

New Spring Goods

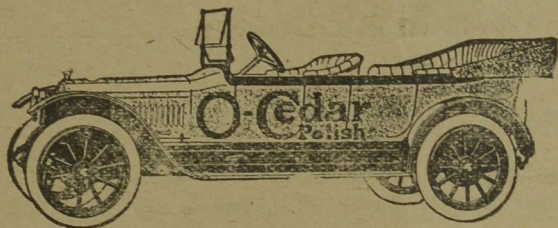
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THE MARITIME ELECTRIC CO.

FREDERICTON, N. B.

Progressive Members Take Part in the Debate on Address in House

(Continued From Page Three.)

MR. BURLOCK congratulated the mover and seconder of the address, and also the hon. leader of the opposition. He felt sure that the latter should he ever be called upon to take office, would prove himself an able opponent of the Farmers Party. It was unnecessary for him (Burlock) to make any apology for the presence of a third party in the House. At the last session some hon. members seemed to think that they were out of place, but if the hon. minister of lands and mines voiced their sentiments they had evidently changed their views. The hon. minister had certainly spoken kindly of the Farmers Party, and it rather looked as if he eventually might work his way back to the soil. It had been said that the financial condition of the province was serious. He would like to know how it could be otherwise as succeeding governments had for years been piling up the debt. The hon. minister took consolation from the fact that other provinces were in a bad condition financially, but in his (Burlock's) opinion that only made matters worse. The hon. minister had referred to the stumpage rate, which was now five dollars a thousand on spruce. He believed that if the rate was continued and operations curtailed that the province would derive just as much revenue as it would if the stumpage rate was reduced, and besides it would have the lumber as an asset. Personally he was opposed to any reduction in the rate of stumpage. Why should there be any concessions granted to the lumbermen. If a farmer put in a crop he had to take a chance on the price to be obtained for it, and why should not the lumberman do the same. He had been pleased with the speech of the hon. minister and hoped that good would come out of it.

With respect to the farmers he would say that their object had not been to get into power but to secure adequate representation. If they did get into power, he believed it would be all the better for the country, as he felt they were capable conducting the business in a more economical way. There was a farmers government in Alberta, and what had happened in the federal election was so fresh in the minds of hon. members that it was not necessary for him to mention it. He might say however that the same might happen in the case of an election in New Brunswick.

His Honor's speech had promised legislation for the encouragement of co-operative marketing of farm produce. At the present time the manufacturers could form combines and monopolies and fix their own prices, but the farmer when he undertakes to ship his produce found himself up against a soulless corporation which took all his profits in freight rates. He hoped that the government would endeavor to find new markets for the farmers. They might also look into the matter of providing frost proof sheds for the storage of potatoes. He looked upon the roads as a headbare subject, but they presented one of the biggest problems which faced the government. He believed that too much money as expended on trunk roads which paralleled the lines of railway. There were cases of that kind in his county, but other roads in the districts were neglected.

HON. MR. VENIOT "You got \$52,679, on roads in Carleton county."

MR. BURLOCK "I am glad the amount was so large, but it was to be spent."

MR. BURLOCK "You pointed out the places where it was to be spent."

MR. BURLOCK "You merely asked for advice. I said nothing about what amounts were to be expended."

HON. MR. VENIOT "I have your

words"

MR. BURLOCK said that if the figures of the hon. minister were correct Carleton county received more than he thought. The speech had referred to water-power development. He could see little use of developing small streams while the province contained one of the greatest water powers on the continent which was going to waste. As far as deficits were concerned the only end was financial ruin. In this particular he did not criticise the present government alone. The department of public works was the chief spender and it was his opinion that some sections of that should be self-supporting. He recognized that not quite enough was paid in road tax. The government of course could not control that matter, the legal tax rate for roads was from twenty-five to sixty per cent. Let the government increase that minimum. It would be better to do that than to consider methods of increasing revenue which it is believed the government have under consideration. Slight reference had been made to the Health Act. A previous session he had been favorably impressed by a speech by the hon. minister of Health, but later he had found that the hon. minister was speaking largely on theory. He did not know how the Health Act was working out in the cities and towns, but in the rural districts it was not satisfactory. It was too costly and too top heavy. He was not opposed to the principle of the Act but was to its administration. He could remember when Dr. Curtis as head of the Board of Health would ask the Carleton county council for four to six hundred dollars each year for health purposes. Now the cost was \$3000 a year, and the only evidence of any advance was compulsory vaccination in the schools and the keeping of vital statistics. The people would not oppose the Act if they could see results. Inconsistencies were numerous. There was a school in this vicinity in which vaccination was carried out in opposition to the view of at least one parent, yet a teacher full of tuberculosis was permitted to stay in the same schools. Amendments to the act were forecasted. It was to be hoped that they would tend towards economy. The speech contained bare mention of rural schools. Glaring inconsistencies existed in that connection, particularly in regard to school rates. He had personal knowledge of a man who was paying \$100 in school rates, on a valuation of \$1000. Better schools and better roads would solve the problem of rural depopulation. Until inequalities were remedied there should be no boasting of the free school system. Inequalities in assessment could be removed if the problem were taken seriously. The government had increased the price of school books at the wrong time, and if they had been as earnest in making some other departments self-sustaining as they were the school book department, there would be smaller deficits. The University of New Brunswick in Fredericton was supplying advance education for those who desired it. Two years ago the government had been asked to increase the appropriation for that University and had replied that the money could not be found. At the same time money could be found for civil service pensions. Comparison between these two actions certainly showed lack of vision on the part of the government. He wished the speech had contained some reference to the dog tax, which was very unpopular in Carleton.

Co-operative selling had been referred to. He knew that it was coming for at the last session both sides of the House had co-operated as never before.

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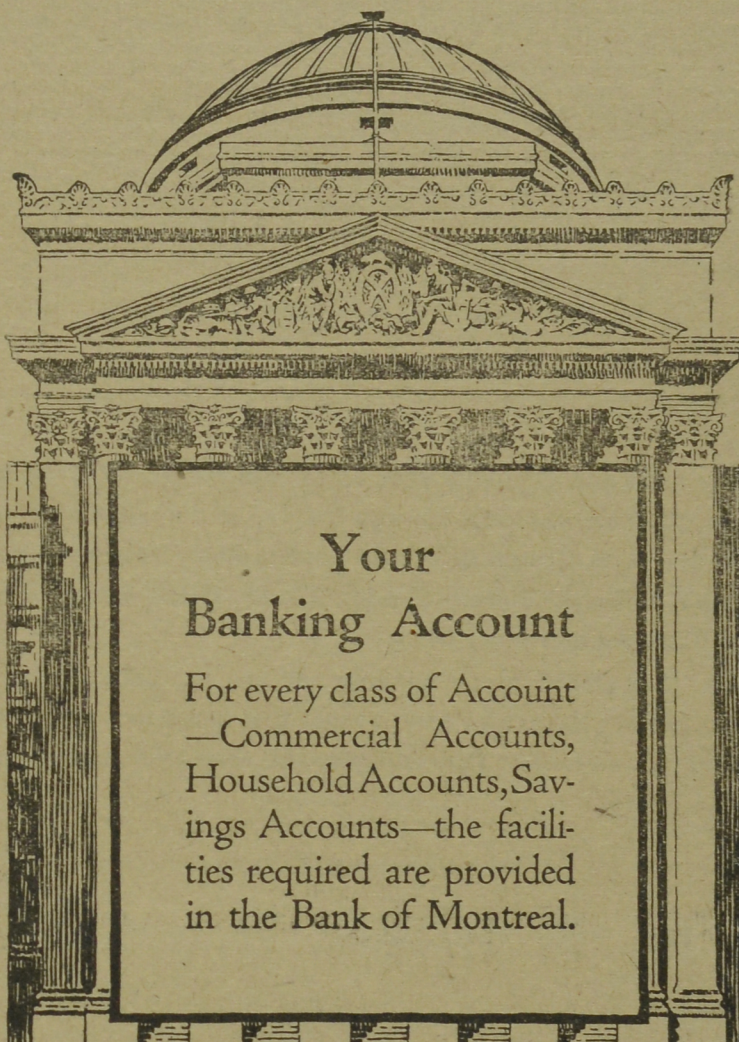


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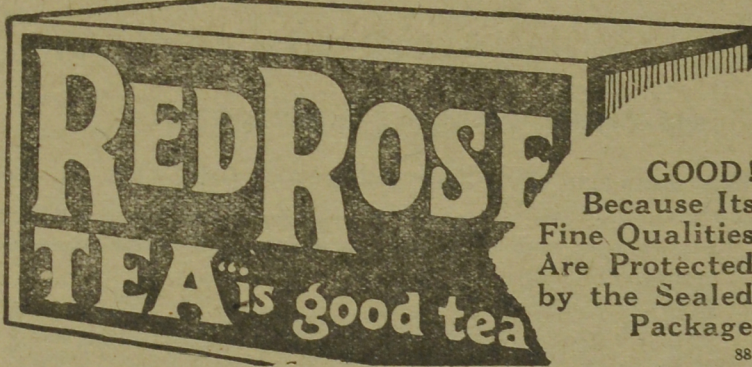
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