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Hon. J. A. MacDonald

(Continued from Page 1)

made and agreed to by the Government of Canada at that time, acting as one party, while the other party was the Democratic Government of the United States, which had just come into power.

his choice; he can take practically the same two years' course and previous graduates with a business diploma at the end of that period, if he decides to take up the business course. That is the proposition.

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Educational Questions.

Just a short reference to schools. The Leader of the Opposition claims all the credit for everything done in connection with the schools, as with everything else. However, we remember in 1919, those of us who were running an election, that when the Arsenal Government proposed to deal with the matter, and showed fairly, honestly and truthfully that taxes for education would have to be imposed, the Liberals of that day were in opposition, and went up and down the length and breadth of the country, saying that they could handle matters without any increased taxes; and the people took them at their word and turned down the Conservative policy, which would have involved a tax of about \$75,000.

A Concrete Example.

I will give you one concrete example of just how the thing works out; it is perhaps not the worst, but bad enough. One of the pieces of work done in 1923, in July, was some clay work on the Souris beach. As most of you gentlemen know, the Souris beach was divided in two when the town was incorporated, and one half of the beach was included within the town limits, while the other half still remained in the hands of the Province. In July 1923 the Government of that day decided to build up the beach, which was in very bad shape. They undertook to do it by days work, of course, it was before election time. They built up half the beach at a cost of \$3,032. There was just about half a mile of roadway! There were a hundred and three men and sixty three horses and carts engaged on it! You can easily judge where the money went! (Laughter). This last summer we decided to finish the balance of it. We called for tenders to move the clay at forty three cents per yard. The HALF COST JUST \$551. (Applause). I don't think it is necessary to say anything further on that score!

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The question. It is true that the Bell Government ordered some gravel there, but we did it this year, and made a very good job of it too. And in the vicinity of Charlottetown we intend to embark on a programme of graveling. (Applause). Practically all the work we will do this year will be of that nature; that is, steel and concrete bridges and hard surfacing on the roads near the principal centres.

A Reply to Mr. Saunders.

I was going to refer to some criticism of the Leader of the Opposition, especially with regard to the Western Road. I am glad we have not had any bills for springs from him. I cause the bills will be heavy enough without them. But I do not believe I could do any thing better, in dealing with it, than the remarks that I refer to in the Patriot newspaper. The argument that this road was in splendid condition in 1923, and furthermore, that it was improving with age, and that in 1924 it was in a terrible condition, contradicts itself; the statements are so fairly contradictory that I do not understand the logic of a man who would make such a statement. On July 17, 1924, I received a resolution, which I will read. It is a resolution passed at a meeting of Liberals in Prince County, signed by Verion Matthews, Secretary of the meeting. It is so exactly similar to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition that I came to the conclusion, either that the Leader of the Opposition wrote this, or he read it very carefully and copied it.

Whereas the late Liberal Government gave us the finest and best Public Highways in the history of our province, and expended large sums of money in building what is known as "Improved Highways, and whereas the present Conservative Government has completely neglected and wilfully permitted our splendid highways to go to ruin and decay, owing to the fact that it made no effort to drag or scrape or do any kind of work on them; that no work of any kind was done on the roads until the 20th of June last, a date far too late for all practical purposes as a result of our improved highways such as the Western Road which previously improved with age are now in a disgraceful condition."

Which previously improved with age! (Laughter). The very phrase used by the Leader of the Opposition!

MR. MCARTHUR: I don't remember saying anything of that nature.

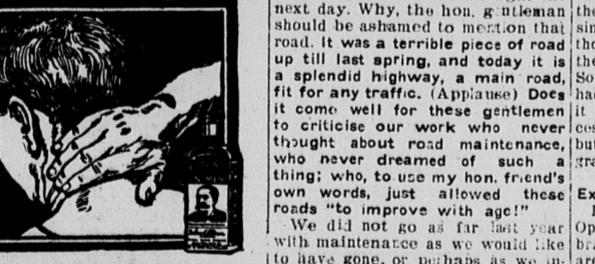
HON. MR. McDONALD: Well, that they were pretty good, or something to that effect.

MR. MCARTHUR: I don't remember it.

HON. MR. McDONALD: Very well. Here is a quotation from the editorial columns of the Patriot newspaper of August 7, 1924, some three weeks later. The Patriot has a long editorial in which they refer to a letter from "An Old Tory." I do not know whether that might not be the Leader of the Opposition also! (Laughter). Just listen to it; I think you will detect some similarity in the language again:

MR. Editor:— In a recent issue of the Pioneer I notice where the Leader of the Opposition has condemned the improved highways which are being constructed by the Stewart Government.

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as to give satisfaction to the people of this Province (Applause).

Maintenance of Roads.

They talk about reasons why they did not attempt maintenance. The Leader of the Opposition says he urged the Bell Government for all he was worth, and failed. We will give him credit for that; he said the worst of it then, as he apparently does not now. But to come to the reason they gave for neglecting maintenance; that they were too busy building roads;—I want to say that there never was as heavy a program put on in any year as there was last year. Their heaviest year was 1924 when they expended \$288,000. Last year we expended \$383,000. Yet he says we should have accomplished the maintenance, while we were spending a hundred thousand dollars more in one season! It is no wonder that the member for Summerside pleads for the Department of Public Works. It is however a poor excuse to make to the country for failure and neglect. I hope the day will never come when any member of the Conservative party will have to ask to have a mantle of charity placed over his head, as I am at the head of it! (Applause).

The Leader of the Opposition wants to know if the Dominion Government engineer had anything to do with looking after these roads. Yes, the same engineer who inspected in previous years came down last year and inspected these roads carefully. He did not leave a mile of improved highway that he didn't go over and inspect. He came back and said "YOU HAVE THE BEST ROAD THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN IN THIS PROVINCE, YOUR PROJECTS ARE CARRIED THROUGH TO COMPLETION, INSTEAD OF HAVING A LOT OF TAILS LEFT OVER, AS WAS THE CASE FORMERLY."

MR. SAUNDERS: It that what he told you?

HON. MR. McDONALD: That is exactly what he told us; and this was the Dominion engineer, under a Liberal Government at Ottawa, who had no cause to flatter us. He said THAT OUR PROJECTS WERE BETTER HANDLED FROM EVERY STAND-POINT AND THAT BETTER VALUE HAD BEEN RECEIVED; THAT THEY WERE CARRIED THROUGH MORE SUCCESSFULLY AND CONCLUSION THAN BEFORE, AND THEY WERE IN BETTER CONDITION. That is the statement of the Engineer, which the Leader of the Opposition has asked about. (Applause).

It will like to say in passing, that in connection with the further extension of the time which the Dominion Government has granted, a number of people have been under the impression that there was an addition made to the grant. This is now so. It is simply an extension of time to those provisions that had not used their full proportion of the grant. Some of the Western Provinces had started only a year ago and it was necessary for these provinces to give an extension of time; but no further extension of the grant was contemplated.

Extensive Bridge Work Necessary. I note that my hon. friends in Opposition did not criticise the bridges to any extent, but they are worth referring to. When we came into power we figured that the bridges must have been kept up more or less, and last year we voted what we considered a liberal amount for bridges—that is, for ordinary expenditure; \$20,000 for bridges. We started throughout the country then to see what work was required, and found the necessary work so heavy that we had to exceed our estimates largely. Repairs are all very well, you know, but you finally come to the point where further repairs is not an economy. They were neglected during the previous four years to such

Chase & Sanborn's SEAL BRAND TEA & COFFEE. IRRESISTIBLE SATISFYING. The Fox Station.

A word about the situation of the Experimental Fox Station to be established in Prince Edward Island, upon which the member for Summerside criticised the Government strongly. The Leader of the Opposition did also, although one would suppose that in his position the hon. gentleman would be more of a provincial figure than as the member for Prince County. He should remember that there are six breeders in Kings County, and while not so numerous, they have a high and interests just the same; and the situation of the Station is of a much importance to the individual farmer there as to the Prince County breeder. This is a matter pertaining to the whole Dominion of Canada, and the question of confining it to one County is so small that it seems a pity that the hon. gentleman would indulge in such criticism.

MR. MCARTHUR: Where is the head office of the Canadian Fox Breeders Association?

HON. MR. McDONALD: In Summerside. That does not make a lot of difference.

MR. MCARTHUR: They could cooperate better.

HON. MR. McDONALD: That I cannot say, but I do not master. It would not matter if the Association's head office were in Winnipeg, it has no connection with this at all, absolutely none. That is something which the hon. member is trying to "put over" on the people of the country, that there is some connection between the Canadian Fox Breeders Association and the Dominion Experimental Station. There is no more than there is between chalk and cheese. He cannot get away with that! What actually happened? Delegations came from the Association and waited on the Government. They were afraid the Experimental Station was going to be placed in Ontario, or even further West. There was no talk about whether it was going along the head office of the Canadian Breeders Association. The matter of site was not referred to. They said they had no choice whatever in that matter; we are not going to say one word; that will be entirely in the hands of the Government and the Department at Ottawa. They refused to even discuss it. Their one object and aim was to get this Station for the Island. The Government co-operated with them in that endeavor and were successful. Now to make an honest statement it does not go to one particular section or locality, is pretty small business, to say the least. It is just about on a par with the references to the advertisement in the Journal about calling for tenders for the fox ranches; everybody knows that those papers with space to spare will leave an advertisement in, sometimes, for week after it has run its course.

Better Accounting Methods. This Government saw the need of better accounting methods and has decided to establish a new system; we therefore called in an expert accountant to make an audit with that purpose in view. That audit disclosed some things that had to be dealt with promptly. It was found that about \$180,000 belonging to the sinking fund was not there at all, and that the Statute was violated in that respect.

MR. SAUNDERS: By the Liberals and the Conservatives both?

HON. MR. McDONALD: All by the Liberals.

MR. SAUNDERS: Who started it in 1914?

HON. MR. McDONALD: It never was started in 1914. As a matter of convenience, at the end of a year a few thousand dollars were dealt with in this manner, which were immediately taken care of afterwards. The Leader of the Opposition knows as well as I do that it was never the custom until they came in.

MR. SAUNDERS: A point of order! My hon. friend knows that it was continued by the Conservatives for several years.

HON. MR. McDONALD: But how much?

MR. SAUNDERS: It doesn't make a practice of difference.

HON. MR. McDONALD: We say it does make a lot of difference. At the end of the year the sinking fund may be two thousand dollars short. Perhaps it is not convenient to pay a bond, and a deposit receipt is placed there for the time being; but this was only a temporary arrangement which was always covered by bonds as soon as possible. The Leader of the Opposition is not correct in saying it was a

practice of the Conservative Government; it was not the same thing at all. We found under the late Government \$180,000 of the sinking fund had piled up.

MR. SAUNDERS: Your present leader did the same thing.

HON. MR. McDONALD: I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition can be fair and straight forward or not, but at any rate he is not trying to be fair. They did it this way: The loan account in the Treasury Office borrows money from the people; they took the money from the temporary loan account, and they put in place of the money a slip of paper—an I. O. U.

MR. SAUNDERS: The same as you people do.

HON. MR. McDONALD: And they went over to the Bank of Montreal with that money which they got on their I. O. U. and they deposited that. It would have been all right if they had placed that money in the Bank of Montreal in a special account and put the deposit receipt in the sinking fund; that would have covered the case as far as the sinking fund was concerned. But they did not do that; they put it in the ordinary account, and expended it just like ordinary money.

MR. MCARTHUR: And saved money to the Province.

HON. MR. McDONALD: That deposit receipt should have been placed in the sinking funds as security for the men who bought the bonds.

MR. MCARTHUR: Might I ask a question? Was the security to the bond-holders impaired in any way?

HON. MR. McDONALD: Absolutely.

MR. MCARTHUR: Isn't it a condition of our bonds that the whole resources of the Province are a guarantee to the bond-holder?

THE SPEAKER: If members want to interrupt they must address the chair.

HON. MR. McDONALD: The answer is so simple that I am surprised at the hon. Member putting the question. Every bond ever issued by this Province is issued under authority of a law of this Province, and the moment they left sinking fund uncovered they violated the Statute. (Applause). The receipts from the auto licenses were for a specific purpose, and they took them out of that and put them into ordinary revenue. They even took money that came here from Ottawa as a loan; \$50,000 that the Federal Government gave in connection with the Housing Scheme. They put that into ordinary revenue as well. These are some of the principal things that the audit disclosed; and it was well worth its cost. It showed clearly that something very much better than we have had before in the way of an Accounting System was necessary. Our affairs were becoming larger and more involved and we had to have something more efficient. We have something better now, and it is very valuable to the Province.

Previously money came in through all and any department, was disbursed by the different departments just as they saw fit; no cheques, except departmental cheques were issued. Take an example of a business concern conducting its business along the same line. Take Brace & McKay, for instance, with their store and warehouse and wharves.

MR. MCARTHUR: No wharves! HON. MR. McDONALD: Well, I will take another case where there are wharves. Take my own case. The same would apply to any firm doing business, if in each of these places they had a separate bank account and a separate cheque system, and they all look in money separately and the money went into a separate bank account for the firm. That is the way we were carrying on the business of the Government. Does not my hon. friend think it was better to have the whole thing centralized, to have it all paid out through one bank account? I am sure he will agree with me in that, if he cannot agree with me in anything else.

MR. MCARTHUR: It is not clear to me; I don't understand what the hon. gentleman is driving at. Does he mean that the system does not preclude the members from taking money from one pocket to another if it is to the advantage of the firm. If the business of the country is not affect-

ed by it? HON. MR. McDONALD: I might return the compliment and say that I do not know what the hon. member is driving at. I will just say this, that if a private corporation manipulated funds and did not provide security for their bonds as provided by law, they would be qualifying for the penalties. We have seen the same thing happen in Ontario lately, in connection with the directors of the Home Bank. But because this was done by a company, it is corrected now and that is the main thing. We have done our duty.

The Bond Transaction. My hon. friends have not only criticised the purchase of bonds but the member for Summerside has insinuated irregularity. I may say, that if he had a charge to make, he should have made it in plain fashion. So that the people may know how these matters stand I will refer to them briefly. Regarding the purchase of bonds which were required to fill the shortage in the sinking fund, a committee was appointed during the session a year ago, a committee of men who knew something about the matter, and they asked for prices of bonds from different bond houses and they accepted the lowest market prices they could get at the time. That is the whole story with regard to that.

The selling of our bonds last year was explained by the Premier in his Speech, and you have seen that we secured an excellent price for them. Then we had to purchase again about the end of the year to comply with the requirements of the Statute regarding sinking funds, and we adopted the same plan—asking for prices in the same manner—and succeeded in buying nearly two points below the selling price of our own—we secured C. N. R. bonds guaranteed by the Dominion of Canada at 94-17, while our own bonds sold at 95-25. Both of these issues bear 4 1/2 per cent interest.

The member for Summerside advises that we should speculate in bonds.

HON. MR. McDONALD: No, I would like to know what he did say.

MR. MCARTHUR: I never used the word "speculate."

HON. MR. McDONALD: He may not have used the word "speculate," but he advised the Government to speculate; he advised that they should make a lot of money buying and selling bonds.

MR. MCARTHUR: I said there were a lot of occasions when the same system could be followed and the Government would make money. I know of no easier money made than the trading in bonds; but that is not speculating.

HON. MR. McDONALD: Does my hon. friend know what is requisite to do under the law, and what is speculation?

MR. MCARTHUR: Sure.

HON. MR. McDONALD: He advised us to make money by trading in bonds. If that is not speculating I do not know the meaning of the word. Surely the hon. member is not serious in advising along this line. He should realize that if government handling the people's money—in trust—could not accord to any reasonable conception of its duty, use that money for any speculative purposes. The proposal is absurd.

There are other matters of public interest to which I would like to refer, but a great deal of information will come out in the budget debate, and I will reserve further remarks till that occasion. I hope the members of the Opposition do not feel that I was trying to get them in wrong in any way, except politically. (Laughter and applause).

MR. MCARTHUR: Here, here, (applauding).

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