

Stirring Passages From Mastery Campaign Speech Of The Conservative Leader

From the challenging address delivered by the Hon. J. D. Stewart
K. C., at the opening of the campaign, in the Capitol Theatre,
Charlottetown!

PROVINCIAL ISSUES.—We have many things to discuss in this campaign that are very important to the electors; matters which perhaps affect us more intimately than even federal politics; and how can we properly grasp these issues which are so important in this campaign and which will be decided by this election, if we mix them with purely federal matters? I may say that if there were time, and if there were the proper opportunity, I personally would be delighted to discuss these matters with the Premier or with any other Liberal gentleman; and I do not think that any of us on this side of politics would fear the result! But, as I said before, it is not the time, and it is not the place. We want to be logical, at least.

LEA GOVERNMENT FINANCING.—What would you think of the financing of a man who had a surplus of \$15,000, and yet, at the end of that year, was found to have gone behind to the tune of \$235,000? Producing a "surplus" and at the same time going in debt? That is the situation with respect to the financing of this Government last year, and they admit it. Their Audit shows that during the year 1930 they went behind to the extent of \$235,000,—and yet they had a "surplus" of \$15,000!

NEED OF SUBSIDY.—If there is one thing that this Province is in dire need of at the present time, it is more revenue; and, as I said before, we cannot afford to place any heavier burdens of taxation upon our people. It is a great struggle, even in this Province, to exist. There are just two avenues to further revenue; the first is increased taxation on our people; the second is obtaining the implementation of the Duncan Commission report. You know the early history of that matter, that there has always been a struggle for a subsidy settlement from Ottawa, and that practically all the increase of subsidy that has been obtained for this Province had been obtained by the Conservative party.

1927 INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.—There was their opportunity, where they had representatives from all the Provinces assembled, together with representatives of the Canadian Government,—all the parties to the contract were there, prepared and ready to do business, and only waiting for a proposal as to how it should be done. Yet these gentlemen, going up there at the expense of this Government—YOUR expense, with YOUR money—hadn't the sense to suggest means of making this adjudication, and so the matter ended, in "expressions of sympathy"—and not one dollar of additional subsidy from that day to this.

THE TAX BOOSTERS.—What has been the record of the present Premier with regard to taxation? He has always claimed that he was the father, the instigator of the Lea Tax Act. He was most indignant at us because we took off the Poll Tax and made other reductions in taxation at that time. Has he ever suggested that he would reduce the taxes? Has not his whole record pointed in the other direction,—just like Mr. McIntyre's, who says we should "broaden out"—we should pay more taxes—so that Mr. McIntyre will have more money to spend on the roads?

ECONOMY NOT PARSIMONY.—As I said before, we don't want parsimony; we don't want people to work for nothing in the public services but we do feel that it is a time when expenditure should be wisely supervised, and that no money should be thrown away—whether upon the roads or otherwise.

AMAZING PERFORMANCE.—I was rather amused, in the Patriot newspaper's account of the Liberal meeting at Hunter River, to read that Premier Lea had shown "very clearly" how all the planks in their platform of 1927 had been "fully implemented," in fact more than implemented! The Patriot said that the hall fairly rocked with applause. The thing that surprises me is that after a statement of that kind the hall did not fall about their ears.

CONSERVATIVE TAX REDUCTION.—When we took office in 1923 one of the planks of our platform was that we would press for further subsidy from the Federal Government, and upon attaining to that, that we would give the benefit to the people in reduction of taxes. We obtained an increased subsidy, and we kept our promise by reducing the taxes. We are accused—and just think who accuses us!—of going that for the purpose of pandering to the electors on the eve of an election; of endeavoring to "buy the people with their own money." * * * The present Government does not seem to understand what it means to keep its word to the people. That is what we did; we promised that if we obtained a certain thing, we would give the taxpayers the benefit. We obtained it, and we kept our word. And if we had been returned to power in 1927, I am free to say that you would not find the finances in the condition in which you find them today.

KING'S AUDIT BOARD.—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick did not recognize this Board in the matter of our subsidy claims settlement. The Premiers of those Provinces knew perfectly well that it was of no value, that it was simply a stop-gap, a gesture on the part of the King Government to mark time until the federal election was over. So they did not attend the sitting of the Board. We had representatives from this Province in the person of Mr. Lea and another. Did we get anything? I will tell you what happened. It cost this Province a thousand dollars for their attendance. It is charged up in the Public Accounts and to the taxpayers of this Province it was not worth one cent piece—as Mr. King might say.

IS HE SINCERE?—Now I want to draw your attention to this, that when Mr. Lea went to Ottawa and presented a claim of \$438,000 before the Audit Board, he had already published his claim for \$3,372,166.57 in the Patriot newspaper. In other words, when he presented his claim in the Patriot to the people of this Province he claimed over three million dollars, and when he presented it to the Audit Board it had shrunk to four hundred thousand dollars. If he ever gets before the Privy Council what will he claim?

CRASS STUPIDITY.—I have taken up some time with this subject, in an endeavor to show you what the people of this Province can expect to obtain from the efforts of this Government by way of implementation of our subsidy claims. In the first place, we have negligence; we have want of faith; we have lack of knowledge. That is not enough. All these things make a pretty bad showing. But when you add to this, crass stupidity in the way of presenting them—stupidity to such a degree that it holds this Province up to the ridicule of Canada, then I think you can come to a fairly accurate conclusion as to what you may expect from this Government with regard to obtaining a subsidy settlement from the Dominion of Canada.

WASTE AND EXTRAVAGANCE.—We are not condemning the Government because they have funded the auto license fees and the gas taxes; but we are blaming them because in raising these large sums of money they have not supervised the expenditure as they ought; because they have wasted a large amount of it,—spent extravagantly the money that will have to be paid back, as I said before, with interest, by ourselves or those who come after us.

ROAD GRAVELLING.—In this Province we have valuable gravel deposits, equal to the material imported by this Government from the mainland, and perhaps better; gravel that can be dug and hauled to where it can be used by our own people and our own people will obtain the wages and remuneration. That will be our policy. There is where we blame the Government, because, having borrowed the money, they have let it go completely out of the Province, and the people have not obtained any benefit except such as they have received from the gravelled roads.

STATUTE LABOR.—We claim that every man in this Province, whatever his politics may be, has the same right to work upon the public roads, and our policy will be to see that every man has the

THE PROVINCIAL DEBT

Before 1927. All Provincial Governments of the Province of Prince Edward Island contracted a debt of approximately \$2,000,000.

1927-1931. The Saunders - Lea - McIntyre aggregation have, in four years, increased the debt by approximately \$1,000,000, despite the fact that they had \$1,500,000 more revenue than the preceding Government.

This extravagant outfit now holding the reins of power have increased our debt by over 50 per cent in 4 years.

If re-elected, their extravagant policy will continue, and the best we can hope for is another million dollars added to our debt, with nothing to show for it.

They would be allowed to contract, in 8 years, a debt equal to what all previous governments had incurred in more than 76 years.

Think This Over Seriously

ASK YOURSELF THE QUESTION

Whither Are We Drifting?

AND THEN VOTE FOR THE

STEWART CANDIDATES

Greater Subsidy and Less Taxation

On AUGUST 6th.

Be On the Winning Side

INSERTED BY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

same opportunity of commuting his taxes in this manner.

LEA'S INSINUATION CHALLENGED.—Mr. Lea has made the statement that some of our people are going about, canvassing in one place on Government Control, and in other places on Prohibition. I say that that statement is not correct. (Applause). We have not a record of that kind. (Applause). It is perfectly true, and I admit it, that we put forward the platform of Government Control at the last election; but we did it honestly, and the people having decided against it we are prepared to stand by the decision of the people and carry out the law of this Province. And I say no man can assert truthfully that the Conservative party ever took any other attitude with regard to the laws of the country which they were attempting to govern, and that any man who would attempt to make a canvas of that kind is recreant to the party to which he belongs.

STANDING BY!—They promised to stand by the Prohibition Act, and they are still "standing by"! They stood by and saw the law violated; they stood by and saw more liquor brought into this Province in the last four years than was ever seen or heard of since the Prohibition Act was introduced. They stood by and allowed the poor man to be taken and fined and committed to jail while the big man, the party heeler who was making hundreds and thousands of dollars out of the traffic, went unmolested. That was the way they "stood by"; that is the way they enforced the Prohibition law during the past four years. And these are the men who say that we have not been honest and sincere!

PROVINCIAL POLICE.—I do not object to a Provincial Police force. I think perhaps it is a good institution, and I know they have it in other provinces. But it can be carried to excess. Here they have a staff costing from \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year. You see them about, in great numbers, and they are dressed very fine, wearing magnificent uniforms; better than the soldiers', perhaps better than the officers' uniforms. And it is all at the expense of you people. That would be all right if it were necessary, but unfortunately this organization has been used for purposes of party politics. They have appointed men who are simply party heeled, and who have no qualifications whatever, and I say when they are paying men of that stripe as policemen they are

throwing away your money and they are holding up this Province in ridicule to the whole of Canada.

TEACHERS' INCREASE.—If these gentlemen had performed their bounden duty, if they had pressed our claims at Ottawa and obtained the money they should have obtained, it would not be necessary to place any peltisite on the election ballot. We would then be obtaining from the Dominion Government the money they now invite you to leave upon yourselves as a tax to pay the teachers.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—Pending full payment, the Federal Government has passed a statute to provide for 75 per cent of the cost, and it is our intention, if elected, to provide the other 25 per cent from money which we believe has been wasted by the present Provincial Government in other things, and so carry out this pledge which was made to the people of this Province.

TIME FOR ACTION.—The time has come when the Government of this Province should not be permitted any longer to play hide and seek, and blind man's bluff, with this matter. We should get our claims, we should have them implemented without any further delay, because for want of that money our public services are suffering, and our people in many cases who have to perform public services are not paid as they should be paid.

FOUR YEARS OF FAILURE.—I submit to you that you should elect whichever party you consider is most likely to succeed in implementing our subsidy claims. You have had four years of experience with the present Government. You have had some experience before that. You know what the Conservative Government secured from an Opposition Government at Ottawa—an adverse Government, and you know the record of the present Government, with its own party in power in the federal field. When this Government took office four years ago the door was open for them to deal with the matter of a subsidy settlement. They had, as I said, a favorable government in power at Ottawa; and you see the result, or rather you see the failure of any result.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENTS IN LINE.—Mr. Saunders told the Legislature in 1927 that it was a good thing to have "a friend at

Safeguarding The Farmer

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

When Hon. Mr. Weir, Minister of Agriculture, was dealing with the Root Vegetable Act, Hon. Mr. Motherwell, former Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. E. J. Young, Liberal member for Weyburn, disagreed as to whether or not imported new potatoes should be graded for customs purposes. But while members of the Opposition expressed widely different views, Mr. Weir was able to say that the Government had received a number of requests from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick that all potatoes there should be graded; that, indeed, grading should be made compulsory and covered by certificates of inspection. In addition, the administration has received resolutions asking that new potatoes be brought under the same regulations as other potatoes, these resolutions being subscribed to by the Canadian Horticultural Council, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, the South Essex Growers' Co-operative, and the Central Ontario Potato Growers' Association. The simple fact is that while members of the Opposition quarrel over the problem, the Government steadily adheres to its policy of affording agriculture a protected home market, just as it provides manufacturers and city workers with a protected home market.

"Court." He said that when he was looking for a change in the Provincial Government. Might I be permitted to say it now? It would be a good thing for the province to have a friend at Court; to have one who had had some experience—and, I trust, with some knowledge—of these matters. I think the people have learned, in very many ways, in many lessons, that it is better to have the Government of this Province in line with the Government at Ottawa.