

HON. C. D. RICHARDS DEALS WITH ISSUES OF CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page two)

New Brunswick, and I realize that the honor was not so much mine as it was for the constituency which I had at that time, and have now the honor to represent. Since that period it has been my honor, my business, to look after the department of Lands and Mines as one of the ministers of the present administration.

The Crown Lands

I shall not take your time this afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, to discuss with you in any very great detail the work of the department. I think, as a matter of fact, that it speaks very well for itself. Our opponents have endeavored to make some little general criticisms of the administration, some criticisms with respect to the administration of the Crown Lands and more lately what they refer to as the "giving away of our Crown Lands to some outside corporation." They are not very particular in their references in this respect. I am not going to deal with these things at all fully this afternoon, because we are going to have the privilege of having with us the Premier of the Province and I know that he will deal with these questions and I am leaving that more particularly for him. But there is just one thing I want to say in connection with that feature and with that criticism which is sometimes

made. When we came into office in 1925 and found with respect to the administration of our Crown Lands and our timber industry that conditions were almost in a condition of chaos, we found as I say at that time conditions were deplorable. The previous government, in previous years the government was receiving delegation after delegation from those interested in the timber industry. When we took office we appointed a Commission—we had an investigation—the report of the Commission was adopted and put into effect, and I want to say to you, and I am not going into the matter in detail, that practically from that day to this we have had no difficulty in my department, no more complaints, no more representations, with the exception, perhaps of here and there, when we have normal, ordinary business affairs with the heads of any organization—the lumbermen—those interested in the timber industry in this province.

On a Stable Basis

We were able in a short time to place, so far as was possible for any government in this province, to place the lumber industry upon a stable basis. We have not, as you well know, no control over the markets, no control over economic conditions in this country, we cannot regulate the law of supply and demand, and there has

been sometimes depression in the lumber industry. They did make a criticism about our having given away some of our timber lands, and in another breath they say we have reduced the stumpage rates—the scale—almost in the same breath they say to us that the poor lumberman need more support, and if they are returned to power they will do something for them. They condemn us for reducing the scale and some of these other efforts, and I want to say to you here, ladies and gentlemen, so that so far as the scale is concerned, a very slight reduction but still higher than our largest competitor, the province of Quebec that the rates are very much higher than in the province of Quebec. We made some concessions to the timber industry in order that the business might be carried on. Now they say to us we have made this reduction—you have made too many—and at the same time they tell you that the timber industry is being put out of business. As reasonable men and women, if you are going to increase timber rates—the scale—if you are going to put these further exactions on this industry—how are you going to put money in the hands of the laborer who is going to work for these people and is dependent thereupon? We have the Premier of the Province here with us this afternoon and he will deal with it.

Important Features

But several features of my department are important. They are perhaps not so important in this particular section of the province as in

some others. I think and maintain that they will bear a scrutiny of the closest kind (and there may be other occasions when I may be able to refer to that). But I want to refer more particularly to some of the matters which affect us, and to speak to you more as a representative than as a Minister in administration of one of the government services. We can come to you at this time feeling that we have given this province as a whole, under the leadership of the Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, a sane and prudent administration, and I would point out to you one particular feature in which that is borne out by the record of this administration.

An Empty Treasury

When we came into office in 1925 we found, as I knew, being in the legislature for some time before, and as we pointed out in the election just previous, we found there a Treasury that was empty. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, worse than empty, covered with mortgages, with promissory notes to the extent of over a million dollars, and we found that the old administration during a few years of office, some eight years, from 1917 to 1925, instead of carrying on the business of this province in an ordinary, sane, sound, business-like way, had actually been unable to meet their ordinary current expenditures as ordinary, progressive and sane business men do; had been unable to meet ordinary expenses to an amount exceeding three million dollars. In other words, ladies and gentlemen, for the period of seven or eight years, from

1917 to 1925, they had actually over-expanded an amount of money three millions of dollars, which had, of course, to be bonded, and upon which you and I today are paying interest charges and which we will be paying interest charges on for many years yet to come.

A Common Sense Policy

I want to say to you that one of the first principles laid down by the present Premier of this province was this: That this government must recognize that no administration can be carried on efficiently in this province and hope to continue unless we adopt that ordinary, everyday common-sense, business principle that our ordinary expenses must be kept within our ordinary income. And that was the principle laid down for the cabinet by the Premier in 1925. Just the same as any of your business men would do in your ordinary, everyday business. And I say to you, ladies and gentlemen, here this afternoon, that that principle has been maintained completely and thoroughly up to the present time. That in the last three years not only have we done that, but we have done a little better. We have paid every dollar of our way from ordinary revenue and went over some \$200,000 to good as well. (Cheers).

Pledges Carried Out

Now, ladies and gentlemen, you may say "Oh, Well, these things mean nothing." Only here Saturday in this very room, this new man who has been trotted out in an effort to try and put a front on the Opposition party in this province, was blustering in an attempt to accuse the administration of extravagance and dishonesty in this administration. These are the exact figures, they can be verified by a reference to the accounts of the province. We have carried out our pledges made to you in 1925. I am not going to go through any more figures than that. Now, going through the various departments of the government service. I am only going to refer to a few of them this afternoon.

Good Roads

Take our highways, ladies and gentlemen, you came here this afternoon from every section of the grand old county of York—and how did you come here? By cars, practically all of you. And you came on what?

A voice—"Good roads" "Good roads"

I hear the answer from all parts of the room—"good roads" "good roads."

"Gravel roads." Gravel roads over almost every section of this county. Did we find them in 1925?

No! I do not for a moment say to you that we have yet been able to gravel every road in this province, nor even in the county of York. But I do say this to you, as one of the representatives of this county, that you find miles and miles here in this county of York, gravelled where they never saw gravel before, and I say also to you, ladies and gentlemen, that the undertaking we gave to you in 1925, that our attention would be directed to the trunk and by-roads of this province more than they had been in preceding years, has been religiously carried out. It was only Saturday—it was only a few days ago that I drove out through one of the sections of this county—I went through Stanley, Cross Creek, and away out through Williamsburg—ladies and gentlemen, perhaps you know of the new road—I don't want to make any section of this county envious, but we were building a new road out there and we built it in good shape. I went out as far as the "Dogan." It is one of the things we promised in 1925 and it has been carried out. We have a fine new road out there, and they said "It is like letting us out of goal." I do not know whether the good people ever had been in goal or not, but they had some idea of what it might mean to them. And do you know what happened? What happened last fall when we put that road through? It was only a few days after the time when it was possible to get through with cars, that we found representatives of one of the organizations in this city, headed by one of our opponents in this campaign, he was out there selling cars to those people in Nappadogan, who had never been able to get out from there before.

Was Side Tracked

You know I think with all seriousness, ladies and gentlemen, that we have been a bit side-tracked in this good old Tory county of York. I am rather inclined to think that when our opponents were in office that so

happened in the county of York.

Some Striking Figures

I am going to give you just a few figures this afternoon to indicate something of what your representatives have been doing, and what the government of this province has been doing in the county of York in connection with highway construction. You don't have to remember all those figures, but you will get, I hope, the general impression at any rate. Let me go back for three years, the last three of the old administration and the last three years of our administration. I am going to take their last year of 1925, and compare it with our last year of 1929. And these figures are taken from the Comptroller General's Report, checked and audited by an independent firm of auditors from the city of Montreal.

Ordinary Road Expenditure

In 1925 in the county of York \$12,000.

In 1929 in the county of York \$31,000.

Patrol

In 1925 in the county of York \$25,000.

In 1929 in the county of York \$58,000.

Municipal Roads

In 1925 in the county of York \$8,000.

In 1929 in the county of York \$15,000.

Secondary Roads

In 1925 in the county of York \$32,000.

In 1929 in the county of York \$44,000.

(I am not making any mistake, ladies and gentlemen, in regard to this item when I give you those figures). (Cheers).

Were Verified

I verified this latter figure last night. I thought there must be something wrong when I saw it. I looked the figures up myself to be very sure I was not wrong, and they are the exact figures taken from the report of the Comptroller General of this Province. And if you make a comparison there you will find that there has been a tremendous increase—not in the main trunk roads (we have kept these up to a fine standard) but we have spent our money on the secondary and branch roads in the county, as evidence by \$111,000 in 1925 and \$690,000 in 1929. That is some indication, ladies and gentlemen, of what has been going on during the past three years. And I could go on, and quote many more of a similar nature, but I only mentioned those to indicate to you that your representatives have been looking after your interests. As I said before, figures are after all not necessary, because you drive over the roads and you know what they are like.

Will Do More

Give us an opportunity, ladies and gentlemen, give us the opportunity for another five years, and I think you won't find a branch road in the county of York which will not be a gravelled road and in fine shape. And if I can read aright the enthusiasm which prevails here today, I think there is no doubt about what this grand old county of York is going to do when this election comes on.

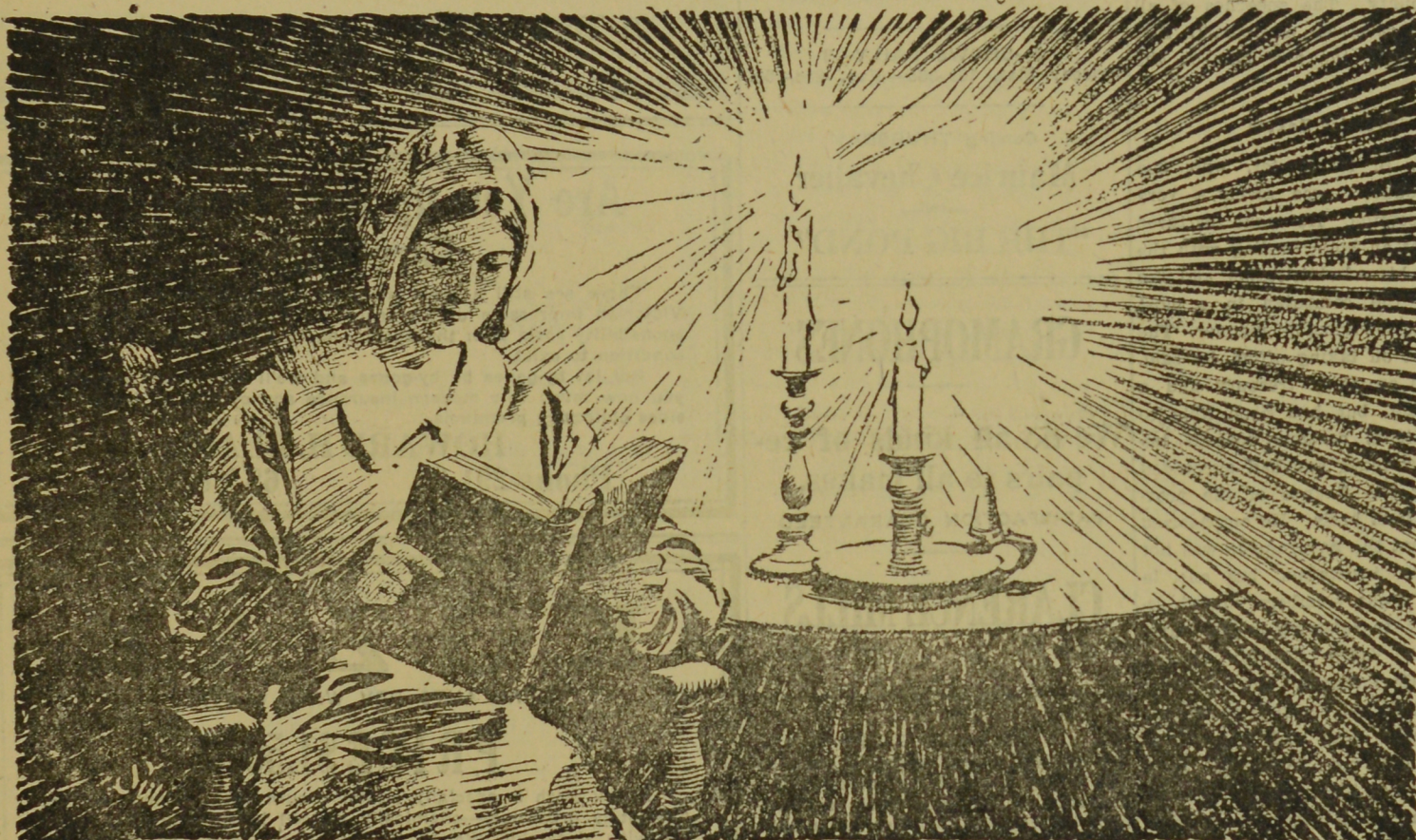
Aid for Agriculture

But I want to say this, I can go through every department of the government as well. I can refer to the Department of Agriculture. We have doubled amounts spent upon Agriculture during the past few years and upon Education. Instead of spending \$27,000 for your school books, we spent \$163,000 in the province of New Brunswick last year.

A Burden Lifted

Our friends will say: "Oh, but you have taken off no taxation." There is \$100,000 right there we have taken off the people of this province of New Brunswick. But you say "Where did you get all this money?" "Where did it come from, all this money you have been spending?" We spent more money. We condemned the old government as spendthrifts, and they were. Why, because they spent money they didn't have—they borrowed it—as you might borrow from your neighbor to buy a car, or perhaps your bread and butter, your boots and shoes,—and that is what they were doing previous to 1925. It is not our way. We have not increased the taxation of the ratepayers, the people of this province, by one single dollar since 1925, and yet we have had more money to spend upon our public services. And you say "How have you done it?"

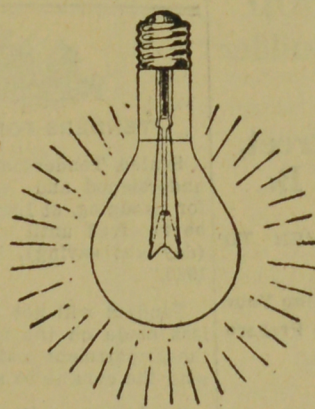
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ILLUMINATION

MELLOW candle light... so kind to beauty, so unkind to the eyes! Yet candles were long considered to be the ultimate in illumination. The past century, however, brought us kerosene and the modern oil lamp, then illumination by gas. Surely these would remain supreme!

But this swift age of science finally harnessed electricity, and with an endless supply of power flowing continu-



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ously in her rivers, Canada can become the best lighted country in the world.

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