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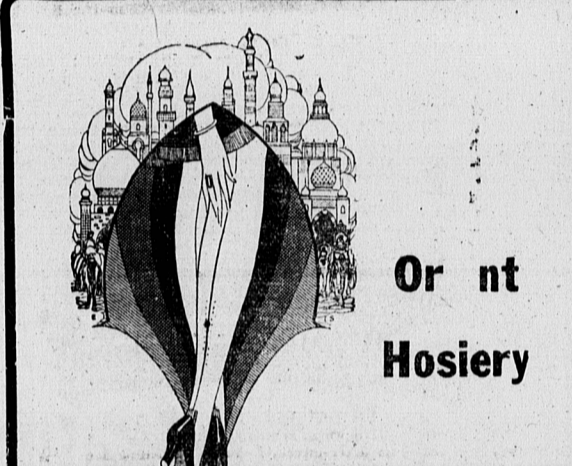
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# LAST CONSERVATIVE GUN FIRED IN BUDGET DEBATE

Continued  
Too Holy!

It was bad enough for us to be making money out of the Prohibition Commission when it was run on a proper business basis, but how would they excuse themselves for taking part of our revenue from that source, as they now want to do? How could they take it? The members of the Government and its followers in this House—surely would never take \$5,000 or \$10,000 from the Prohibition Commission, even if we made it and it was paid out! If we took it out of our account and gave it to you, would you take it? Would you take that "blood money?" Remember, you have a reputation now to preserve. (Laughter.)

HON. MR. LEA: When did that come about? I thought we had lost it, according to the Opposition. When did we regain it?  
DR. McMILLAN: If I insinuated to my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture or to the Premier that the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House had no reputation, you would see where I would be! But you take exception to what I say, no matter what it is.  
HON. MR. LEA: But you said we had lost it.  
DR. McMILLAN: No, but you are going to lose it; it is hanging in the balance now.  
HON. MR. LEA: You said we lost it.

DR. McMILLAN: You had a reputation on this one point, that you were not going to have anything more to do with "blood money." So the \$15,000 that we collected and which is credited in our account will just have to remain where it is. Because you couldn't take it. We can take it, because we are the "Rum Party," so you say; therefore, proceeds coming out of rum can be taken by us all right. That is quite permissible, "but you people couldn't take a cent of it. You are too holy!" (Laughter and applause.)  
HON. MR. LEA: We would like to have it.  
DR. McMILLAN: You are rising in the scale now; you are about in the position of demi-gods now, and this will appeal to my hon. friend from Montague—that is one step above the super-man.  
HON. MR. LEA: We would like to return the \$70,000 surplus you left us, you say. We will put it in the sinking fund for that.  
DR. McMILLAN: The surplus was there; what did you do with it?  
HON. MR. LEA: Oh, no; it wasn't there.  
DR. McMILLAN: That is what you say. But the auditor says differently.  
HON. MR. LEA: Not ours.  
DR. McMILLAN: Oh, no; not yours; of course not!  
HON. MR. LEA: Nor the Provincial Auditor.  
DR. McMILLAN: Oh, no; your auditor didn't say it was there. I wonder if that surplus is like that of the Bell Government. You remember what happened to that? We have heard it from the Minister of Public Works. He produced figures to show that there was \$100,000, but where did it go? That is the mystery. It can't be found. All you have to do is take the accounts of the Provincial Auditor beginning on the 31st December, 1919, and you will find the debt of the Province to be \$1,198,882. In 1920 it was \$1,176,269. There is a reduction of debt there of \$22,000. In 1921 it was \$1,277,839; in 1922, \$1,397,060; and in 1923, at the end of the year, \$1,714,913. Those are the figures which deal with the

matter. Where is that \$100,000 reduction of debt due to the Bell Government?  
HON. MR. LePAGE: You made the statement to the brokers that it was, under the seal of the Province.  
DR. McMILLAN: I made it?  
HON. MR. LePAGE: The Conservative Government.  
HON. DR. McMILLAN: Let me just explain to my hon. friend, who has been out of the House for four years, and who probably is getting a little bit rusty judging from the letters that he used to write during those four years. The Stewart Government did not write any letter to the bond houses.  
HON. MR. LePAGE: You did.  
DR. McMILLAN: The letter was prepared and sent out by the Assistant Provincial Secretary-Treasurer. I do not know that the Stewart Government has ever seen it. I know I never saw it.  
HON. MR. LePAGE: And you a member of the Stewart Government, and allowing the Government's signature to be signed, and the seal of the Province to go out with a statement, that you claim now is not correct!  
DR. McMILLAN: I suppose my hon. friend from Rustico goes in there and looks at every letter that the Deputy writes now, and supervises them?  
HON. MR. LePAGE: On important matters of that kind.  
DR. McMILLAN: On all important matters of that kind?  
HON. MR. LePAGE: Sure.  
DR. McMILLAN: Then we will not hear of a mistake like this in the future, I suppose! It is a relief to know that in one department at least under the Saunders Government there is going to be no mistakes, because in every other department and in every other thing that this Government has touched it has been nothing but a succession of mistakes. But now, when the department of the Deputy Provincial Treasurer is supervised by the hon. member from Rustico, there should not be any more mistakes of this sort! I suppose it was for that reason that he was provided with an office in this building. I wonder whom he is going to take in with him?  
HON. MR. LePAGE: I will give you a seat, if you wish.  
DR. McMILLAN: I don't know; I don't think I know enough to go into that office. (Laughter.) Mr. Newbery sent this letter out and what happened? When the audit was made and submitted to us a few days afterwards by Mr. Blanchet, then we found out, I and the other members of the Government, for the first time, what actually happened this \$100,000 "reduction" in debt. Then we found out that it was not there at all, that it was only imaginary; and the reports of the Provincial Auditor bear it out, because if there was a reduction of debt it would certainly appear somewhere. On the contrary, the debt has gone on increasing year after year, except that one year I have mentioned, when there was a reduction of \$22,000 according to the Provincial Auditor, and this has gone on right down to the present year with the exception of last year, when we showed a reduction of \$2,048,517 in 1925 to \$2,030,000 in 1926. We showed a little reduction there of \$18,000, but the debt has gone on increasing under both Governments practically every year.

### The Conservative Stand.

That is the stand that we have always taken, that we increased the debt. We accepted that position, we didn't try to say that we reduced it, when the figures proved something different. We were criticized for that because that was not what the Bell Government did. The Bell Government, according to our Liberal friends, is the criterion for all Governments in this Province. The Bell Government was "Perfection." If you are going to discuss the merits of any Government you must compare it with that administration. However, if you do that, and if your comparison is anything like this reduction of debt of \$100,000 that the Minister of Public Works spoke about, then you are going to lose the whole thing; because the \$100,000 is lost.

The Premier is in his seat now and I am glad to see him there. He is quite a stranger! (Laughter.) The Premier, in his Budget speech, said that he was going to apply the argument of the member from Charlottetown to his figures; he was going to show that there was a great resemblance to his method of presenting his figures and the line of argument followed by me in speaking in this House two or three years ago. Let us see. In our external audit for last year, for instance, we said the Liabilities of the Province were \$2,044,141. Then, in another column, we find arrears of revenue due under the Taxation Act of \$95,670, and that there was hard pine and lumber to the value of \$1,000. The same way in 1925—a debt of \$2,051,000 by the external auditor, and other assets of \$86,000. But now they follow a different plan. They say this year there is a debt of \$2,183,405, but there are arrears of taxes, there are hard pine piles, etc., of the value of \$143,797. Take that off the debt and you have a net debt of \$2,039,000. My hon. friend the Premier says that is the proper way to do it, and he quoted me as being the authority for saying so in the debates in this House two or three years ago. I don't think I am misquoting the Premier; and I want to tell him that on this occasion, just as on all other occasions, he is entirely wrong. I never applied that argument. The argument that I did apply, and which I intend to prove, is that this \$134,000 of tax arrears is a very doubtful quantity, and that it should not be deducted from the total debt to give a net liability, because there is very little of that \$134,000 that will ever be realized upon. I have taken that stand on

### EYES TESTED AND Glasses Fitted

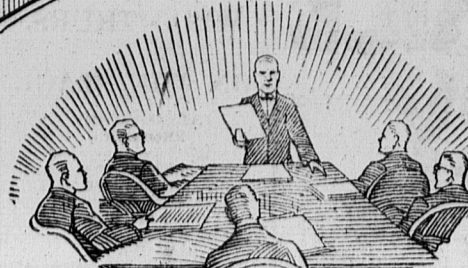
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several occasions in this House, and I do not want the Premier to quote me as following out his line of argument on that principle, because I have the debates here of 1925, and I have the dialogue, as my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition would say, which took place between the present Premier and myself. And I specifically said you should not take those items and say that they are good, but you should wait and see what they would realize, and credit them up accordingly from year to year.

### Uncollectable Arrears.

The argument which I advanced was this, that if you are a business man and are worth \$5,000 in cash, and have \$25,000 in your books—are you worth \$30,000? I asked the present Premier: If I went to him, as a lawyer, for a loan of \$20,000 on that would he give it to me? And, of course, he laughed, as he would laugh at me if I went to him with that proposition. Now there is the same proposition that we have here. You are deducting \$134,000 of arrears from \$2,183,000 to reduce the total debt, and I say that a great deal of that \$134,000 is no good, and will never be collected.

I want to say, further, that if it is good my hon. friends are very poor tax collectors. The tax assessment last year, the whole tax bill made up and levied, was \$155,000, and they collected altogether \$114,000, less \$9,000 which came in while we were in power; so that \$114,000 deducted from \$155,000 leaves an arrear of \$41,000 for 1925; and if you take that arrear plus this amount which appears in the external audit of 1926 of \$86,000 and add them together you will have this amount which now appears, of \$134,000, or very approximately. Well now, if those assets are worth anything, why weren't they realized on? Why is it, in the statement issued this year, that nearly all that amount of \$134,000 still remains, plus nearly reasoning is directly opposite. Highways.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning Monday, May 21st, we are installing an hourly quotation service consisting of stocks listed in the Montreal Exchange and Montreal Curb Markets. These quotations may be seen in our office in Summerside.

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By Barrie Payne



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