

ELOQUENT ADDRESS BY DR. W. J. P. MacMILLAN

Smashing Criticism of Government Policies

CHARLOTTETOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN FIGHTING FORM DURING DEBATE ON DRAFT ADDRESS. IN A BRILLIANT SPEECH HE DISCUSSES EVERY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POINTS OUT SINS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION OF THE SAUNDERS GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Following is the speech delivered by Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan in the Legislature on March 21st, during the debate on the Draft Address: Mr. Speaker: I am sure it would be a great disappointment to my hon. friends on the other side of the House if I allowed this speech to go through without making some remarks on it. To begin with, I may take a leaf out of the Premier's book, when he criticised the leader of the Opposition for saying there were very few matters in this speech to discuss, and yet it took him two hours or more to discuss them; the Premier agreed that it was more or less an academic discussion and should not require very much time, yet I think he took over two and a half hours to discuss it. So, with my reputation, I do not know how long I am going to take!

The Premier says it is just as good a session of this Legislature; the Hon. Judge Warburton as has been said, was indeed one of nature's noblemen. It was a characteristic of that splendid family, whose sincerity and friendliness is proverbial; and the late Judge Warburton was no exception. He performed the duties of every office with great credit to himself and with satisfaction to the Province; and besides that he will leave to posterity his work, the History of Prince Edward Island, which of itself will make his name remembered and revered for many years to come.

The late Hon. Mr. Bell was also a splendid man; a man, as has been said, of strong will and intellect. At one time, as we know, he was Premier of this Province, I think it was the seconder of the address who said that his Government was the best that this Province ever had, and thereby started a discussion of course. We had heard that before. The Premier came out to support him; but of course he does not say that the Bell Government was the best, because I suppose, he is looking now to his own reputation. All that he could say was that it was as good as any Government of the Province. At any rate, those two hon. gentlemen did their duty as they saw it, and they leave behind them memories of men who had a great number of friends. The late Mr. Bell, in his very last act, showed his friendship for his native Province and for his native County in one of the best ways that any man, whether he be a public man or not, can show it. I do not think it can ever be said of him that he wasted any money; but if he was able to save, the sick and the poor of Prince County are now going to benefit by it; and that is a great tribute to him. (Applause.)



HON. DR. W. J. P. MacMILLAN

points in his own hands, he believes his own words. Maritime Trade Commissioner With reference to the conference of Maritime Provinces delegates at Toronto, I may say that I did not have the opportunity, as so many had, of attending those meetings. I believe the object of the conference was a good one, and as a result I understand that this House will be asked to vote part of the salary of a Trade Commissioner with headquarters in the City of Toronto. The peculiar thing about it, if I understand the Premier aright, was this: It is doubtful whether we can expect to get very much benefit from that appointment. I understood him to say that it was only in poor years, when the crops were poor, such as last year, that we would expect to benefit by that appointment. In that event we could not hope to reap very much benefit unless we kept our products at the very highest point of quality. I agree with the Premier in that statement, and I think it was made also by the hon. member for Summerside, who gave a specific instance with regard to potatoes shipped into the city of Boston underweight. It is most unfortunate that such things will happen. The mover of the address gave us similar instances of buyers having to go over so many carloads of potatoes and eliminate so many hundreds of bushels from those carloads. I submit that that should not be necessary, and that is one of the great dangers to which this great potato industry is now exposed. It is really too bad that some people will always try to make a few paltry cents, often at the expense of the reputation of a whole industry. It is very difficult, I imagine, for inspectors, no matter how many there are or how competent they are, to deal with every individual shipment, and there is no doubt that a lot of this must be left to the individual honor of the shippers. It is unfortunate as I said, that such instances creep out, get into the press, and in the end prove seriously detrimental to the sale of that particular product.

himself and "Attorney General Inman,"—whoever that hon. gentleman was. It is one of the remarkable things about this present Government that it is very difficult to find who is the Attorney General, or whether there is an Attorney General or not; because you may read the newspapers, and one time it is "Attorney General Inman"; if you read the Moncton papers, it is "Attorney General J. J. Johnston"; and if you read the press report about cases in the Court, it is "Acting Attorney General Campbell," or "Acting Attorney General Trainor." I don't know whether there is an Attorney General here at all or not; but I will say this, that if we have an attorney General, I think he pointed out by the leader of the Opposition when he was speaking on this subject, that there is only one way in which Prince Edward Island can hope to get an increase in subsidy. If that one way has not been adopted during the past year, then it is useless for the Premier or any member of this Government to come into this House and try to convince the people that every effort has been made to get an increase in subsidy during the past year. The only way in which an increase can be got is by following the recommendations of the Duncan Commission, and that means that there must be a general readjustment of the subsidies of all the Provinces. And I claim that this Province, as the one which is most vitally interested,—at the present time, is properly the Province which should make the first move, take the initiative, and try and get together a meeting of the Premiers in order that there may be a final readjustment and a final settlement of this vexed question.

nothing has been done. How long are we going to wait in the Maritime Provinces for a final settlement of these matters? We shall wait, Mr. Speaker, until we have men with the proper initiative and the proper foresight and the proper grasp of those many and varied conditions; men strong enough to force a meeting of the provincial premiers and to make their demands upon the Dominion Government. And then we shall get satisfaction. (Applause.)

he go to those so friendly on the claim to help us our claims? If that he pretends there and get I know how much ed. It is terribly poor Stewart C dying days, was according to the Dr. My friend the Minister of Agriculture was very fond of saying this: What a desperate act it was! It was an act which my hon. friend cannot understand. We reduce those taxes in order to redeem our pre-election promise.

The Speech From the Throne

The next paragraph fitting reference to two hon. men who have passed since

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My Government expected, because

DR. MacMILLAN: It is a wonder, Mr. Speaker, that they didn't send him off for a trip to the Coast or somewhere else...

DR. MacMILLAN: Then I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the statement in the Speech from the Throne, that this Government pressed our claims "vigorously" at Ottawa during the year, is meaningless. The Premier visited Ottawa, a short while ago, and after he had fulfilled the prime object of his visit—which was to address the Canadian Women's Club—he incidentally saw some members of the Federal Government about some matters. Is this what this paragraph in the Speech refers to? Did he try to get the co-operation of the Premiers of the other Maritime Provinces? Did he try for the co-operation of Premier Gardiner, who, at the end of that conference of 1927 said he would be glad to see Prince Edward Island get another \$200,000? Or Premier Brownlee, of Saskatchewan, who also expressed sympathy with little Prince Edward Island, the small sister of Confederation? Don't you think it would have been a simple matter for this "little sister," through its Premier, with all these men expressing so much sympathy, to at least get a conference together, to get this thing settled? Does the Premier think that putting a paragraph like that in the Speech without being able to substantiate it in any particular, will be acceptable to the people? He says it is a strange thing that no matter what the Liberals do they get no credit for it. Probably it is just because so many things are done in this way: they are put on paper, and when they are analyzed there is nothing in them.

Disappointment All Around

Now we come to the paragraph on Agriculture. (MacMillan read the paragraph) pleasing to note that the acreage of potatoes has not in a decrease in our production, livestock and other products. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether that is a fact, or is it a fiction? Had the growth of seed potatoes last year an effect on general and mixed farming according to this statement, the products in this Province during that there were so many potatoes grown. You have only to compare that with the statement have been made by the Premier on several occasions, and jolly near the end of his speech to the House today, when he was talking about the farmers. "The conditions, so far as the farmers were concerned, were never worse in the Province." Is that the condition of affairs in this Province at the present time? "Livestock and dairy increased during the past year, so the price was obtainable for potatoes, or worse, than they were in the history of the province that is so, then I would certify seed potato not been any benefit; in fact, I would say that it was almost the Province. If you have an industry that is not only going to yield itself but is going to add to the condition of the Province worse than I say that you ever developed, an about time that you stepped in and to have shown how done in the year, note this industry feel some responsibility. said so much about government has...