

# Challenges Statements Of Government Leader

## Senior Conservative Member For Charlottetown Deals Trenchantly With Subject Matters In Speech From Throne And Reviews Inaction And Incompetence Of Saunders Administration.

(Continued)  
Provincial Legislature, March 13. Debate on Draft Address. Dr. W.J.P. McMillan (continued from yesterday's Guardian):

### A RELATED AUDIT

The Premier, in that famous interview with the Patriot, says the Duncan Commission settled this matter of our subsidy claims, and it was only necessary for the auditors to arrive at a decision as to the proper amount. The Premier should know that the Duncan Commission did not have authority to deal with the matter and make a final assessment, otherwise their work would have been done and the Maritime Provinces, and especially Prince Edward Island, would be much better off at the present time. No such power was vested in the Duncan Commission; but Manitoba and Alberta could get their Commission and get their settlement.

So far as this Audit Board is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the question that arises is this: Why didn't the Federal Government have that board go into the figures two or three years ago? What has been the cause of the delay? Probably they did not want to settle until the eve of another election. The Audit Board was there since 1925. I wonder, after all, if there is not something in what the Prime Minister of Canada said in reply to that question on the floor of the House of Commons last year, that if the "other provinces" have not had their claims settled, it was their own fault, because they had not pushed the matter? That probably is the most important pronouncement on the question, and the facts bear it out. There has been no settlement made; and the Prime Minister said that it was because no effort was put forth to secure a settlement.

Dr. MacMillan then reviewed the history of the Technical School, pointing out that the institution was not giving sufficient value for the money expended. In place of this, the Stewart Government established short courses which were giving better satisfaction at much less cost. Some of these courses have been discontinued by the present Government, notably the night schools, which were of great value. He continued:

### Snow-Banks

The Premier says we did with the Technical School just what we did with the lime crusher at Miramichi. We did away with it. The trouble with that lime crusher was there was no lime to crush, that it was installed so far out in the ocean that they had to wait for the tide to bring the lime in to be crushed, and when the proposition of operating that crusher was made to the farmers by the Stewart Government it was not accepted. It was like a lot of those other experiments carried on by my hon. friends; there was not much value in it. And so the lime crusher, according to the Premier, got lost among the alder bushes on the Western Road or got buried in a snow-bank. Surely it could not have been buried this winter, with that wonderful snow-plough that the Minister of Public Works launched upon the roads.

If the snow-banks are so bad, it might be a good idea to get those prisoners in the Summerside jail at work clearing the roads. It would be much better for them to be shovelling snow than making home-brew. The only trouble is that when you get them out of the jail and at work on the roads, they get drunk there too. (Laughter). In fact, every time the prisoners in the Summerside jail get out, they get drunk. And if they don't get out they get drunk. They get drunk anyway. (Laughter). But of course that is all right, because "we are enforcing the Prohibition Act." It is only an incidental thing!

### Public Roads

The Premier maintains that the finest service ever given by the Public Works Department was given last year. He said: "I saw roads last year that I never saw the like of before in this Province." And I think Mr. Speaker, that everyone can say the same. I too saw some roads last year that I never saw the like of before; and they were anything but a credit to this Government. But the Premier says so much that he forgets the time that he used to rave about the Western boulevard in the days of the Bell Government,—that wonderful road that "improved with age" until it was like a race-track, over which you could shoot a billiard ball. Does he mean to say that the roads last year were better than that? That is what you would understand from him. It is just the old case of a person opening his mouth and letting everything come out. If the roads were fairly good last year, it is about time, when you consider the millions of dollars that have been expended on them. But we know, just as well as the leader of the Government, what the roads were like last year and what they will be like next year. A certain amount of money will be expended, a certain amount of work will be done, some roads will be fairly good and some will be bad, as they always were and always will be; because we have too many roads in this Province.

The Premier spoke about the new Canadian National Hotel. He asked, why shouldn't they put a matter of that kind in the Speech from the Throne? Why didn't he make mention of that other hotel of which there is a bill for incorporation before the House at the present time? Why didn't he put some reference in the Speech to the work that the Publicity Association is doing? Why didn't he mention the work that the Charlottetown Board of Trade is doing for the Province? Why didn't he refer to the Summerside Board of Trade, whose meetings he has not attended for twenty-five years for a "special reason"? Why did he not refer to all the activities, public and private, in the Province, and put them in the Speech. But no, this is something different. The Government got this! The Saunders Government got the new hotel! Is that the inference? He said they went up to Ottawa and go this new car ferry, and I suppose they got this branch line that is going through the mud of the Pisquid River. I will not refer to that until my hon. friend from Mount Stewart, (Mr. Clark) comes in. He will be able to tell us something about that, and about the contractor, who, I understand, is no good.

### Tourist Traffic

The Premier says this new hotel is going to revolutionize the Province; our tourist traffic is going to be more than doubled. But why shouldn't tourists come here? They would not go to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, because they might get something to drink, and that would be a terrible thing. So they are coming to Prince Edward Island, and they are going out around Rustico, that splendid, "dry" district represented by my hon. friend from New Haven (Mr. McPhee), and the hon. member opposite me (Hon. Mr. LePage). One end of that district is "wet" and the other end is "dry." (Laughter).

MR. McPHEE: You must be a prophet.  
DR. McMILLAN: It does not require a prophet to tell that. It is a matter of fact.  
MR. McPHEE: So you say, I can't see it.  
DR. McMILLAN: Of course not. (Laughter). Even when there was a conviction in your own district, you couldn't see it.

MR. McPHEE: Do you believe all you hear?

DR. McMILLAN: Not all that you say. But some of these things were reported in the Temperance Bulletin; and when the names were given you would naturally believe that they were given correctly.

As a matter of fact we waited too long now for this additional car ferry, and as a result the trade of this Province has been in jeopardy for many years. Only the other day the present car ferry damaged herself against the piers and it is a wonder she is able to carry on. That is a result of the policy of the Liberal Government at Ottawa that acts "wisely and well"—and oh, so slowly. If they wanted a grain elevator in the West, if Dunning wanted anything for his Province, if they required a frost-proof warehouse for fruit and fish, they would get them in a hurry. But down here in the Maritime Provinces where, according to the Minister of Finance, our highest aspirations are to "get a free ride on the Intercolonial Railway," we must be satisfied to take what we can get.

### Uncalled For Reflection

The Premier undertook yesterday to make a reflection upon the Charlottetown Board of Trade because there was some difference of opinion between them and Mr. Appleton, manager of the Atlantic Division of the Canadian National Railways. He says Mr. Appleton is a great friend of this Province, that he made a fine speech in support of the new car ferry. Well, why shouldn't he? It is about time that those men who are running the Atlantic Division woke up. It is about time they cut out the discrimination that has existed in regard to the Prince Edward Island section. The car ferry and everything else is charged up against this little railway down here instead of being charged to the general system; a most unfair discrimination has been practised so far as this Province is concerned and it is about time that some of our railway officials did try to secure a little justice for Prince Edward Island.

### EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Premier went on to say something about the school teachers. We all confidently expected that in the Speech from the Throne this year there would be some indication of the attitude of this Government with respect to implementing the report of the Education Commission. The only information we have, however, is that the Commission's report will be tabled some time during the session. It is quite true, as stated in the Speech, that a Commission was appointed; but it was appointed because the Government saw that it was the only way out of the dilemma in which it had placed itself. It is not necessary to go over the trials and tribulations that confronted the Government last year in connection with the teachers. It is not necessary to tell of the heroic part that was played by my hon. friend from Rustico who, they say, rose to the occasion once in his life, and who incurred the odium of the other members of the Government and especially the Premier for trying to do something for the teachers. At any rate, an Educational Commission was appointed, and yesterday the Premier went to some length to detail the many qualifications and characteristics of the gentlemen who composed that Commission. He gave the whole life history of Dr. Cyrus Macmillan and probably gave it well. Some of his figures were, as usual, incorrect. But no one doubts the qualifications of Dr. Cyrus Macmillan, and we all look forward with interest to his report. (To be continued)

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### MT. STEWART NOTES

Spring is the morning of the year  
And summer is the noontide bright,  
And Autumn is the evening clear  
That comes before the winter night.

Mrs. Stewart McEachern spent the week end visiting friends in Charlottetown.

Miss Eileen Morrissey, teacher, spent the week end visiting friends at Georgetown.

The many friends of Miss Marion McDonald, teacher at Savage Harbour, are sorry to learn that she is confined to her home with a severe cold.

Mr. Geo. R. Clark, Mt. Stewart, was in the city Monday on business.

Mr. Lawson Douglas, Head of Hillsboro, lost a valuable horse on Saturday night last.

Mr. Henry Coffin, Morell, paid a visit to relatives and friends at Mt. Stewart recently.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jay, Mt. Stewart, on the birth of a bonnie wee lass on Thursday last.

Her many friends are glad to learn that Mrs. Alex McKenzie, Glen Ray, is doing nicely, after undergoing an operation in the City Hospital.

Messrs. Henry Douglas and Douglas Coffin, Head of Hillsboro, returned home on Saturday evening from a very pleasant visit to friends at Boston.

Mrs. A. J. Grant was a visitor to Charlottetown recently.

Her many friends are sorry to learn that Miss Mary McPhee, Canaroy, is confined to her home on account of sickness and are looking forward for an early recovery.

Mr. Elias McKay, Mt. Stewart, has accepted a position on the staff of the Nash Motors Ltd., Charlottetown.

Miss Helen McDonald, teacher at Donaldson, spent the week end at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mt. Stewart.

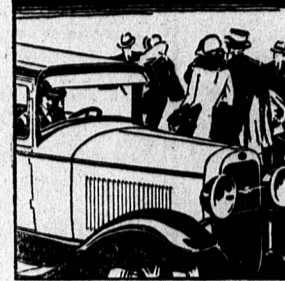
Mrs. Bernis Handrahan, Mt. Stewart, returned home on Friday from a very pleasant visit to Summerside. While there she was the guest of her sister, Miss Eileen Trainor.

Mr. Roy Smallwood, Borden, spent Sunday at his home in Mt. Stewart.

Mr. Lea Fisher, Glen Roy, purchased a dwelling house from Stewart McEachern and plans moving in at an early date.

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