

Attorney General Reviews Issues In The Campaign

The following address on Provincial election issues was delivered last evening by Hon. W. E. Darby, Attorney General and Provincial Treasurer:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—

"For the last two weeks you have been listening to a series of radio broadcasts on behalf of the Liberal Government and by supporters of the Conservative Opposition.

"A fair estimate of those addresses would indicate that members of the Government and its candidates have presented you with clear and concise statements of the Government record of achievement and its proposals for you in the future; while the opposition has conducted a campaign of violent criticism and condemnation without one iota of justification, descending at times to vilification and personal abuse, which they have added wild and impossible promises well knowing they were incapable of reasonable fulfillment.

"The Liberal Government has no objection to, nor could any Government resent legitimate criticism either of its financial record or of its policies presently inaugurated or as presented for the future in its published party platform.

"We do think, however, that the electorate will resent in this campaign as they have in the past the injection of deliberate misstatements calculated to reflect on the personal integrity of members of the Government by some of the candidates and other supporters of the Conservative Opposition.

Farming Conditions

"During the campaign you have heard the Progressive Conservative speakers describe the deplorable condition of the farmers of Prince Edward Island and indeed of every industry and undertaking in it; you will have heard that the Government had done nothing to assist either the particular industry selected as the target of attack or conditions generally. Frankly what they hope to gain by such propaganda eludes me.

"I find no evidence of lack of initiative or resource, no evidence of a state of depression, no evidence of such deplorable conditions. I see instead a people inspired by both initiative and resourcefulness, rapidly progressing in the variety and extent of their agricultural products, leading the whole of Canada in the quality of their hogs, cattle and poultry; a countryside of smiling and prosperous homesteads, equipped with the latest and most modern machinery and equipment; a people now being served with the most advanced policies in health and welfare services, and a population imbued with a pride of achievement which will enable them to hold and maintain the enviable position they now enjoy in the economic structure of this great country.

"I see as well our fisheries fast developing into a well organized industry which by exploring both sources of supply and availability of markets will fast attain proportions never before dreamed by those engaged in it.

Tourist Development

"I see a tourist development which will bring thousands of visitors annually to our shores, to enjoy to the full our beautiful beaches, our fishing streams and the quiet of our calm and peaceful countryside.

"We, of the Liberal Party, have faith in the future of our Province, and in the quality of its citizenry. We hold out no promises of Utopia, but we do hold with those prophets of doom who would seek to paint a gloomy picture to the electorate in the hope of achieving control in the Government by promising to better alleged deplorable conditions that do not exist.

"Let us examine the Conservative claim that the present Liberal Government has done nothing to aid agriculture. Here are a few of the policies initiated by

the Jones Government for the first time in our political history and to whom credit alone can be given.

Field supervision, establishment of the Pathological Laboratory; bonusing of limestone; veterinary assistance; land clearing and drainage service; free soil analysis; blood testing of poultry for pullorum, financial assistance to purchase hogs, rams, and stallions; grants to Breed Associations; construction of cold storage facilities; construction of potato warehouses; establishment of Forestry Division; and greatly increased grants to agricultural and County Fairs. Does that seem to you as if the Jones Government has done and is doing nothing to aid agriculture?

"May I point out this, so that you can judge the validity of this criticism, that in 1935, when a Conservative Government was in power the whole expenditure in this Department amounted to \$45,017 while the cost of all the services provided by us will amount to \$228,000 this year, plus \$12,000 for the land clearing and drainage service and \$21,000 on forestry or a total of \$251,000—nearly six times as much. If you take out the administrative costs in each case the distinction is even more startling.

Fisheries

"Let us consider the next industry of primary importance in the Province and that is our fisheries. Is it true as the Conservatives claim that we have done nothing to aid the fishing industry? During our term of office we have provided loans to enable fishermen to purchase boats and equipment and these loans have in the past year aggregated the sum of \$35,000. During the present year our policy has provided for additional assistance of \$63,000 for the development of a dragger fishery and associated shore facilities.

"May I point out that during the whole term when the Conservatives were in power in this Province not one dollar was voted or spent to assist the fishermen in any shape or form. What reliance can you place on their suddenly developed interest in this industry? Or may I say on their newly awakened consciousness of the fact that such an industry does exist in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

"With regard to industrial development, our Government has endeavored to promote additional enterprises, the provision of cold storage facilities, and the extension of our Newfoundland trade. In addition to that you have only to drive to the outskirts of Charlottetown to see the new industrial area there rapidly growing. That this was made possible was due to the foresight of the Jones Government in acquiring the site and later making it available to private industry to provide additional employment for your sons and daughters.

"We have heard considerable advance and at times vindictive criticism as to the operation of the Eskimo and the efforts of the Jones Government through its Industrial Corporation to develop trade with Newfoundland. Whether that venture is profitable or not it does show the increasing concern of our Government for the extension of markets for Prince Edward Island produce and for the benefit of our Island producer.

Speaks For Itself

"So there is the record, which speaks for itself. Our policies on agriculture, our development of the fisheries, our promotion of Island industry and enterprise. Because we have done this we are now subjected to the most vicious criticism by the so-called friends of the farmers, the fishermen and the manufacturers. I might also for a moment speak of the efforts made by our Government to promote a well rounded tourist industry in this Province.

"Tourist loans have been provided and over the last few years an amount of approximately \$200,

000 for the erection of suitable tourist cabins and resorts to attract to our shores an ever increasing number of visitors. Our policy has been to turn this loan account into a revolving fund, so that as loans are being repaid further loans are made available to provide additional accommodation consistent with the growth of that industry.

"Our policy has also been to build roads and adequate roads toward these tourist centres. The Trans-Canada Highway about which so much complaint is being voiced by the leader of the Opposition and his candidates, will, when completed, be an added attraction in luring the visitor to places of interest. At the same time these visitors will not only provide a revenue to the keepers of tourist resorts but by increasing the consumption of gasoline within our Province add considerably to our Provincial revenues.

Provincial Debt

"May I now take a moment to refer to an advertised challenge by the former leader of the Opposition respecting the debt of this Province in the year 1935. He endeavored to make some political capital out of an alleged discrepancy. May I point out to the former leader of the Opposition and to the people of this Province, that the figures referred to were merely illustrating the comparative burden of debt to Provincial revenue and were in terms stated to be an approximation only.

"We said the Provincial debt at that time was approximately four times the revenue. Had the former leader of the Opposition been entirely frank he would, since he wished to have an exact figure, have quoted as well the exact figures of Provincial revenue at that time.

"He is quite correct in stating that the debt was \$5,231,746 but did not tell you that the exact revenue figure was \$1,535,000 so that the debt was actually more than three and one-half times the revenue or as I stated approximately four times the amount of revenue and again I repeat, approximately four times the amount of Provincial revenue, whereas at the present time the debt is only, and again I say designedly 'approximately' twice the revenue, so after all this so-called bombshell turns out to be a dud.

"I may point out as well that his exact calculations of the amount of debt increase attributable to his Government during that year as being 7-12th of the debt increase of \$952,292 is entirely misleading and intended to deceive the electorate, because he knows, and very well knows as a former Provincial Treasurer, as he claims himself to be, that every commitment made for the capital expenditure causing that debt increase was made by him and contracts entered into by him prior to the middle of August when he resigned from office. If his successors, the Lea-Campbell Government had continued at the extravagant rate under which he was proceeding instead of paring expenditures to the bone, during the 4½ months of the year remaining.

"The record shows not only a debt increase on his capital account but a deficit on ordinary expenditures. He should have known what revenue he would have and what expenditures he should have made to keep within that revenue. Compare his deficit of \$376,297 with the record of surplus that our Government has produced during the last four years. We are quite prepared to let our financial management of our affairs stand the test of comparison with that of our Conservative predecessors in office.

Conservative Platform

"I would like for a few moments to deal with that truly amazing document published in the press of this Province and headed Progressive Conservative Platform. The first item and on that account I presume, what was intended to be the most important proposal outlined by the Opposition to solicit your support, is the creation of a Special Fund of \$1,000,000 to be loaned for the purchase of farm lands, live stock, farming and fishing equipment,

and the purchase of buildings and so forth.

"All this is to be yours simply for the asking. You do not have to have farm lands, you do not have to have any live stock, you do not have to have any farm equipment, you do not have to be a farmer, you do not have to put up one cent, but this amazing fund will provide it all for you. Long terms of credit will be given and an unstated interest rate.

"Common sense will dictate to you as it would to any sound business man or administrator that where a person has no interest in the result of his operations, those operations will inevitably fail. Unless a party embarks on a venture in which he has a small stake of his own for which he is prepared to struggle and fight to preserve, it would not be long after a few unsuccessful seasons before the whole population or what was left of it was thrown back into the lap of the Government and this supposedly new acquisition to the farming industry disappear, for what incentive would he have to struggle against such adversity?

"He has no equity to lose and nothing to gain by prolonging the struggle. In all my experience I have not yet found that either private sources for farm loans or those provided by the Farm Loan Board failed to supply the necessary capital for the right type of young person seeking to establish himself on a farm. This whole scheme would end in a miserable fiasco and this, those promoting such a scheme, well know. I am afraid that hunger for office sometimes leads men to very desperate straits but I would think that the good sense of the people of Prince Edward Island will not be fooled by any such ridiculous promise.

Teachers' Salaries

"Plank Number 2, Teachers' Salaries. Here again we have nothing but a barefaced attempt to solicit votes. Free school books for all pupils up to and including Grade 6. The Liberal Government realizes that in some instances hardship is occasioned by the high cost of school books and that if we were being entirely frank with the electorate we would have to say that the time when the purchase of school books becomes a burden is after Grade 6 and not before.

"Experience has shown in other Provinces that the purchase of free school books is wasteful and extravagant and carries with it little attempt by the pupil to look after that which is given to them free. Our policy has been to give a subvention to assist in the purchase of school books and we think that is proper and sound.

"With regard to teachers' salaries, we say that we are prepared to make supplemental provision for an increase consonant with our Provincial revenues. The Conservative platform says nothing about assistance to rural schools, the ordinary expenditures of the Government were \$1,912.07 and the revenues including the results of this wonderful presentation \$1,535,710 or a deficit on ordinary account of \$386,297.

"I think you will agree with me that an award which did not allow us enough money to carry on for at least one year, and incurring such a tremendous deficit could hardly be said to have been the result of a successful management of our claims.

"There is the record. I think we should add to the Litany: From successful presentations such as these: Good Lord deliver us.

"Compare this with the result of the 1947 agreement entered into by the Jones Government with the Dominion pursuant to our presentation at the 1946 Conference. During the first year that payments under this agreement were made, expenditures were \$3,813,154 and revenues \$3,933,778 for a surplus of \$140,624 on ordinary account and in the 1948-49 fiscal year a surplus of \$708,954.

"Plank Number 8, Public Health and Welfare purports to promise Old Age Pensions to all at age 65 without a means test. The Federal Government has indicated their policy of Contributory Pensions to all over 70 without a means test, the entire cost to be borne by the Dominion; and between 65-69 with a means test. This was stated in the Federal Statute which authorized the increase.

A Long Time

"Forty years of complete neglect and failure for a few thousand dollars a year, without one dollar of compensation for the past; would you say that was anything to boast about?

"One of the most difficult hurdles we had to overcome in our argument before the Royal Commission on Transportation was the fact that the Conservative Government of this Province had accepted this payment as a full settlement.

"Now let us examine the record of achievement in respect of the 1926 award. Due to the submissions made by our Conservative friends—the then Government of the day—before the Duncan Commission in 1926, the Province of Prince Edward Island was given an additional annual subsidy of \$125,000 per year. This Commission was set up to study the then depressed condition of Maritime Provincial Government finances and a general readjustment made. We would assume that the Conservative Government of the day knew or should have known the needs of our Provinces and would have obtained sufficient to carry on the business of Government for at least the next few years.

"But what are the facts? During the first year that payments under the award were made, including the additional \$125,000 which they boast about, the Conservative Government had a deficit of \$68,922 on ordinary account. Instead of getting \$125,000 per year, they should have gotten

WESTERN GUARDIAN

—UNLOADING car of shavings at New Annan Station, Wednesday. Colin Waugh, Wilmot.

—SEE THE THREE ACT PLAY, "Aunt Tillie Goes To Town" in Malpeque Hall, Friday, April 27th, at 8:15 P. M. Presented by Malpeque W. I.

—AUCTION SALE at James Arling's, Tryon, household effects of six room home on Wednesday, April 25th, at 1:30 P. M. If stormy sale on Friday, April 27th. E. C. Bell, Auctioneer.

—PLAYS NOW IN REHEARSAL—With winter giving way to spring, young folk and older, all over the country are assuming characteristics, costumes and make-up unknown in their day-by-day lives. Stage-acting? Of course. Plays in one act, plays in three acts, plays for local entertainment. In the latter class are three one-act plays in rehearsal for Irishtown entertainments. The first, an old-fashioned melodrama, "He Done Her Wrong", features Archie Johnston and Jean Adams as "He" and "Her". The second play, "In Doubt About Daisy" in which Mona Campbell and Clair Campbell play "Father and Mother" is a "comedy of errors", but ends happily for all concerned. "Merry Molly Malone" a gay Irish comedy, is staged with Thelma Campbell in the title role and an adequate supporting cast. The three plays with specialties, will be produced in Irishtown Hall in the near future. Drama Festival material, directed by Mrs. Harold Laird, is being prepared by Kelvin Grove players. "That Remarkable Baby", a comedy farce, will be produced by the senior group, while the Juniors are preparing an adaptation from the story of "The Three Bears". These two plays with specialties will also be presented in Irishtown Hall in the near future.

at least \$100,000 more to carry on the public services at that time. Thus the record of the very next year revealed how inadequately our claims must have been presented.

The White Award

"The last of these so called successful presentations of Prince Edward Island's fiscal need was before the White Commission in 1934. As a result, thus the Province obtained an additional subsidy of \$150,000 per year; and this was stated to be in lieu of all claims the Province might have against the Dominion. That was fine, a wonderful achievement by the MacMillan Government; but what are the facts? During the first year under which these payments were made, and the submissions adequately presented as their party platform boasts, the ordinary expenditures of the Government were \$1,912.07 and the revenues including the results of this wonderful presentation \$1,535,710 or a deficit on ordinary account of \$386,297.

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Only Alternative

"Where do they expect to get the money? Certainly not from Ottawa—it has already indicated the limit it is prepared to go on Old Age Assistance. The only alternative would be to tax you, but they say they will not tax. They promise to reduce expenditures by increasing expenditures.

"Here we have two sets of contradictory promises: by these financial pundits, I suggest you would be better served by retaining in office the same financial management which the Liberal Government has and will continue to give you.

"In closing I wish to refer to the last plank in the Conservative Platform, the reference that there will be no sales tax under the Bell Government.

"In one sense this is partially true, since there is no such thing as a Bell Government. On the other hand if the promises of increased expenditures in their

Election Campaign

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come out and it is costly and troublesome to print ballots for them.

"Clause 11 says there will be no Turnover Tax. No argument there—only a suggestion which has been amply refuted.

"In the Tory platform everything is O.K. in Health and Welfare—only they would spend more. The Doctor must have decreed that.

"In Education also no change except free school books to Grade VI. I wonder if rural schools or the curriculum would be in the present high state of efficiency had not the Liberals been in charge. We are proud of progress in rural education and I would say to rural teachers, I, personally, do not agree with that check-off in your salaries and ask what do you want me to do about it?

"Up to now I have talked all rebuttal. One thing more. I heard on the radio some western Conservative candidate condoning the breaking of the fisheries regulations for fishing out of season. Why such talk? Does he hope thereby to secure votes from law breakers? It is a terrible state of mind the Opposition is in.

Keeping Its Course

"The Liberal Party is keeping its course and is quite sure there is no effective opposition. The time for the election is the best, date in the whole year. The roads are already in good shape. A new government will be all set for a good year's work—any other date would seriously disturb the people, and interrupt road programs.

"I am particularly pleased, as you must have been, with Liberal speeches on the radio. I have not heard them all. But Mr. Matheson with his Health and Welfare program and not a word of politics, has impressed the people. Mr. Darby with his facts and figures must have impressed the public. Mr. Large on Education was good. Also Mr. Arsenault on tourist trade, etc. Mr. Cullen gave a clear, concise account of his Department; also Mr. Baker in Agriculture. I am proud of the members of the Government. Among private members I have heard is Keir Clark who talked as well as any Minister.

"For Mr. Cullen I might add, for his and your information, that the Federal Government has just agreed to a Forestry Program for Prince Edward Island. This has been urged for some time past and now the Province will benefit upwards of ten thousand dollars annually in forestry alone.

"I note too the Fisheries Development Committee an advisory body on questions concerning fisheries and fishing. A survey of our fisheries will be undertaken this year, with the best of the diat experts available and their recommendations will be put in force.

Trans-Canada Highway

"I note, too the current discussion on the Trans-Canada Highway. As you know this job must be completed by 1956, or possibly before the next election. It will link ferry to ferry. Some of it will be paved this year. A road will connect it to Summerside from the nearest point—Albany. A tourist information centre will be built at Albany.

"While construction is underway the Augustine Cove road will carry a good deal of the traffic and will be immediately put into shape to do it. The road through Centerville will also have to be kept in good condition. New pavement will also be laid at New Annan and North Beedeque. This over 20 miles of pavement will be laid from the set-up at Albany this year and by 1953 all the Trans-Canada including the Summerside Road will be complete as far as Bonshaw.

"It will then be necessary to make a paving set-up farther East towards Charlottetown and complete the road into Charlottetown by 1953 and rebuild as well sections of the Charlottetown-Summerside Highway in the vicinity of Milton and Hunter's River.

"At the same time the road to Wood Islands must go forward. It is a big program—the bridges alone being a huge job.

"There is also a paving set-up at Rosemeath which will do the

platform are carried out, one thing is certain, they will have to tax you. No elimination of land tax as the Jones Government has done—but new taxation. As far as their ability to bargain with Ottawa is concerned, their previous record utterly condemns them. We say that no sales tax will be imposed by the Liberal Government because we produce surpluses not deficits.

"When returned to power on April 26th next we will set the policy continued and your interests properly safeguarded. At the same time our public services will be maintained at a level consonant with reasonable requirements and within our ability to pay.

"Make sure of good Government by voting for your local Liberal candidates on election day."

paving into Georgetown and Carleton Place.

"A paving set-up must be made soon for a road leading west of O'Leary and another leading from Elmsdale into Tignish.

"The application for abandonment of the Hillsborough Bridge by the C.N.R. will be discussed before the Board of Transport Commissioners in early June.

"It will be necessary to make the road to Bonshaw from Charlottetown fit for the heavy traffic until the Trans Canada is completed. This will entail a hard surface from Cornwall to New Haven this year and treatment of the road from New Haven to Bonshaw.

"The road machines are now all out grading and it is proposed to continue grading until the shoulders are properly sloped before the building of new roads is begun. By early June all grading should be completed, and then the building, graveling and paving begun.

"On Prince Edward Island and this is true of no other province, all the gasoline and motor vehicle taxes go to improve and build roads.

"A nasty report has been circulated that the gasoline rebates will not be given. That report is untrue. There will be no change in the gasoline rebates.

P. C. Candidates

"Now what are the issues in this election? The only one is to turn the Liberals out by any means fair or foul. A ray of hope for P. C. candidates is nominated to do it. Let's look them over for Cabinet material. First, Dr. MacMillan, formerly premier for two years, will likely be premier as Mr. Bell won't get in for sure. But possibly we should assume all get in and see what we have.

"In Queen's there are Dr. MacMillan, Reginald Bell, David Matheson, Philip Matheson and Walter McKenzie with some experience—also Matthew Wood.

"In Prince just Ernest Strong with experience.

"In King's Major McDonald and John McLean with some experience—also Mr. Burge.

"I suppose Strong from Prince would come in and course Bell for Premier is Queen's. Likely MacMillan and Matheson from Charlottetown and to balance it religiously McDonald from King's. None of these are good agriculturists so McKenzie will be Minister of Agriculture. Then the French race must be represented. Say Andrew Perry of Summerside, Burge and McLean from King's and a western member—the fellow who wants to fish out of season—would complete a government of nine with three from each county and Catholic representation from each.

"The new Government would then proceed to replace Liberals in the public services with Progressive Conservatives. I suppose most public servants would have to get out; also all tractor operators and garage men. They are mostly good men and could land on their feet but what about the greenhorns they would place in the public service. There would be very difficult situations arise.

"This new Government would hardly have to argue the case of the Hillsborough Bridge before the Board of Transport Commissioners and then would have to go on to the adjourned Dominion-County Conference. They would also have to determine zoning question and the freight zoning. Also they would have to let contracts for the Trans-Canada Highway and locate it somewhere else, according to their talk. They would then fire the Liquor Commissioners and may change the Temperance Act, although I have not heard their views on it.

"I am guessing, myself, that a people will get government just now. The Opposition shows more maturity maybe, but not yet.

"In my own district I have an opponent—my over-the-fence neighbour—Matthew Wood. He has not had good luck in politics as he has been defeated four times in a row but always made a good showing. He reminds me of Sir Barton in the old ballad:

"I am hurt but I am not slain
"I'll lay me down and bleed awhile
"And then I'll rise and fight again."

"It is an excellent spirit and such persistence should have its reward. He and I have known old together and one or the other of us will be disappointed. We'll both be too old next time. Possibly he has something I haven't got. Use your good judgment—Belfast electors.

"It is too bad we do not hear more from Reginald Bell. But he is very, very busy in 2nd Queen's.

"A great effort is being made by the Progressive Conservatives to elect Major John McDonald, Keir Clark and Joe Campbell as our champions there. A nice fight by four able men.

"Also in Murray Harbour a good scrap to defeat Alex Matheson. I'll say his defeat would hurt the Liberals badly. I am depending on his election and hope the Liberals will come out and elect a man worthy to go places.

"In Souris two young men of promise battle two well-established candidates with heavy connec-

Let's Talk It Over

A Prince County Viewpoint

We should like to congratulate all the candidates of Fourth Prince on the pledges they have made to keep their election campaigns free of corrupt practices. They have taken a courageous stand, and are setting a noble example to all the other electoral districts on the Island. Would it not be a splendid thing if other candidates would give the same pledge? We would urge the candidates of Fifth Prince, in whom we have a special interest, to follow the lead of their fellow candidates in the adjoining district. It is still not too late to pledge themselves to see that election day activities will not be marred by the use of alcoholic or monetary persuasion as mediums of exchange for support.

Let us see this situation sensibly and not as ostriches with heads in the sand of hypocrisy. We believe that Prince Edward Island has as large a percentage of honest citizens who cannot be "bought" (as you will find anywhere in the world. But, human frailty being what it is, to assume that all the voters, here or anywhere else, are above bribery would be ridiculous.

As long as we shut our eyes to abuses existing in our way of carrying on elections, there will never be any improvement, and the democratic privilege of the franchise, of which we are all proud, will be tarnished. When a conscientious voter's ballot is nullified by a "bought" vote, the honest citizen loses his right to have a say in how his country is governed. For every "bought" vote polled we have an honest elector disfranchised, and we get nearer to the situation in Communist Russia, where "government by the people" is an empty phrase.

tions through the constituency. It will be an honour to them to win out.

"In King's County there is practically no contest in the other constituencies.

"In Prince there are rumblings only in the First District and C.C.F. talk in the Third. Count ten for Prince.

In Charlottetown

"A merry fight is proceeding in Charlottetown and Royalty and no candidate is missing a bet. Charlottetown and Royalty, which is almost twenty per cent of the province, voting strength of the province, would know what is good for them and vote accordingly. In the past their judgment has been at fault mostly.

"If Lloyds were selling bets on the result they would give 20 to 1 the government would be re-elected, 10 to 1 that they would have twenty members, 5 to 1 they would go back as strong as before and two to one they would be stronger. Even money for 2 members.

"Personally I should be sorry to quit now as so much is to be done which might not be done. There is this Hillsborough Bridge question. Also the Murray Harbour train, the zoning regulations and the bus problem. There is this Provincial Conference. They would also have to determine zoning question and the freight zoning. Also they would have to let contracts for the Trans-Canada Highway and locate it somewhere else, according to their talk. They would then fire the Liquor Commissioners and may change the Temperance Act, although I have not heard their views on it.

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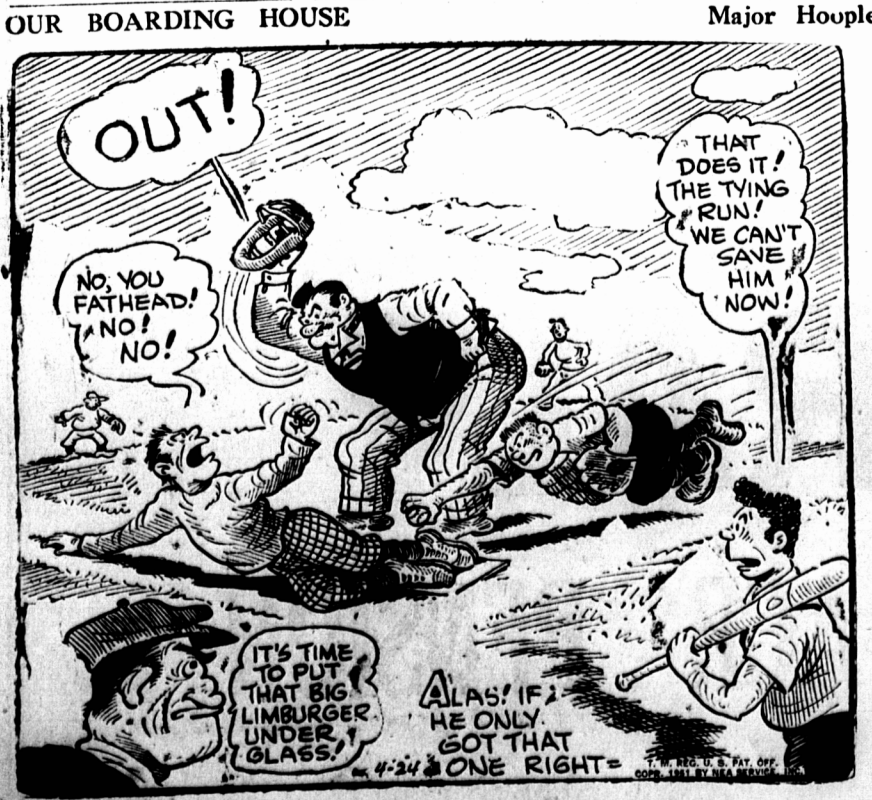
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