

# Liberal Disagreement Over Value Of Grant For The Tourist Ass'n

## Opposition Critics Of Unemployment Expenditure Accounting System Are Confronted With Precedent Set Under Their Own Party Government In 1930

Legislative Chamber, April 17: The House in Committee on Supply, Mr. Hunter in the chair. Legislative grants, (\$48,700.)

### TOURIST ASS'N

Mr. H. H. Cox took strong exception to the grant of \$3,000 for Tourist Association. "What benefit," he asked, "are we really getting out of that? We hear a lot of talk about getting the tourist here, but do you think we are getting very much money out of them? Do we get very much benefit out of them? There is \$3,000. What are you going to get back out of that \$3,000? You might get a little gas tax. They come to Charlottetown but how much money do they spend?"

Premier MacMillan: "A lot." Mr. Cox: "Not much."

Premier MacMillan: "Oh yes, they do."

Mr. Cox: "They live off their friends; they pay nothing for that. I was just thinking about this Tourist Association. They are doing more talk—and I can't see where they are making more money out of it."

Premier MacMillan: "My hon. friend is putting himself in the position of being different to nearly everyone in Canada at the present time. The Dominion Government is setting up a separate department to go after the American tourist business."

Mr. Cox: "Just a tad!" Premier MacMillan: "So you say."

Mr. Cox: "No, I don't say; I think."

Premier MacMillan: "There was over \$200,000,000 brought into Canada last year by tourists."

Mr. Cox: "I can't say that I agree with you."

Premier MacMillan: "Those are records; statistics. At one time this business was worth \$80,000,000. Isn't it worth going after? Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are exerting every effort, I think."

Mr. LePage: "It is money well spent."

Mr. McIntyre: "It is mostly spent for advertising."

Premier MacMillan: "There is a manager in charge."

The item carried.

Gasoline Rebates, etc. \$68,000

Mr. Allen suggested that all the gasoline stations should be supplied with carbon copies for making out bills in duplicate to every customer, each page to be numbered so that a copy of the bill can be given to the purchaser and one kept in the book, exactly as made out. A system of this kind, he believed, would do away with a lot of trouble in the matter of gasoline rebates.

Mr. J. A. MacDonald: "Would you have books for the wholesaler?"

Mr. Allen: "I think the wholesalers are honest. You wouldn't have any trouble with them in the world. The trouble is with the purchaser. They think it is a smart trick to cheat the Government."

Premier MacMillan: "We will give these considerations. We have had several of these cases investigated by the Mounted Police, and the results have been fairly good. I might say also that the agreement we made with the oil companies last fall whereby we secured the reduction of a cent and a half per gallon has been a great help."

The item carried after some further discussion.

Purchasing Agent (\$1,975)

Mr. Cox asked if the Purchasing Agent obtained the various prices from different quarters.

Premier MacMillan: "Yes."

Mr. J. A. MacDonald: "He certainly does follow up every person and he gets the cheapest price he can get. I will defy any member of the Opposition to say that one thing was purchased that was above the proper price."

Mr. Cox: "I am not saying there was; I was only asking."

Premier MacMillan: "This Government has bought in the cheapest markets."

The item carried.

of Pensions to be paid) \$170,000.

Mr. LePage said he had always been in favour of old age pensions. In 1931 the Liberals passed an act, assuming that when the Estimates came down at Ottawa Mr. Bennett would fulfil his "contract" and pay 100 per cent. Only 75 per cent was paid, and the money was not granted at Ottawa before June.

"The election was held some time in July so you can see that the government of that time did everything possible to put old age pensions into effect."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "What did you put it in your 1927 platform for?"

Mr. LePage: "It was in the Liberal platform, as my hon. friend says, but in accordance with the finances of the Province."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "Was it not possible to negotiate an agreement with the Dominion Government under the late Mackenzie King administration?"

Mr. LePage: "I am not saying; my recollection is that Mr. Bennett—"

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "But before Mr. Bennett came into power?"

Mr. LePage: "We couldn't afford to pay fifty per cent."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "You did not say what you would pay."

Mr. LePage: "We said in keeping with the finances of the Province."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "And you paid nothing."

Mr. LePage: "Because it was not a large enough percentage; the Province could not afford it."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "It would have been just as well to frantically say 'I am asking you'."

Hon. Mr. MacPhee: "I think the leader of the Opposition will agree that the practice he refers to started with unemployment expenditure in 1930."

Mr. LePage: "Oh no."

Mr. Allen: "The practice is wrong anyway."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "There are two separate accounts kept. We issue a cheque for the total amount, and we get the amount from Ottawa after the amount is paid and a proper voucher sent in."

Mr. LePage: "The sums were paid out of the provincial treasury. The books were balanced at Dec. 31. There must have been a number of thousands of dollars carried over and this money would have increased your liabilities last year."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "And reduced them this year."

Mr. LePage: "What about next year if you are following the same practice? It will increase the liabilities for next year. That I don't think is a proper practice. I don't care when it was started. I again refer to Victoria Bridge, he maintained that 'not one Liberal' had been employed in that project."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "It must have been a local condition, because there were no orders issued from this office."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "I do not know of one Liberal that applied for employment in that project. He cites the case of Anderson's Bridge."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "It might be possible in some sections of the country that the man in charge gave the preference to Conservatives, but so far as instructions from this office are concerned, every deserving man was given an appointment, regardless of his politics."

Mr. McIntyre: "Was that the policy of the Prince County Conservative Association?"

Mr. Wigmore: "I would like to ask the leader of the Opposition what sort of examination he gives the electors that he is able to define what the politics were of every man who worked on the Victoria Bridge."

Mr. LePage: "Just the same as my hon. friend does."

Mr. Wigmore: "Will he not agree that there is a large percentage of the electors whose politics it would be hard to determine?"

Mr. LePage: "Not the ones that worked on the Victoria and Crapaud bridges."

Mr. Wigmore: "I want to tell my hon. friend that I directed no man to put a Conservative or a Liberal on. I did give directions with regard to two men who were on relief, to give them all the work they could, which was done. But that is not bad."

Mr. LePage: "What is not bad? To put all Conservatives on and no Liberals?"

Mr. Wigmore: "If that Liberal community has turned Conservative, I can't help it!" (Laughter.)

Mr. LePage: "You just put every Conservative on and no Liberal."

Mr. McIntyre: "The President of the Conservative Association of West Prince said that all patronage should be kept within the party."

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie said he had never questioned a man's politics with regard to employment. When people had come to him for jobs and he had been able to assist them, he told them specifically that they were under no obligation to vote for him at the next election.

He recalled the evidence produced in the House last year, where a Liberal member had written to one of his constituents, saying it was a would get with any banner in the

King Government?" Mr. LePage: "The revenue was not then sufficient, but we might have got \$200,000 from Ottawa and put it in at that time."

Mr. J. A. MacDonald: "But you only got goose-eggs!" (Laughter.) Mr. LePage: "I would suggest that my hon. friend read Mr. Bennett's—"

Mr. MacDonald: "But this was 1927, before Mr. Bennett made any promise at all. You 'approached' the amount that Mackenzie King was paying and you promised 'establishing it in this Province'."

Mr. LePage: "Consistent with our revenue."

Mr. MacDonald: "And you didn't pay anything!" (Applause.) Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: "We promised it and we paid it." (Applause.) The item carried.

### FEDERAL WORKS

Maintenance of Bridges (\$30,000.) Mr. McIntyre said the grant was \$5,000 more than last year. Does it include concrete bridges?

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "It does not take into account the capital expenditure on bridges."

Mr. McIntyre: "It is \$5,000 higher than last year."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "Yes, but it is nearly \$1,500 less than we expended last year."

Mr. LePage: "Why are the amounts that are spent out of the provincial treasury charged over for this work?"

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "The reason was that the federal grant that we received on unemployment relief was granted sometime in August. It was made retroactive until about the 1st of May, so that we were able to make expenditures throughout the year. The federal year did not end until March 31. We could not put those items in the 1933 account because their year was not completed till March 1934."

Mr. LePage: "The auditor's report should show everything paid out of the treasury that year. Victoria Bridge, he said, cost \$1500 and a small amount was shown in the Public Accounts last year."

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "How else are you going to do it?"

Mr. LePage: "I am asking you."

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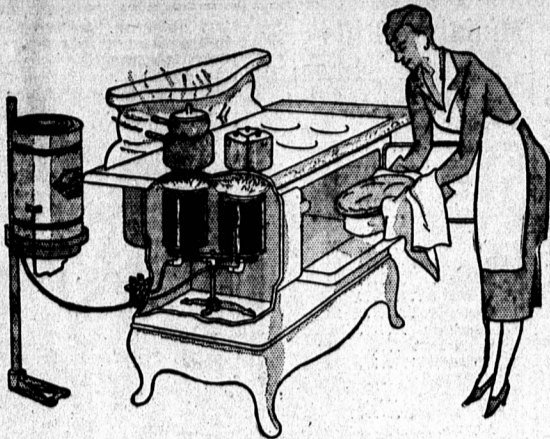
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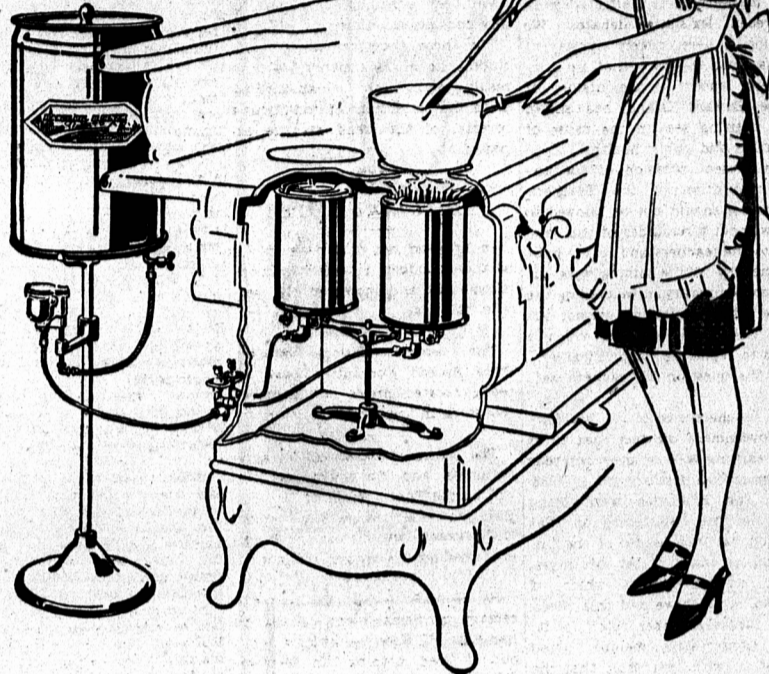
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country. He did not think, when the government got a good price from a reliable man that they should try to hold him to a certain price for labour.

Mr. LePage did not agree. He thought there should be a specific wage set. The reason the farmer was not paying it was because he could not afford to pay a man a decent wage.

Hon. Mr. Sharp said the Government had taken the matter into consideration for some time. It has been decided that in any future contract a minimum wage would be asked.

### Mr. Wigmore's Question

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but in return he expected his vote. Mr. J. A. MacDonald referred to a three-mile project on the other side of the Hillsboro River. Nobody who asked for work on that project was asked what his politics were. They were employed on account of the needy condition they were in at that time. "I defy any person," he added, "to say that

there was any politics in the work done on the Southport road."

### FERRIES & WHARVES

Mr. LePage said he noted the estimate for the S.S. Hillsboro was \$13,000. Before the new boiler was put in it was only about \$10,000.

Hon. Mr. Sharp: "I believe the answer to that is that that boat is not at all economical in management. They are burning a lot of coal. We hope that the new boat, when built, with crude oil engines, will make a big saving. So far as the new boat is concerned, the plans have only been prepared. There is no contract let yet, and we hardly expect that the new

boat will be available until late in the fall. The old boat is being fitted up now for the services."

Mr. McIntyre: "How many wharves are owned by the Provincial Government? Has there been any taken over by the Federal Government in the last few years. We succeeded in getting the Govern-

## These Conferences Are Really Serious at Times



Apparently the situation is serious in their recent conference which came to an inconclusive termination. The group shows (LEFT TO RIGHT): Ambassador for Britain to Germany Fitzmaurice, Sir John Simon, British foreign secretary, von Neurath, German foreign minister, and Adolf Hitler, German chancellor. The photo was taken in the

chancellor at Berlin. This was the conference that resulted from German's announcement to re-arm and thus scrap the Versailles treaty.

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