

Makes Appeal For Return To Sound Economy

Conclusion of Speech By Hon. Dr. MacMillan Reviewing Government's Extravagant Record

Concluded from yesterday's Guardian is the following report of the speech of Hon. Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, leader of the Opposition, speaking in the Legislature on Wednesday evening in the course of the budget debate:

Dr. MacMillan said he noticed that the Minister of Education and Public Health, in speaking the other day, did not hold out very much hope of any expansion along the lines of "I don't think the teachers can hope for any increase in salary, or to better their position," he continued, "I am not blaming the Minister particularly for this, because it is something that he cannot control; but when I asked him a question regarding what has been done to study the health problems of rural districts, I have the same complaint to make about him as I make about some of the other ministers of this Government. His answer is purely an evasion."

Rural Health Problem

"The reason I asked this question was that it was a plank in the platform of both parties last year in the Liberal platform there was a promise of increased provision for hospitals and public health services, and a special study of health problems in the rural districts. The reason that got into the platform was because it was drawn to the attention of this House and of the people that conditions in many rural communities were very deplorable on account of lack of medical men in the country. It was pointed out that the situation was serious—so serious that I understand the Government had sent a nurse out on one occasion, because no medical man was available."

How The Money Goes

"There is no doubt that a great deal of money could have been saved in the Public Works Department during the last four years. The waste was glaring. All anyone had to do was go along the roads and see what was going on. My hon. friend from the 2nd district of Prince drew attention yesterday to the work going on on the streets of Charlottetown. Those fellows must have been working on the North River Road from the Sarnatium to the Queen's Arms. That is where they learned their lesson. I had occasion to travel that road last year. A gang of men had been stumping the road, and the stumps were lying along the roadside, ready to be stumped. A man here and there with a pick was employed picking the clay out of the roots of those stumps. Near every big stump had a man around it."

Health Expenditures

"I had a good deal to do with the Public Health Department at its inception, because I found it an infant about six weeks old when I took charge of it. I would think that there might be some expansion in public health matters in this province. I know that for the years 1932-33-34 we spent an average of \$1,400 a year, and for the years 1936-37-38 you spent \$21,068. In other words we were spending about \$300 a year more on public health five years ago than you are spending now."

Ten To A Cart

Dr. MacMillan: "No, it was down in King's County. Do you want to hear something about Prince? During the excavation of certain sections there, there would be eight or ten men standing round each cart, with a shovel. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works, how many men can probably fill a cart? Three or four?"

Mr. Aeneas Gallant: "Those men were discharged in our district."

Dr. MacMillan: "So it is true? (Laughter) I submit my hon. friend the Premier's colleague substantiated what I am saying with regard to his district. But unfortunately, this thing is general throughout the Province. I have had responsible clerks tell me about men loafing on road work. It means, all told, a debt of four million dollars in five years. That is what this country has in pay for it. I know you have to have strict supervisory officials when you are doing work on such a large scale as was done in the last four years; but some of these fellows are claiming that it is time someone acted. I suppose the Minister couldn't tell me offhand how much was paid for gravel."

Mr. McIntyre: "There were about 663,000 tons. It would average about \$1.11 a ton."

Dr. MacMillan: "That is over three-quarters of a million dollars."

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: "That includes all contracts, you know."

Dr. MacMillan: "That is an awful amount of money to pay for gravel out of that nit was costing one and one-half cent per ton."

Mr. McIntyre: "You shouldn't have paid \$2.00 a ton to pay it out."

Dr. MacMillan: "That was in certain places; but from one pit or gravel cost us one-half cent a ton."

Mr. McIntyre: "My hon. friend asked about the gravel we used. It was 615,738 tons for two years."

Dr. MacMillan: "I am just

Highway Drainage

"There is one matter that I have never had an opportunity to refer to in this House, that is regarding the paved roads in spring weather. I draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to this matter, because he may pass on to his department the advice to do some sort of drainage work when the snow and ice melts and the water is running in streams, as it has been for the past four or five weeks here. I am firmly convinced that until we get all the active cases of tuberculosis under treatment, we are going to go around in a vicious circle."

Oil Company Agents

Continuing Dr. MacMillan cited the answer to another question, which called for the names and addresses of the agents of oil companies. A list was given to the Government. The first question read: "The department does not keep on file the addresses of any agents of oil companies."

Dr. MacMillan: "Is an answer evidently by a past master of the art of evasion. The department does not know the addresses of the agents with whom they do business? They keep no record of it in the department?"

Premier Campbell: "We do business with the head offices."

Dr. MacMillan: "Another example of evasion! The matter was not purchased by tender."

"This is the answer of the chair-



HON. DR. W. J. P. MACMILLAN

taking what is in the Public Works report, this year. I myself going over, I could find that nearly \$600,000 was paid for gravel. That is a lot of money to be paid out in any year."

Chain Store Taxation

"I want now to refer to an answer tabled by the Premier, which stated that it is contrary to the public interest to publish the list of chain stores assessed for taxation, with the amounts paid for each year. Now, Mr. Speaker, is it? Why do they publish the amount of taxes paid by the insurance companies? Why publish the amount of taxes paid by other corporations and companies to this government. Are the chain stores privileged? Last year the Public Accounts showed that six paid taxes. This year it says seven. What about that one that did not pay taxes last year? Why was that store exempt? Are all the chain stores now paying this tax, Mr. Speaker? Is any chain store still exempt? Can we name in this House chain stores that are not paying taxes? Has an effort been made to get certain chain stores in this city to pay taxes that are not paying taxes? In other words what chain stores are being protected?"

Premier Campbell: "None."

Dr. MacMillan: "Are they all paying taxes?"

(No answer.)

Dr. MacMillan: "They are not. Why? Who is the favorite? Why the exemption? Why make some chain stores pay taxes to the limit and let others free. That was the reason for asking this question. Why not set it right out in the Public Accounts with the amount of taxation paid in each case?"

Court House Furniture

"Here is another answer to which I draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works. It was asked regarding the furniture in the Court House. What became of it? It is explained that the following material is on hand stored in Summerside and a detailed list is given. But what about the old furniture of this building? In answer to that question it is stated that the department did not sell any of the furniture of fittings of the Provincial Building. Some of the Court House furniture that was stored in the attic during repairs was destroyed during the fire. But where is the list of the furniture that was stored in the Court House? Here is the inventory of the furniture in the Summerside Court House. What happened the old furniture in this building. I think nearly all the present furniture is new. What became of the old?"

Premier Campbell: "It is all in use."

Dr. MacMillan: "It is replaced by new furniture, a lot of it."

Dr. MacMillan: "Very little new furniture in this building."

Political Control

Dr. MacMillan: "It is just as I say; this administration of fishermen's loan is open to suspicion and it is now admitted by the hon. gentleman controlling it, that he controlled it."

Mr. Cox: "I beg your pardon, you are perfectly, absolutely wrong. I never took it into consideration that he was a Conservative or Liberal or anything. This fellow didn't get the business and I told you it was through his mouth."

Dr. MacMillan: "The chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board is not very content with the hon. district if he doesn't know whether they were Liberal or Conservative. But it is an astonishing fact that every order that was sent to Morell went into a store owned by Mr. Cox."

Mr. Cox: "I never took politics into it at all, but in this particular case he had too much mouth."

Dr. MacMillan: "You see, Mr. Speaker, that this is what happens; a very remarkable thing that all the orders in a large centre."

Dr. MacMillan: "A wealthy centre too—all the orders should go to one store, and that store not doing the largest business by any means. That is remarkable. It just bears out what I have been saying, that the evasive answers that were given that this was not in the public interest meant simply that it was a matter of discretion on the part of the hon. Minister of the Government. But the interests of the taxpayers very often are not synonymous. That is the trouble, and we have had an example in this little incident, in the admission by the minister that this firm didn't get anything because they were Conservative."

Mr. Cox: "I don't know that it was his mouth, I tell you. Too much lip."

Dr. MacMillan: "There are some more questions here to which the answers are the same. The answer to Question 56 does not contain the answer asked for. Every question that the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board answers, his answer is a mere evasion."

Mr. Cox: "Not at all."

Dr. MacMillan: "I am sorry to say that it is. Take the question about the company and the question for a purpose, and that purpose is no other than political."

Mr. Cox: "Don't be silly man."

Dr. MacMillan: "I am not the one who is talking nonsense."

Smuggling 'Eliminated'

"The Premier in speaking last night on the administration of his own department said and the same is borne out by the report of the R. C. M. P.—that smuggling is almost eliminated in this Province. That is a very comforting thing to know, and that work is due to the activity of the R. C. M. P. They have curtailed the smuggling of every day."

VOICES: "Correct."

Premier Campbell: "Eliminated, for the time being."

Dr. MacMillan: "It was a wise idea, wasn't it, to bring the R. C. M. P. into this Province? They have been here now a good many years and that service anywhere has been cleared up. The smuggling of liquor, and we on the other side of the House can take the credit for that. I remember the criticism that used to be made about them. I remember particularly the criticism which the hon. Minister of Public Works used to make."

Premier Campbell: "We first recommended that they be eliminated. You fellows were always strong on recommendations, but you could never implement them."

Hon. Mr. Cox: "You got the

man of the Fishermen's Loan Board regarding questions of fishermen's loans, fishermen's relief, etc.: No. 1. "Do not think the public should know." No. 2. "Do not think the public should know." Nos. 4 and 5: "Do not think the public should know." No. 6. "Here-with enclosed." No. 6. is a list of the firms that have cashed fishermen's relief orders. I don't see anything wrong with it. The only striking thing I found in it was that the firm which does business in the place that the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board does business in some years ago and to whom he sold out."

HON. MR. COX: "Got nothing."

Dr. MacMillan: "He got nothing, while several others around there got it all."

Mr. Cox: "Sure."

Dr. MacMillan: "That is just as I would expect. You don't see them according to whether they were Grit or Conservative."

"Too Much Mouth"

Mr. Cox: "Not at all; according to the way they used their mouth."

Hon. Mr. McIntyre: "I think the Conservative merchants got the most of it."

Dr. MacMillan: "Not in Morell."

Hon. Mr. Cox: "One of the members that stood in this House on your side said that if he, but he shouldn't have got any."

Dr. MacMillan: "I don't care what side of the House he is on. I am referring to this as a glaring example. There are several firms doing business around Morell, and those who purchased the business of my hon. friend didn't get one single dollar."

Mr. Cox: "Just his mouth, as I said. If he had kept his mouth straight he would have got it."

Dr. MacMillan: "There it is, Mr. Speaker. We are right down to brass tacks now."

Mr. Cox: "Right down to brass tacks. People's mouths sometimes do that."

Dr. MacMillan: "In other words, my hon. friend plays politics with the fishermen's relief, just as he says."

Mr. Cox: "No sir."

Dr. MacMillan: "This firm which ordinarily would have some customers in that particular locality among those who got fishermen's relief, cut out completely!"

Mr. Cox: "There was never one fisherman asked to take an order there."

Premier Campbell: "Who got the business in Morell?"

Mr. Cox: "B. W. McEwen got the most of it before; Lloyd Cox this year."

Dr. MacMillan: "I was looking for Morell in the list given us, because it is the home of the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board."

Mr. Cox: "You know all about it before you looked it over."

Dr. MacMillan: "I find the only firm at Morell that got any business was Lloyd Cox."

Mr. Cox: "A good Liberal."

City Police Enforcement

"But what I would like to know is how it is possible for men who are not doctors at all to give prescriptions. I have been credibly informed that you can go over to any taxi man and that he can give you a doctor's prescription, and charge 75 cents for it."

HON. MR. DENNIS: "That is higher than the usual charge, isn't it?"

Dr. MacMillan: "Does my hon. friend ever buy prescriptions?"

Hon. Mr. Cox: "I get them for nothing (Laughter). But I would like to ask my hon. friend a question. I heard an eminent doctor say that whiskey was not good for a person until after they got to be fifty years of age. After that they should have four ounces every day."

Dr. MacMillan: "Well—"

Hon. Mr. Cox: "Because I am over fifty now."

Dr. MacMillan: "My hon. friend may be over fifty, but he does not act it." (Laughter.)

"The Premier explained that there are two schools of medical opinion, one favorable to the use of alcohol, the other claiming it is no good. Perhaps the happy medium is the proper course. I know certain people for whom beer and light wine are good. I know that the moderate use of them for tonic purposes is quite proper. I know there are certain diseases which I would not attempt to treat without the use of alcohol. There is a question of individuality in this question. Personally I would not have any hesitation about prescribing for any member of the Legislature because from what I have seen of a good many of them I could very consistently put them into some sick classification. (Laughter). If I were treating my hon. friend the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board for pneumonia, I don't think I could pull him through unless I gave him a lot of liquor." (Laughter). There are individual cases where you know the pro-clivite and tastes of your patient and you don't hesitate to use it."

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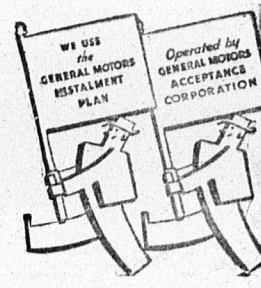
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Premier Campbell: "I had the Mayor over."

Dr. MacMillan: "I brought the Chief of Police over on several occasions, and I pointed out to him that he is sworn just as anyone else to enforce that Prohibition law. Do they make any convictions now?"

Mr. Barbour: "They had a seizure the other day."

Dr. MacMillan: "What will we do? Mark the wall? On two occasions the Attorney General and myself had the Inspector of the R. C. M. P. and the Chief of Police over here and told them to go out and clean up this city, and the City Police did come after that."

Premier Campbell: "We cut them off their share of the fines?"

Dr. MacMillan: "So that when they don't get convictions they don't get the fines? That was quite proper, but this thing is still so glaring. It is wide open, Summerside is wide open too."

Premier Campbell: "It is all labelled though."

Dr. MacMillan: "The point is why have there been no seizures in the administration of the Act? My hon. friend predicts there will be a decrease from the revenue last year. He certainly had a good year last year."

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Dr. MacMillan: "Why? The base rate there is \$105,000 profit."

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Premier Campbell: "That is the gross figure."

Dr. MacMillan: "It was nearly \$110,000. Then you took four or five thousand dollars and put it into the enforcement branch. I remember back in 1926 the Commission made \$57,000. They thought it was never done in the history of this Province. He became Premier and he said it was his idea that there should be no money at all made out of the Prohibition Act. If you take the analysis prepared by the auditor you will find that in 1925 the revenue was \$45,000; in 1926, \$57,000; in 1927, \$15,000. 1928 is blank."

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Premier Campbell: "Those are not altogether comparable because the Commission in those days paid for the enforcement officers and also paid the police inspectors. There is about \$30,000 paid out of the treasury now that is to be paid by the Commission."

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Dr. MacMillan: "My hon. friend claims this has all been done away with. But I note in the 1937 Public Accounts that the liquor revenue is given at \$40,000, and the Comparative Statistics of Public Finance, compiled by the same auditor, shows a liquor revenue for that year of \$55,000. You wonder where the other \$15,000 got to. Under the Government's system under the Provincial Sanatorium account and you find it—\$15,000. That is the difference between the two accounts."

Premier Campbell: "That was a good thing to do with it."

Dr. MacMillan: "Of course, but you might as well have made it plain and not camouflaged it. This Government has done everything the President of the Executive Council when he went over to the Coronation. They were not paid in one year; they were straddled over two Public Accounts."

Gov't House Furnishings

"The Premier in trying to explain why he exceeded his estimates said that Government House expenditure was exceeded by over \$3,000. I would like to know why. This Government paid a total of \$1,522 for furnishings for Government House last year. Why was that done, Mr. Speaker? Is the Government under the responsibility of furnishing Government House for every Governor who comes in?"

(No answer.)

"A most improper thing to do; never done in the history of this Province. Go back to the expenditures on Government House for years, and it is only the very necessary expenditures on that building that are paid. Even the carpet that was used here for the King's visit was sent out to Government House. We find Wilton rugs and runners, Axminster rugs, drapery material, swimming trunks, portiers, heading hooks, curtains, battleship linoleum, linoleum cement, curtains, curtain rods, brass tubing, and even rayon. What was that for?"

Premier Campbell: "Shutters."

Dr. MacMillan: "Rayon is artificial silk, isn't it? Nice thing to make shutters out of!" (Laughter.)

Premier Campbell: "The shutters were wood."

Dr. MacMillan: "Three spoons at 8 cents. A basket, grate, a desk, spark guards, chair cushions, arm chair, office chair, kitchen range, box kerbs at \$16.00 a box; triple rolls of paper; greaser, chaffioner; beds, mattresses, a night table, two bed lamps; springs, extension ladder; drapery lining; French gold clock, and a 3-piece furniture set. That is the kind of expenditure that rolls up your debt to some million dollars in five years. You are all a party to it and you agree to it."

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Idea from us

Dr. MacMillan: "I would have a dearth of ideas if I had to wait until I got inspiration from the chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board."

"I remember the Premier saying that the liquor law was something like a bag that was half full of air; when you squeezed it at one end it bulged out in the other. So the smuggling end has been squeezed dry and it is bulging somewhere else."

Premier Campbell: "Bulging in two places."

Doctors & Prohibition

Dr. MacMillan: "One is in the moonshine, which centres I believe around the Cardigan district, and the other is doctors' prescriptions. We listened very intently to the Premier last night, particularly in dealing with doctors' prescriptions. He said very rightly that this is a very difficult matter to control. The law puts the responsibility on the doctors. Of course it is a matter of discretion on the part of the hon. Minister of the Government. But the interests of the taxpayers very often are not synonymous. That is the trouble, and we have had an example in this little incident, in the admission by the minister that this firm didn't get anything because they were Conservative."

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