

Extra Baking Value - OGIWE FLOUR - More Loaves to the Bag

Liberal Guns Silenced By Service Member On Soldier's Vote Issue



Major J. A. MacDana

The action of the Jones Government in disfranchising overseas service men in the last provincial election was denounced in the Legislature last week by Major J. A. MacDana, Conservative member for Third King's...

Taken By Personnel

Mr. MacDonald said it had been claimed by Government spokesmen that the soldiers' vote was not given in 1943 because it would cost too much money...

Mr. MacDonald: "Neither has any other Province."

Mr. MacDonald: "Why don't you look after your affairs at home?"

Mr. MacDonald: "How did all the other Governments in Canada?"

Mr. MacDonald: "They must have some regulations. There is no authority here for it."

Mr. W. G. MacKenzie: "In the plebiscite the vote was taken among the troops overseas in 1940."

Mr. MacDonald: "Men went over here to take it. The Dominion government did that."

Mr. MacDonald: "No, this Province did it. The plebiscite was taken to change the liquor law."

Mr. MacDonald: "Yes; don't you remember?"

Mr. Saville: "Chief Justice Matheson when he was Premier held an election during the First World War and he never took a vote overseas?"

Mr. MacDonald: "If Premier Matheson made a mistake, why should we?"

Mr. MacDonald: "You couldn't find the soldiers in this war."

Mr. MacDonald: "I would like to ask the hon. member from Annapolis (Mr. Saville) if he knows what was done by other Governments in the First War?"

Mr. MacDonald: "I had no objection to take the vote, but my hon. friend knows it would be physically impossible."

Mr. MacDonald: "I can't agree with that, because the other provinces were able to do it. We saw it done and we saw ourselves ignored. And it was the responsibility of this Government."

Mr. MacDonald: "I asked soldiers who knew about it and I don't think any one man favored the idea. Any soldier I ever met poked that way."

Mr. MacDonald: "There are two returned soldiers right in this house who are opposed to that view."

Mr. MacDonald: "I guess the hon. member met the wrong ones, because the soldiers felt that they were badly let down."

Mr. MacDonald: "They were catered all over the world. It was physically impossible to reach every soldier, and if they couldn't to it for every one, why go to the tremendous expense?"

Mr. MacDonald: "How much expense?"

Mr. MacDonald: "It would take thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars."

Mr. MacDonald: "Why did the other Provinces go to that expense?"

Mr. MacDonald: "The other Provinces are large Provinces with large revenues. The Province of Ontario-it would almost be as easy for them as it would be for the Dominion of Canada."

Mr. MacDonald: "Then this Government objected to it on the ground of expense?"

Mr. MacDonald: "It couldn't be done."

Mr. MacDonald: "It is true you couldn't get all of them, but you could have got most of them, as the other Provinces did."

Hon. Mr. Prowse: "I had a son in the service for six years and I asked him when he was home on a visit. He said 'We are fighting a war. We want to get home as quickly as we can, and you look after your affairs at home.' That is the answer of a man who has overseas for six years."

Mr. MacDonald: "That is not the answer of them all. I may state that in Nova Scotia they were very careful to see that every man got the vote, and the Premier pointed out that the election was delayed in order to be sure that the ballot should reach all the service men possible. The work, as I have stated, would be done by the service personnel themselves, at very little cost."

Reply from Nova Scotia

"Just to satisfy myself as to the expense," Mr. MacDonald continued, "I wrote the Provincial Treasurer of Nova Scotia and asked him how much it cost to record the service vote in that Province. The reply I received was that it cost them \$4,711.69. That was for the service personnel of Nova Scotia and it will give this House some idea of how much it would cost to run an election among the service personnel of this Province."

Mr. MacDonald: "For all Canada and overseas, in all the services. We had about 10,000 men and it would have cost us, on the same basis, about forty-seven cents per man."

Continuing without further interruption, Mr. MacDonald dealt briefly with veterans' problems concerning housing, land settlement, loans and employment.

In the Maritime Provinces at present, he said, there are some 26,000 out of work. The jobs available number 1,700. In Prince Edward Island there are about 1,819 unemployed males and 250 females, including 953 veterans and 661 civilians.

He recalled that a resolution had been passed in the Legislature last session endorsing the policy of letting veterans' organizations know when any jobs were available. "I am sorry to say that that is not being followed," he spoke at length on this point, citing instances, and urging all the members, if they knew of opportunities in the way of employment, to "give the veterans a break."

Premier's Labor Statement

Dealing with labor matters, Mr. MacDonald said he was inclined to believe the Premier was joking when he made his reference to outlawing unions at the Legion meeting in Charlottetown. "I don't think his views as published in the papers can be true," he suggested.

Premier Jones: "Since they were published that way I will stand by them. I am not attacking the newspapers."

Mr. MacDonald: "If Labor goes beyond reasonable length, then I believe public opinion will curtail legislation which will curb it, but I don't believe that they should be barred the right to organize within the Province."

Premier Jones: "They have got it now, haven't they?"

Mr. MacDonald: "But you suggested that it would be taken away from them."

Premier Jones: "If they do what you say, it will be." Mr. MacDonald: "I don't think that that should be assumed. He went on to stress the need for workmen's compensation in this Province."

Premier Jones: "Are you advising that we have a Workmen's Compensation Act now?"

Mr. MacDonald: "Yes, in the present circumstances I would say they should have an Act. They are only a small body. They made that request last year and I think it is a very just one."

Mr. Dougald MacKinnon: "I think they were assured last year by both the Government and the Opposition that we would deal with it, but for some reason they neglected bringing it up. I don't know if they ever approached the Government this year."

"Not Practicable"

Premier Jones: "No, but the Government worked on that, and we found that it was not practicable to have an Act in this Province. We tried to combine the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Acts and it was not feasible. If they are not workable, they will only use up more money. We have a good system of covering complaints here now. They just want an Act because they have got it in other places."

Mr. MacDonald: "I don't know whether they were scared of the Premier, that they didn't come in, or not."

Premier Jones: "The Government has got that under consideration."

Mr. MacDonald: "That is better. Another measure to which I refer is mothers' allowances. The Act is in force in all the other Provinces, and I think it is a very necessary measure."

"It would seem," he continued, "that already a lot of people have forgotten the sacrifices made by many veterans in the war. We don't feel that enough has been done for these men. Last year in this House the Premier made the remark that the veterans were coming back now, and there is nothing too good for them. That is typical of a number of people who speak about veterans, but it seems that the further we get from the war the more the efforts and the sacrifices of the veterans recede into memory."

Corporation Taxes

Mr. MacDonald dealt in his opening remarks with the tax opening and with various items of the Budget. He emphasized that it was not the Government's estimated surplus on current account which mattered, but how the Province actually comes out at the end of the year.

Mr. MacDonald took issue with Mr. Prowse's claim that the corporation tax would not come out of the consumer's pocket, but would be paid by the corporations.

Mr. MacDonald: "A very conscientious business man could pay it out of his own pocket and not see any provision for him this year," he said. "Is that man still in the employ of the Government?"

Premier Jones: "No."

Mr. MacDonald: "Did he finish his work?"

Mr. Matheson: "Or was the job too big for him?"

Mr. MacDonald: "He is gone?"

Premier Jones: "Yes."

Mr. MacDonald: "Who was he?"

Mr. MacDonald: "He was the Rev. Mr. Yee; and he is gone, the Premier says."

Mr. MacDonald said he had asked before about a field representative for King's County. He wished to know if the appointment had been made yet.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "No, I may say we appointed one and he took another job. We have another one in view, whom we hope to obtain shortly."

Mr. MacDonald: "The Minister had almost the same answer last year. I hope he will get

few years." Mr. MacDonald said, "In other words it has been following a policy of monetary expansion bordering on inflation. Money today is quite cheap, not only to the Government but to all the Provinces, so that we are fortunate in being able to service our debt more cheaply than in former years."

He commended the increase in expenditures in the Health and Welfare Department, especially the provision for a cancer clinic.

For education he noted that in the Premier's presentation at Ottawa he asked for \$884,000 for this department. The estimated expenditure this year is \$775,000. "It is a pity we have not got what we asked for at Ottawa. We might have been able to grant further increases in teachers' salaries had this been the case," Mr. MacDonald said. He noted there was a decrease in the item for retired teachers' pensions.

Premier Jones: "Three of them died."

Mr. MacDonald: "That may be the explanation, but we are at a disadvantage in speaking about education because the Minister responsible for that department has not spoken yet."

A Vague Estimate

In the Draft Address it was stated that the regional high schools would be started this year, but in the Estimates there is nothing allowed except a sum sufficient. The people were given the idea that it would be definitely started this year. In connection with teachers' salaries, he hoped the male married teachers would receive the \$200 extra they were asking for.

It had been stated that the teachers' pensions fund was not actuarially sound. This had also been the case in New Brunswick. The teachers asked for assistance from the New Brunswick Government, and the Government has found it will require considerable financial aid. He understood the Minister here to say that assistance will not be required. Perhaps the extra tax put on the teachers from 2-1-2 to 5 per cent may make this up. "At any rate," Mr. MacDonald said, "I hope this matter will be handled to the satisfaction of the teachers."

"I am against abolishing Latin in the schools," he continued. "I think that in the public and high schools we should avoid too much socializing. We should teach the younger minds subjects that will be of assistance to them in carrying out their education later, and which will have a disciplinary effect on their minds. It is true there are a number of people who do not like Latin, and the hon. member from Bedford (Hon. Mr. Wright) says that in his opinion has been accentuated in this respect. I do not think there has been a great change in my district. At any rate, I do not think it is a warper step. I believe we should stick to the fundamentals, rather than follow the example of the United States, which has carried specialization much too far. Our educational standard in Canada, I believe, is much better."

"The correspondence courses which the Government has been giving are a good substitute and that in time, however, after we get more teachers, we will have less need for these courses."

"We have not heard anyone speak for the department of the Attorney General," Mr. Campbell said. "That is unfortunate. Two very important departments—those of Education and Justice—have not been heard from."

"Gone"

Mr. MacDonald noted that there was a welfare officer last year, who was going to do a great work in connection with the Prohibition law. "I do not see any provision for him this year," he said. "Is that man still in the employ of the Government?"

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Reduced Estimates

Grants for Women's Institutes. He noted that these had been reduced from \$6,879 to \$5,880.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "That is just the actual expenditure."

Mr. MacDonald: "No, that is the estimate for next year. There has been a reduction there."

Mr. Stewart: "I think last year they did some entertaining of visitors. I agree with my hon. friend that that is one place where we should not economize."

Mr. MacDonald said he also noted a reduction in the estimates for exhibitions.

Mr. Stewart: "Most of that went into laboratory equipment."

Mr. MacDonald: "I visited the laboratory at the Sanatorium and it is apparent that they are doing a very valuable work for this Province. I believe there are four laboratory technicians. They are not getting very much salary."

Premier Jones: "They are fighting for the job."

Mr. MacDonald: "The leader of the Opposition mentioned that the Government might see its way to having a separate building for the laboratory, where they can carry out their post mortems and keep animals they require to experiment on. I think that is a very good suggestion."

He asked further questions with regard to youth training, forestry, and other subjects. He quoted from the brief presented to the Dominion Government with regard to rural electrification. This programme is not even mentioned in the Estimates. In Nova Scotia they were able to report that despite difficulties 218 miles of electric line had been installed.

Discussion Stifled

Mr. MacDonald said he was greatly disappointed to see the resolution regarding western feed grains turned down. "I do not think the Government argument that all these resolutions should go before the Farmers' Federation is a good one," he said, "because there was one resolution here this morning requesting a potato floor which was given a hearing and was carried unanimously. I don't think the Government should use its influence to stifle discussion in this House. The request for a grain elevator in the event of the freight rate subsidy being withdrawn was a most important resolution, and should have been discussed."

There had been another resolution with regard to potato flour prices which had been turned down. He understood that this had been discussed at an agricultural meeting held here last year, attended by many leading farmers of the Province, and that it had been favorably received.

Premier Jones: "It was my impression that the meeting turned that resolution down."

Mr. MacDonald: "I understood it was supported by the Minister of Agriculture."

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "The Minister of Agriculture spoke in favor of it, but they didn't come to any conclusion."

Mr. MacDonald said he could not understand why this resolution had been turned down in the Legislature. He cited the example of the New Brunswick Legislature recommending a potato floor price, on the basis of a resolution sponsored by the Opposition and agreed to by the Government.

Premier Jones: "What floor price would the hon. member suggest? Would you think 66 cents enough?"

Mr. MacDonald: "No, I don't think that would be high enough. Slightly higher."

Premier Jones: "The ordinary farmer would be growing potatoes and all the speculators would be put out of business."

Mr. Matheson: "That would be a good idea."

Mr. MacDonald: "I don't think there is any danger in having a floor price so long as it is not too high."

"Silly Talk"

Premier Jones: "Why should New Brunswick get as big a floor price as Prince Edward Island, when we have got all the freight on the Island immediately. It is silly to talk about that."

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