

THE DAILY MAIL

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FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1922.

A CRUSHING REBUKE

Leader Charles D. Richards of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, by putting up one of his back benchers to move a non-sensical amendment to the address in the Legislature was successful only in revealing to the people of the country the weakness of the forelorn hope combination which he has been called upon to lead. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 24 to 14, a majority of 10 for the government. Two members of the Farmers group and all of the independent members for Northumberland cast their votes for the government and against the party led by Mr. Richards. In proposing an amendment to the address Leader Richards committed a grave tactical blunder and if he is well advised he will probably exercise greater care in future. The fact that he was able to line up less than one third of the membership of the House in support of his motion should convince him that he is on the wrong track and that a change of tactics will be necessary if he hopes to enjoy any great measure of public confidence within the next twenty-five years. We believe that Leader Richards is a man of honorable motives but he still has a few things to learn about the political game and our advice to him is to sit tight until the party he leads is able to live down the disgraceful scandals which caused the people to oust them from power and land them in the cool shades of opposition.

The vote on the opposition amendment should be highly gratifying to Premier Foster and his colleagues in the government and may be accepted by them as a mandate to pursue the even tenor of their way, giving the province wise and progressive government and administering public affairs in the interests of all the people.

Their amendment having been voted down we would suggest that Leader Richards and his little band of followers now get down to business and instead of spending the time in carping criticism they take hold and earnestly assist the government of the day in inaugurating policies for the benefit of the people, policies that will assist New Brunswick in weathering one of the most severe storms she has ever been called upon to face.

A GREAT SPEECH

The members of the Legislative Assembly yesterday were treated to a genuine oratorical treat in the speech which Hon. P. J. Veniot, the able and popular minister of public works delivered on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The minister was in good form and was never heard to better advantage. He not only made an able defence of the work of the department over which he has so long presided, but carried the war right into the camp of the enemy by reviewing in a trenchant manner some events in the political history of the province which the men who sit on the left of the speaker would like to see dead and buried. The minister pointed out that the men who are now howling about the extravagance of the government are the fag end of a party which, when in control of affairs a few years ago, made such a mess of things that the province became a by-word and a subject for jest in other parts of Canada. In calling attention to these matters the minister did right and it is to be hoped that the lesson will not be lost on the gentlemen who sit at the left of the speaker.

The ministers great speech bore the stamp of sincerity and made a most favorable impression on the members of the House just as it will favorably impress the people of the country. He frankly admitted that there had been a large expenditure in his department but explained that it had been the result of demands which had come to him from members on both sides of the House and from people in every section of the province. He appealed to all to join with him in an earnest effort to keep down expenses in the coming year and it is to be hoped that his appeal will not go unheeded. He frankly put the case up to the people, whose servant he is, and it is for them to say whether or not there will be an overexpenditure in the Department of Public Works during the year 1922.

THE HEALTH ACT

It is rather surprising that in this the third decade of the twentieth century that it should be necessary for members of the Provincial Government to stand up in the legislature and defend so good a measure as the Public Health Act at a time like this, when there are so many problems affecting the welfare of every man, woman and child which should engage the serious attention of all lovers of our country. The Public Health Act is a progressive measure enacted by the government with a view of bettering the conditions of life in New Brunswick.

It was designed for the benefit of all classes and creeds, male and female, old and young, rich and poor, and we believe it is serving its purpose in a fairly satisfactory manner. True its administration costs more than did that of the old act, but real value is given for every dollar expended, while the act which it replaced so far as the interests of the public was concerned, was little more than a farce. Under the old act the money voted for health purposes was thrown away while under the new health act the people, especially those of moderate means are given real value for every dollar they are called upon to pay. As was very truly said by Hon. Mr. Veniot in his great speech in the House yesterday the act is working well in the cities and towns and it will work equally as well in the rural districts, just as soon as it is better understood by the people. So far as Fredericton is concerned the act is a success and is being well administered at reasonable cost and in a non partizan manner.

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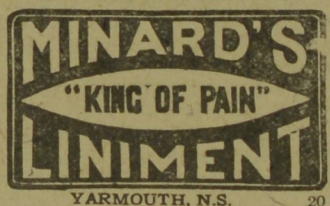


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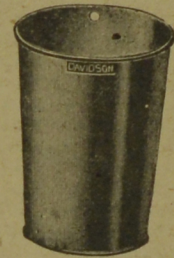
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