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**Islander
Re-elected
As Leader**

DR. HARRY C. HODGSON RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT AT GREAT CONVENTION IN BRANDON: OUTLOOK VERY FAVORABLE.

Many friends both in Charlottetown and Summerside will be interested to learn that Dr. Harry C. Hodgson, son of the late S. F. Hodgson, of Charlottetown has been re-elected President of the Conservative Association of Manitoba.

The Winnipeg Free Press of June 25th carries a good portrait of Dr. Hodgson, along with a lengthy report of the big convention at Brandon. The Free Press said:

More than 1,200 delegates and visitors to the Conservative convention at Brandon on Wednesday went back to their homes at night apparently fully satisfied that at the next appeal to the people their banner will be carried to victory. Old-timers, who for years have been attending conventions, say it was the largest and most enthusiastic in the history of the party.

Col. F. G. Taylor, Provincial leader, was given a regular ovation when he appeared on the platform at the afternoon session, the cheering lasting for two or three minutes. Warm tribute was also paid to Mrs. Taylor the crowd all getting to their feet, and clapping vigorously as she went to the platform on the invitation of Dr. H. C. Hodgson, Provincial President.

Election of officers resulted in Dr. H. C. Hodgson being unanimously re-elected as president. On the platform with Dr. Hodgson were all the Conservative members of the local legislature, W. J. Tupper, K.C., L. J. Gauthier, Montreal; Travers, Sweetman, K.C.; J. Hamelin; Errick Willis, M.P.; Mrs. Young President of the Women's Club of Brandon; Mrs. J. L. McLenaghan; Dr. Waugh, of Norfolk; Col. F. G. Taylor and Mrs. Taylor—Summerside Journal.

S. S. CONVENTION

The annual Sunday School Convention of East Kings' District met at Souris United Church on Monday, June 22nd, 1931, at 3 p. m. Rev. A. D. MacDonald presiding. After the business session was over, Miss Annie Harris, Child Welfare Secretary, addressed the meeting. The evening session opened at 8 p. m., which was also addressed by Miss Harris, who in her pleasant way, suggested many instructive points to leaders of children. Remarks fitting to the occasion were made by the President and others.

Nominating committee reported as follows: President, Mr. Russell Leard, Souris; Vice president, Mr. James Dingwell, South Lake; Secretary, Amy Townsend, Fortune; Child Welfare Secretary, Mrs. Brynton; Executive, Mr. Fred Rose, Mr. Earl Kennedy, Mrs. Charles Coffin, Mrs. Clarence Ching, Mrs. Harry Burke, Miss Louise Cox.

LEA GOVERNMENT

Continued from page 6

Provincial Government had at its disposal. To that amount was added an increase in revenue averaging over \$300,000 a year. The member from Charlottetown (Dr. McMillan) showed from the Public records that the present Government had, at most, done no more work in the line of concrete bridges, pipes and steel bridges—and in some cases considerably less—than the Stewart Government did on a revenue of \$300,000 a year less than this Government enjoyed.

Rake's Progress
I do not think there will be found one honest reasonable elector in this Province who will not feel that had the Stewart Government continued in power, with the increased revenue they had secured from Ottawa and the increase which has been accumulating in the receipts from gasoline and motor vehicles, that they would have done very much more for the Province, with that increase of revenue than this Government has done without increasing the debt to the same extent.

As I said before, the accounting has not been satisfactory to myself, at least. I do not know that as a member of the Opposition I should help them out in making the accounting, but I could show where some of the money has gone. We have heard about the machinery that was purchased when this Government came into power—\$90,000 worth of machinery purchased over the telephone; and in looking through the Public Accounts since that time I find that this expenditure for road machines has increased to \$180,000. In connection with that matter it naturally occurred to me to look up the bill for telephones in that Department, and I find under this item the charge of \$6,070. There are other expenditures in that Department, running along in the same way, salaries and expenditure for cars, etc., that I need not read out; but that is where some of the money went.

I wish to be fair enough to state here that this Government has improved some of the side roads. There is no question about that, but they have not attended to all these. They had the money and they could do it. Why should they not? It was necessary to be done. The Stewart Government also improved some and when it went out of office, left this government with sufficient revenue and with much less permanent road work to do.

BROKEN PROMISES

Irrelevant matters have been brought up in this debate, and the discussion has extended over a wide area. Members on the other side have taken every opportunity to run away from provincial matters, notwithstanding the fact that this Government is now preparing to go to the people, and that in doing so it must defend its record. I have here the platform on which this Government was elected. There are three main pledges; three promises that had a great deal to do with electing this Government. I think it will be admitted by all classes that the Stewart Government gave a splendid administration of public affairs. They were economical, and they carried out their promises. They secured an additional grant from Ottawa, which they had promised to press for when they came in. However, there was one matter that came up at the end of their period and we know what happened. The Liberals always claim that they are the friends of temperance, the party which first gave us Prohibition in this Province; and we admit that they passed a so-called Prohibition law in connection with the sale of liquor, but we also know that up till 1912 there was very little difficulty in going into most of the hotels and drug-stores in the Province, and getting what liquor you wanted. Occasional fines were charged against the proprietors of some of these places, but there was no such thing as Prohibition. A change took place in the Government in 1911. War broke out in

1914 and about that time the Conservative party placed a Prohibition Act on the statutes, placed the operation of the Act in the hands of a Commission, and we know that during the term of that first Prohibition Commission we had the nearest approach to absolute Prohibition that this Province has ever seen.

We come to the Bell Government's time, and we know what happened then. Liquor exporters established themselves in the Province. The bootleggers commenced to organize their business and get more or less out of hand. The Stewart Government followed the Bell administration. The control of the Act was in the hands of a Commission made up of men whose character could not be attacked. Those men administered the act as carefully and thoroughly as possible. They looked after the revenues accruing from the operation of the Act carefully, and they turned those revenues into the treasury of the Province. At the same time we know that smuggling and bootlegging was going on, that violations of the Act were taking place, and we had the example of all the other Provinces in this Dominion, at that time, except Nova Scotia, having changed to Government Control. It was considered that the enforcement of the prohibitory laws were becoming more difficult because enough of the people were getting restless under the restrictions of the Act to make it advisable to attempt something else, and the Stewart Government came out in their platform with a Government Control measure. They did so because they believed at the time that they were doing something which was going to improve conditions; they were doing something that had been done in all the other Provinces of Canada. They staked their campaign on that platform; they stood behind it themselves. Now contrast that with the attitude of the other party. You have heard of the meetings in Summerside, of the letters that were sent out, you have seen how the leader of the Liberal party was wavering—seeing-sawing—from one side to the other, calculating which policy would have the most political effect; and finally they adopted a Prohibition plank in their platform. It was upon that plank that they won the election.

DUNCAN REPORT UNIMPLEMENTED

The three Conservative leaders of the Maritime Provinces joined in pressing our claims; the Duncan Commission was appointed and this Province secured an interim subsidy grant of \$125,000. That Commission was appointed by the King Government in 1926; the Stewart Government went out of office in this Province in 1927, and the Saunders Government came in. This is 1931, and the recommendations of the Duncan Commission have not all been carried out even yet. We know that the Liberal Government in this Province has not succeeded in getting any further increase in our revenue during the time their friends were in power at Ottawa, six years after the Duncan Commission was appointed; but that in the meantime the Western Provinces were able to come in and to secure their additional grants.

RECORD OF FAILURE

We have heard in this Legislature, from the lips of Premier Saunders himself, how they failed in carrying out their pre-election promises with regard to Prohibition. We know that the two gentlemen from the Temperance Alliance who assisted them very largely in their campaign have since condemned this Government, because of the non-fulfillment of their pledges; and we know, from the lips of the Premier that they found conditions getting worse instead of better. So they have not succeeded in carrying out what they promised the people in this matter.

So far as Prohibition and Government Control is concerned, it has already been stated that this matter is a dead issue, that the people have voted on it. I am only speaking thus to show that this Government has failed to implement the very first plank in their election platform. Another assurance given by this Government in its election platform was that if returned to power they would exert their utmost endeavors to press our claims for increased subsidy. We have heard a lot on this matter, and I do not wish to go into any extended discussion of it, but we know that the Liberals take great pride in the fact that it was the MacKenzie King Government that gave us the interim subsidy increase of \$125,000 which we now enjoy. You will remember the history of that, and the condition that existed in the Maritime Provinces in 1925, when the King Government went to the country. He had almost a solid body of Liberal representatives in Parliament from the three Maritime Provinces. There were three

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Liberal Governments in power in these Provinces at the time, and the question of Maritime rights had been discussed for some time previous. Mr. King came down here; he apparently did not know anything about the matter; he asked the question: "What are Maritime rights?" He had his answer in the elections that followed, and which resulted in the practical defeat of the King Government. The effect of the change in the Maritimes caused the appointment of the Duncan Commission. Now our friends across the House accused the Conservative members of opposing the appointment of the Duncan Commission. The Conservatives did oppose it; they opposed it on the ground that the appointment of the Duncan Commission was not at all necessary, that it would only delay the settlement of a matter that should have been dealt with by the Government itself; promptly, and we know that since that time the Government has dealt with very much larger claims in connection with the rights of the Western Provinces.

ter during the present session of the House. You will remember that when the Old Age Pensions Act was before the House there was some discussion about a certain word in the bill. The leader of the Government was satisfied that that word be struck out. Some of the members over-ruled that, and the word was left in, and there is every reason to believe that a canvas will be made of the needy aged people of the Province, that this word was left in so that if these gentlemen should come back to power,—which I do not think even they themselves expect,—there would be some hope that old age pensions, even on a fifty-fifty basis, would be established. I do not think, after failing in carrying out their old age pensions pledges to the people in the 1927 campaign, that they had better bring this matter up in their canvas again. (Applause).

A SORRY RECORD

We have been told by the Premier that the Government intends to go to the country on its record. It is not a record of keeping the three main promises in their platform. The record of the Government must appear in different departments of administration. We have first the administration of justice — which has been so amply covered by other speakers on this side of the House that I need not deal with it at all. The next is the Department of Agriculture; and we have heard very little reference to agricultural improvement in this Province, due to this Farmer Government, as they delight in calling themselves. The department was passed over by Liberal speakers, and federal politics was introduced to take the place of their own poor showing.

So far as education goes from the main discussion in this House by members of the Government you would think that our schools and colleges were closed or forgotten. No improvement brought about by the government has been shown in this department.

There is another item, under the heading of Legislative grants; and we find a vast increase here. In 1926, legislative grants were \$16,000. At the present time they were \$30,000. They have practically doubled, but this can scarcely be said to be an improvement. It is much easier, when you are dealing with the public moneys, to hand it out than to say "No."

So far as the Department of Public Works is concerned, what shall we say? Someone wrote that "large streams from little fountains flow, great oaks from little acorns grow"; and when we saw this Department start with a fountain-head of expenditure of \$90,000 for road machinery, we are not surprised to find that at the end of the term this had swollen to a large stream of \$1,500,000, which up to the present time has not all been satisfactorily accounted for. (Loud applause).

SHIP'S MASCOT REVENGED

NEW ORLEANS, July 6—(U.P.)—Shipmates of J. E. Ahern, chief engineer of the steamship Ely Kellogg, were so incensed at his alleged act in hurling the ship's mascot, "Blackie," a cat, overboard on leaving Santa Monica Bay, Calif., that they had him arrested here. Ahern was released when prosecuting officials told the New Orleans Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals he would have to be prosecuted in California. Every member of the crew signed a petition for the arrest.

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