fixed up. But the road we had there was not a low-lying road, or a bad road. For three or four years, since the autos came in any number, people found it a pleasurable road to travel over. Last spring I had occasion to go over it, sometime in May, and the road was in very good condition—two or three men in a few days could have put it in first-class shape. I had to go over this stretch again in June, when the ordinary road work had been completed, and it was about all we could do to get through parts of it where sand had been piled up. Sometime in August the road was torn up again to be made into a permanent highway. This stretch of road begins at South Lake and ends within three or four miles of Souris, and it is highly important to keep it open. No doubt the concrete culverts will be an improvement, with this exception, the road will be no better than it was before. No grades have been reduced and no low places filled up but the culverts in this section are too short and the road bed at the top of the clay work is too narrow and there is no means to widen it. I understand that one of the embankments caved out last fall, making it difficult to get across the dumps.

EDUCATION

In the course of His Honor's speech we were informed that "the subject of education is all important and all absorbing." It did not appear to absorb the attention of the members of the government last fall when the Prince of Wales College was allowed to be closed up for two or three weeks while they were haggling over wages with the teachers.

It is the policy of my government to give the people the benefit of more efficient schools." This sounds pretty good: but I don't know how we are going to get more efficient teachers if the government allows P. W. College, where they are trained, to be closed during the term as last year. Right here I will say that in my opinion at least, the Premier's explanation of the Prince of Wales College squabble was very unsatisfactory. In fact I do not feel that I know anything more about it now than I did before he began.

A good deal has been said about the steps which have been taken to teach elementary music and the art of singing in the College. About twenty-five years ago, right in Prince of Wales' College, I took music lessons and I think, possibly, that that was the time I ruined my voice! I wonder if the object of the music lessons is to teach the coming teachers to sing so that they might keep up their hearts on the small salaries to be doled out to them when they graduated; or is it to teach the rising generation to sing while the taxes are being piled on? The government will be doing well if it can get the people to sing under such conditions!

TAXES

We have listened to a lengthy address from the hon. Commissioner of Agriculture. This gentleman when he was on the Opposition appeared to be a forty thousand horse-power dynamo of energy. If only he got on the other side of the House he would do three times as much as anybody who ever occupied the position! And now what has he done? Under his control are the Tax Department and the Education Department. We have been and we all know what was done for education when the Prince of Wales College teachers had to go on strike; I wonder where the Commissioner was at that time? In regard to the Tax Department, instead of being able to do three or four times as much work as his predecessor he has had to engage a fairly high-salaried officer to do the work for him, and also to considerably enlarge his staff otherwise. We cannot see where his policy of rigid economy comes in here.

Some time ago the Guardian newspaper criticised the manner adopted by the government in valuing lands. Some people's land valuations were increased, others were not, and the Guardian asked if it was the intention of the government only to increase the values on Conservatives. I do not know whether the question was answered. It looked very fishy at the time; but I never could imagine that the government would attempt to collect two poll taxes from a man, though this actually happened to myself. I received the following notice, dated Feb. 28th, from the Provincial Treasurer:

Provincial Treasury,
Charlottetown, P. E. I.,
Feb. 28th, 1921

To H. D. McLean,
Souris,
Dear Sir:

I regret to find by the Collector's return for Road District No. . . . . Kings County, that the Poll Tax $3.00 due by you for the year 192 still remains unpaid.

The Government cannot extend to you further leniency. You are therefore notified that unless the amount is paid at once the matter will be placed in the hands of the Sheriff with instructions to levy and collect the same.

We trust you will not compel the Department to add to your tax the large expense that the Sheriff's costs would entail.

Kindly send remittance direct to the Provincial Treasurer, Charlottetown, in the enclosed addressed envelope.

By order,
Yours truly,
ARTHUR NEWBERY,
Asst. Prov. Treasurer

This was after I had received my receipt, dated Nov. 16.

On March 8th another notice arrived:

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
March 8th, 1921

To Mr. H. D. McLean,
Souris,
Dear Sir:

I regret very much that a mistake has been made in sending you a demand notice for 1920 Poll Tax.

This error was made by a Clerk in this Department copying the list of those who had paid instead of the list of those who had not.

I trust you will overlook this error and trusting you have not been inconvenienced thereby.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR NEWBERY,
Asst. Prov. Treasurer

All these mistakes cost something. And surely it would seem that this department, which was running before with a smaller staff, should with an increased staff be able to do more efficient work. I understand that some returned soldiers in the city were served with a similar notice, in spite of the fact that the Opposition succeeded last year in having all returned soldiers exempted from poll tax and other taxes. The Commissioner has only the technical school and highway improvements to sing the praise of, both of which were initiated by the Federal government.

The Premier, referring to the financial situation, told us that a reduction had been made in the debt. But before the people of this country will be in a position to judge this they must know what the debt was. I do not see that the hon. Leader of the Government has attempted to do this yet. We have offered him a statement of the Auditor from this side of the House and he would not accept it and the people want this information.

He told us, also, that the teachers' salaries were increased $86,000. The Conservatives increased the teachers' salaries $50,000 without putting on extra taxes.

"CUTTING THE KNOT"

He has informed us, again, that he got out of the difficulty of operating the Dalton Sanitorium by dropping it altogether. He took his sword and "cut the knot." That reminds me that the hon. member from Belfast (Hon. F. J. Nash) in his speech referred to the empty office which the Premier found when he took over the reins of power. He went into that empty office and found not even "a scrap of paper." I was wondering what scrap of paper he was looking for—was it the manifesto he had spread through the province before the election? Was it the intention of this new German Chancellor to take his sword and cut the manifesto-knot with it?

TALKING THROUGH HIS HAT.

It might be well to show for a few minutes the Premier as he sits in his "empty office." I have already attempted to acknowledge the Premier's ability as a lecturer, orator and Raconteur, but I have not yet spoken of the special advantage he enjoys over ordinary speakers—he has two voices! We can imagine these two voices in his in the bare and empty office—it was so deserted-looking, I suppose, that to his troubled conscience it appeared to be haunted as well—we can imagine him there with his two voices, communing with himself. One voice, of course, speaks from his lips. The other voice has the appearance of coming from his hat where it has been hung on the wall. . . . .

(A Voice)—He was taking through his hat!

MR. McLEAN—We can imagine the following dialogue between these two voices: The Premier sits down in the "empty" office and the voice from his lips says to him:

"We are undone! We told the people that IN VIEW OF THE RECENT AUGMENTATION OF OUR PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY AND OF THE INCREASE OF OUR REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES, AND IN VIEW OF THE PRACTICABILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF A REDUCTION IN OUR ANNUAL EXPENDITURES, THE RE-ENACTMENT OF THE WAR AND HEALTH TAX IS INEXPEDIENT AND UNNECESSARY. And now, even with the small War and Health Tax, we cannot begin to satisfy the teachers! What can be done?"

And the voice from the hat answers back: Stampede the people! Frighten them! Tell them the country is ruined with debt and that they have to be taxed!"

Then the Premier in his own voice says: "But an outside auditor could show the people immediately that the financial condition is sound?"

And the Hat snorts: "Forget the outside auditor!"

(Voice)—To hell with the outside auditor!"

The Premier answers, a little less despondently: "But the people might tell us to put on an education tax. That would not do because we want larger salaries ourselves."

The Hat: "Tell the people that it was the Conservatives defeated the Educational Bill."

(The House went into recess at 6 o'clock. At 8 o'clock Mr. McLean resumed his address.)

I was almost through when the House went to recess. I had been imagining a scene one might have been permitted to witness in the Premier's office, if one could do so as the Patriot puts it) "through the courtesy of the Provincial Treasurer." I had pictured the Premier sitting there with the "knot" that he could not undo—taking his "sword" (as he tells us) and cutting it. We are told that after he had made the resolution to cut the knot, his friends came to him and advised throwing up the sponge altogether. I wonder if the hon. member for Belfast (Hon. F. J. Nash) is still being told to throw up the sponge today, or if the public have given up the attempt to persuade him. This hon. gentleman when he was speaking was very hard on the Guardian newspaper which was doing, he said, "a lot of mud-slinging." There was one column especially in the Guardian that seemed to irritate the hon. member. I suppose he will remember that in 1915 there was a general election in this province, and that the party that went to the country in opposition at that time came back without a leader. We were told at the time that there was a great agitation as to who should become leader. A by-election was called afterwards, in Jan. 1916, in 1st King's, and a leader was hastily chosen. I do not know whether the old proverb is true—"chose in haste, repent at leisure," but I do know that this leader was supposed to spring a bombshell at the by-election; and I also remember that a considerable amount of mud-slinging was indulged in at the time by the Patriot newspaper. The good name of the Commissioner of Public Works at that time had to be dragged through the mire. The whole campaign was waged on that question; and I want to tell the Premier, the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Agriculture, who took back at the next Parliament all the charges made during that election, that the same imputation made at that time might have been made this year against one of the department heads of this Government. A check was issued to the firm of which I am a member for an amount which had already been paid, when an investigation was called for, in this house into the charges made against the former Commisioner, this turned out to be all there was in the "bombshell" which had proved so sad a fizzle at the by-election. The Guardian newspaper did not try to discredit any member of the government for it. It is not necessary for the Guardian to make any false accusations against this Government. It is the truths driven home that are so galling.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECEPTION EXPOSED

The Premier has challenged us to show where his Government had ever deserved the people with regard to taxes, or where he had ever told the people that taxes would not be increased. We have only to turn to the resolution in the 1916 Journal, page 157, during the special session when the War and Health Tax first came up. The Premier took his stand then and voted on this resolution: "that by reason of increase of subsidies and by the practice of rigid economy the revenues were not only sufficient for ordinary expenses but also sufficient to provide for war and health purposes."

Again, in the Journal, 1917, page 79, we find in the resolution moved by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Saunders:

"That the resolution proposed by the Leader of the Government be not now adopted, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the whole House with instructions to amend the same by striking all after the word "that" in the first line thereof and inserting in lieu thereof the following, 'in view of the recent augmentation of our Provincial Subsidy and of the increase of our revenue from other sources and in view of the practicability and advisability of a reduction in our annual expenditures, the re-enactment of the "War and Health Tax Act, 1916" is inexpedient and unecessary.

Another resolution, the same year, (page 41 of the Journal) states that:

"In view of the recent augmenta-

(Continued on page eight)

EASTERN GUARDIAN

...*IT PAYS to buy in this province.

...*IF ITS DRY GOODS we have it. Ives & Murdock, Montague.

...*TIRED THAT OLD WALL Paper;—See our new range of patterns they are exquisite. Paper to suit every room, at a very nominal price.—Ives & Murdock, Ltd.

...*GEORGETOWN PERSONALS—Mrs. John Hanson, Georgetown, visited Charlottetown.—Mrs. Jas. Farrell, Sturgeon, visited friends at Georgetown.—Rev. Father Gallant Georgetown, visited Charlottetown.—Miss Anna Mac who is training [illegible] spent the week end [illegible] land Hospital spent the week end—Mrs. Jas. Hessian, Georgetown is visited Georgetown the latter part of last week.—Mrs. Geo. Rafuse, with her parents [illegible] Miar, Georgetown.—Miss Hazel Rafuse, Georgetown, was taken to the P. E. I. Hospital on Thursday.—Mrs. Jas. E. McDonald, Cardigan, visited friends at Georgetown.—Mr Nathan Johnson, who is working at Charlottetown is spending the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Johnson, Georgetown.—Mr. King, Boughton Island, Junior, who has been spending the winter in New Glasgow, N. S., returned to his home at Georgetown.—Supt. Grady visited Georgetown.—Capt. Jenior returned to his home at Georgetown. A

EASTERN PERSONALS

...*Mr. Jno. Alfred McDonald, Land Surveyor, returned to his home at Hermanville, Tuesday, from the western part of the Island.

...*Mrs. Charles McLean and two children, ...ermanville, left Wednesday for Denver, Col., her former home.

A Good Baby Soother

The trouble with most baby comforts is that they break or collapse too easily. Why not pay a few cents more and get a real good soother? The PERFECTO SANITARY SOOTHER is packed each one in a box or envelope and is absolutely sanitary. The nipple cannot collapse or break from the shield.

The PERFECTO SOOTHER is the best for the baby.

Troubles Continue In Dublin Towns

DUBLIN, Mar. 17—Telephone and telegraph wires were cut on an extensive scale during the past 24 hours, causing the suggestion to be made that some movement on a large scale is being arranged. Linesmen were held up as they left the Central offices and their equipment taken from them to prevent thier making repairs. Thus far, however, there have been only the usual scattered shootings.

A tailor of Keenagh County, Longford, was taken from his work today and shot dead, a card with the words "shot by Irish Republican army for spying" being attached to his body.

A constable was shot dead in North Kerry and a woman, into whose house the body was taken, died of shock.

As the moth is to the flame, so the fool skater is to the danger sign.

Don't attempt to stack the cards on a man who is hard to deal with.

ECZEMA you are not experimenting when you use Dr. Chase's Ointment for Eczema and Skin Irritations. It relieves at once and gradually heals the skin. Sample box. Dr. Chase's Ointment free if you mention this paper and send 2c stamp for postage. 60c a box; all dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

One Price Only

Take Your Choice—Any Uncalled-For Suit Or O'coat

CAN you imagine a better, more timely opportunity than this? And can you realize that you are buying a Suit or Overcoat at a price that is less than the cost of the material alone?

That's exactly what you can do at this sale of Uncalled-for Suits and Overcoats. And at a price like ours, without a doubt the opportunity is the best you have had in years.

Every garment is new and of a quality that you will appreciate.

Uncalled-For Suits & O'coats

$14 Your Choice

Sizes To Fit All Men.

One Price ONLY

All Blue Serge Suits Values Up to $45 Included

ODD COATS	ODD VESTS	ODD PANTS
Your Choice $5.95	Your Choice $1.50	Your Choice $3.95

These Prices are Less than the Cost of Material alone

English & Scotch Woollen Co.

158 Richmond St., Charlottetown

Out-of-Town Men You will save many dollars by attending Our Uncalled-For Suit and Overcoat Sale.