GLARING MISSTATEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

But down below the line, at the bottom of the page, we find an item covering Sinking Funds, $72,731, which should be placed above the line. If my hon. friend wanted to make a true comparison with the Public Accounts of 1932 he would have taken the items as they appear namely: "Interest on Debentures, Loans, and Banks, $175,687.70; Sinking Fund Provision, $88,042.00", making a total of $263,729.70. That is how it appears in the ordinary expenditure of 1932, and that is how it should have appeared in the Accounts for 1930. But in the latter case $72,731.33 is not included but wrongly appears as capital account. And the leader of the Opposition takes advantage of that misstatement in their own Accounts to charge extravagance on the part of this Government. (Loud applause).

Mr. Lea: "My hon. friends expended something like $175,000 anyway."

Mr. McIntyre: "I would ask my hon. friend to compare the capital expenditures of 1932 and 1930."

Premier MacMillan: "I will deal with you one at a time. You don't want me to take you two at a time! (Laughter). The leader of the Opposition admits, then, that his statement is only half correct." (Applause).

Only Half Correct

M. Lea: "That is a great deal more than some of yours are."

Premier MacMillan: "I draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this House, to the Opposition leader's admission that his statement is only half correct." (Applause).

Mr. Lea: "I am not admitting it."

Premier MacMillan: "His statement was that we expended $140,000 more on ordinary account in 1932, our first full year, than they did in 1930. It is now the admission of the leader of the Opposition that the statement which he made and which is quoted in the Patriot newspaper is just one-half correct. He cannot challenge the truth of the statement I have made!" (Applause).

Mr. T. A. Campbell: "We haven't heard the other half of it."

Premier MacMillan: "I will give you the other half too. In the first place here is what appears. They paid in 1930 for interest on Debentures, Loan and Bank, plus interest on Sinking Funds, the sum of $220,869; and the interest which we had to pay on the same items for the year 1932 was $263,779—a difference of $42,859. Not $140,000 as the Opposition leader misstated it to be! Now, what was the cause of that difference in interest and sinking funds?"

Mr. McIntyre: "Selling bonds too high."

Premier MacMillan: "That is what we had to pay on the debt which my hon. friends rolled up during their administration. (Applause). There is the unanswerable proof of the increase in interest and sinking funds. My hon. friends did not tell the people that that $42,850 was due to their own extravagant expenditure between the years 1927 and 1931, notwithstanding that they received the benefit of the $125,000 given under the Duncan Commission award. Oh no! But they rolled up this huge deficit of nearly a million dollars during what they claim was the most prosperous years of the Province, and the legacy they left was this big increase in interest and sinking funds.

Alleged "Extravagance"

"If my hon. friend had looked at the expenditure of $1,227,400 in the Public Accounts for 1932, he would have noticed an item of $28,322 for a Department of Health. If he had gone back to his own year, 1930, he would have noticed that there was no expenditure at all for that purpose. This is an example of what he says is our "extravagance", because in our first year we paid for the Department of Health which he inaugurated by statute. Do you think that is fair? Was it a sincere statement?

"If he had gone down a little farther in the account of ordinary expenditure for 1932 he would have found another example of what he calls our "extravagance"; namely, an item of $24,205 for Direct Relief. And if he had gone back to 1930 the only coresponding item he would have found would be payment to paupers, $8,000. In other words, an increase of $18,000 to relieve the poor and suffering of this Province. And the leader of the Opposition stands up on the floor of this House and charges us with extravagance because we paid that amount to relieve distress and unemployment among our citizens. (Applause). Now I ask, Mr. Speaker, how much reliance can you place on the statement of alleged extravagance to the tune of $140,000 on the part of this Government in its first full year of office, which my hon. friend has made with such assurance. What kind of effect does he think such misstatements will have? What are our farmers to think, who are assembled here this week for their annual meeting, when such misrepresentations are made in the House and in the Liberal press? I again repeat that my hon. friend's statement was untrue, unreliable, unfair; that it should never have been made by a man leading a great party in this House." (Conservative applause.)

Mr. Lea did not reply.

Public Works

The Premier then took up the Opposition leader's criticism with regard to public works. Last year, he said, less complaint was heard about the condition of the roads than for many years past. He was surprised that the Opposition leader should have made the statement that in 1927, when the first Stewart Government was defeated, the Liberals had had to incur vast expenditure because of Conservative neglect. He had referred specifically to "the legacy" of broken-down and rotten bridges" which the Stewart administration had left behind.

Mr. Lea: "And worn-out ferries."

Premier MacMillan: "That is a pretty sweeping castigation of the Public Works Department. You are saying in effect that during the years 1923 to 1927 the Department fell down on its job and did nothing, and that you had to revolutionize the Department and bring it out of the chaos in which the Conservatives had placed it, when you came into power."

Mr. Lea: "That is right, unfortunately."

Premier MacMillan: "There is just as little in that statement as—unfortunately—there is in many of the statements that my hon. friend has made." (Applause).

Mr. Lea: "That is a matter of opinion."

Liberal Neglect

Premier MacMillan: "Let us go back to the year 1923. My hon. friend will recall that that year was remarkable for two storms, the first in July, when the Bell-Lea administration went on the rocks. Does he remember what happened two days after the election? Does he remember about "Cox's army", or perhaps I should say the "Bell-Lea army" of men on the roads all through the election campaign? The second day after the election every man of them was called off. They didn't think it worth while to pay attention to the roads that were torn up, mile after mile. They couldn't even level off their work. Stones and rocks, and ploughed-up furrows—all left on the public roads by the order of the Government that was defeated at the polls, and that was so disgruntled that it had to vent its spite on the people of this Province by leaving the roads in that condition for nearly two months, before anything could be done. (Applause).

But another storm occurred in the fall of 1923, which caused widespread destruction to the public works of the Province. According to the report of the Department for that year, the storm of 1923 did as much damage as the storm of 1915, when it was estimated that the cost of repairs exceeded $50,000.

Mr. McIntyre: "What about the storm in 1927? There were two storms then, too."

Premier MacMillan: "You did not have to deal with the effects of the storm in 1923, when you came into power. At least the Conservative Government did that. They also had to undertake the biggest road-building programme in history up to that time, in order to take advantage of the highway grant at Ottawa, which was expiring."

Mr. Lea: "When was that?"

Premier MacMillan: "In 1923 and 1924. Who did it? This Government that my hon. friend says neglected the public works — not the Government that lost over two months, and left the roads in such condition as I have described."

Mr. LePage: "We wanted to leave something for you fellows to do."

Premier MacMillan: "What sort of 'legacy' did you leave us? A 'legacy' of project after project started and left."

Mr. Lea: "And a great many completed, such as the Miscouche swamp."

Mr. McIntyre: "I think we were ordered to stop by the leader of the Government. I got a letter stating emphatically that no more work should be continued, and that if it was continued they would take some other means to stop it."

Mr. Lea: "A Conservative member came out and ordered Liberals off a bridge the next morning."

Premier MacMillan: "The alibis are coming now!" (Laughter). The reason they stopped the work in 1923, the day after the election, was the fact that in 1931—eight years after—the Premier elect wrote them a letter." (Increased laughter).

Many Bridges Built

Continuing, the Premier explained that the Province is covered by a great many roads, and there are thousands of bridges, which up to the time of the Dominion highway improvement scheme were mostly of wooden construction. The first steps were taken in 1921 to introduce steel culverts, and 750 feet of these culverts were put in that year. 2,800 feet were placed in 1922, and 6,180 feet in 1923. The latter year, under Conservative administration, saw three times the amount of culverts laid. Yet the Opposition leader charges the Conservatives, when coming into power in 1923, with neglecting the roads and bridges, a statement which is flatly contradicted by the Public Works reports.

Mr. Lea: "That does not mean that all the bridges were left entact when we came in."

Premier MacMillan: "I am taking the statement which my hon. friend made in the Draft Address, that we left a legacy of rotten bridges."

Mr. LePage: "There were some places where there were no bridges at all; where bridges had been torn up."

Premier MacMillan: "Up to the end of the year 1923, 400 small wooden bridges were replaced by steel culverts, and 450 large ones. There were some 4,000 left to do. That is the 'legacy' that we had. You would suppose, from my hon. friend's remarks, that we did nothing in the years 1924-27. But on the contrary, in 1924 some 8,000 lineal feet of steel culverts were laid by the Stewart Government, 375 small bridges, and 110 larger ones. In 1925, 200 small culverts were placed, and 37 reinforced large bridges. In 1926 we placed 150 steel culverts and twelve large concrete bridges. 1927 was a divided year; 275 culverts were put in, and 18 large bridges. The number of small culverts at the end of the year 1927 was 1,500, and the number of large ones 627. Does that look like 'neglect' on the part of the Stewart Government during the four years of power, with respect to the bridges of the Province? Will my hon. friend repeat his statement now?

Mr. Lea: "Certainly I will, and I intend to keep it up because I know the conditions in the country when we came in. You are just giving those you repaired, not those you left unrepaired."

Premier MacMillan: "But I have shown that the reports of the Public Works Department do not correspond with my hon. friends' statement, and I maintain that the reports of the department are much more reliable than the criticisms of the leader of the Opposition, which are not founded on fact, and which cannot be [illegible]."

Mr. Lea: "Wait and see."

Premier MacMillan: "Why should we have done them all? Was it humanly possible, I ask the leader of the Opposition, to replace those 4,000 culverts. Some of them were good for years. Did you expect us to tear them up?"

Mr. Lea: "We didn't expect you to do them all. We expected you to keep the roads up and you didn't do it."

Premier MacMillan: "I am dealing with your statement on bridges. When I have my hon. friend cornered on the bridges he gets out by a leak-hole and goes on the roads. (Laughter). His statement was that we left 'a legacy of rotten bridges' and I have shown it is a statement with absolutely no basis in fact."

Mr. Lea: "What about your ferries."

Premier MacMillan: "There were some years of service in them. Would you advise the Government now to go down here and scrap the Hillsboro ferry, and put in a new one?"

Mr. Lea: "They were not in anything like the condition of that ferry; they were absolutely unsafe."

Premier MacMillan: "I am not objecting to you having replaced them if they were unsafe. What bearing has the condition of those ferries on the point that we are discussing?"

Mr. Lea: "It was part of the public service you neglected."

Premier MacMillan: "My hon. friend can't draw any red herring here."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "He ran them for three years after he got into power."

Mr. Lea: "Oh no, I beg your pardon."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "Oh, yes!"

Premier MacMillan: "When the engineers reported that they were unseaworthy, you replaced them. Wasn't that why you did it?"

Mr. Lea: "The representative of the Georgetown District was appealing for action."

Premier MacMillan: "I am asking why you rebuilt the ferries."

Mr. Lea: "Because we couldn't avoid it."

Premier MacMillan: "Very well. No such occasion arose during the years we were in power. No report came to us that we had to build new ferries. I might turn round and say why didn't you rebuild the Prince of Wales College when you were in power."

Mr. LePage: "If we had to we would have saved $200,000."

Premier MacMillan: "You probably wouldn't have built it at all." (Laughter).

Mr. Lea Rebuked

Continuing, the Premier referred to the Opposition leaders' complaint that the had got his car stuck in a mudhole at Freetown in 1926, and consequently 'the roads were all bad.' He would advise the hon. member to be more careful in his statements, otherwise they would be challenged and he would find himself in a very unenviable position.

Mr. Lea: "That is a matter of opinion."

Premier MacMillan: "There is no matter of opinion about the statement I have proved out of the Public Accounts, that your criticism with regard to the alleged extravagance of this Government was incorrect and unfounded."

Mr. Lea: "I said on ordinary account — from your own auditor. I gave the two statements of ordinary account."

Premier MacMillan: "Leaving out $73,000 of ordinary expenditure for your own year 1930. And you thought you could get away with it!" (Applause). That might be all right at a Liberal meeting somewhere in the country, but not in this House. My hon. friend should consider that."

Mr. Lea: "I haven't got to consider you at all, or the effect that it has on you."

Premier MacMillan: "Well, you gave me a lot of consideration regarding my visits to the Fourth District during the election; You said they were having a terrific effect. And you haven't found me having to take back what I said on those occasions." (Applause).

Mr. Lea: "When I go into the Budget I will show you one."

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks when the House met yesterday morning, Premier MacMillan first referred to the prospects of Charlottetown being included in the Provincial Library demonstration. He hoped the proposal now before the City Council would go through and that Charlottetown would share in this movement, which has been so enthusiastically received throughout the country.

A campaign is now on foot, the Premier explained, to arouse more public interest in the Provincial Sanatorium. Those affected with tuberculosis are taught at the Sanatorium how to look after themselves. Carelessness has been a prime cause of the spread of this disease, and it is estimated that for every active case there will be five or six "contacts." It is hoped that those persons who are discharged from the institution will act as missionaries of health, in so far as tuberculosis treatment is concerned.

At the same time it is felt that much good may be done in rousing the public as to the financial needs of the Sanatorium. Last year the Legislature had to vote $18,000 for maintenance, an increase of fifty per cent over the original grant. Unless voluntary support is received, it is difficult to see how the institution is to be continued.

Since the anti-tuberculosis movement was launched in this Province there has been an improvement in the shape of decreasing death rates, but we are still far behind the western provinces, and it is doubtful, owing to their advantage in climate, if we shall ever be on a par with them in that respect.

"It is being suggested," the Premier said, "that we should give more consideration to the other general public hospitals. I feel very sympathetic towards them. The argument is that if we give $18,000 to fight one disease, and only $6,000 a year to fighting all the other diseases, the comparison is rather striking and probably very difficult to justify." This was a matter which might be brought up more explicitly before the session is over.

Cancer On Increase

The Health Department is also deeply interested in combatting the heavy inroads of cancer. The death rate from this disease is increasing in this Province. In the absence of knowledge as to the definite cause of cancer there is great difficulty in finding a cure. The most that scientists can tell us today is that it is due to a certain form of irritation which is peculiarly liable to affect certain parts of the body. Only three ways of dealing with cancer are known, namely, surgical operation, X-ray, and radium. We have not the means in this Province of obtaining radium, and must depend on the effects of surgery and X-ray treatment. The medical profession is doing what it can to educate public opinion, and last year the Health Department issued a pamphlet stressing the importance of getting early examination and treatment. The press has also greatly assisted in this educational campaign, but it is surprising, despite all this publicity, to find the number who neglect going to the doctor before it is too late.

Pain, the Premier emphasized, is not an early symptom of cancer. If there is a tumor, swelling or abnormality on any part of the body it should be a warning to consult a physician. Those who wait until pain drives them to the surgeon too frequently find that their chance of recovery has been lost.

Premier MacMillan noted with surprise the Opposition leader's criticism as to the increase in portfolio seats in the House. His reference must have been to the establishment of the Department of Health, which surely was of such importance as to warrant it being presided over by a portfolio minister.

"With regard to the leasing of the old P. E. I. Hospital," said the Premier, "it has been implied that we had to do this because it was suggested by the leader of the Opposition two years ago, or because it was suggested by Mr. Sam MacDonald at a meeting of the Board of Trade. However, the Government, I suppose, is the responsible party in the transaction. Last fall we leased the old building at the rate of $1,500 a year, with the option of purchasing the building and three acres of land for $25,000. They wanted $30,000 for the building and the fourteen acres."

Mr. Lea: "They might take less."

Premier MacMillan: "We discussed it with them, at any rate, and we have that option. Probably the principal reason for the Government's action, apart from the question of the suitability of the hospital building as part of our mental hygiene programme, was the complaints that were being received from the tenants where we had housed the infirmary inmates, in the Caledonian Club hall. That was only a makeshift arrangement at best. The patients were housed in pretty small quarters; they never got out; they were old, infirm, and some of them rather simple-minded patients who had physical habits it was difficult to control. We had to make some alterations on more than one occasion and with complaints coming in we found the situation was becoming intolerable. So we entered into this proposition with the trustees of the Hospital, and moved the patients in there about the end of November. Judging from the remarks of the leader of the Opposition yesterday, we should have been in there long before. But the fact is they only vacated the building about the middle of July of last year, and as some changes had to be made to fit it up for the infirmary patients we could not have moved in much earlier than we did. Now we have the patients there, and we still have a problem on our hands if we are going to go on as we are, without additional building at Falconwood.

"Claiming the Credit"

"This opens up the whole question of the statement which the leader of the Opposition quoted from the press and which has been reported to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and is recorded on the minutes of the executive in Montreal—namely, that this wonderful committee of the Board of Trade take to themselves credit for curtailing the expenditure of the local Government in the past year by one and a quarter million dollars. I think that is what my hon. friend was alluding to, that they were the means of changing the course of action of the Government and saving that amount to the Province.

"To begin with, the committee of the Board of Trade never waited on this Government. It is true they did wait on the late Premier, and I was present on that occasion."

Mr. Lea: "That was the Government."

Premier MacMillan: "If those delegates knew just how little the late Premier thought of their recommendations, I do not think they would feel very complimented. Of course, sometimes those situations have their complications. I remember when my hon. friend was leader of this House and Prime Minister of the Province, when certain things were said to him, he used to reply, 'Oh, I was not Premier then;' and he understands now what I mean. There is some difference between being a lieutenant to the Government leader and in being in control. I know the leader of the Opposition will agree with me on that point. Probably if there had been no change in the Premiership, if the late Premier had been living and in control today, the Prince Edward Island Hospital building would not have been leased. I do not think I am breaking any confidence in saying that. But he was immoveably opposed to leasing that building, and I got some criticism because I did not respect his opinion after he had passed. However, I think it was good business to lease the building. We have undertaken to try it, anyway.

Falconwood Wing Rebuilt

"The new building at Falconwood is now about completed. It will house somewhere between 80 and 100 patients. The proper type of patients to put into the building is the milder type, because it would be a pity to put destructive patients into such nice quarters. Our problem is to try to get along with the old P. E. I. Hospital now at our disposal, with the old infirmary which now holds the female mental patients, about 140 in number, together with 23 or 24 that are in the adjoining house, and with the wing, now rebuilt, which as I said will hold between 80 and 100. We hope to readjust our infirm and mental cases so as to occupy these buildings and empty the Simms building."

Mr. Lea: "Would you be able to reduce the number of patients in the infirmary appreciably by paying the old age pensions?"

Premier MacMillan: "There was some reduction; not, perhaps, as many as we hoped for. We got clear of a good many that came under the Old Age Pensions scheme, but the difficulty is there are so many in the infirmary who are not eligible for old age pensions, as they are under the age limit. We got clear of a good many who were eligible."

Mr. LePage: "There were others waiting, I suppose, for the positions."

Premier MacMillan: "That is so. As soon as you have a vacancy in those buildings, some one else comes in. But we hope to make a readjustment so that we can empty the Simms building. Offhand, I would say, put the infirmary patients back in the old Infirmary where they were; put the women generally, except the more violent ones, in the new building; then we will have to make some further changes in part of the P. E. I. Hospital building to make it safe for mental patients who fall into the class which is destructive or hard to control. We hope to be able to make those adjustments this Spring.

Architect's Plan

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have been able to keep the cost of Falconwood down. There has been a great deal said about the money we 'wasted' on the architect's fees. It is true that quite a sum of money was paid to the architect for plans which they say we did not use. We did, however, use part of the plans. I do not think you can say that is carelessness or neglect on the part of the Government. We might have been over zealous, perhaps."

Mr. Lea: "I think the Scripture deals with that."

Premier MacMillan: "What does it say?"

Mr. Lea: "That a man should count the cost of a building before he undertakes it. I can hardly give my hon. friend the quotation; I thought he knew it. It says he should sit down first and consider the cost before he decides, so that nobody will say he was unable to complete that which he undertook. I may be quoting the Revised Edition."

Premier MacMillan: "The charge is made against us that we threw the money away. Yet it is just a question now whether we will be able to house our patients. So far as treatment of the insane is concerned, we are still marking time; and I would say that we are still short of a building at Falconwood."

Mr. Lea: "How many patients have you now?"

Premier MacMillan: "Two hundred and sixty."

Mr. Lea: "That is a reduced number."

Premier MacMillan: "Not very much. A few years ago it was 275. We were under advice in this matter from the Mental Hygiene Council of Canada, and we thought we were doing the right thing in seeking the advice of those who make a business of problems of this kind. My hon. friend agrees that in farming you should get the best scientific advice possible. We were following that example and we always stressed the point that the Province was not in a condition, financially, to stand any very elaborate building programme. When we found that the buildings recommended and approved by the Mental Hygiene Council of Canada as being a minimum requirement were beyond our ability to finance at the present time, we had to make other arrangements. In that way the architect's fees had to be met, although we were not in a position to take advantage of his full plan. We were exactly in the same position as the Prince Edward Island Hospital trustee board, composed of business men. You can attack them in the same way, and say that they did not do any better than we did, because they had to change their plans three times.

Concurs With Mr. Lea

"To sum up this matter, I would say that if the Government did not build as recommended by the Mental Hygiene Council it was because of the financial condition and not on the recommendation of the Board of Trade. And I will take this opportunity of seconding the words of the leader of the Opposition when he complained that when his Government came into power they had seven or eight specific recommendations from the Board of Trade, asking for expenditure of more money. That experience was very general. I do not think there was any organization that was more responsible for large expenditures on behalf of governments, not only in this Province but throughout the whole Dominion of Canada, than the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the associated Boards of Trade. (Applause). They were like the bankers. When they thought there was an era of prosperity they came to the governments asking and demanding that expenditures be made, even if it was beyond the financial power of the governments. But when the depression came they were the first to rise up in arms, to make an about-face and attack the governments for extravagant expenditures—expenditures which, by constant agitation and by moulding public opinion, they had been the principal means of forcing governments to make. That is the reason why I have not too much sympathy with recommendations that are made by Boards of Trade. Some of them, I grant, are useful; but some you might just as well take with a grain of salt.

Automobile Ferry Rates

"In the matter of transportation, the Boards of Trade are helping along, and they have co-operated to good purpose in pressing for reduction on the rate for automobiles on the Car Ferry. $4.00 one way, or $7.00 return, is an exorbitant charge, and there are many arguments why that should be reduced to a minimum. With considerable trouble we persuaded the railway authorities last year to agree to a reduction in automobile rates of $3.00 single trip, and $5.00 return, but they would only grant it for the three months of the tourist season, and on condition that we would be able to justify it by increased tourist traffic. I think we are quite able to do that. Last year the tourist traffic in New Brunswick decreased nearly 20 per cent; in Nova Scotia the decrease was about 18 per cent; while in Prince Edward Island the decrease was only 1 per cent. If you judge comparatively, I think it is a fair argument to say that at least some increase was attributable to the lower rates on automobiles. We have taken this matter up, both with the Minister of Railways and with the Chairman of the Railway Commission. We are asking that they reduce the rate to $2.00 single fare and $3.00 return, not only for the tourist season but for the year round. The Boards of Trade are helping us, and it will require the combined efforts of everyone concerned. I agree with the leader of the Opposition that when we go to Ottawa the tendency is to treat us like children, as if we were "the baby of Confederation." The only way is to keep on being troublesome. Probably if we are troublesome enough we may get something done."

After dealing with the Opposition leader's statements regarding 1932 expenditures and alleged neglect of public works during the first Stewart regime (reported above) Premier MacMillan referred to the grant of $113,650 received last fall from the Dominion Government for unemployment relief projects. Severe winter weather setting in a month earlier than was anticipated, some of this work was curtailed, but the uncompleted projects will be finished this year. This grant was of great assistance in relieving distress which was prevalent throughout the Province. One part of it particularly which benefitted Charlottetown was an expenditure of $20,000 borne entirely by the Dominion Government, for removal of clay from the centre of the Exhibition grounds to railway property near the Kensington Rifle Range. This was swamp land, unsightly and unsanitary, and the work not only provided employment but served a most useful purpose.

Permanent Highway Project

With regard to the proposed linking up of Charlottetown with the trans-Canada highway system, the Premier said the Government regarded it as a purely Federal obligation, in accord with pre-election promises that were made. He had pressed the matter at Ottawa in terms "that were not uncertain, to say the least." The attitude of the Prime Minister is that the Dominion Government's obligation is to build a road of the standard of the transcontinental highway, that standard being a rock bottom with gravel top. The Provincial Government has taken objection to that plan as the most expensive in the end, and has urged that some type of asphalt road would be more satisfactory and economical. The price will be contingent on the depth.

Mr. Lea: "Is this undertaking to be entirely by the Dominion Government"

Premier MacMillan: "Entirely. They have admitted the obligation."

Mr. Lea: "Fifty-fifty, I understand, was the way in Ontario."

Premier MacMillan: "That is a different thing. We are to be given special consideration." (Applause).

Mr. LePage: "Is it to be built under the unemployment grant?"

Premier MacMillan: "I think it will be, because that is the argument that we used, that a great many can be given work, and it will help to relieve the Province of direct relief payments. We have the promise that an engineer will be here shortly to discuss the matter with the provincial engineer, and decide on the route to be taken. That has not yet been determined."

Mr. T. A. Campbell: "How about the road from Tignish to Souris?"

Premier MacMillan: "We will have to get this first."

The Premier reviewed the progress made in payment of old age pensions since July last. Over 1,200 persons are now in receipt of this benefit. The object is to provide for as many deserving cases as possible, while making every effort to keep the expenditure down. For this reason the maximum pension is not paid where there are contributory means of support. The average pension is $10 or $11 per month. Appreciative letters have been received, describing the great benefit which has accrued. There may be some undeserving cases, but every effort is made to eliminate these, and the Pensions Commission will welcome information on this subject. Three-quarters of the amount of the payments are from the Dominion Government, and since many of these people would otherwise be receiving direct relief, the Province is relieved to that extent.

The Premier commended the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on their good work in enforcing the laws, both federal and provincial. Last year there was a number of fox stealing cases which they successfully followed up. There was also a number of very destructive fires. Notice was given in the press about the responsibility of people who set fires indiscriminately in certain seasons of the year; some investigations have been made by the police and warnings have been issued. The matter was very serious last year and it is hoped greater precautions will be taken in future.

Tax Collections

Some difficulty has been experienced in the collection of taxes, the Premier continued, although the Public Accounts will show that the collections were greater than in the previous year. As Provincial Treasurer he emphasized the obligation on all taxpayers to meet their obligations promptly. In some instances persons with taxes in arrears for six or seven years come in expecting the Government to cut their bill in half for them. The proper course would be to charge them 6 or 7 per cent interest over that period.

"It is strange," the Premier added, "that in every walk of life you will find a section of the inhabitants who bear all the responsibility. They do all the work; they contribute to everything; and they pay the taxes. And there are some who seem to be able to get away with doing nothing in every line. It makes the work of government difficult."

One special difficulty has been with income tax returns. The government officials have been instructed that a man who does not make his returns on his income tax had better be dealt with in the same way as the Federal Government deals with such persons. A stiff penalty is imposed, and is there any reason why the Provincial Government should not follow the same rule?

"The Government of the day," he continued, "is always blamed because they are not able to make revenue and expenditure meet. And probably the very ones who are loudest in their criticism are those who have not paid taxes for six or seven years. It is pretty trying on the patience, and I think the best way, in those cases, is to let the law take its course. It would make the way of governments easier, and it would lift a burden from the general taxpayer."

Amendments to the Public Utilities Act, the Premier intimated, would be introduced, in order to give the Public Utilities Commission authority to deal with certain questions which are now before them. There are also some amendments to the Succession Duty Act, as trouble with regard to this Act has been experienced in other Provinces where it has been declared ultra vires. The amendments are for the purpose of avoiding this contingency here.

The Premier was followed in the debate by Mr. J. P. McIntyre, who had the floor when the House adjourned, to meet again Monday at 3 p.m.

Zion Church Choir Presents Entertainment

The annual play and concert given in Zion Hall last evening under the auspices of the church choir was greatly enjoyed by the large audience.

The following programme was admirably rendered:

Male octette—"Let the Hills Resound" (Brinley Richards)—Messrs. Harry Craswell, Bert Livingston, Jack McLeod, L. Robison, Art Hale, Molcolm MacKinnon, Peter Crichton, Wm. Butler.

Bass solo—"When the lighthouse Bell Rings Ding Dong"—Mr. Peter Crichton.

Male quartette—"Lassie O'Mine" (Ed Walt)—Zion Male Quartette.

Recitation—"Sis Hopkins and Her Beaux" Mrs. Arthur Henry.

Bass solo—(Selected)—Mr. William Butler.

Vocal duet—"O No, John!" (Old English Folk Song)—Miss Lorena Sampel and Mr. Bert Livingston.

Solo—"The Lamplit Hour" (Arthur Penn)—Mrs. Harold Gillespie.

Male octette—"Old King Cole" Cecil Forsyth)—Same singers as in no. 1.

Mrs. F. A. A. Mutch, President.

Professor L. D. Thompson, Musical Director and accompanist.

A farce in one act—"The Morning Visitor" under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Roper.

Cast of characters:

Mrs. Simpkins, the landlady—Mrs. F. A. A. Mutch.

Lizzie, the maid-of-all-work—Miss Marion McLennan.

Miss Brown, young lady boarder—Miss Daisy Swan.

Miss Smith, another boarder—Miss Isabel Storey.

Miss Green, also a boarder—Miss Alice Partridge.

Mrs. Hill, a boarder who has 'nerves'—Mrs. Sutherland MacLean.

Mr. Hill, who goes in for spiritualism—Mr. Arthur Hale.

Mr. Roberts, a boarder whose appetite is always good—Mr. Harry Craswell.

Mr. Jones, a boarder given to practical joking—Mr. Earl Cormody.

Mr. Long, who is of an equiring turn of mind—Mr. Malcolm MacKinnon.

"EXHIBITION" GIVEN BY WALKING FISH

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad March 8 —the "walking fish" of Trinidad put on their famous act before a royal audience yesterday.

The Earl of Athlone and his wife, the Princess Alice, stood on the shore of the Pitch Lake, near Port of Spain, and as they watched, dozens of the fish crawled clumsily in and out of rainholes, over the lake's tarry surface.

The Earl and Princess visited several other spots of interest throughout the island following their arrival here yesterday morning, and they were guest at a State banquet last night, they sailed for Colon, Panama.

Minard's Liniment removes stains.

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at 1 cents a word strictly payable in advance.

WEDDING BELLS—The United Church manse in Dundas was the scene of a very pretty wedding on the afternoon of March 3rd when Hugh A. MacLean of Albion Cross and Lillian Ruth McDonald of Strathcona were united in marriage by the Rev. Alexander Firth.

TRAIN LATE—The train connecting with the mainland arrived in the city last evening. The delay was due to difficulties which the car ferry encountered in the noon freight trip. The steamer took four hours making the return crossing. She made her regular evening crossing in fairly good time, taking one hour and 40 minutes to reach the mainland, and one hour and seven minutes to return.

PERSONALS

Mr. Herbert Lewis, York, who has been seriously ill, was reported improved yesterday.

Mr. W. C. West, of York, received a telegram yesterday from Mrs. D. N. Stitt, M.P., that her father, G. W. West, has sufficiently recovered to enable his removal from the hospital.

Their friends will be pleased to learn that Professor Duchemin and Mr. Norman Lowther have sufficiently recovered as to enable them to leave the P. E. Island Hospital and are now convalescing at their homes.

Carnegie Library Branch Opened At Crapaud

The Carnegie Library Institute opened a library at Crapaud on Wednesday, this being the tenth branch which they have opened on the Island.

Due to the bad roads and the fact that the session of the Provincial Legislature was being opened at Charlottetown on the same day, none of the public men who generally assist at the opening of the libraries, were able to be present. There was a good attendance however, from Crapaud and the surrounding districts, which the library will serve. The funds for the room, heating, etc., were raised by small subscriptions from some two hundred people, which indicates the widespread interest manifested, and the general appreciation felt as to the value of the library in rural districts.

Various debating societies in outlying districts will greatly benefit from the books now at their disposal and as Miss Bateson pointed out in her address, the library is meant to help the surrounding districts just as much as the centre in which the books, periodicals, etc., are located.

Speeches were delivered by Rev. Mr. Ayres, Rev. Father Pitre, Rev. Mr. Lund, Rev. E. S. Bridgewater, Dr. Callbeck, the chairman of the meeting, Dr. W. R. Bovyer, Mr. J. Vernon Moore, Mrs. Crellner and others.

Miss Mary Newsom was appointed Librarian.

Other branches were opened at O'Leary and Tyne Valley during the past week.

In Memoriam

MRS. JOHN K. MACKENZIE

On Friday, March 9th, the immortal spirit of Mrs. John K. MacKenzie, 50 School Street, City, left its earthly house of this tabernacle for Heavenly mansions to the sore bereavement of her loved ones, and the sorrow of a wide circle of friends.

The late Mrs. MacKenzie grew up in Charlottetown as Annie Hewson, daughter of the late Herbert Hewson, carriage-builder. In the year 1892 at the age of 23, she married the well-remembered and beloved John K. MacKenzie, printer, who passed away three years ago. Ever since her husband's death, Mrs. MacKenzie has been ailing, and about the first of this year suffered a severe nervous breakdown. She was tenderly cared for by her only daughter, Nora, but despite skilled medical treatment and careful nursing, gradually sank until her release Friday morning.

She has left to mourn, besides Miss Nora, teacher in Prince Street School, her son Herbert, of the postal service with his wife and two little children, Margaret and Kenneth; also one sister, Mrs. H. C. Douse of Boston, and three brothers, Ernest of Boston; William, of Lynn, and Robert, of Toledo, Ohio. A beautiful daughter, Jean, died some years ago at the age of seven, bringing a sorrow to the parents, marks of which could always thereafter be traced in their lives.

Mrs. MacKenzie was a noble and worthy woman, kindly, devoted, intelligent, and with a high sense of honour and duty. Her home life with her loved ones was beautiful in its sweet harmony. She has left behind a very sweet memory, as sister and mother, which will remain as long as life itself.

The funeral service will be on Sunday next at 3 o'clock from the family residence, 50 School Street, to People's Cemetery.

QUADRUPLETS

MILTON, March 8—With four ewes in his barn about to become mothers, Gordon Chisholm, Trafalgar Township farmer, expected to find four frisky lambs some morning, but yesterday he found that his four ewes had produced thirteen young sheep. Three of the ewes each produced triplets, which is uncommon and one had quadruplets which is considered very rare. For the last two years two of Mr. Chisholm's ewes have given birth to three lambs each.