

Minister Sounds Solemn Warning In Budget Speech

Millstone Of Debt Increasing Year By Year, Says Hon. W. H. Dennis In Concluding Review Of Agricultural Activities.

Another note of warning on the subject of mounting provincial debt increase was sounded in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, this time by Hon. W. H. Dennis, Minister of Agriculture, who concluded his speech on the Budget with a reference to the "millstone" of debt which our people are carrying about their necks.

Estimating the Province's maximum borrowing power at ten million dollars, Mr. Dennis noted that we "are now moving along on the sixth million, and our debt is still going on." He said he was not blaming the Government for this, as there was such an incessant demand for large expenditures on roads, etc., that "of necessity debt has been increased under all governments."

It was, however, "time to pause and take an inventory." When he entered the House in 1915 the interest charges for that year were \$38,250.18. In 1935 they amounted to \$66,474.17 and last year had risen to the staggering sum of \$283,238.65.

ince, explaining to the owners how they could improve this valuable asset; also dealing with the need of a proper grading of the berries, the management of the plots and to get them to realize what a wonderful asset they have and the necessity of caring for the same if they were to realize the full reward which was due them from these plots.

"We all pleased to say that this has had a wonderful effect in improving the quality of the berries offered for sale, also in the improvement of the price received by the growers for their produce.

Strawberries

"During the past season in order to take care of the supposed surplus of strawberries, we made arrangements for an experimental shipment of strawberries to England. The berries were packed in barrels containing about three hundred and fifty pounds and were cured by the sulphur-dioxide method. The berries arrived in the Old Country in perfect condition but the price was disappointing. That experiment has shown us that we need not hope for a profitable remuneration by shipping berries by this method to the Old Country, although Holland ships annually by the same method about 10,000 tons.

"In regard to strawberries, I would say in this Province, with the average season, there is no difficulty in growing a bounteous crop, but the industry has not been organized; there is no cooperation among the growers, and no provision made by them for the handling of the surplus during the height of the season, and, unless we can persuade the growers to do this, there is little hope to obtain any way by which the surplus can be taken care of without proper organization and canning facilities. Large quantities of berries are now being cured by the process of freezing. There was one pair of frozen berries shipped from Charlottetown to Toronto as a sample to ascertain the quality of our berries compared with berries from British Columbia and the Central Provinces. The flavour and quality had such a pronounced advantage over those of the berries that the shipper received an order for 22,000 pounds which he was unable to fill. It can be seen at a glance that people going into this work would at least have a substantial addition to their ordinary revenue on the farm, as it is known that an acre of strawberries has produced four tons. Our Department has spent much time and energy in trying to get the strawberry growers to organize, but it seems well-nigh impossible to get them to do so without accomplishing something along this line in the future.

Cranberry Culture

"During the past season we secured the services of Mr. C. C. Eild, an expert in the cranberry industry in Eastern Canada. We travelled to almost all of the cranberry beds and bogs of the Province.

and proper by our home merchants, then organize and buy outside of the Province—there is no way you can bring anyone to time quicker than by lowering their profits.

"Orchard Growing"

"Our Department has seriously considered the advisability of commercial 'orchard growing' in the province. Our idea was to get a group of young men within a radius of three or four miles, who would each be willing to plant from three to five acres, aggregating a total of from twenty to twenty-five acres. The idea of grouping those men together, cooperatively in regard to spraying, buying equipment, and above all that they might cooperate in the advantages of having a packing plant, packed and marketed cooperatively. The Government would have to for the time being, invest some money in the undertaking, but made that after a number of years, when the trees are in bearing, the amount loaned would be repaid to the Government, under which conditions, the details of which are not as yet worked out.

Canning Demonstration

"We also engaged Mr. C. C. Eild to take charge of a demonstration in canning and selection of vegetables for same in Mt. Stewart and Georgetown which was very much appreciated by the people in that section of the Province. There has been some canning by the Co-operative Associations, but I regret to say that there is a persistent effort among dealers in the Province to refrain from handling the product, though there can be no fault found with the quality. In other words, it seems to be the idea to discourage any movement that may be undertaken by the people of our Province to better their condition at home, and to carry on this work if it was in the interest of the Government. He assures me he thought the undertaking was a good one, and at all times would receive his support. In our province, matters of this kind were too long delayed. The members of the House will also be consulted in regard to this matter, and if it is the opinion of the Government to take up a movement of this kind, our Department will put it into effect.

P. E. I. Apples

"I have consulted with the merchants of this city, and they state that the P. E. I. apples are superior to apples bought elsewhere, and that the P. E. I. McIntosh Red is the best apple grown in the world. Another thing is the fact that we pay out \$28,000 for imported apples. Producers last autumn were paid \$2.75 per box for apples, and their boxes returned. I found that I was a little late to obtain them from Island grower, and I was forced to take imported McIntosh Reds, for which I paid \$3.25. The dealers explained that freight, etc. made the difference in price.

"In 1910 in this province, we had 2000 acres of orchard, 205,979 trees available. Our information is that the apple trees grown in the province would number 12,000 and the product of those trees would average 5000 barrels. I find that one grower near the city of Charlottetown has produced \$2,795.60 from six acres of orchard, the trees of which were fifteen years old. In the season of 1935, there has been a product of 100 barrels of apples per acre.

"One grower in the vicinity of Charlottetown gave a detailed statement, showing that in one

season, he has taken off six acres of land in fruit, in net revenue, \$4,150.00. With our unemployment burden so heavy at the present time, and regardless of what the press may say, indications are that it is not lessening. If we could inaugurate some method, such as I have outlined, where a large amount of labour could be given on a small area, it seems to me it would be something well worth undertaking.

Full Time Horticulturist

"I might also say that after persistent effort with the Dominion Government we have succeeded in obtaining a promise of a permanent or full time horticulturist for this Province, who will give expert opinion and advice in regard to all matters concerning horticulture. We also succeeded in having the Dominion Government undertake to install an experimental cranberry bed at East Point.

Short Courses

"Among the excessive burdens that have been carried by the Department was the carrying through of short-course work. We had two courses in agriculture in which one hundred and eighty students took part; one course in poultry and egg grading, in which thirty-nine students took part; five courses in the future and present carpentry courses in which one hundred and twenty students took part; the leadership course, thirty-nine students; forestry course, twenty-two students; twelve home management and nursing courses in 466 students. In carrying out these courses, men and women had the advantage of special training at these courses and we are looking into the future with hope that we think a well justified profit very much by the instructions they receive. It is not necessary for me to say that arranging for railway fares, paying the board in the city, formulating and directing the programmes was a burden that tested the ability of the Departmental staff to carry it if they were not for the efficiency of our Deputy Minister, Mr. W. R. Shaw, who would have found a way to carry out the present programme. In fact it would have been impossible without obtaining help of a like nature which I am free to say would have been difficult to secure. The Department is grateful for the assistance rendered by Dr. Murphy and his staff at St. Dunstan's University, the staff of the Federal Livestock Branch, and to all others who gave valuable services in carrying out the different courses.

Alcohol From Potatoes

"In regard to the extraction of alcohol from potatoes, we have made a careful inquiry into this matter, having had the Minister of Trade and Commerce take the matter up with European countries, which have entered into this business. Through our Department in Ireland there are a number of factories running continuously, and paying, we are assured, 26.01c per bushel for potatoes used in the process. I am informed by the National Council of Research that it is not feasible, on account of the fact that alcohol from potatoes will sell at 40c per bushel, and that the cost of production is 40c per bushel; so that it is impossible for us to successfully sell alcohol at forty-five cents per gallon to pay out for potatoes at 26c per bushel, with gasoline selling at approximately thirty cents per gallon.

Seed Shortage

"In regard to the question of shortage of seed in the province, brought about by the unfavorable conditions of last year, the Government, instructed our Department to take every possible measure to provide as far as possible for the assistance of farmers in the distress, and to enable them to procure their seed even if they have not the money to pay for same. We undertook to make a careful survey in regard to the seed who need seed oats for the present season, and also to obtain

information from parties who had oats for sale, as to the quantity, quality and price of same. Where we could not arrange with the owners of such grain to hold them in the province for distribution, we bought them, so that we would have it on hand. We are anxious, where possible, to secure the grain in our own province, as we considered the danger of weeds would be less, in sowing our provincial grain than in importing seed. I might say that up to the present time, we have only ordered one car from abroad. There is another reason why we wish island seed, and that is, the money for same remains in the province, which is always a matter worth considering.

"We have at the present time some thirty-eight thousand bushels of oats on order, and approximately twenty-six thousand bushels engaged up to the present time. We are strongly urging farmers where possible to obtain seed from private sources, as it may be well nigh impossible for the Government to meet the excessive demand made upon it. However, I would assure the House and the country as well, that the Government has and will continue to make every possible effort to meet the emergency which has arisen in the province, due to the unfavourable season we have had last year.

"I might say that our Department is grateful to this Government for the generous contribution it made to us in carrying out the work of the Department. Apart from our special allowance, the estimates provided amounted to \$1,140.92—(\$12,000.00 special—\$2,918.22 not used).

Seed Potatoes

"During the year our Department was in touch with the Argentine in the Argentine and other South American States. As a result of our contacts we received through the statutes of the province work in South America. These shipments have gone forward, and if the results are as we would expect, we will have a seed potato supply with South America seed follows."

Fox Field Service

"One of the principal activities of the last season was our fox promotional work. As foxes were declared by the statutes of the province to be domestic animals, it became my duty as Minister of Agriculture to consider the well-being of that industry. We know that foxes are a valuable asset, increasing and that the price of fox furs was becoming reduced in the markets of the world, and on account of the decrease in quality of much of our breeding stock in the province we undertook to put on demonstrations to show the ranchers just what might be accomplished by having a better class of foxes. Showing what is known as a utility fox in the markets of the world. In order to reach the ranchers in the most effective way possible, we always keeping in mind the cost of same, we decided that it would be best to establish fox study clubs throughout the province.

"We have been very fortunate in securing an outstanding fox man in the person of Mr. W. F. Burke whose assistance in this matter is well nigh impossible to estimate. I am pleased to say that the organization of these clubs, and we have today on the Island twenty-two study clubs covering the province pretty well from East Point to Tisbury. I feel confident that I am justified in saying that never in the past history of the province was there such an effective organization in the same time, or so much public interest created as was created during the organization of these clubs.

Demonstrations were held in the vicinity of the clubs showing clearly to the ranchers what the ideal fox for breeding purposes should be, clearly demonstrating to

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YOU PAY --- 20.00	YOU PAY --- 24.50	YOU PAY --- 30.00

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HOLMAN'S SUMMERSIDE-CHARLOTTETOWN

Resumes Practice

DR. G. F. DEWAR
Resumes his medical practice at his old office, 96 Prince Street today. Phone 509.

Unity United Church

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13th
3.30—Browns.
6.30—Girl Guides.
7.30—Special Easter Service—Rev. Henry Pierce.

The Central Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest but advertising of a new venture may be inserted at a cent a word strictly payable in advance.

Tragic Incident Is Recalled

THIS DAY RECALLS NEW GLASGOW'S EARLIEST TRAGEDY

On April 13, 1841, a severe spring storm was raging, overtaking in its path a young man who was walking from New London to New Glasgow. There were no houses enroute with the exception of one or two at Hope River. He reached one of these at nightfall and was urgently requested to remain there overnight, but with the courage and perseverance that characterized all these early settlers, he pushed on in order to reach the home of his parents that night, but the ever-increasing drizzle made walking difficult. As he was afflicted with a slight lameness, he evidently sat down to rest about a mile from his destination, as his lifeless body was found the following morning by two young men, who were proceeding towards New Glasgow. His faithful dog, dumb witness of his last hours stood by licking the face of the young man, who was William Smith of New Glasgow who had shortly before the sad event been married to Miss Sellers and they were residing in New London. The New London referred to was really North Grandville.

AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Harold Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Black, Charlottetown, who completes his Arts Course at Mt. Allison University this year has been awarded a post-graduate scholarship by Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, for his work in Economics.

Girl Guide News

GUIDERS CLUB

The regular monthly meeting of the Guiders Club will be held at Guide Headquarters on Friday evening, April 22nd, at 8:45 P. M.

Will all Guiders please plan to attend as it is to be the last meeting of the season.

HOLY REDEEMER GIRL GUIDES

5th Ch'own Company this Company has been meeting at their hall on Friday evening at 7:15 and marching to the Holy Redeemer Church for devotions of the "Way of the Cross" and benediction, returning to the hall at 8 o'clock for the regular meeting.

There are six girls from this Company attending the cooking class for Guides at P. W. C., namely, Mary Doyle, Vernita MacDonald, Laola Berrigan, Frances Kelly, Hilda McCarthy and Gladys Hughes.

SCHOOL ASSN. MEETS

Mr. E. S. Townshend spoke on the Amherst, N.S. Parent-Teacher Association at a meeting of the Prince Street School Parent-Teacher organization last night. Mrs. B. C. Keeping read a letter from Toronto on the same subject. Discussion followed. Lt. Col. C. C. Thompson, president of the Association was chairman.

TENDERS WANTED

Sealed Tenders requested for the moving and repairing of the Presbyterian Manse, Brookfield. Four separate tenders, 1st for the moving of the Manse, 2nd for the repairing of the Manse, 3rd for the drilling of a well, 4th for rough wiring. Specifications and plans at the home of the Secretary Manse Committee Mr. Donald Campbell. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders close April 25th, 1938.

PHILATHEA CLASS

On Thursday the Philathea Class of the Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. Marcus McQuarrie. After a brief period of worship and business period Beverly Baxters London letter to the United States was read and discussed. A white elephant sale provided much fun and laughter. Tokens of remembrance were presented to Mrs. George Fawcett and Mrs. Ray Chapman who will soon leave to make their home in New Brunswick. A dainty lunch was served by the hostess.

YOUNG LOVE FATAL

PODGORETZKA, Yugoslavia (CP)—Leaving a note that his 10-year-old sweetheart had returned his flowers and had refused to let him kiss her, nine-year-old Milovan Radovic shot himself with his father's revolver.

SWONA, Scotland (CP)—Grief-stricken over the death of his wife two years ago, Raj Kunal Banjee, 32 Maharajah of Bastar, India, is planning to buy this island and use it as a retreat from the world.

QUICK SERVICE

Highly trained chefs, alert waitresses and efficient management guarantee you satisfaction in good food plus speedy service. For the best lunch in Charlottetown, try our menu from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow.

DELICIOUS LUNCHEONS

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Highest Quality Foods Served with Utmost Care to Insure Quick and Tasty Satisfaction

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HOT WEATHER PREDICTED for July

Yes, it seems that it is going to be hot next July. Generally speaking, it will be hot all over Canada during the month, but for your regional forecast and the changes from day to day, see your Daily Newspaper.

MARKETS and business conditions are like the weather, they vary from season to season and from place to place. Business, like the weather, is "hotter" in some places.

Advertise in the newspapers and develop these favorable markets with the full power of the Newspaper's concentrated circulation. Satisfactory sales volume can be further achieved by prompt repetition before the factors favoring success have changed and intensity up to daily insertions, is possible.

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