

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Mr. A. F. Arsenault Delivers an Excellent Speech in Budget Debate — Hon. Peter Sinclair and Mr. Mustard Also Address The House.

Tuesday, April 9th. Yesterday in the Legislative Assembly Mr. A. F. Arsenault delivered a speech in the course of which he scored point after point on the government, yet without in a spirit of such good humour that his sallies excited great mirth among spectators and members alike. Speeches were also made by Hon. Peter Sinclair and Mr. John Mustard. Progress was reported on the prohibition-liquor control plebiscite bill.

MORNING SESSION

The House met at 11:45 a. m. Mr. W. J. MacMillan asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works the following:

- 1. Is Daniel McLeod of Victoria Wea., Prince County, a road overseer? What is his salary? 2. Was he Inspector on the Bellum Bridge work at Enmore last season? If so what was he paid? 3. Did he supply span beams out of his own woods for such contract? 4. What was he paid for same?

Hon. J. P. MacIntyre said he would have the answer tomorrow.

Dr. W. J. MacMillan asked the Honourable the Premier the following questions:

- 1. Was Fergus Robertson dismissed from the management of the School Supply Branch? 2. Is he a returned soldier? 3. Was Miss Christine Miller appointed in his place? 4. Was she born in the United States?

5. Is she an American citizen? 6. What is the cause of the \$7000 increase in the bank overdraft in that Branch?

The Premier stated he would answer tomorrow.

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure asked the Leader of the Government:

- 1. Give the names of all persons appointed as school inspectors since 1st September 1927. 2. Give the class of teacher's license held by each person so appointed.

3. Have any of the persons so appointed been since dismissed or have they resigned. 4. If so, give the name or names, state in such case whether dismissal or resignation, and the cause or reason for such dismissal or resignation.

The Premier tabled the answer, which was as follows:

- 1. Martin Gallant, first class. 2. Wm. A. McPhee, first class. 3. R. Brewer Auld, first class. 4. Hilda W. Gillis, B. A. 5. Edward McPhail, first class. 6. Jas. R. Murphy, first class. 7. D. J. Mullin, first class. 8. Answered in No. 1.

Mr. H. D. MacLean presented a petition from certain ratepayers of Crapaud and vicinity in Queen's County praying for an act to incorporate the Crapaud Hall Company, Limited.

Mr. McLure presented a petition from the trustees of the Brace estate praying for an act to incorporate the trustees of the Brace block, the present Brace block. He introduced a bill embodying its provisions, which received first reading.

An act to incorporate the Seales Hydro Electric Co. received its first reading.

An act to amend the Prince Edward Island Fish and Game Protection Act received its third reading.

An act to provide for a plebiscite on questions relating to the control and suppression of the traffic in alcoholic liquors received its second reading, and was dealt with in committee of the whole.

The Premier explained that the plebiscite was to be held some time in the month of July, the date to be fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Mr. LePage was in favor of having the questions to be voted on, to read thus:

- 1. Are you in favor of the Prohibition Act as now the law in this province? 2. Are you in favor of the sale of alcoholic liquors under Government Control?

The clause, as amended, was carried after lengthy discussion.

There was a division on the question whether or no an Indian should have a right to vote on the plebiscite. Clause 6 forbidding such voting. It was lost on a straight party vote of 6 to 15, the opposition supporting the contention, contrary to what was expressed in the clause, that the Indians should vote.

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PRINCE COUNTY

AT SUMMERSIDE, IN ST. MARY'S HALL, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, AT 3 P. M.

QUEENS COUNTY

AT CHARLOTTETOWN IN THE ZION CHURCH HALL, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, AT 4 P. M.

CHARLOTTETOWN IN THE ZION CHURCH HALL, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, AT 8 P. M.

The Provincial Finals

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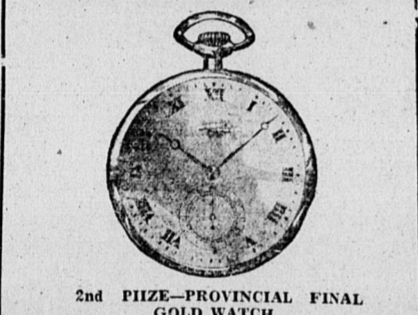
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2nd PRIZE—DISTRICT CONTEST CABINET OF SILVER



3rd PRIZE—DISTRICT CONTEST DESK SET

AFTERNOON SESSION

The House met at 3:30 p. m. The remaining sections of the act passed without discussion and progress was reported.

An act to incorporate the Portage Hall Company received its third reading and was passed.

MR. ARSENAULT'S ADDRESS

Mr. A. F. Arsenault, in continuing his address stressed the necessity for better enforcement and observance of the Motor Vehicle laws. The danger through drunken drivers, also those who were young and inexperienced should be abated. Motor cycle police should be out on the country roads, where they are needed, rather than in the cities.

In Prince County the condition of some of the Magistrates Courts gave rise to scandal. For instance, Mr. Alexander Campbell, a magistrate, has his office separated only by a glass partition from the office of his son, Mr. Thane Campbell. This made people fear there might be some partiality between the father and son, interfering with the equal administration of justice, when the son, as often happens, prosecutes a case before the father. There was complaint too, because cases of fox stealing were getting off too easily. The conditions in Prince County jail were none too good, for the inmates seemed to be drinking rum in the jail.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Arsenault criticized the minister for turning over part of the money borrowed to purchase machines to current revenue. The cost of repairs to the machines had also

been very high. He alluded also to the poor state of the roads which had been constructed by the machines. The proper policy was to put drags on the roads after the heavy machines had been on them. He commended the "Patriot's" editorials on the subject in May, 1928. And now the minister has to construct road drags, similar to those in operation during the regime of the Stewart Government!

As to gravel, the minister just punctuated the road system with it. When you came to a comma, you had to stop. All that the minister has done with his borrowed \$150,000 worth of gravel is to do 25 miles of road with it. At that rate, he would finish his programme in 160 years. Mr. Arsenault criticized the Government's road programme at some length. The taxes on gasoline and motor vehicles, he claimed, should furnish \$50,000 for graveling.

At 5:30 Mr. Arsenault moved the adjournment of the debate.

EVENING SESSION

The House met at 8:15 p. m. Mr. Arsenault continued his address on the budget. He dealt further with the road policy of the government, going into the matter in detail. Particularly did he criticize the large expenditures of the Department on roads and bridges, as well as other matters. He considered, too, that the Minister of Public Works should, in this debate, outline the plans of his department, in time for the Opposition speakers to give him some valuable constructive criticism.

EDUCATION

Mr. Arsenault reviewed concisely

the history of the situation in this province for the last few years, especially in regard to the teachers' claims for more salary.

Premier Bell, he said, had by no means solved this problem when he put on the poll tax in order to increase salaries. He contrasted the Liberal and Conservative handling of this question. Even though the Matheson Government was in power in the time of the war, the average attendance and enrolment was greater under the Matheson Government than under the Bell Government, thus showing that Education under the Matheson Government was in a more healthy condition. He told the story of the indecision and inaction of the Saunders government in connection with the strike of the school teachers.

He told of the settlement of the crisis, due largely to the parsimoniousness of the "week-end premier" Mr. Claire Campbell. However, the government, of course, gave Mr. LePage the credit for settling the strike.

PROHIBITION

The speaker claimed that, both here and in Nova Scotia, because there is a divided opinion among the people, bootlegging and liquor smuggling were on the increase, even children practising it. He severely scored the system under the prohibition law by which appeal from the magistrate's decision to a higher court was barred, and told of a miscarriage of justice which had occurred lately. "We on this side of the House," he said, "did not believe in prohibition last year, and I don't

suppose we believe in it today." Temperance, he thought, was best inculcated by education.

He told some rather amusing anecdotes of the way in which the prohibition law was being flouted. For instance once at a country dance, he said, many of the lads present wore bootleggers and the man who calls off the figures in the quadrilles called quite a novel one. He yelled "prosecutors in the centre, bootleggers all round." And this just hits off the situation today! (Loud and prolonged laughter.)

Mr. Arsenault defended the Hon. W. M. Lea against the attacks of Mr. MacPhee, who had criticized him for representing the government in meeting the British Empire Parliamentary delegates on Sunday.

HON. PETER SINCLAIR'S ADDRESS

Hon. Peter Sinclair expressed the pleasure of His Majesty's subjects at his restoration to health and a tribute to the memory of Marshal Foch, in connection with which he praised the splendid address of Father MacMahon at a solemn Mass of Requiem held in the Cathedral in the morning. He also recalled the memories of the late Premier Bell, John Agnew, Judge Warburton and Laughlin MacDonald. Mr. Sinclair then passed to a consideration of the public accounts. Comparing the liabilities of the Liberal and Conservative regimes, and claiming that the Conservative liabilities were greater. At the time the Saunders Government took office they were some \$2,000,000, and, at the end of 1928 these liabilities had increased by some \$192,000. He went on

to praise the efficient manner in which the Minister of Public Works was improving the roads with unparalleled economy. The cost of grading the roads with the big ma-

chines was some \$60.00 per mile. The Minister of Public Works, in fact, was doing just as good work on the roads as even the Bell Government did, at only one-thirtieth the cost.

The speaker next dealt with a permanent provincial highway scheme which, he did not think, would be accepted by the people of the province. (Continued on Page 12)



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