

PREMIER TILLEY ISSUES PARTY MANIFESTO

(Continued from Page 17)

this province has something to show for such expenditure, namely, the finest roads and bridges per capita of any province in the Dominion.

My honorable friend says that the Liberal Federal Government in 1927 endeavored to help New Brunswick to a safe financial position, by taking over the Valley Railway, and thereby relieving the province of six million dollars liability, but the honorable gentlemen forgot, or shall I say, intentionally omitted, to give the public a correct statement of the facts.

When the Veniot-Foster Government was in power from 1921 to 1925, the Hon. W. E. Foster, then Premier, went on many occasions to Sir Henry Thornton and the federal leader, Hon. Mackenzie King, at Ottawa, petitioning and requesting the taking over of the Valley Railway, but without success. It remained for the incoming Baxter Government to complete the transaction. The records will show that the then Premier Baxter and the so-called ornamental president of the Executive Council Tilley, acting for and on behalf of the Government, journeyed two or three times to Montreal, interviewed Sir Henry Thornton and the Federal Government, and succeeded in 1927 in having the Canadian National Railway take over the Valley Railway, thereby relieving the Provincial Treasury of an annual net deficit for running expenses and interest charges, of some two hundred and fifty to two hundred and seventy thousand dollars, which our Opposition friends always charged up to capital account, in order to make their annual deficit look smaller.

My honorable friend also stated in his radio address, that we milled through the Public Works Department as an expenditure account in 1930, on the roads and bridges of the province, some eight and a half millions. He is out in his figures only about two million dollars, but in these days of exaggeration and erratic statements by some of our political opponents, a few such misquotations seem to be neither here nor there.

He refers to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Hon. A. J. Leger, as the watch dog of the Provincial Treasury, but states that he, Leger, with wearying regularity, boasts of the sinking fund set aside to meet capital expenditures. He charges the Provincial Treasurer with having invaded the sanctity of these sinking funds for the benefit of his political friends and to the detriment of this fund. I challenge the Hon. Mr. Dysart, here, now, or on any occasion, to prove or substantiate that entirely erroneous statement.

Small Potatoes

The honorable leader of the Opposition attempts to hold the Tilley Government responsible for the drop in price of potatoes. He might just as well say that the Tilley Government is responsible for the drop in price of Canadian wheat. What do the fair-minded politicians, both Liberal and Conservative, think of a statement which he gave over the radio like this, that it would take 17,250 barrels of potatoes at the present current price to pay for the Premier's trip to England in the interest of New Brunswick lumber; but, he omits to mention the fact as to what work has been done in the interest of lumber by my Department of Lands and Mines, and my Government, as to increased production and employment to the working man in the woods. I shall take more trips to England in the interest of lumber without any apology, providing the results shown by my Department continue, as they have continued, to show the most gratifying increase. What are the facts?

The long lumber cut off Crown land in the operating year from 1932 to 1933 amounted in all to 49,000,000 superficial feet; this cut

was increased in the operating year of 1933-1934, to 108,000,000, and in the winter's cut 1934-1935, to 135,000,000.

In other words, the men employed in the woods in cutting and getting out this lumber in 1932-1933, numbered about 4,500, and in the winter of 1934-1935, approximately 12,000.

Under the present Government, the men in the woods are, for the first time in the history of the Province of New Brunswick, receiving a minimum wage of \$32 per month against a former average wage running from \$10 to \$20 per month.

On my return from this trip to England, I as Minister of Lands and Mines, called together the first co-operating conference of the Woods Products Commissions of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and these commissions have been instrumental in securing and appointing from the Governments of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, a representative of the lumber interest, in England, maintained by the three Governments, for the purpose of facilitating and increasing the marketing of Eastern Canadian lumber in Great Britain.

My honorable friend referred to a statement I made, that the word of the Province of New Brunswick was as good as its bond, but that Premier Baxter and the Government had failed to compel the International Paper Company to build a pulp mill on the Miramichi. He omitted, however, to state that the same company had built a fifteen million dollar mill at Dalhousie, in Restigouche County. He also failed to state the fact as to what the operations of the mill meant to the Province of New Brunswick.

This company spent last year in salaries and wages in connection with the Dalhousie mill, \$945,000, and in woods operations \$922,000; or a total expenditure in all for salaries and wages, and woods operations as above mentioned, and other operations in the province, \$2,026,000, and \$1,053,000 in supplies.

No premier could have done more than the former Premier Baxter, in his efforts to secure an additional mill on the Miramichi, and it certainly was no fault of his that a further mill was not erected there.

The other large operating company in the province, Fraser Company Limited, expended last year in mill wages, \$1,232,000, and \$553,000 in woods wages, and on material, supplies, power and insurance, \$1,849,000.

The leader of the Opposition also criticized the Government for not putting into effect Old Age Pensions. Well, let there be no mistake as to my view on Old Age Pensions. I am strongly in favor of Old Age Pensions, and just as soon as financial conditions and our revenue improve, I will put the Act in operation, but I first must continue to provide for the needy people on unemployment relief, and if it becomes necessary at any time to make further expenditure out of the exchequer of the province, it will be to evolve ways and means to create work and employment for families in dire need.

My honorable friend says that we have taken away free school books. Is that sweeping statement entirely accurate? He is surely aware that under the present Act, no person who is financially unable to pay for school books for his children, is required to do so.

As soon as we commence to receive our additional payment from Ottawa under the findings of the White Commission in further implementing the Duncan Commission, we will return to the issue of school books as heretofore.

My honorable friend also claims that the Government had not dared to open the six vacancies in the house, five of which occurred last year. He only has to

look back on the past history, not alone of this party but of his own, and find that many vacancies were allowed to stand until the general election, thereby saving the province an additional expenditure when an election was imminent within 12 months from the date of such vacancy, and no constituency was without representation during that period.

I might also point out that two by-elections that were run by this Government earlier in the life of the present Legislature, one in Gloucester and one in Saint John County, were both won by the present Government, so evidently there was no fear displayed by the Government in conducting these by-elections.

My honorable friend charges that this Government has impaired our financial well-being through riotous and extravagant expenditures. Can it be stated honestly that the financial well-being of this province has been ruined on the markets of Canada when only two months ago, a two-million bond issue of the province was sold at a better price than any provincial bond issue of the province within the last 30 years, netting the provinces a rate of interest of 3.33 per cent.

He further states that this Government has heaped deficit upon deficit, amounting to millions of dollars. Well, we are not the only province in the Dominion that has had a deficit. He fails to state that during three years of the life of the present Government, this Government has shown three surpluses, which the former Government was not able to produce. He also fails to point out that even the deficit last year in New Brunswick, is only about one-half the deficit of our sister Province of Nova Scotia, and that the deficits in all the other provinces of the Dominion were, per capita, in almost every instance, higher than in this province. He omitted to point out that the actual deficit under the Veniot Government during the last five years of its regime, without allowing for Valley Railway deficits, amounted as follows: 1921, \$507,132; 1922, \$189,511; 1923, \$524,611; 1924, \$248,129, and the last year of their term of office, \$756,589.

My honorable friend states that this Government had modified its sinking fund provisions by reducing the amount of percentage set aside to meet such bonds. That statement is correct—the sinking fund reduction was made to one-half of one per cent, for a three year period; in other words, this province put its sinking fund payment at the same rate of sinking fund as has been for many years, and at present is being carried by the Province of Nova Scotia, but he omitted to mention that this adjustment has been made for a period of three years, and on that basis, does not impair the payment of the bonds at maturity.

He further states that through stumpage bickering and trade interfering, the Government has shaken confidence in our lumbering industry.

I am not aware of any such shaken confidence as he refers to. In fact, the contra has already been shown by the increased production to the lumber industry within this province.

He further claims that according to a statement of mine, one hundred and fifty-seven thousand cords of pulpwood, during the past fiscal year, were exported from this province, but he omitted to state that of that one hundred and fifty-seven thousand cords, about forty-seven thousand of it comes off Crown lands, and that the other one hundred and ten thousand off privately owned land, where the owners are allowed to ship their wood wherever they like. He also failed to point out that the Government charges 50 cents a cord export duty on any pulp wood cut off Crown land, and that the cutting and sale of this pulpwood create work

for hundreds and hundreds of our men in the woods, who otherwise would be walking the streets, or on the dole.

He further states that the Government has substantially increased the salary of its members and employes. This is an erroneous statement—the salaries of the civil servants have not been increased, but they have been put back to the figures at which they were paid some three years ago—therefore, when he says they were increased, it is a plausible, but inaccurate, statement of facts. The salaries paid to the officials of the Province of New Brunswick, with the exception of the salary paid to the leader of the Opposition, are lower than in any other province of Canada with the exception of Prince Edward Island.

He further charges that the Minister of Public Works purchased road machinery at exorbitant prices, but both session before last, and last session, he utterly failed to substantiate his charges.

He charges that the Smith foundry at Fredericton was taken over for Government garage and repair shops, and offices, at a cost of \$65,000, which he claims was far above its value, but he omits to state that at the time of the taking over of the Smith foundry, it was assessed by the city of Fredericton at some \$84,000. He omitted at the same time to mention the taking over of the Queen Hotel by the former Government and the leasing for a period of 20 years of the three dwellings near the Reversible Falls, at the City of Saint John, at \$100 per annum.

In his radio manifesto, he overlooked drawing the attention of the people of New Brunswick to the fact that this Government has, within the last three years—

Enacted the first Mining Act in the Province of New Brunswick, for the benefit of miners;

Assisted in increasing the market for New Brunswick lumber in Great Britain, the 1934-35 shipments of long lumber from the Crown lands to Great Britain being over double that of 1933;

By Act of Legislature, created Provincial Marketing Board, which has been referred to as a political organization, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. A. Neil McLean, an outstanding Liberal and business man, was appointed by the Government as a member of that board.

It enacted the New Brunswick Forest Operations Commission Act, fixing a minimum wage for men working in the lumber woods, thereby increasing the rate of pay to the men, to \$32 per month;

Established single men's unemployment relief camps, the expense of same being borne by the Federal Government, creating a reforestation depot and a Maritime artillery camp range in place of our artillery and militia going to Ontario;

Instituted a hard-surface road policy which will expedite local and tourist traffic, and do away with the most objectionable dust nuisance, and steadily increase tourist traffic;

Induced through federal aid the building of additional dormitory at the Experimental Farm to provide extra accommodation for our agricultural schools to be conducted on the premises;

Provided aid to colonists in way of free seed and food allowance during seeding period;

Secured a large increase in colonization lots awarded to settlers in New Brunswick, double the amount of settlers lots on the colonization scheme being allocated in comparison with the last three years of the Veniot-Foster Government;

Provided a much needed bonus to hake fishermen to assist them in marketing their fish;

Gave a rebate of tax on gasoline to farmers, fishermen, lumbermen and industrial users of gasoline—in fact, to all except those operating motor vehicles on the highways;

Reserved from off Crown land fishing license mileage area for public fishing by residents of New Brunswick;

Increased the rate to men working on bridges and highways of the province;

Built a new wing to the Provincial Hospital, providing much needed additional accommodation to a worthy institution, and re-organized the hospital on a strictly modern basis;

Financially aid counties in need of financial assistance;

Restored the pay cut to all provincial employes and officials;

Passed legislation to permit women voters the right to take seats in the Legislature of New Brunswick;

Required saw mill licensees to cut the maximum amount to be cut annually under timber regulations;

Established a new tourist and fishing license permitting visiting tourists and immediate members of their families to fish the open waters of the Province of New Brunswick on payment of \$5 per week per family;

Awarded bonuses by way of prizes to agricultural fairs;

Provided legislation whereby the province may step in and take over management of any municipality liable to go into liquidation.

Though in many other provinces, there are, unfortunately, many municipalities in liquidation to the amount of over one hundred million dollars, there is not one municipality in the Province of New Brunswick in the same position;

Through the New Brunswick Hydro Commission, built transmission lines from Minto to Nelson, Newcastle, Chatham, Loggieville, and thereby reduced the cost to the consumer to nearly one-third of the original price charged to the customer;

Passed the Dairy Products Act to stabilize the price of milk to farmers and dealers, and appointed a board to regulate and control same, which Act will commence to operate in certain areas already chosen, by next month;

Enacted the New Brunswick Housing Commission Act for the purpose of rehabilitating slum areas or buildings declared not properly habitable;

Aided rural districts by reducing the New Brunswick Electric Hydro service charge, to \$1;

Made important amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, in the interest of the working man;

Aided needy farmer potato growers to buy fertilizer;

Assisted the Poultry Association in order to stabilize the price of eggs to farmers;

With the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Quebec, appointed a Lumber Trade Commissioner for England, to assist in marketing our Eastern Canadian lumber;

To aid the fishermen, appointed a Commissioner in Upper Canada to assist in organization of marketing of our fish products;

And, when given the mandate of the people, and returned to power on June 27 next, this Government will continue to carry out legislation in the interests of the people of the Province of New Brunswick, and among some of the questions with which it will deal promptly, will be the following:

1. The Government will increase to 100 miles in 1936, the construction of hard-surface roads, so as to produce a much greater amount of employment than heretofore, being satisfied that we have adopted the right type of roads as to suitability and permanency;

2. The Government will also continue to improve the secondary and by-roads throughout the province, with a view to assist in the elimination of direct relief;

3. The Government proposes to acquire a suitable site for a National Park, and to develop the same by the necessary clearing and building of roads, with the

(Continued on page 23, Col.3.)