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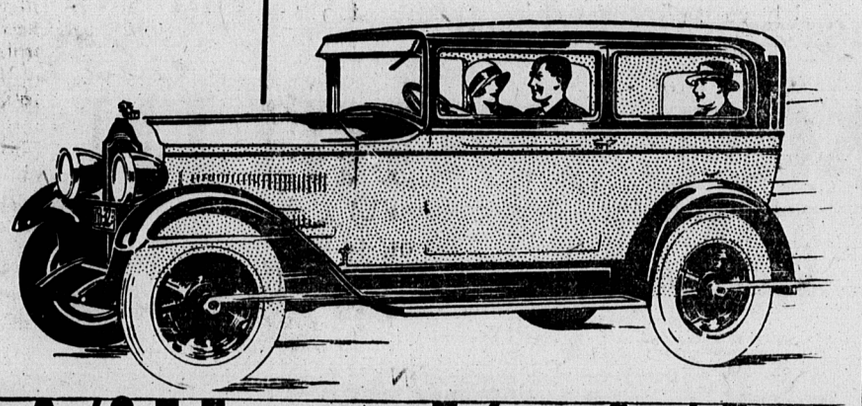

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West Kent School Honor Roll

West Kent School honour roll for March, 1928.

Grade X. 1. Gordon Bennett, 2. George Ayres, 3. Ena MacFadyen.

Grade IX. 1. Bill Reid, 2. Margaret Black, 3. Effie Brehaut.

Grade VIII. 1. George Hart, 2. Maitland Owen, 3. Horace MacEwen and Harry Lapthorn.

Grade VII. 1. Doris Prowse, 2. Fraser MacMillan, 3. Isobel Crawford, Ivan Sinclair and Ruth Rattenbury.

Grade VI. 1. William MacRae, 2. John Ritchie, 3. Robert Steele.

Grade V. 1. Dorothy Bentley, 2. Harold Forsythe, 3. Margaret McEachern.

Grade V. 1. Dorothy Black, 2. Katherine Hyndman, 3. Phyllis Foster.

Grade IV. 1. Donald MacMillan, 2. Evelyn Block, 3. Keith Langill.

Grade III. 1. Harold Stewart, 2. Nora Taylor, 3. Carol MacCannell.

Grade II. 1. Dilys Owen, 2. Ruth Sinclair, 3. Betty Forsythe and Artie Wright.

Grade I. 1. Marion Andrew, 2. Newton Large and Isobel Reid, 3. Dorothy Weeks.

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Dr. W. J. P. McMillan

Continued from page 3

he would never in the wide world be able to pay. It was an impossible situation, and it reflects very little credit upon those who had to do with it. I am not reflecting now upon the Department of Agriculture. I do not blame them because I do not think they had anything to do with it. I think the Minister of Agriculture, if he had anything to say, with his great knowledge and experience of farming conditions in this Province, would put the case fairly and squarely before the man and tell him exactly what he was up against. And I believe that there are a great many settlers in Europe, and even in England, Ireland and Scotland, who have been up against conditions which are infintely worse than anything that could exist on Prince Edward Island. They have had to get along on small farms and pay enormous rents and taxes compared with which, I think, they would find the taxes in this Province very equitable. In fact, I do not think they would imagine there was a tax here at all.

The Big Problem.

That is one of our problems; but the bigger problem is, **what can we do to keep our boys and girls at home?** Is it not a strange and anomalous condition of affairs that here in this favored Province we are clamoring for larger population? We know that conditions are the best in Canada, if not in the world; we produce the finest butter and cheese in Canada; the finest bacon; the best potatoes; the best poultry and eggs; in fact, we pride ourselves now that we are producing the best of everything; we do not take second place in any line, hardly; yet with all our possibilities, with vacant farms available and with the example before them of many who have made a success on these farms, our own boys and girls are leaving the Province. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, **what process of education is necessary to keep them at home?** I believe that public men and all interested in the Province are doing their utmost. Whenever a public man has an opportunity to speak he endeavors to say something that will persuade them from going away. And still they are going. There is some magnetic attraction—I don't know what it is— in the glare of the lights of the city, or something. **But I believe education is one of the chief ways of overcoming this. I believe that the Government would be well advised if they had some one in Prince of Wales College who would devote more attention to Agriculture. Why shouldn't there be a full time man there to devote his whole attention to Agriculture?** Why shouldn't the most important industry of the Island be featured there? We have heard explanations from some of the hon. members who have spoken about the power of advertising, but if we had a full time agricultural instructor in Prince of Wales College he might do a great deal by pointing out our agricultural possibilities to the students.

I can hear my hon. friend the Premier say, possibly: "Why didn't you do it? You were there for four years." I may say that we DID endeavor to do something along that line, and if the Stewart Government had been returned we would have had a full time man there, devoting his time to Agriculture. But there was another matter which probably was even more important; it was emphasized by some of the speakers, and I believe the Premier himself drew attention to the fact —that our teachers should have better normal training. It seemed to us that that was true, that the more normal training you can give teachers the better you will make them; and to that end we put a man in Prince of Wales College to devote part of his time to normal training. I say that we appointed that man, one of the most capable and experienced men in this Province, and I think you will find that the work will show a material improvement in that respect.

I do not see eye to eye with the Premier when he says that the appointment of three school inspectors is going to give the teachers more normal training. **It may give them more supervision, but I do not exactly see how it is going to improve the course of normal training which they should have before they enter the teaching ranks.** If he wants to go into that subject further I think he would be wise to bring back the summer school for teachers, because in the summer school you have a chance to give post graduate normal training. **If the Stewart Government had remained in power we would have had this summer school for teachers in operation within another year. We intended to do it just as soon as we saw the possibility, and we saw the possibility when we realized that the $125,000 additional indemnity was coming to this Province.**

Inter-Provincial Conference.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come to the paragraph dealing with the recent inter-provincial conference: "A conference was convened in Ottawa in the month of November last by the Dominion Government and the Governments of all the provinces of Canada. As a result of this meeting the Dominion Government this year is continuing the additional money grant of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars to our Province, and is undertaking in the very near future to make a complete revision of the financial arrangements, as recommended by the Duncan report. We confidently anticipate that when such revision is made we will receive a very material increase in our subsidy."

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier this question: **If there had been no inter-provincial conference at Ottawa last Fall would we not have received this $125,000 subsidy this year? Was the paying of that $125,000—the continuing of the payment of it—conditional upon the Inter-Provincial Conference?** Will the Premier kindly answer?

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: What do you want me to answer?

DR. McMILLAN: I am asking you the question: **Was the payment of this $125,000 conditional upon the Inter-Provincial Conference?**

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: It was an interim payment that may or may not have been paid. It is hard to read men's minds; I don't know what might have been done.

DR. McMILLAN: Will the Premier say that if there had been no conference we would not have got this $125,000 subsidy this year?

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: How can I answer that? I don't know. It is impossible for anyone to read the minds of the Ministers at Ottawa. That was an interim payment that might have been reduced or that might have been increased. That is a matter that no man can tell. Till the account is finally settled I don't know what we can get. That is simply, as it states, an interim payment.

DR. McMILLAN: The Premier cannot evade the question in that way.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: There is no evasion there. I cannot tell you what they did it for. That was an interim payment which the Federal Government were willing to accede to and have been doing, but how long it will continue I cannot say.

DR. McMILLAN: Does the Premier insinuate that the Federal Government will pay a subsidy one year and cut it off the next?

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: I am not insinuating anything, but my hon. friend should know that that is only a suggested payment by a Commission. As I said before, how can I read the minds of these people at Ottawa? There is nothing fixed or definite about it.

DR. McMILLAN: The Premier is evading the question. The point I wish to make is that the idea of putting that in the Governor's speech is nonsense, that as a result of this conference the $125,000 subsidy is being continued. **It is not correct, Mr. Speaker. That was an incorrect statement to put in the Governor's speech. It was not as a result of the inter-provincial conference of last November at all. The payment would have been made anyway, until the final adjustment is made.**

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: You don't know that; you are only imagining that.

DR. McMILLAN: **I have got that much faith in the Mackenzie King Government myself! No self-respecting Government would make a payment and agree to the demands of a Commission, and then, the very next year cut it off before there was a final adjustment made.** I would never accuse even a Liberal Government of doing anything like that. But what I am drawing attention to is that this statement in the Governor's Speech is misleading, that as a result of the inter-provincial conference that money grant of $125,000 is being paid. The continuance of the payment of it is NOT a result of the inter-provincial conference at all. (Applause.)

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: How do you know that?

DR. McMILLAN: We are told in the Speech that the Dominion Government "is undertaking in the very near future to make a complete revision of the financial arrangements." But what do we find? We find that the whole thing is not so rosy as it looked, because the Premier intimates that this $125,000 subsidy may be reduced instead of increased.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: I said there was a possibility; but the strong probability is that it will be increased.

DR. McMILLAN: I have your words in speaking on the subject.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: I have them, too, and I know what I said

DR. McMILLAN: Anyway, you say there is a chance of it being reduced, just the same as there is a chance of it being increased. Well, let us hope not. Let us hope there won't be any decreases.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: Do you say that there is no possibility of a decrease?

DR. McMILLAN: No, I wouldn't make a statement like that at all. I hope that when the report of that conference is tabled we shall be in a position to know when this complete revision is to take place. Shall we have to have another sitting of the Duncan Commission in order that the final report may come to us? Is it the Dominion Government, or is it the Inter-Provincial Conference, or is it the Dominion Government and the Inter-Provincial Conference combined, that will make the final financial arrangements? If the Premier would tell us something as to when the final accounting will be, he would be telling us something about this Conference. We all know that he went to that Conference representing this Government and that he was accompanied by the senior member from Belfast, a member of the legal profession. Generally the Governments in the past have had a third representative at these conferences.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: That is Conservative Governments you are talking about now. We go in for economy?

DR. McMILLAN: I see. You go in for economy? In the past we have had delegations to Ottawa from this House, from the Governments of the day—Conservative Governments—and three of them have generally gone there together. Sometimes we have had the direct results of their going there. There was one delegation in particular, headed by the Hon. John A. Mathieson, which went there and came back and reported. That delegation from the Government of Prince Edward Island met the Cabinet of the Dominion Government, and negotiations went on with the result that we got an increase of $100,000 to our subsidy. And we have had delegations from the Government of Prince Edward Island to the Dominion Government, not only when Conservatice Governments were in power but when Liberal Governments were in power; and there were always three representatives. That has been the practice with every Government, with the exception of the Government which immediately preceded us, and of which my hon. friend the Premier was, in his own words, "no mean follower." They didn't believe in sending any delegations. They believed in writing two or three letters instead, — for **economy,** I suppose! Who knows, Mr. Speaker, if the Bell Government had been wide awake to the claims which we had at Ottawa and which are now turning out to be so important, what benefits we would have derived? Had they been awake to their responsibilities and their duty we might have had some of this money a few years before we got it, and this Province would have been very much better off.

But no! They evidently believed, as my hon. friend the Premier evidently believed when he expressed his opinion on the floor of this House, that those claims were more or less "chestnuts." **The Premier does not believe they are "chestnuts" now! They have been realized on; but it took a lot of hammering to show him that there was something in those "chestnuts."**

That brings me back to the excursion of the Premier and the hon. member from Belfast. There was no other **representative of this House** accompanied them, because they were there with economy in view. Might I ask my hon. friend the Premier if there was not a **third party** accompanied him?

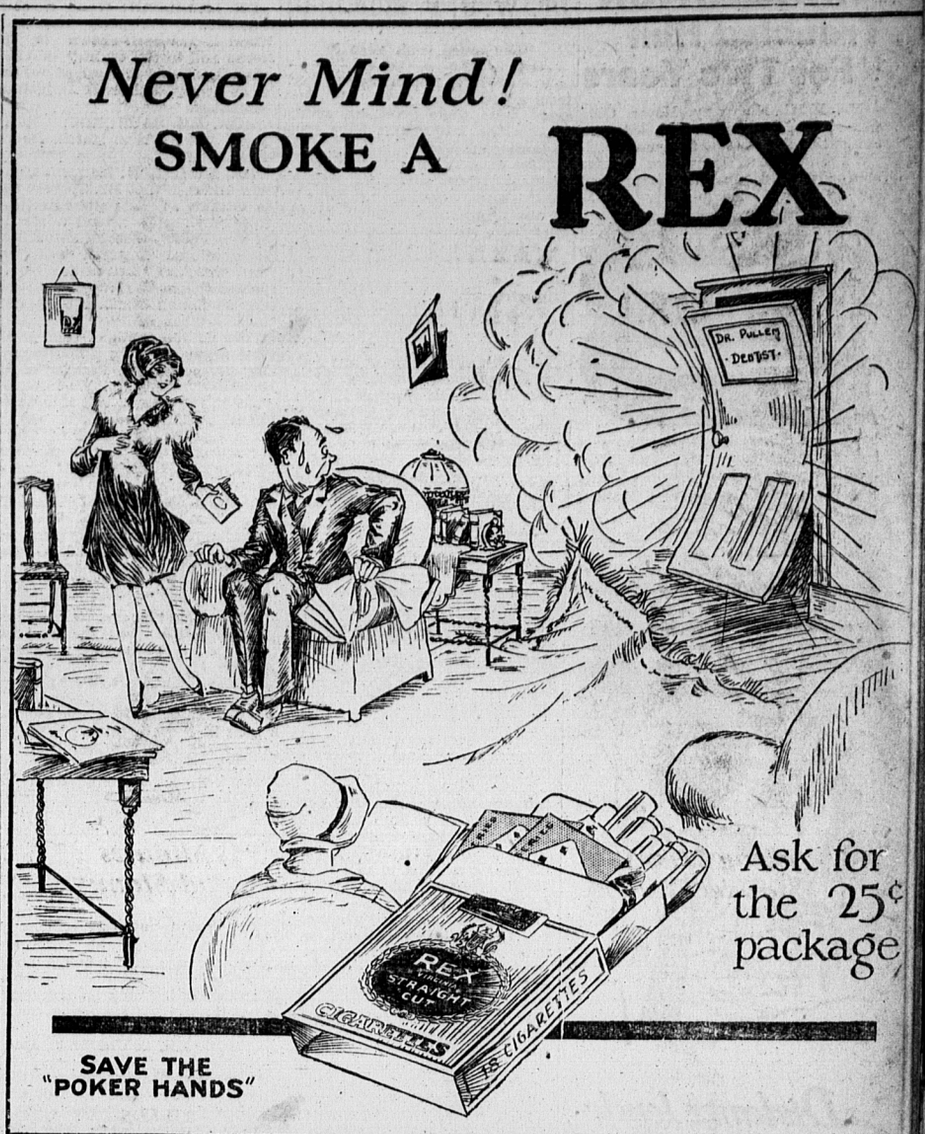
HON. MR. SAUNDERS: you will find that out when the proper time comes.

DR. McMILLAN: Exactly. My hon. friends did not see fit to take a colleague with them, but what did they do? Did they have a private secretary? Did they have a legal gentleman with them to prepare the case for them, to get the ammunition ready for them to shoot? Is that what they did? We shall find all that out when the proper time comes. I am not making any reflection on the legal gentleman who went over with my hon. friends; **but I do take exception to the statement the Premier makes that they were not accompanied by a third member on the ground of economy, because there is nothing in it. (Applause).**

Indefinite Results at Conference

We have heard a great deal about this Conference. It has been discussed from two points of view, as to which kind of conference is the best, whether a conference of the Provinces alone, or a conference of the Provinces and the Dominion Government. It seems, one the one hand, that when the Provincial representatives are alone they are freer to discuss their individual problems and difficulties, and see if they can come to any unanimity. On the other hand, the argument is advanced that questions come up all the time upon which it is necessary to have the authorative opinion of a representative of the Dominion Government, or even of the Prime Minister. It is easy to understand that when the Provincial representatives are there by themselves they might come to some opinion, and that is the end of it. They must then get in touch with the Dominion Government and have a second conference, so to speak. But do you not think, Mr. Speaker, when the whole Cabinet was there, or largely represented, and when the representativ-

(Continued on page 6)



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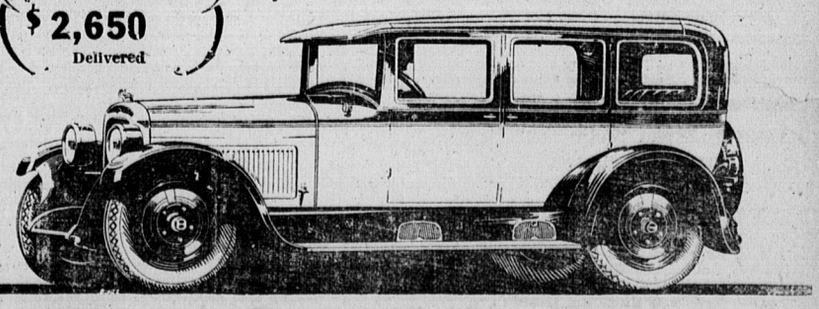

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