rilliant Speech on Budget By Hon. Dr. W. J. McMillan

(Continued from page 4)

N. Dr. MCMILLAN: "No Lib- need apply." That was his insinuation. 'Look at poor McGuirk," he said, "and the eful way he was treated." on. friend knew the work Mr. irk did the year before, was so unsatisfactory that uld not be employed again. wants to deal with any spe- case we will give it to him. cGuirk was an incompetent why should we want to em- him? **This man was some- like the Bell Government— petent.** I might remind my friend of the words of the poet will paraphrase to suit reumstances of our predeces- n office:—

ll fares the Government, to hastening ills a prey, ere incompetence prevails nd men decay."

The Poll Tax

hon. friend comes back to Poll Tax, and of course he has special fling at the member for lottetown. He wants to know much was collected in Char- town. It is not hard to tell There was none at all. There none collected in Summerside her. You know, Mr Speaker, in the days when this Poll was collected **there was only 0 paid by the city and all the and municipalities of the nce. The remainder of the 000 collected was paid by the rers. It was never collected in municipalities, and the leader the Opposition ought to know**

R. SAUNDERS: You were the that was going to collect it

N. Dr. MCMILLAN: You would this was a kindergarten, that should have to go over this time and again, and even then out any effect, it seems, on the der of the Opposition, The fact is as I have stated it, that only $7,000 of Poll Tax was paid in the incorporated towns. **That is one of the reasons why this Government said it would be tak- n off, because it was unfair.** We believed it would be unfair to even in Charlottetown the pay- of an extra poll tax of $3.00 hen they were already paying a poll tax of $5.00 and the same ap- ied to the other towns where they had municipal taxes. If the der of the Opposition wants to cuss our financial condition he ght to take this matter into ac- ount. He is very fond of saying, Leave that $80,00 of railway grant of your accounts." He should member that in four years we ve been in power we have given people of this Province over 10,000 by the Poll Tax which we did not collect. That was our first ntribution to the people; we re- ved them to that extent by re- ling the Poll Tax. It is hard the leader of the Opposition to erstand that! (Applause).

t he says we put the gasoline tax in its stead. I cannot hope to nvince him, but others will un- stand, that the gasoline tax s not put in place of it.

R. SAUNDERS: The people t pay it, I suppose.

ON. Dr. MCMILLAN: They do it.

r. SAUNDERS: Oh, they do!

ON. Dr. MCMILLAN: **But it is ifferent class of people who pay .The poll tax was paid by the** ners, and property holders of country. If a farmer had two hree boys of adult age he was ng not only his own poll tax one for each of his sons, and rally this was creating some ntent throughout the country. those who pay the gasoline are an entirely different body. do not have to pay it if they want to, because there is no forced to run a car, and if he not run a car he does not to pay the tax. It is quite rent. **Furthermore, it is put on the roads, to benefit the people from whom it is col-** d. It cannot be used as or- y revenue, as the poll tax used.

hen the leader of the Opposi- gets up to denounce us for cting so much money, he ld remember **that we could collected a great deal more we violated our pledge to the e as they did, and left that ax on. But we want the peo- o realize the fact that once tewart Government says it o a certain thing, that thing e done if the opportunity s. (Applause).**

Taxation reductions.

en the Premier outlined the proposed reduction of taxes in his Budget speech, my hon friend replied, "You would never have done it if I hadn't suggested it to you." (Laughter). Isn't that wonderful The people will say they have to thank the leader of the Opposition for what appears in the Budget speech of Premier Stewart! But I will tell you why we did it. Here is a document of which we are very proud; it is the platform of the Liberal-Conservative party in the election campaign of 1923, and it says in one place: 'A real effort to present our claims against the Dominion Government for compensation for want of public lands and upon success in this to further reduce taxation." There is **the reason, and not because the leader of the Opposition suggested it. (Applause).**

A MEMBER: He knew it was going to come. (Laughter).

HON. Dr MCMILLAN: Yes he saw it coming; but it was because we put that in our platform, that if we realized on those claims, as we intended to do, we would reduce taxes. Now we propose to do it, and before this House rises it will be an accomplished fact.

We have been accused by the leader of the Opposition of increasing the Land Tax, because he says that certain farmers have had to pay more. My hon. friend knows very well that in certain cases the farm valuations do change and have changed; some of them have increased in value and the taxes have been raised. Some of them have decreased and the taxes have been lowered. **But he cannot say that there has been any general increase on land taxation. As the Premier has stated, we purpose now to reduce that tax by twenty percent. (Applause).** We purpose to give the farmers of this Provinces every possible chance. That has been our pledged word to the electors and we purpose to carry it out.

Then we are going to consider this class which has done so remarkably well for this country, even in the days of the Bell Government, where the good roads were not going to cost us anything because they were going to be paid for by automobile owners. **We are going to give consideration to that class, and we purpose to cut the license fee in two, and next year, when we are back here, if the finances permit we will take the rest of it off.**

We purpose also to deal with that class who occupy positions in the Province on a certain definite salary, such as civil servants. Their salaries are not very large, and a good many of them feel the burden of Income Tax. **We purpose now to raise exemption, to give them so much relief; not so much as we would like to give them, but we hope in another year's time that we will be in a position to further increase the exemption.**

Those are our proposals, and it has just been a matter of carrying out our word. We are very glad that we have had the opportunity of doing it. **It has been one of the greatest pleasures that this Government has had, that we are able to say, at the close of our term of office, that we have kept faith with the electors. (Laud applause).**

The Liberal liquor Policy

I wonder if there is anything in the nature of Fate about political platforms? It is certainly fitting that this announcement which I hold in my hand..."The Liberal Policy on the Liquor Question".. should appear on this day, of all days in the year. I shall read it;

THE LIBERAL POLICY ON THE LIQUOR QUESTION

Statement issued by Mr. A. C. Saunders, Liberal Leader, in regard to the policy of the Liberal party at the coming Provincial Election on the question of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors:

We are authorized by Mr. Albert C. Saundesr, K. C., M. L A., Provincial Liberal Leader to state, that the Liberal party will stand by and adhere to, the Prohibition Act with such amendments as may be deemed necessary to make its administration more workable.

And also that a reduction be made in the sale of liquors.

To make the Law "more workable"! **I wonder will my hon. friend tell this House what those amendments will be?** He says a reduction will be made in the price of liquor also. That's the stuff! (Laughter).

This is a very fitting announcement to come on the first day of April. (Increased Laughter). .He proposes to stand by the Prohibitory Law, and the only thing he offers to the people is the promise that he will reduce the price of liquor. I wonder if he knows that the Prohibition Commission is doing that at the present time, that within the last month or so the price on beer has been lowered and that in the month of December last the price of liquor has been reduced? **So that he is a little late, as usual.** This is part of the work that has been done by the Prohibition Commission, and it will amount to between $5,000 and $6,000.

The Prohibition Commission.

But there was something more important than that to the Leader of the Opposition with reference to the Prohibition Commission. It was this, that the members of the Commission have been paid salaries. That was an awful thing again I quote from the Patriot:—

Mr. Saunders said he felt that something was wrong and read the Statute of 1917 appointing the Commission, wherein it says that he Commissioners shall act without salary and are not entitled to charge for their services. He took the matter up with the Provincial Auditor, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson went over to the office of the Commission, made inquiry and informed Mr Saunders that he was told that the Commissioners were receiving a salary of $25.00 per month. **Mr. Saunders said that this was illegal and improper and declared that the Attorney General has a right to ask these men to refund every single dollar that they have taken. "The Government boasts of the wonderful manner in which the Commission have enforced the Prohibition Act, but this shows that it has been made a farce of," said Mr. Saunders. This is a most serious charge by Mr. Saunders and it is a matter that requires a most searching investigation."**

And would you believe it, Mr. Speaker, the very same custom has been followed in regard to those payments from the time the commission was instituted. (Applause). Would you believe that during the time the Bell Government was in power, and the Leader of the Opposition was here as one of its brilliant lights, those gentlemen on the Prohibition commission, those wonderful disinterested patriotic business men, were getting paid in exactly the same way? (Applause).

It was not a matter then for investigation by the Attorney. Oh no! But it is a matter now, to suggest that those men should receive payment for their services. But oh, they are receiving a salary, and the statute has been violated, and the Attorney General must get busy at once! Why has it taken so many years to bring this matter to the light of day? I do not believe there is anyone in the Province who will say that those men are getting too much,...an average of $300 for the year, I understand. One received $260, another $275, and so on. It is wonderful the discoveries that are made nowadays. And they have to be remedied right away because they occurred in the days of the Stewart Government, **but they were perfectly all right when they occurred in the days of the Bell Government!**

The amount of money we made under this Prohibition Commission is something terrible to my hon. friend. In the days of the Bell Government they did not make money out of liquor at all! You know they were just there for the purpose of administering the Act! They say we should not have dismissed such a splendid business-like Commission. But we did not dismiss them. When their term of service was up we did not re appoint them simply because we did not believe they were the business men they should be. That is the whole sum and substance of it. Would you believe this? In 1922 that commission paid to the Government $23,000. In 1923, the year after, they sold $21,576 worth of liquor more than in 1922 and they paid the Government $14,000. **In other words, the more liquor they sold the less they paid the Government! (Laughter). That was the kind of business men that the late Commission were. Was it any wonder that we did not reappoint them?**

We are not so thin-skinned that when there is an Act being administered in the Province we must follow the theory that there should not be a dollar come from it to the Government. We have made every endeavor in the past to administer the Prohibition Act thoroughly. The Prohibition Commissions have never been interfered with or dictated to in any way by this Government. They have had a free hand. There are more prosecutors employed now than ever before. More prosecutions have been made under this commission than ever before. And people will admit, now, that conditions are not any better. It is for that reason that the Premier of his Province says the Prohibition Law is not a success.

Failure of Prohibition

It is acknowledged on every hand that it is not a success. In fact if you want to get the real opinion of the people of this Province, they will tell you that conditions could not be any worse than they are today. That is the reason why we propose to adopt another temperance measure, as announced by the Premier, **and we intend to adopt that, if elected, because we believe it to be something nearer a real Temperance measure than the one called Prohibition. (Applause).**

Some of us, Mr. Speaker, have never believed in Prohibition. We do not believe in the principle; we do not believe that it is a criminal act for a man to take a drink of liquor. And there is just where the Prohibition Law fails. It is not a crime and it is not a sin. Eating, or anything else, can become just as serious an offense as drinking liquor, if it is carried to excess. But the ultra-Prohibitionists those who preach this extravagant doctrine, say that there is nothing like it, that it has taken years and years of temperance preaching to elevate us to this Prohibition law, which is the result of all those efforts. It does not make any difference about the rest of the civilized world,... about Europe, about Sweden, about Norway, or anywhere else. The Provinces of Canada which have tried it out have said by their acts: "We do not believe it is the right solution." **But we must pay no attention to the example of others. We must stick to it because it is Prohibition!**

The Government does not take that viewpoint. We say that Prohibition is not the solution, and we are willing to try something else which we believe will be more effective. This is why the cards **have been placed on the table, and you know where the Stewart Government stands on that question (Applause).**

Decrease in Prescriptions.

But the leader of the Opposition suggests it was the doctors who did it all. They were the boys who made the money! Even up to over $100,000 because they charged two dollars a script, and they issued so many of them. Would you believe, Mr. Speaker, that less than twelve thousand prescriptions were issued last year than in 1920 when the Act was administered by clergymen (Applause). Those doctors, apparently, were not prescribing such great quantities of liquor after all. They were not making their living by issuing scripts, apparently. I have never heard any criticism about the way the first Commission was administereing the Act. They were clergymen of exceptional ability and merit, and they allowed over 12,000 doctors' prescriptions more to be issued than were issued last year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the leader of the Opposition has been made. The announcement of the Premier has been made. It is up to the people of the Province to say what they want, to say whether they want to continue under the Prohibitary Law which is admitted to be a failure and under which conditions could hardly be worse; under which moonshiners and bootleggers are rampant; under which lawbreakers are getting the money that the Government could use. If it had it, with Great Benefit to the Province, but which, under prohibition is "dirty" money that the Government must not touch, even through the Prohibition Commission. We propose to get away from the hypocrisy surrounding this question. We have put our cards on the table, we have told the people what we think can be done to better conditions by way of real Temperance legislation **We are going to try in it anyway. (Applause).**

Education

It was a surprising thing to me that in a session of such importance as the last session of this Parliament most important question, probably, which confronted the Government should be passed over by the leader of the Opposition. I refer to education. Perhaps, after all, his silence was dictated by wisdom. If he did not deal with Education better than he did in the Draft Address debate I think the less he says about it the better. We know his story of Education,...that the Bell Government settled the question. We know too how it was settled,...how the Arsenault Government proposed to increase the teachers' salaries and how the Liberal nominees said, we will do that without increasing taxation." We know how they did increase the taxes and how the teachers went on strike before they got the $100,000 additional salary grant. That is ancient history now. We all know that education is costing a great deal, and there are some bold enough to say that the increase given by the Bell Government benefited the teachers but did no good to education in general. I think if you analyze the situation you will find a great deal of truth in that contention. We have had a Commission investigating Education in this Province; they have held several sittings and have taken a great deal of evidence. The situation is been pretty closely studied and we have taken some action. One thing we did was to deal with the Prince of Wales College curriculum to a certain extent. We do not believe that students attending the College should all be compelled to accept the general course which is laid down for teachers; so our first step was to put in a commercial course, and those who do not want to qualify as teachers have the option of taking up commercial studies. Our next step was to put an expert man there who would devote himself to special work on what we believe to be the weakest course at the College for some years, namely, teachers' training. We expect as a result to turn out better qualified teachers, who will be able to do more efficient work in the public schools, and who will not be sending in classes that are perhaps a little worse than themselves. We have in mind also to do something in the ways of re-establishing what we believe was of great benefit to the teachers,... the summer schools.

We have done all that we promised to do for Education, and a little more; because we believe this department to be of the greatest importance from every standpoint. It is important to the Government, because it is costing so much; and the only objection we take to the increase in teachers' salaries by the Bell Government was that they did no do it very wisely; that they destroyed the standard in the public schools by their method of giving the increase. Up to that time a teacher had to be in first class grade before he or she could get first class pay. The Bell Government did away with that, and said to the teacher: 'You can go into any school you like. If you can get $100 supplement from the district we will give you first class pay." They created in this way a condition which is not very easy to remedy. We do not believe the teachers are over paid; we would like to see them better paid; we believe that men who spend their whole lifetime in Education should at least be given a living wage,... a wage that will compare favorably with the salaries that are handed out, for instance, on the C. N. R. Railway. I do not believe there is a man in Prince of Wales College who, it can be said, is getting enough; and I hope the time will come when this Province can afford to pay them better salaries.

Bell Government "Economy."

I had occasion, as a member of a committee, at one time, to wait upon the Bell Government caucus. We went before that caucus pleading for the neglected and dependent children of this Province. We were asking for the enormous amount of $500. We were representing a Society which has been doing splendid work in the Province, a Society which has placed nearly 100 children in foster homes, and which looks after all the neglected, dependent, deliquent and criminal children of this city and the surrounding country. We could not get along with the funds at our disposal, and we were asking the Bell Government for $500. They agreed among themselves to give it to us. But we never got it! **That famous Premier who sat so tight on the treasury chest wouldn't allow the $500 to come out! They couldn't afford to give the Children's Aid Society that much! That was the way they made their surpluses. Every charitable or public organization that even went to them for a grant met with the same refusal. Even those returned men when they went to get a grant to help entertain the heir of the British Throne could not get it from the Bell Government. There answer was the same to everybody. No we haven't got the money. We want to save that money because we have to have a modest surplus at the end of the year ,because that is our salvation!"** They did not care anything for those neglected children, for the public health of the province, for the entertainment of the British heir,...they were concerned about their modest surplus!.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that the first duty of the Government is not to build good roads...not to bring in improved Holstein cattle or those wonderful horses which the Leader of the Opposition told us were so valuable as demonstration horses, for which we paid so much and for which, when sold, we got so little...we do not look upon those things as the first duty of the Government. We believe that the Government should have regard for the education and the public health of the Province first of all. **If we did nothing only increase the Children's Aid grant from $500 to $1150 since we came into power we would have something to be proud of. (Applause).**

We did more than that. We have an organization here of which everyone should be proud, ...The Red Cross Society...which has done so much good work in the schools. We have given that Society during our period of office more than all the surpluses of the Bell Government. (Applause). We gave $2500 for the first two years. Last year the members of this Government were prepared to double that grant and make it $5,000 in order that we might fight tuberculosis in this Province. We had negotiations with Dr. Woodhouse and we had the arrangements nearly completed. That grant would have been given had this Government had a little more money at the time. But $1,000 of extra money was given, and it was used to bring an expert here who found out and proved what the medical men have been saying for years, that there is far too much tuberculosis in this Province, that we have done nothing in the past in the way of public health and that the situation was becoming alarming. We made an honest effort not only to help the work of the Red Cross in the schools but to assist in exterminating this dread disease.

Helping worthy Institutions

The same Society went to the Bell Government in the interest of the orphanages and got the same answer. **This Government purposes to help those worthy institutions, as well as the hospitals of the Province.** Premier Matheson was the first to recognize the great claim that the hospitals have upon the Government, and he established a predecent by giving a grant which has been paid by every succeeding Government to the present day. We felt that this grant was not enough. We have had representations from the hospitals asking for a per capita grant towards the maintenance at least of those who are very poor and unable to pay their hospital expenses; and if you will analyze the situation you will find that this class seems to be increasing from year to year among hospital patients.

The same applies to the Infirmary. Falconwood Infirmary is crowded; and I think one reason is that so many people are going away and leaving their mentally infirm in this Province to be attended to.

The Government now purposes to recognize the claims of these worthy institutions by increasing the grant. Where the grant is $500 we purpose to make it $2000 to each hospital, and $1250.00 for each orphanage, with more finances at our disposal we will further increase that grant, because we do not think there is any better work being done than in our hispitals and orphanages.

Nowadays, when the school curriculum is so lengthy and when so many school books are required, it is a very serious financial burden on the people of the Province to provide the children with everything they need. It is a regrettable thing that the contract made many years ago with an Ontario publishing firm, and which expired during the regime of the Bell Government, was not then renewed, and as a consequence school books have been very much dearer since that time. We have not been able negotiate as we would, to get that contract renewed, but we purpose now to do something different, and I think you will acknowledge that we are taking up the question in a proper way. We have negotiated with our sister Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; we have considered the question from all sides, and have come to the conclusion that if we can get a uniformity of school books in the Maritime Provinces we will be doing a lot for education and will be able to place our larger orders ever so much cheaper. We will be able to say to the publishers, "You must give us these school books at reasonable terms." Or in other words, we will be in a position to dictate our own terms, in a way. **That is something that Premier Stewart has been doing for our people in the way of education.**

Fire loss at Falconwood.

There was a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition which perhaps I might answer briefly, in regard to Falconwood. He says there was an item for fire loss during the year which has been put into general revenue. He says we should go on with that policy and burn down some more of our public buildings and put the money into general revenue! That institution, Mr. Speaker, was set on fire by lightning stroke. He must think the Stewart Government have some occult power if they are able to harness the elements and guide the lightnings of the air, in order that more insurance might be paid and the sum put into general revenue for the benefit of this Government! That is the logical reasoning of the leader of the Opposition. We had a fire there, the damages were repaired, and there is an amount over, which was deducted from he expenses of Falconwood for the year; that is all there is about it. Do you think there was anything wrong in that? Does my hon. friend forget that at one time they had a fire in the Jail when a Liberal Government was in power. They repaired that institution **and they put the balance of the insurance into general revenue.** Surely, if they did it there could not be any harm in it! The only difference is that they put it into general revenue and we put it to the running expenses of Falconwood hospital, where it had a right to go. His reasoning is on a par with the way he says we built up a big debt against our predecessors. He says we carried over the revenue of certain years in order to make a very bad showing against them. We did not do anything of the kind. The only item he can show is some $25,000 in the hands of the collectors, which he says should be credited to the year 1923. But I will refer him to the year 1919, where he will find just the same thing. **It is most remarkable that there should be such a coincidence. On page 31 of the Public accounts 1920, we read: In the hands of the collectors, $25,130, practically the same amount that was taken off the assets of the Conservative Government in 1919, was taken off the Liberal Government assets in 1923; and my hon. friend objects to it. (Applause).** If the amounts were different he might have some excuse; but it is practically the very same amount. **It could not change the statement one way or the other.** If he credits one back to the Liberals surely he will credit the other to the Conservatives, and he will leave the situation exactly as it was. But there is one thing he will never find in our public accounts—That no income tax for the current year (1919) was collected up to Dec. 31st. That is the statement in their Public Accounts for 1919, page 30. Any Government that saw fit to place such a note as that in the Public Accounts should never in this world raise a question about the Non-collection of taxes. (Loud applause). **They deliberately left the whole of the Income Tax for that year and made not the slightest effort to collect any of it. Now they complain that we have not collected and credited enough taxes to their years. I think the people will take that criticism for just what it is worth.**

Petty criticisms answered

There was something else, which always comes out in the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition; that is about the Summerside Jail and the doctors there. He made a most remarkable statement yesterday; he said that this Government employed a partisan doctor to operate on a prisoner removed from the Summerside jail to the Prince County hospital, and paid him. I say we never did. I say Mr. Speaker, that there was a prisoner removed from the Summerside jail to the hospital and operated on, and it was under their regime, and was authorized by their Attorney General If he wants the particulars of this case and the reason why the prisoner was not operated on by the jail physician, I have them right here.—

Summerside, P. E. I

Nov. 13, 1923.

This is to certify that on Sept. 4th 1923 I was not at home, and that while absent Dr. McPhee was called to see one of the prisoners at the Prince County jail. The case was urgent and the man had to be taken to the P. C. Hospital for immediate operation.

(Signed) **E T. Tanton.**

Dr. Tanton was the Jail physician. I have here the bill of Dr. McPhee for $40 for an operation for appendicitis. I have also the following statement of Dr. McPhee.

Summerside, P. E. I.
Nov. 13, 1923
Arthur Newbery, Esq.,
Clerk Executive Council,
Charlottetown.

Dear Sir:—

This bill is for an emergency operation performed on a prisoner in the Summerside Jail who was transferred to the Prince Countq Hospital. The jail physician, Dr. Tanton, was absent,**and the Attorney General, Mr. Johnston, authorized me to treat the man and remove him to the hospital.**

Yours truly,
J. A. McPhee,

There is one of the bills that this Government paid and for which we are taken to task at every session of this House. Do you not think we had a right to pay that bill? When the Leader of the Opposition gets up and says that the operation should have been done by the Hospital doctor for the month, he does not know what he is talking about. This man was not a pauper; **he was a ward of the state, ordered by the Attorney General from the jail into the Hospital,** and the Government had a right to look after a patient of that sort. Why should a jail prisoner be thrust on the Hospital and have the Hospital maintain and operate on him for nothing? **My hon. friend is absolutely wrong in this, just as he is wrong in many other statements he has made respecting the Government.**

A final answer re Governor's bill.

His last contention was one he is never weary of repeating—that this Government paid a bill to the former Lieutenant Governor which the Bell Government had considered and turned down. I have given three reasons why this bill was never considered by the Bell Government: **1st, because Mr. McKinnon says that he got no answer from them.** Do you suppose the Government would have considered that bill and turned it down and given no answer at all to Governor McKinnon? **2nd. because there is no record of it on the minutes of the Executive Council.** Now I do not believe the Bell Government would deal with a matter of that kind and not have it recorded in the minutes. More than that, even **if the Bell Government did not do so, we know the clerk of the Executive Council at that time, Mr. Arthur Newbery, was too good an official to allow a matter of that kind to go through unrecorded.** It would be his dusty as clerk of the Council to record that transaction, and I believe if that transaction had ever taken place the record would be there, **and because the record is not there I say there was never any such transaction. 3rd Mr Bell handed the bill to Mr. Stewart saying "Here are some matters left for you to deal with."**

My hon. friend comes in with a new excuse every time. Now he says he can submit affidavits from Premier Bell and Mr. Lea to show that it was considered and turned down. **I submit, Mr. Speaker, that he should have had those affidavits in this House long ago.** I say that he can never get those affidavits. **I do not believe either Mr. Bell or Mr. Lea would subscribe to their own incompetency, that they had dealt with a bill of that nature and neglected making a record of it. (Applause). I have more faith in Mr. Bell and Mr. Lea than that. It has been left to the leader of the Opposition to make the meanest of all insinuations upon his late leader and colleague.**

He says, why did not the Governor go into Government House, and live there instead of renting a house. I say, WHY DID NOT THE GOVERNMENT. PUT. GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN A CONDITION FOR A MAN TO GO AND LIVE IN IT? (Applause).

During the four years that we have sat in this House we have had belated suggestions from the leader of the Opposition. We have an example today in his comments on the Succession Duties Act. He sat here when this Act went through; he was one of those "legal minds" that Premier Bell spoke about. **Why did he not state his objection then** about this "double fifteen per cent" as he calls it? It was all right then, when the Act went through. It was amended in this House **and he sat silent.** Now he says it is a terrible Act, it is taxing the living to death and then taxing them afterwards. **It does not apply to the living at all.** I do not see how it would kill anybody. That is the kind of helpful suggestions that we received from the Opposition!

Inane Suggestion

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if we ever get a wise suggestion from the leader of the Opposition this Government will act upon it. We are always ready and glad to receive assistance from the other side. But we have waited in vain. We have heard my hon. friend say that Falconwood hospital was costing too much and that we could remedy the matter. How? BY SUPPLYING LESS CLOTHING! THOSE POOR, HELPLESS CREATURES WHO TEAR THE CLOTHING OFF THEIR BACKS—DON'T GIVE THEM SO MANY CLOTHES AND THEY WON'T TEAR THEM OFF! (Laughter). Another bright suggestion of his was: "DON'T GIVE THE PATIENTS SO MUCH TEA." He was going to transform our winter roads by building "switches"; and it was estimated by my hon. colleague the "plenipotentiary" **that the scheme would cost this Province over $100,000.** (Laughter.)

This Government came into power on a definite platform. EVERY PLANK IN THAT PLATFORM HAS BEEN FULFILLED WITH POSSIBLY ONE EXCEPTION, — THE SUPPLYING OF MUSSEL MUD; AND THE REASON THAT THAT WAS NOT FULFILLED IS BECAUSE THE NECESSITY OF FULFILLING IT HAS PASSED. Conditions of farming have changed. The seed potatoes are here now, an industry which my hon. friend says was due to Mr. W. M. Lea. In all that discussion I have not heard mention of the man who introduced this valuable art into the Province,—Mr. McIver of Kinkora. (Applause). The credit has always gone to the Liberal Commissioner of Agriculture who supplied fertilizer. **We also supplied fertilizer, and just as cheaply, and in larger quantities, than Mr. Lea ever did. But we do not claim credit for instituting the seed potato industry because we did out duty in that respec.**

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have put our policy before this House and before the country. You know our record. You know what to expect from the Stewart Government if it is re-elected, as I believe it will be; because it would be a most unfortunate thing if a party should attain power in this Province handicapped by a leader such as we listened to for the past four years in this House, —the hon. the Leader of the Opposition!" (Loud and prolonged applause.)

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