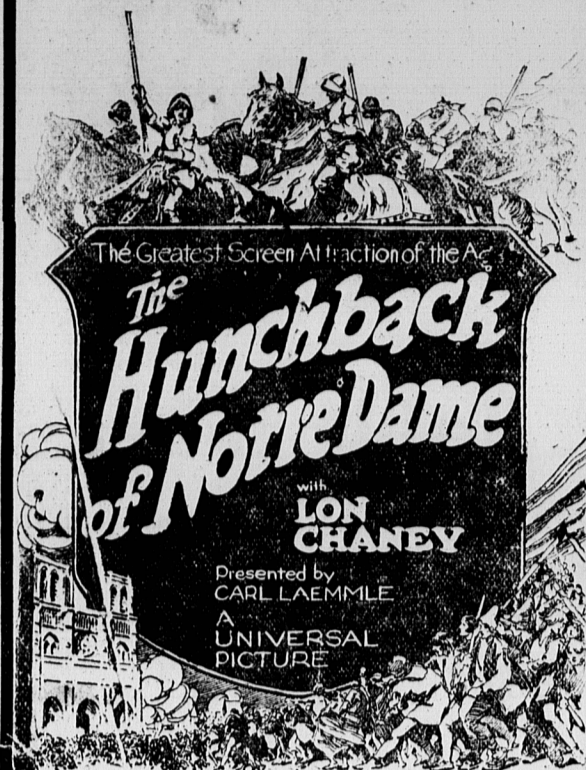


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THE HON. J. D. STEWART

(Continued From Page One)

people went to the towns of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton and there obtained labor, where today they are going to the Eastern States. I can recall when those places were very busy hives of industry, where today those industries are closed down. That is not a matter of politics though my hon. friend did introduce a matter of party politics into it when he referred to the election of 1911. Why did he do that? We know there are certain senatorial vacancies, and there may be resulting vacancies in the candidates for the Dominion election, and perhaps some of my hon. friends are out practicing for the race; training to get into the race by the discussion of Dominion issues here. But apart from that it is only too unfortunate that matters generally in these Maritime Provinces are not what our people would like to see at the present time. I am not saying this as a matter of party politics, but it is true, and it is evidenced by the fact that we have non-political organizations being formed throughout these Maritime Provinces for the purpose of attempting to ameliorate our conditions here. It is beyond controversy that in Nova Scotia and perhaps in New Brunswick the development of natural resources and the growth of industries is handicapped today, and it is equally true that the greater the growth of industries and the greater the manufacturing population we have established in those neighboring provinces, the greater the market will be for the products of this Province. We know that in those areas where we can overcome that tremendous handicap of transportation which is almost choking us today, we have a condition which we believe should be and will be ameliorated. We know that recently we have heard the ugly word "secession" mentioned not only in the Maritime Provinces but in other parts. That is a thing that we do not want to talk about. We want to get and to hold that faith in our country and its future which was possessed by the Fathers of Confederation, by our political and natural forefathers. We have here a very widespread population, and our great danger in Canada is the danger of segregation, of becoming strangers to one another. We must overcome the handicap of vast stretches between different sections of our population so that we can become united into a national Canada.

Agricultural Activities

With respect to the various departments of the Province, statements have been made in the Speech from the Throne, and because we have made these statements my hon. friend at once jumps to the conclusion that they were made by way of comparison or by way of boasting, and he assures him, if such assurance is necessary, that this is not the case. If he will read those paragraphs over carefully he will not read any of that sentiment into these at all. But I will say this—he has asked what the Department of Agriculture has done. Well, we have carried on the activities which we promised to carry on during the past year, and without the assistance of that thirty thousand odd dollars of Federal agricultural grant which they had and which was given to the Province for many years before the Government took power. (Applause) I stated on the floor of the House a year ago that there were certain activities which we considered to be essential. The Women's Institute I am pleased to be able to say, have been supported fully and as effectively as ever before. In regard to School Fairs, too, I am glad to say, it is the report of those who have had to do with them that these Fairs were just as effectively carried on as on any previous occasion. The Exhibitions received their usual support and Short Courses were carried on during this winter, as I am instructed, with a great measure of success. Those are the essential activities which we promised to carry on, and we have done this successfully without the assistance of that agricultural grant.

We are not boasting. This is simply a statement of what has happened. We are not making any comparison with the Bell Government. If my hon. friend wishes to take any credit for the Bell Government,

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leg, him have it; the people have decided on a record of that Government and that is a closed book. We are not dealing with that. I am sure, too, that no sensible person suggests that the Potato Growers Association is not deserving of the credit for what they have done. The Government is not taking any undue credit for it, as the Speech from the Throne. We are simply making a statement as to the success of the Potato Growers Association as an agricultural institution in this Province.

Progress in Co-operative Activities

But there is one thing that we are proud to say, and that is that there is some apparent progress being made among the farming communities along the line of increased co-operation. This spirit seems to be growing, and I think it is one of the most hopeful signs and prospects we have. Providence has done great things for us; we have splendid natural agricultural resources; we have conditions for production, unexcelled in the world almost every fact to produce, and we can by our own efforts, I believe, produce the finest quality of these products. We have succeeded along some lines in establishing splendid co-operative organizations. The Egg and Poultry Association is one of the best, and indeed, in my opinion, we are now carrying on the most successful of these organizations. I have always maintained that what can be done in that line can be carried out along other lines. The growing of seed potatoes is another instance, to which I have referred, and with seed on which the Dairy Association is now preparing to take a step forward and that they purpose at this session of the House to introduce a new Act of Incorporation along the same lines as the other two organizations which have carried on with success during the past few years.

It is also fitting to say a word about the Fishermen's organization. Whether thanks are due for this to Mr. A. E. McLean, (as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition) or to somebody else, I don't care very much. The Fisheries come under the Federal Department and Mr. McLean in giving assistance to the Fisheries if he did so, was performing some part at least of his duties as a Federal representative. But the fact to be taken note of is that the fishermen are co-operating in the same way as the agricultural organizations, and we trust that this co-operation will bring the same success to the fishermen as to the farmers, in so far as they have gone.

Educational Improvements

Coming to education we are back again with my hon. friend as to who shall get the credit. The childlike simplicity of the Bell Government record again shows itself. We have threshed that out very many times and I don't know that very much will be gained by further discussion of it. My hon. friend says the Bell Government, deserves the credit for any improvement there has been in educational conditions, because, finding a number of schools vacant, they raised the teachers' salaries and consequently filled the schools. I will tell him one thing they didn't do. They didn't take the people into their confidence when they went to the polls as to their policy in that regard. They didn't carry out their promise to pay the teachers all the salary necessary out of the revenues as they stood in 1919. They got the additional revenue where any government could have gotten it,—by increasing the taxes. I do not think it necessary for me to discuss that matter further. What we are more concerned with is how conditions can be improved in the future. We do know this, that the fact that so many schools were vacant in 1919 was largely owing to the general situation at that time, just during the closing period of the war, when men were scarce and when the teachers were not available at any price, to fill the schools. Today we have, practically the opposite condition, almost everywhere, of unemployment, and so we have people taking up teaching today who would not think of it in 1919. At any rate, we are very glad to report that the schools today are filled and filled with a high grade of teachers.

On the other hand,—and I am pleased to know that my hon. friend agrees with me in this, we are paying fully too much for our education today in proportion to the value we are receiving. That is a fact that is only too apparent. Some of the blame for that can be put on the Statute of 1920. In one way I think that Statute went too far, when it provided that all first class teachers should receive first class pay on the condition that the districts made up the necessary amount. As a result, we have first class teachers in very small schools where they are not earning second or third class pay, so far as the amount of work is concerned. I believe there should be a limit to that, and we propose to introduce an amendment to that effect which will apply to those exceedingly small schools. As a matter of fact, I may say that in my opinion in practically all the ungraded schools in this Province have the teaching teachers, if they have the teaching ability, will do just as thorough and as efficient work as the first class teachers. The most they do is prepare students for Prince of Wales College, and a second grade teacher has the knowledge to do that just as well. If this is a fact, then we are throwing away a great deal of money in paying first class teachers in very small schools for doing work of a class that would be just as well done by second class teachers.

Too Many Small Schools

But the unfortunate condition is

that we have entirely too many schools in this Province with an average ranging from ten, or even less, to fifteen pupils, where the teacher not only cannot earn the salary he is paid, comparatively with other schools, but where through very lack of employment, the quality of work will not be as efficient as in a larger school where the teacher is fully employed and kept actively engaged.

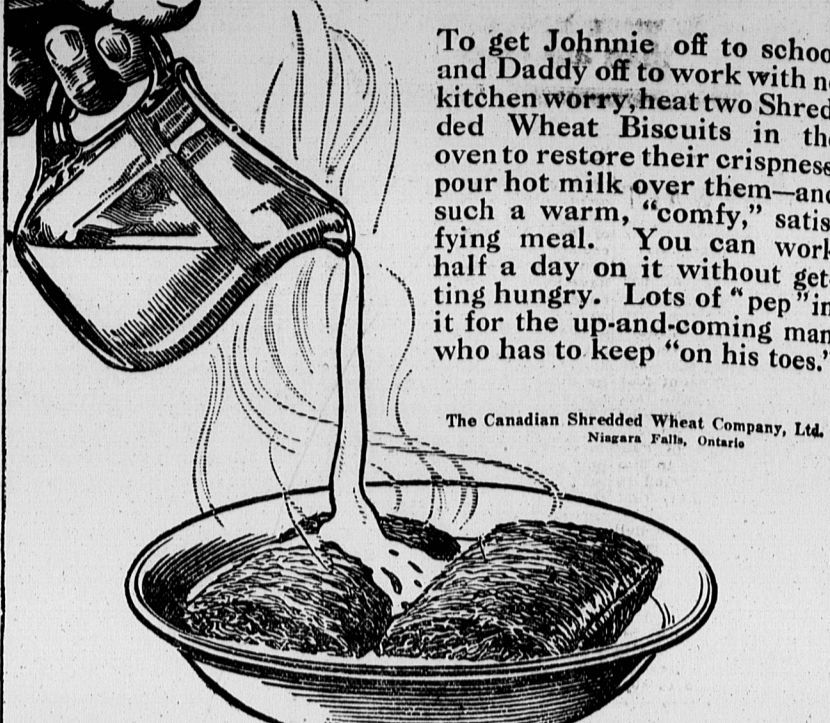
My hon. friend refers to the curriculum. He made what appears to me to be almost contradictory statements. He said the curriculum was bad; apparently the text-books are not good enough. Yet at the same time he complained of too frequent changes. I may say that the Readers used at the present time have been in use for many years in the common schools. It was an unfortunate thing, of course, that somewhere about 1920 the price of the Readers went up. The contract which had been obtained for the Readers previous had expired and was not renewed. I am not attaching any direct blame, but the fact remains, and that ever since we have had to pay more than double the price for those Readers. This Government has taken the matter up and we are now carrying on negotiations. We are not, at a point where we can say with what success we will meet, but we are attempting at the present time to get these Readers at almost the old price.

I quite agree that certain changes must be made in our curriculum and a committee has been working on that. We have not got to the end of it; it is a matter that requires a great deal of examination, but we are giving our attention to it and we trust that sometime in the near future we may be able to accomplish some result. I believe there is a set of Readers used in the Maritime Provinces which are perhaps better in some respects than the Ontario Readers which we use; but the difficulty is the price.

Business Course at P. W. C.

In regard to Prince of Wales College we have made arrangements through the Technical Grant to introduce a Business Course extending over two years. Prince of Wales College as we all know, is an historic institution; it has turned out men who have to the highest position all over the American continent, but while we acknowledge this, we believe that the College might also be made of practical benefit along other lines. We want our young men who are staying here and who require a certain amount of practical business or technical education and it is for the benefit of these students that the new system is being put in operation. The young man who wants to go to the University can still take the ordinary course at Prince of Wales; now the

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young man who wants to go back to the farm or to a mercantile pursuit can take this business course which we believe will suit him for that. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested the raising of some revenue by making additional charges to Prince of Wales third year students. There may be some merit in that but it would not accomplish its object of raising any material revenue, because my hon. friend knows the third year students are very few in number, and if they are charged any amount of the College and it does not require any additional staff. I think the class is nearly always less than twenty in number, so that the amount of money raised in that way would be very small comparatively, and it might have the effect of driving those students elsewhere for their first year, instead of taking their first year in Prince of Wales. I may say the additional cost of carrying on the third year class is practically nothing, because it is the regular curriculum, and if they are charged any amount of the College and it does not require any additional staff. I think the class is nearly always less than twenty in number, so that the amount of money raised in that way would be very small comparatively, and it might have the effect of driving those students elsewhere for their first year, instead of taking their first year in Prince of Wales. I may say the additional cost of carrying on the third year class is practically nothing, because it is the regular curriculum, and if they are charged any amount of the College and it does not require any additional staff.

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new Parliament. This is contrary to their previous attitude in boycotting Parliament. THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY. THERAPION No. 1 THERAPION No. 2 THERAPION No. 3 No. 1 for Bladder Catarrh. No. 2 for Blood & Skin Diseases. No. 3 for Chronic Venereal. SOLD BY LEADING CHEMISTS. PRICE IN ENGLAND 2s. 6d. PER COURSE. C. H. HAYES & CO., 11, N.W. 1, LONDON. OR MAIL ORDER FROM 11, FRONT ST. EAST, TORONTO. OR 24, St. Paul Street, Wash., D.C.