Charlottetown Member in Brilliant Form

(Continued from page 1)

HON. DR. McMILLAN: I will have to give your party the Bible, (producing amid laughter a copy of The Patriot newspaper.) This is a newspaper called The Evening Patriot, of March 18th, 1926. It purports to give a speech of Mr. A. C. Saunders during the debate on the Draft Address.

"This is the claims paragraph in the Speech:

'I note that negotiations are practically completed between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Western Provinces for the transfer to the latter of their natural resources. Having in mind that a readjustment of the subsidies paid by the Federal and Provincial Governments must inevitably follow, my Government, in conjunction with the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is preparing to present and press the claims of this Province for further and fairer consideration in that regard.

"This reference to claims is almost what we would call a chestnut. We have heard it so often that we are getting sick of it." (Commotion.)

MR. SAUNDERS: Follow on; give the whole story.

HON. DR. McMILLAN: **Is it not enough?** (Laughter and applause.) That has always been the attitude of the liberal party in this Province, and I may say in the Maritime Provinces, towards those claims. **And it required a political revolution in these Provinces to sweep three governments out of power in order to awaken those in authority to the real situation. (Applause.) Those are the facts of the matter.**

"Maritime Rights"

My hon. friend says that the Premier of Canada came down to Halifax and asked the question "What are Maritime rights?" and was ridiculed by the Tory press and by Tory speakers. But he asked the question and answered it himself. **And in the answer he confessed his total ignorance of Maritime rights, for his answer was, "You tell me what Maritime rights are and I will fight for them."** A most evasive answer! But events transpired afterwards which showed him very clearly what Maritime rights were.

We on this side of the House have always pinned our faith to this question of claims. We have worked on them and our Premier took the proper way by working in co-operation with the other Premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He was not content to write a letter or two during his three or four years of office! Today we are getting the result of that work; and in the Dominion Parliament now they are considering, and we hope favorably, something that will give substantial remedy for the grievances that we have endured for so long. **These are the claims which have been dubbed "chestnuts" by the leader of a once great political party in this Province.** (Applause.)

We have always taken this position. We have said that we have done our best t omake revenue and expenditure meet. That we have increased the liabilities we do not deny; but we say that we have carried on the affairs of this Province with economy, that we have done the best we could with the revenue at our command.

MR. SAUNDERS: Ha! ha!

HON. DR. McMILLAN: **We never manipulated accounts and depleted our sinking funds in order to make a good showing. When we have a surplus it will be a surplus; it won't be one of these famous "modest little surpluses" of two or three thousand dollars that are made up by leaving a whole lot of bills unpaid!** (Applause.)

The Conservative Way

There are different ways of making a surplus, you know. You can balance your accounts and carry your unpaid bills over into next year and leave them for the next Government, as the Bell Government did. We do not believe in that kind of thing. We acknowledge that we have a deficit, but we have always said this: **that even if we are going to go on having deficits we do not intend to go down deeper into the pockets of the farmers and other hard working men of this Province to get the money to make a surplus. We have always said that there are other sources of revenue which, if properly developed, would yield additional revenue to this Province; and now, Mr. Speaker, when our words are coming true, when the proof is already here to the extent of $80,000 for this past year, and when we are confidently expecting another $125,000 within the next few weeks, it does not go down very well with the Leader of the Opposition and his friends.** (Applause.)

If they had pursued the same course when they came into power; if they had not wasted those years, with those opportunities before them, they might have saved the people of this Province a great deal of that discontent which has been the means of driving some of our best blood to the country to the South of us. But no! they could see nothing in these claims but "chestnuts!" Now that there is word that the Duncan report may be implemented in full and we will get what is coming to us, there is only one man who should get any praise, they say:—and that is the Prime Minister. When the time comes we on this side of the House will accord to Premier McKenzie King just as much thanks as anyone else, because we believe he will be doing the proper thing.

Credit to Mr. Meighen

But in regard to the $80,000 received from the Railway Commission, the Leader of the Opposition says Premier King should be thanked for that also. That is one of the statements I had to correct at the Cape Traverse meeting. It was not Premier King who gave us this money at all. **It so happens, Mr. Speaker, as many in this Province will remember, that the final act in this drama was put through by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen. He was not in power very long, it is true; but he was in power long enough to put through the Order-in-Council which gave to this Province the $40,000 a year agreed upon at the Inter-Provincial Conference.** (Applause.)

This is some of the history of the railway taxation grant which it is well for everyone to understand. We have heard the Premier in his able address this afternoon state the rest of the case; that on a mileage basis we would only receive $27,000. You have heard him give credit,...and why should he not,...to the generosity of his two Premier friends, Messrs Rhodes and Baxter, in allowing that grant to be increased at their expense from $27,000 to $40,000 a year. Was it not a fortunate thing that we had in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick men who could be generous to this small Province; men who were acting in co-operation and harmony with Premier Stewart? There was a great deal of work in connection with this business, but we have reached the final solution, and I think the people of this Province who can now read and understand and weigh the whole matter will give credit to whom credit is due, and that they will not forget that the same opportunity to have these claims finally adjusted and settled was there since 1919, during the four years that my hon. friend sat on this side of the House as a follower of the Bell Government. That is one of the golden opportunities they lost; golden so far as the revenues of this province is concerned, because we needed the money badly and they might have got it. The very records which my hon. friend read show that this matter was hanging fire for several years. The statements of the Hon. Geo. P. Graham, then Minister of Railways, and of Mr. Rouel...all those indicated how long this opportunity was within their grasp. But the final setlement was reached only when our Premier went the right way about it and got the Interprovincial conference called.

Educational Changes

There is another matter to which I want to refer. There was a very remarkable statement that the Leader of the Opposition made near the close of his speech. In fact, he made two remarkable statements. One was this that this Government had dismissed one of the best educationists in the Province from the position of Chief Superitendent of Education. The second statement was that the gentleman who is now Superintendent of Education, occupying a dual position, was not doing justice to either, and what we should have at the head of the Department of Education a man who was competent. Now, I submit, that is rather strong language coming from a public man. It is insinuated that we have at the head of the Department of Education a man who is incompetent. I say that when any man, I don't care whether he is the Leader of the Opposition or any one else, makes a statement of that kind, he makes a rash statement and one which he cannot prove. Because it is universally admitted that the Superintendent of Education in this Province is one of the best educationists in the Dominion of Canada; that his whole life has been connected with education; and that during his earlier days he was one of the most sucessful school teachers in the Province. You have only to go to those places in which he taught school to find his record among the people where he worked. After that, as a professor in the Prince of Wales College, he was a distinguished success. Many within reach of my voice will support what I say in that regard; that there never has been in Prince of Wales College a more competent professor than Prof. Herbert Shaw. Afterwards, in the scientific work of engineering, he qualified himself so that he became, in addition to being a splendid educationist, a splendid engineer. But when he came into power we found...I do not intend to discuss this matter. I can discuss it, too but I do not think it has any particular bearing on the subject. We found that it was necessary, in the interests of education in this Province, that we should make a change in that office. That is why Professor Shaw was appointed. Today, and for the past year or so, since his appointment, he has been consulting engineer. He has probably gone out from the office four or five times in the summer to look at some special construction work. To say that the services that are demanded of him now militate so much against his work as Superintendent of Education as to make him ineffective, is to confess an absolute ignorance of the matter. That is the kindest construction, that I can put in the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition... that he does not know what he is talking about.

MR. SAUNDERS: My hon. friend knows it all. I couldn't know much.

HON. DR. MCMILLAN: I know that much. When I say we have in the present superintendent of Education an absolutely competent man, a safe, sane administrator and a man who will serve the best interests of education in this Province,...then I am giving a statement which the Leader of the Opposition can labor in vain for the next twenty-five years to disprove, and he will be just as far ahead as he is today. (Applause.)

Additional Course at P. W. C.

We have paid some attention to Education, and we believe that our educational conditions are very much better. We believe that the Prince of Wales College, which is the keystone of education in this Province, is in a much better condition. We have the satisfaction of saying that there have been fewer failures in the examinations at the College than ever before. We have made some additions to the courses there. A splendid Commercial course has been established and those who do not wish to qualify themselves as teachers have the opportunity of qualifying for this commercial course. During the past few months and additional instructor has been put to work, an eminent educationist who will devote his time to what we believe has been a weak point in our educational system for some years,namely, teachers' training. We believe we have in our present appointee, Mr Lloyd Shaw, a man highly qualified for the position. He has served many years as inspector of schools in this Province and he has taken special courses in the subject. We believe he is one of the best appointees we could possibly get and we hope for good results from his work in Prince of Wales College.

Agriculture

My hon. friend the member from O'Leary, (Mr. Dennis) is not quite satisfied with the way in which we have administered the Department of Agriculture since the risignation of Hon. Mr. Myers. But you remember, Mr. Speaker, the criticism which the late Minister received when he was in office You remember the words of the Leader of the Oppisition, that Hon. Mr. Myers was a very find genlteman, but so far as administrating the Department of Agriculture was concerned he was an absolute failure,...just an ornament to the Department. You remember that during the last three sessions of the House those were his words. But when he is no longer here my hon. friends are still dissatisfied. If they thought he was no good, surely his loss would not be very great! **But the Leader of the Opposition is just as inconsistent in this as in everything else. He has got only one subject, and that is to find fault.** There might be some justification of his criticisms of the administration of the Department of Agriculture under present conditions **if he or any of them could point to any specific instance where things are not running smoothly.** But it is in this department just as the editor of the patriot had to confess previous to the openingof this House was the condition of affairs generally. **Things are running so smoothlly that there was not a ripple on the placid surface of the waters of public opinion to the calling of the Legislature.** It was a very nice admission for the Patirot to make. It was quite different in days of yore, when every week, according to that paper, there was a delegation coming in to interview the Government; delegation after delegation waiting on the Government and meeting after meeting being called. We all know very well the temper and attitude of those delegations; they were not always harmonious; they were not very satisfied; they were complaining and fault-finding. That was the reason they were coming in. But since then times have changed for the better; and when you analyze the causes of the changed conditions you must admit that the administration of the law whether in the hands of lawyers or anyone else... has something to do with it. I do not deny that lawyers are as good as anyone else; though to hear some of them talk I have grave doubts.

Our people expect and demand the very best in public service that can be given to them, and they are not, at this present day, to be humbugged and fooled. So long as the public services are being properly administered they keep very quiet. That appears to be what they are doing now; and that seems to be the trouble both with the Leader of the Opposition and the Patriot. They would like to stir up a little trouble, and they don't seem able to do it. No one pays any attention to what they are saying .(Applause).

By-elections

But the member from O'Leary says he knows what the trouble is in the Department of Agriculture:—that this Government would not dare to open a constituency in the Province; that they couldn't stand a licking. Well, we tried it before and we opened not one constitution, two of them the most doubtful constituencies in the Province: one in Kings County where Mr. Saunders says all the raod work has been done to the discrimination of Prince County. He will have to look a long time in the Public Works records to prove that statement!) We opened that constituency in Kings County where the late Hon. Mr. Prowse was elected by a majority, I think, of one; and we opened another in the Senate of Canada. You would think that the people of that district especially would have been grateful enough, seeing one of their citizens elevated to that high position in the Senate of Canada, to willingly elect another man in his place of the same political faith!

We opened a third district and we started out this "young, inexperienced lawyer" who is now Minister of Public Works, and who, according to the Leader of the Opposition, is not competent to do his work. **There we gave my hon. friend another chance...And what did the people say who, we are always told, will speak out when the time comes?** You have only to look at the record to see unparalleled majorities rolled up in those two close districts. **You must admit that the people were given an opportunity of judging, and that they spoke out in no uncertain tones. I think that is sufficient answer to any criticism that we have been frightened of a by-election. (Applause).**

The proper explanation has been given by the premier. The country has been put to the expense of a lot of elections recently and it was deemed advisable by the Government to take on the administration of the Department of Agriculture, as the year's work had been planned and was going on smoothly, without holding another by-election. The work has been carried on efficiently and the salary of the Minister of Agriculture has been saved.

Credit to farmers

But of course nothing is right in the Department of Agriculture if my hon. friends are to be believed. Even the Disease Free Area comes in for criticism. All the credit must be given to the Dominion Government, I think everyone on this side of the House has been ready and willing to give every credit to the Dominion Government for doing what it did; but we take this stand, hat there must be some credit given to the intelligent farmers of the Island who were willing to accept whatever losses might result to them, no matter how many of their herds would be slaughtered when found diseased.

MR. SAUNDERS: And were to be recompensed by the Dominion Government.

HON DR. MCMILLAN: Not fully.

HON. MR. SAUNDERS: Oh, well, sixty per cent.

HON. DR. MCMILLAN: Yes, sixty per cent. **Will you take sixty per cent on your bills, I wonder? (Applause).**

We also made some expenditure of six or seven thousand dollars. But we had this satisfaction, that those in charge of that work have said that never in their experience were they better treated, were their accomodations better, or the service of conveyance better carried out, than on this Island. **And you cant take that credit away from the Stewart Government! (Applause).**

Falconwood Herd

The Leader of the Opposition comes back to the Falconwood herd. He says that when they came into power they found a scrub herd at Falconwood. I do not know his definition of the word "Scrub", but we know that at Falconwood at that time there was a herd of very good cattle,... good ordinary cattle, as cattle are known in this Province, and that that herd was serving the purposes of the institution well enough. That herd, in the wisdom of the Minister of Agriculture, was supplemented by a herd of high-bred Holstein cattle. It was possibly a good thing, but it just means this, that the old herd of cattle that was supplying the wants of the institution quite adequately was supplanted by a high-class herd, very much more expensive to keep, and a hard which, as the superintendent of Falconwood has stated, does not give any better service than the herd that was there. We have never believed that the farm at Falconwood, which is only an adjunct to the institution for the purpose of affording work to those inmates who are capable of working, should be made an experimental farm, to compete with the Dominion Experimental Farm that we have in the province. We believe that if experiments are to be made along the lins of high class breeding that the Dominion Farm is the proper place to do it. However, they replaced the cattle by a high-bred herd, and the herd is there; but it costs more to retain them.

MR. SAUNDERS: But the increase of milk is more than doubled.

HON. DR. MCMILLAN: Ther is more milk of poorer quality.

MR. SAUNDERS: Better quality.

HON. DR. MCMILLAN: Not at all. You cannot get anyone to believe that statement. That is their experiment in high class cattle. **Why did not the Leader of the Opposition tell us about their experiments in horses,—some of the famous horses tha we e bought here by the Bell Government?** We would like to have heard that too. Couple that up with the cattle, and you will find that some of those innovations have been a pretty heavy burden on this Province, and that probably it is just as well in the interests of agriculture to go along pursuing a safe, sane and orderly course, rather than to go into some of those experiments which do not bring very much results but which are very often costly.

Bonds and Debentures.

The member from O'Leary got off a little on to Bonds. He had some kind of a proposition—I did not quite follow it, but the gist of it, I think, was that the Bell Government made money by selling bonds and that the revenues of the Province were better off by the transaction. There might be something in that; but if he believes that that is right and that it was a proper, logical course to follow, **why didn't they sell all the bonds they had? What is the use of keeping bonds at all if you can sell them and make money? That is no way of** getting around a transaction. We know something about bonds too. **We could sell all our bonds now, and we could let our sinking fund go as they did—this is election year, you know,—and we could make out a very good surplus by doing so.** But we all know why the $148,000 was taken out of the sinking funds just previous to the last election, and sold, and the proceeds put into ordinary revenue. That is all ancient history;**but that is not going to happen this year. There are none of those I. O. U.'s there now.** One thing that we have been particularly careful about in this Government is that our sinking funds are adequate. **We have respected the investing public and we can say to them, honestly, that whatever money is lent to the Government of this Province is adequately protected by a business-like transaction.** That is the story about the bonds. (Applause.)

Technical Education.

The matter of the Technical School is one which comes up year after year for discussion. We have given our explanation of the reasons which activated us in dealing with that institution. The public, I think, must know and understand the situation now, even if in this House there is an idea that they can be misled. We have always said that that institution was costing too much, and that paying men a yearly salary for doing four or five months' work was not good business. We believed that the work done there could be better done and in a manner which would be of more benefit to our people, especially to the farmers, if short courses were given instead. That has been our policy. **If you will analyze the results of the work done in the Technical School I think Mr. Speaker, you will come to the conclusion, as we did, that the direct result of the education our boys were receiving there was simply educating them off the farm; that numbers of farmers' sons came in and, when they got a smattering of the courses given in the Technical School, could never be induced to return to the farm.** That was what actuated us in closing that institution and replacing it by the short courses, which we believe are doing just as well.

We have been extending this work from year to year in order to make up in some way the loss of the $30.000 federal grant for agricultural purposes which this Government had to meet when we came into power. We have tried to make that up, and negotiations are now going on, and we hope that those short courses and this technical work will be extended in the near future so, that it will deal directly with work of a more purely agricultural nature. That is what we are working on now, and which we believe will be of some benefit to the people of this Province.

We hope the people generally appreciate the fact that we have pursued the proper course; but the Leader of the Opposition gets up year after year and talks about that great Technical School and the two thousand dollar dairy plant. He does not know where it is; it was an awful loss! The whole thing so far as the butter and cheese industry is concerned, went to the dogs with the loss of that plant! **But he cannot account for the fact that every year since then the comparitive value of butter and cheese has been increasing in this Province, until last year the high-water mark of quality was reached.**

If he would only look at the facts in their proper light he would forget all about this Technical School, because it is a thing of the past; and he would acknowledge that the Department of Agriculture There was one matter which my has pursued the proper course, that hon. friend was compelled to give they have one of the most com- our Premier credit for: **that was** petent men in Canada today acting the resolution passed at the Con- as dairy instructor and examiner ference of Premiers dealing with throughout the Province, and that **this Technical grant.** (Applause.) they are on the proper path; because today quality is what counts.

(Continued on page 6)

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