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NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

Public notice is hereby given that application will be made on behalf of the City of Fredericton to the next Session of the Legislature for the passage of an Act or Acts:

(a) To authorize a grant of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000.00) to the University of New Brunswick and for the authority to issue debentures therefor;

(b) To change the date of the holding of the annual Civic Elections from the second Monday in March of each year to the second Monday in January of each year;

(c) To provide for the issue of Bonds to the extent of fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) to provide for permanent side-walks; the proceeds of such bonds to be used to pay the proportion of the cost of such sidewalks payable by the property owners until such proportion is paid by such property owners;

(d) To amend the Act, Chapter 32, 57 Victoria 1894, entitled "An Act to Create and Establish a School District out of the parts of the City of Fredericton and of the Parish of Lincoln, Sunbury" by providing for the equalization of the assessment of the said School District.

Dated this 20th day of February, A. D. 1923.

G. R. PERKINS,
City Clerk.

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Hon Mr. Veniot Makes An Effective Reply To Critics of the Gov't

(Continued From Page 1)

were done it would mean cheaper freight and express rate. If the things he had mentioned could be done, it would restore public confidence and bring about a return of prosperity.

Prohibition

Referring to the temperance question an hon. member for Westmorland had spoken of repealing the New Brunswick Temperance Act and substituting for it which would give better control and provide a revenue. He wished to give the hon. member credit for speaking his mind plainly, but as for himself he could say that he had a very good reason for not bringing up the matter up. A plebiscite had been taken on the question and the Prohibition Act was in force and he did not think that any government or Premier would take it upon themselves to violate the will of the people and undertake to introduce a Liquor Law for profit. He was personally a prohibitionist and he wanted to say that the law was practically a dead letter during the last year. It was not a question of whether a man was a prohibitionist or not, but simply a question of carrying out the law of the land. He had been in St. John shortly after the change of Premiership and had seen it announced in a newspaper that the new Premier was coming to St. John to put on the lid.

HON. MR. VENIOT—I knew you was coming and I wanted the lid on.

MR. FAWCETT said that it was all right to put the lid on, but he would like to know who it was that took it off. Had the lid not been taken off it would not now be necessary to put it on. He was not surprised that the Police Magistrate of St. John had found fault with the way in which the law was being enforced and also with teh enforcement officers. It was understood that the late Premier as well as his successor were both opposed to the principle of prohibition. But what could be said of the members of the government who were known as prohibitionists. It was surely up to them to show the country where they stood on the question by tendering their resignations. When during the last session a bill had been introduced to tax liquor stores or warehouses in St. John. it had been stated that it would not be a continuous thing. He understood that an amendment passed at Ottawa in July gave power to the Provinces to banish liquor from the land, and he would like to know if the government intended to act upon it. In his opinion they could not have prohibition while the warehouses were permitted to do business. There were six or seven of them in St. John one in Woodstock, and another in St. Stephen and they existed solely for the purpose of shipping liquor out of the country. Why was a warehouse established at Woodstock? It looked to him like a boot-legging institution pure and simple as the men who owned the warehouse might sell the liquor before it reached the boundary line. After all the warehouses only existed for the purpose of shipping liquor to a friendly country which was now under a prohibitory law, and in his opinion it was wrong. He had noticed a letter from the Hon. Premier written to a Moncton man in which it was stated that the government had no power to prevent the smuggling of liquor into the United States. That might be the Hon. Premier's opinion, but it was not the opinion of the majority of the people.

HON. MR. VENIOT—Would it not be better if the hon. member were to read that letter.

MR. FAWCETT—I have not a copy with me, but I stated what it contained.

HON. MR. VENIOT—Then you should not have referred to it.

Labor Problems

MR. FAWCETT said that if the Hon. Premier wished it he would procure a copy and read it at a later stage. He was glad he said to notice that the New Brunswick Labor Federation was meeting in Fredericton at the present time for discussion of the questions of the day. He thought it might be a good plan to have them come before a committee of the House for the discussion of matters in which they were interested. He felt sure that there views in regard to the Workmen's Compensation Act. would be of considerable importance to all the people. The Act providing for the protection of working men was an absolute necessity, but it was important that it should be economically administered. He believed the people wanted a changed system of government, but to get it, it would be necessary to change the government itself. Prudence and economy were needed in the administration of provincial affairs and the government should endeavor to live within its income instead of constantly looking about for new means of taxation. He had heard it rumored that it was the intention of the government, in case the Prohibition Act was carried out and the warehouses abolished to resort to direct taxation. It had been stated that the government would have to do either one thing or the other. Personally he did not believe that direct taxation would be necessary, as he thought there was already sufficient revenue. What the province needed was greater economy. He understood that the Hon. Minister of Lands and Mines had during the year saved thousansl of dollars to the province by drastic means. And it might be done in other departments of the government. He believed that the people wanted representatives in sympathy with the toiling masses of the country. Such men would be better able to keep the people at home and on the land and carry out a policy of economy. He also believed the people wanted the Prohibition Law enforced and they did not want liquor brought in for shipment to other lands. The liquor warehouses had resulted in a gigantic system of bootlegging. Much had been said about liquor being made by private stills, but in his opinion most of the bootleg whiskey found its way out of the warehouses. It was generally admitted now that there was something wrong in the province, and people wanted to know what the government was going to do to bring about a better state of affairs. The present government, which came in on a policy of reform in 1917 had been the most extravagant of all. He hoped the people would at once begin preparing for the next election, whether it came this spring or next spring, and by breaking away from the party machine help to elect strong independent men prepared to work at all times in the interest of the province.

HON. MR. VENIOT.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that in rising to address the House for the first time since the honor of the Premiership had been conferred upon him he did so with some hesitation and embarrassment. He would say that the feeling of embarrassment was not due to the criticism of hon. members opposite, but to the fact that he had been called upon to succeed a gentleman, who for six years had led the government, and administered the affairs of the province in a way that had proved a monument of inspiration to the yound men of the country. Before the change came in the year 1917 the party to which he (Veniot) had the honor to belong numbered only two on the floors of the House, and were surrounded by 46 supporters of the government. The Liberal party at that time was without a leader, in fact it was even worse off than the party represented by his hon. friends opposite was at teh present time. Mr. Walter E. Foster had been called upon to undertake the leadership of the party and thirteen days after his acceptance a victory had been won at the polls. Only a few weeks had elapsed since he had tendered his resignation as leader of the government. When he (Veniot) looked back and examined his record as Premier, how he had taken the province out of the rut in which it had fallen and the progressive legislation which he enacted it was not to be wondered at that he should hesitate in accepting the honor which had been conferred upon him. He would not have accepted the responsibility had he not felt assured of the loyal support of hon. members on his side of the House, along with an assurance from his predecessor in office that he would retain his seat at least for the remainder of the term and assist in carrying out the policies which have characterized his own administration. He felt sure that he could also expect loyal support and co-operation from hon. members opposite in his efforts to carry on the work. He hoped they would consider the best interests of the province and not resort to carping criticism merely for party advantage.

Before replying to criticisms directed against the government he wished to express his thanks to the hon. leader of the opposition for his kindly personal reference. He felt sure that his words had come from a sincere heart. While they did not always agree on political matters he hoped the day was not far distant when his hon. friend would agree with him—he hoped to so conduct himself that the hon. member would feel more at home on his (Veniot's) side of the House than he would on his own. With regard to the hon. leader of the Farmers' Party, he was doubtful whether he should thank him or not as he had cast reflections upon the former leader. In other words he had damned him with faint praise and that was not the kind that he wanted. He wished to thank the press of the province for the kindly way in which it had received his nomination for the leadership. He did not thank them so much on his own behalf as he did on behalf of the Acadian people of the province. The honor fell to him of being the first Acadian citizen of the province to become leader of the government and on behalf of the Acadian people he wished to thank there English speaking fellow citizens on their recognition of such a measure of toleration. He felt sure that the manner in which his nomination had been received in the province would result in binding more closely together the two great races who inhabited New Brunswick. He believed it would wield them together in a solid mass to work for a better condition of affairs.

With regard to the hon. mover of the address he was not disappointed when he delivered that magnificient speech. He had campaigned with the hon. member during the election in Kings and had found out what he could do. The hon. leader of the opposition was working the political machine in that county while he (Veniot) was handling the road machine and had been successful. He had campaigned in nearly every county of the province, and he wished to say that he had never received greater courtesy than had been extended to him in the County of Kings. He wished to thank the people not only for their courtesy, but for the loyal support which they had extended to the government.

He also wished to thank his young friend from Madawaska on the ability he had displayed in seconding the address. He felt sure that he would do himself credit and he had not been disappointed. He wanted to welcome to the House one of the old politicial war horses of the province in the person of the new member for St. John County. He recalled that when a vacancy occurred in the constiutency in 1910 the chances of a victory for the party were looked upon as hopeless but Mr. Bentley had thrown himself into the campaign and was elected. He was the government candidate in the recent by-election and was returned by one of the biggest majorities ever taken out of the county. He also wished to welcome the new member from his own County of Gloucester. While new to political life he has had a lengthy experience in the Municipal Council and would make good in the larger field. The hon. leader of the opposition had stated that because Gloucester had the Premier, the Attorney General and a new Senator his party stood little chance of capturing the seat. He could tell them that they had no Premier or Attorney General in Gloucester in 1917 yet they had wiped up the floor with his hon. friends opposite. He could tell them that Prime Minister or no Prime Minister their party stood no chance in the County of Gloucester.

The Gerat Storm

The hon. leader of the opposition in the course of his speech had intimated that the storm might augur badly for the new Prime Minister. The hon. member had made prophecies in the past and they had not been fulfilled. If the recent storm did not auger well for the new Premier what could be said of the storm that took place in the opposition convention at St. John a few weeks ago. As the result of that storm the late leader of the opposition had been blown from the house tops and his hon. friend opposite had been restored to his rights. He (Veniot) had stated before and he would repeat it that his hon. friend was the logical successor to the leadership of his party, and he was glad to see him back.

MR. RICHARDS—I never was from it.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that the hon. member was only the House leader while his party had another leader outside looking in. Perhaps he was still only the House leader. The hon. member last session had described the Speech as a funeral oration and had remarked that the people would enjoy taking part in the obsequies. Since that four by-elections had been held and they now knew whose funeral oration had been read. For twenty years the County of Kings had not elected a man to the Legislature possessing a semblance of Liberalism, but it had returned a supporter of the present administration. The County of St. John had done the same thing. The hon. member had admitted that an opposition candidate stood no chance in Madawaska, but what became of his prophesies in reference to St. John and Kings. He had said that the result in those counties was no cause for adulation on the part of the government. He had also said that the electors had been influenced by a large expenditure of public money at Musquash, and had added the statement that the Minister of Public Works had taken every road machine into the County of Kings with the object of influencing the voters.

MR. RICHARDS—Do you say that is not correct?

HON. MR. VENIOT said that the people of Kings could not be influenced i nthat way and it was an insult to make such a reference to them. He believed that the people of St. John and Kings Counties had sufficient intelligence to form an opinion of their own on the record of the government. In regard to the allegation that he had attempted to influence the voters of Kings County by promises of public works, he wished to point out that expenditures by his department in that county in 1920 had totalled $210,473. There was no election in that year nor was there in 1921 when the xependiture amounted to $136,000. In 1922 when election took place, the expenditures by the Department in Kings amounted only to $92,000. That did not bear out the hon. members statement that all the road machines in the province had been assembled in the County. He wished to say further that of the amount expended in 1922 nine tenths of the total was not used until after the election was over. The same thing could be said of St. John County that no money was expended on the roads for the purpose of influencing the people.

Agricultural Matters

The hon. leader of the opposition had referred to the Agricultural question and had expressed astonishment that it had been twice referred to in His Honors speech. He (Veniot) wished to say that the first reference was a general one, while the second referred to the sad condition of the farmers' in certain sections of the province. There had been an appeal to the government to come to the aid of farmers' who had specialized in hay and potatoes and had met with losses. Perhaps it would be wrong for him to say that the delegation had been composed of farmers as some were middle men and dealers in fertilizer. The delegation had asked the government to adopt what was known as the Long Term Loan Act. The matter was seriously conidered, but it was felt after the experience of Manitoba that it would not be advisable to adopt the act. As the condition of affairs complained of applied locally to the counties of Victoria, Carleton and part of Westmorland, it was felt that the Municipal Councils could better handle the situation by the Long Term Loans, and the government would bring down a bill for the purpose during the present session.

Farme's Loans

He was sorry the hon. leader of the Farmers' Party was not in his place because he wished to ask him why during the course of a speech of an hour and a half he did not raise his voice about the condition of the farmers in those counties which had suffered the most from depression. His hon. friend had made no reference to that section of the speech from the throne which outlined the scheme proposed by the government for relief of these sections. The hon. leader of the Farmers party had come before the government as a member of a delegation upon depression in the agricultural districts. At that time he did not outline a scheme for relief but he did insist that "something should be done." His hon. friend (Fawcett) on that occasion did not come before the Government as a farmer, in fact he (Veniot) believed he was as much a farmer as his hon. friend and he was not a farmer at all. His hon. friend was aware of the condition of mortgages and debts and yet he would not take counsel with the government concerning means of relief. Possibly someone near to him had mortgages on the farms of Westmorland for fertilizer.

MR. FAWCETT—I am willing to advise when opportunity comes.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that he had been waiting since last Friday to hear from the hon. gentleman. When a member of the delegation before the government his hon. friend pleaded for long term loans for the relief of the agricultural situation.

MR. FAWCETT—I did not plead.

HON. MR. VENIOT said the members of the government must have misunderstood the hon. gentlemen. He certainly took up three-quarters of the time. If he were not pleading what was he there for? Altering the phrase slightly he would say that the hon. gentleman requested relief in the agricultural situation for those who had furnished fertilizer for the farmers. His hon. friend was a middleman selling fertilizer and competing with the agricultural societies.

MR. FAWCETT—I have not sold fertilizer for two years.

The Farmer eLader

HON. MR. VENIOT said that he knew that. The hon. gentlemen was not going to catch him that way, but up to two years ago he had sold fertilizer. It was time that the public knew that the hon. leader of the Farmers' party was one of those who had brought the farmers down to the position in which they found themselves. His hon. friend with Chesley Tait and O. M. Melanson had induced the farmers of Westmorland from Cape Bauld down to Shediac to abandon mixed farming and to go after a get-rich-quick scheme of entering the Cuban potato market.

The hon. leader of the official opposition had devoted much attention to criticism. He would remind his hon. friend that the duty of an opposition was constructive criticism. They should not knock down unless they were prepared to build up. He would ask his hon. friend when the budget would be considered if he would attempt to lead the government into a proper course. If he would suggest a course which would be proper, he (Veniot) would be the first to bow to his opinion. The hon. leader of the official opposition also had referred to roads. He had stated that the bonded indebtedness on trunk roads was five million dollars. Probably his hon. friend did not wish deliberately to lead the public astray, but in future he should be careful of figures.

MR. RICHARDS—I have had many lectures from you.

Road Expenditures

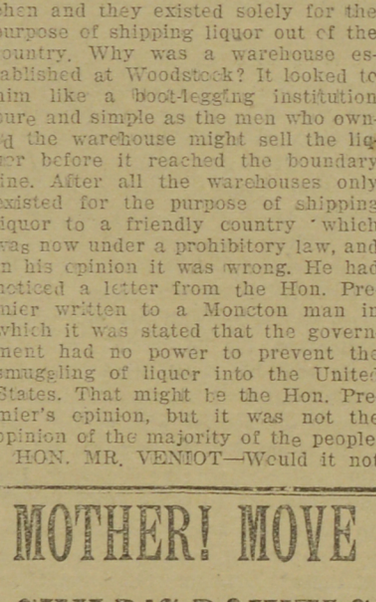
HON. MR. VENIOT said that it did not seem to have done the hon. leader of the opposition much good. If necessary he could give some private tuition. The facts were that two and a half million dollars had been raised under the auto fund of which $768,075 had been spent on trunk roads. In October last the provinces had been bonded for $1,400,000 under federal aid. There had been spent under federal aid on trunk roads $2,662,307. His hon. friend had said that there was a bonded indebtedness of five million dollars on trunk roads, but the amount really was $2,357,000. What had been done with the balance of the auto fund. In 1917 there was an expenditure of $334,066, and in 1918 one of $434,806. In 1919 the sum of $1,159,087 had been expended on trunk, main and secondary roads, of which there had been a refund of $500,000, leaving $659,087 chargeable. in 1920, 21 and 22 nee one dollar had been spent on main trunk roads, but all was spent on branch, secondary and by-roads. In all there was a total of $1,965,240 out of $2,500,000.

He wished to call the attention of the hon. leader of the farmers' party to the fact that in the early years of the administration the owners of cars resided largely in towns and cities. In 1917 there was a total registration of 2184 cars, only 6 per cent of which were owned in rural districts. In the years 1918-19 the total was eight or nine thousand, about 25 per cent of which were owned in the country. Today there were 15,000 cars and trucks in the province, and 61 per cent of them were owned by farmers. What better evidence would a minister of public works require than the by-roads and branch roads had been improved. He wished to state that there was not a mile of improved road that was not a farmer's road. The main trunk roads, unlike those in Quebec, Ontario and some states of the un-

(Continued on Page Three.)

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