

# Leader Dysart Held Forth In the House Yesterday

Exhausted the Case for the Opposition in Less Than Two Hours—Alleges Extravagance in the Administration of Affairs—Is Opposed to New Taxes—Took Whack at Provincial Police.

Hon. A. Allison Dysart, House leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition held the fort in the Legislature for nearly two hours yesterday afternoon, and provided a lot of entertainment for members and spectators. He announced that as there was nothing of a controversial nature in the speech from the throne his colleagues would maintain a policy of silence and he would be the sole spokesman for his party. He was in good form and in an amiable mood and what he said he said well. The burden of his story was that the government was prodigal, had not lived within its income and consequently had brought trouble down upon its head. His speech, while listened to with patience by members on both sides, really contained nothing new or startling. Still there were some things which he had to get off his chest and he probably feels better for having done so.

Premier Richards moved the adjournment of the debate, when Leader Dysart resumed his seat and is to address the House this afternoon. At the conclusion of his remarks the address will pass without division and a committee will be named to present it to His Honor the Administrator of the government.

Assembly Chamber,  
March 1st, 1932.

The House met at 3 p. m.

The following bills were read a second time:—To Validate Assessment of Loans for Direct Unemployment Relief; To Amend an Act Respecting the prevention of accidents by fires in hotels; to amend the Summaries Conviction Act; to provide for temporary reduction in Sessional Indemnities and in salaries of Members of the Executive Council.

MR. DOUCET, on behalf of Mr. Richard (Gloucester) gave notice of enquiry as to Roads and Bridges repaired by Federal Aid in January and March 1931 and in November, 1931.

MR. DOUCET gave notice of enquiry regarding monies paid to Joseph Dumas, New Baden for gravel and for the names and addresses of road supervisors in Gloucester and the monies spent by them in October last.

HON. MR. REILLY presented a petition for a bill to fix the Assessment of certain industries in the City of Moncton.

MR. DYSART presented a petition for a bill to further amend the Act authorizing the Municipality of Kent to make temporary loans.

HON. MR. LEGER presented a petition for a bill to authorize the Municipality of Westmorland to make loans. Also a petition for a bill to extend the borrowing powers of the Agricultural School and Model Farm at Rogersville.

HON. MR. REILLY presented a petition for a bill to authorize the City of Moncton to sell certain lands.

HON. MR. LEGER presented a petition for a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chatham.

HON. MR. REILLY presented a petition for a bill to authorize the City of Moncton to issue debentures.

HON. MR. LEGER introduced a bill to provide for funding treasury bills due in May, 1932. He said this bill was also to consolidate different bills having to do with the funding of treasury notes.

HON. MR. REILLY presented a petition for a bill to amend the Act consolidating the several acts relating to the City of Moncton.

Also a petition for a bill to make

certain bonds issued by the Bishop of Saint John authorized investments for Trustees.

MR. DYSART asked leave of absence for Mr. Violette.

HON. MR. STEWART asked leave of absence for Mr. Diotte.

MR. DYSART'S SPEECH

MR. DYSART on the order of the day being called resumed the Debate on the Address and said:—

MR. SPEAKER, in arising to continue the debate, may I pause for a moment to pay my respects to both esteem and regard to the Honourable young man who occupies the dignified post of Premier of this Province. It is my wish that he may continue to enjoy in full measure the loyalty and devotion of his followers into whatever sphere of activity he may be called. May I also include the two honourable gentlemen who have been drawn into positions rendered vacant in consequence of the elevation of the Honourable, the Premier.

Congratulations are due both to the Mover and Seconder of the Address. The Seconder perhaps comes in for double mention, for he like the honourable Member for the County of St. John, comes to this House for the first time, fresh from the battle front. Both these honourable gentlemen concurred and profited by the special grants of the generous Minister of Public Works and in other respects perhaps violated some of the tenets of modern political warfare, yet I would not withhold congratulations from them. The County of Gloucester apparently considered the tottering Government to be in more urgent need of a Coffin than we.

Not Controversial

Before dealing with the Speech from the Throne perhaps I might pause to make brief reference to certain statements made by the Mover and the Seconder during the course of their admirable addresses. I take this opportunity of doing so because we on this side of the House have decided that there being nothing of a controversial nature in the Speech, my remarks will end the Debate in-so-far as we are concerned. Thus the business of the House might be expedited, and we gradually move on to new grounds. The Mover aspires to tell the farmers of Carleton County that they are all wrong because they specialized on potato growing. Does my friend doubt the ability of the honourable gentlemen of Carleton to present to this House the views of that constituency, or is it because he seeks to publicly upbraid the two honourable gentlemen who have taken so conspicuous a part in the ill-advised attempt to establish a doctrine foreign to New Brunswick— "to have no truck or trade with old England". Perhaps they may explain their attitude to the House later. He further compliments the Government upon its land clearing bonus scheme which apparently fostered increased agricultural activities, but presumably overlooked the mild rebuke administered to the farmers of the Province by the Honourable the Premier in his review of the year, 1931, because they failed to adjust their scale of operations downward so as to bring their output into closer conformity with probable demand. A little closer team-work might be in order.

To Balance Budget

The Seconder would abandon the forest and return to the land. There is no future in the lumber industry he tells us—all is dead. How unlike the utterance we have heard within the last few years in this Chamber from

those who occupy seats to the right of Mr. Speaker. The anticipated industrial expansion has not come, and it takes a Government supporter fresh from the lumbering county of Gloucester to announce that another nail in the political coffin of the present regime has been driven. Dealing with matters financial, my friend has rather committed the Government to a program of retrenchment that has not been in evidence since 1925. "To accede to public demand," says he "required increased revenue, which can only be obtained by increased taxation." Verily my friend has been reborn! In October he did not only accede to public demand but actually exceeded public demand! And to quote further that "the Government is determined to balance the Budget at all costs and that we are assured that there will be no further increase in capital expenditure." That, Mr. Speaker, is some order, having regard to the fact that the Government still retains within its ranks that outstanding provincial economist, the Honourable, the Minister of Public Works.

It has not been given to any of us before this Session to have witnessed the Opening of the House by an Administrator. As the representative of His Majesty, Chief Justice Sir Douglas Hazen is an outstanding figure in the life of his native province. His experience in the House has enabled him to explore all fields of activity—first as a private member, then as Leader of his party in Opposition and on through to the direction of affairs in his native province from the Premier's Chair.

The Governor General

Appropriate reference has been made to the Mover and Seconder and the Speech from the Throne has aptly phrased the sentiments of this House concerning that distinguished son of Empire, the Earl of Bessborough. This happy appointment harmonizes with the best traditions of our land in that with Lady Bessborough the two great races of this Dominion find expression.

Coming to the Speech itself it may be said to conform to certain standards by which such documents are measured. It over-indulges in past political history and true to Tory doctrine looks to the past rather than to the future. The core of the Speech, however, in-so-far as the views of the Government may be gathered with respect to the all important matter of economy or retrenchment is found secretly tucked away in the concluding words of one paragraph as follows: "My Government has given serious consideration to this (financial) problem, and is resolved that such measures must be adopted as may be necessary and adequate to assure that the current expenditures shall be maintained within revenue." Little wonder that a careful perusal of the Speech is necessary to find this gem. Promises of like nature are spread through the pages of Hansard during the past six years. "To be or not to be" a balanced Budget is the question.

Will Support It

In any honest attempt to hold itself within the striking distance of these words, the Government is assured of Opposition support. That is what we have advocated for years, that is what the Government has promised, that is precisely what the Government has failed to do. The future only can tell to what extent this may be possible.

Financial Position

Never perhaps in the history of the Province has public attention been so general focused upon our financial position. This ought give no surprise to those who follow events. The humiliating position into which the Province was recently placed wherein the Federal Government on the one hand and certain Banking Institutions on the other, virtually picked this Province up from the very threshold of bankruptcy and placed her in a position where she could meet her obligations.

Various subterfuges are offered by the Government for this situation. We the widespread nature of the depression and realize that all Governments have felt its disorganizing effect. But depressions in themselves, even though world wide, are not new. Scarcely a generation ago, another Government carried on through the Post-War depression and yet was able to honor its obligations.

The Public Debt

Whatever the varied causes, there exists little doubt that the main cause has been the unfortunate accumulation of debt by this Government with its resultant burdensome carrying charge. Disregarding the sound advice offered by responsible leaders in the business world and leading financiers, it blindly rode the "wave of circumstance" to borrow the phrase of Ex-President Collidge, yet scarcely until all but too late. Virtually intoxicated with funds easily acquired, in part through increased Federal Subsidy on the one hand and on the other various forms of taxation, the Government has finally come to its senses on the very verge of financial ruin.

Other Periods

In order that we may get a true perspective and appreciate with some degree of accuracy the extent of our debt obligations today, it is necessary that we look at other periods in our financial history. Thus the experiences of the past may show the way to the future whereby pitfalls may be avoided. Briefly put, our debt accumulations may be said to fall into four distinct periods. The first period dates from 1784, the dawn of Responsible Government in this Province down to 1908, when the Hazen Government assumed control. The debt accumulations then had reached the sum of \$5,800,000.00 in round figures. This represented various bonuses to Railway enterprises, bridges and other public works, including the very Chamber in which we are now assembled. The second period extended from 1908 to 1917 during which period debt increased to approximately \$16,000,000.00. Then it was that the Province undertook the construction of the Valley Railway and which in the main accounted for the increase. The third period 1917 to 1925, saw a further augmentation of the debt to approximately \$34,250,000.00. This period carried on during the Great War, through the Post-War depression and on to normal times. During this span the Province experienced more sweeping changes for the general good than perhaps in any period of our economic life. Let me enumerate but a few of the notable social and economic reforms which have directly or indirectly added to our debt.

Vocational Education became a reality. I shall deal with this subject later in my remarks.

The Health Act

A Modern Health Law was brought into being which policy I am glad to say, the present Government is carrying on commendably. The Department of Agriculture was reorganized and revitalized and made to serve the people in a practical way. Crushed lime for farmers at cost was made possible by the Government owned and operated plant. The absorption in part of freight rates permitted distribution of this product throughout the Province at uniform cost. This is one of the matters to which our opponents today point with pride and yet it was driven through the House in the face of most stubborn opposition. The policies then enunciated, I am glad to observe, are being followed and in some instances, are being expanded upon.

Stampage Collections

The Crown Land Department was reconstituted. The slipshod methods theretofore existing gave way to business necessity and forest staffs were organized on a permanent basis. That programme made possible an efficient collection of stampage, protection of game, etc.

The Public Works Department stimulated by Federal Aid grants for highway construction, resulted in an organization the like of which in point of efficiency we have not since seen in this Province. Roads were in large measure, reconstructed and brought up to a high standard in conformity with requirements of the Federal Authorities. Sections of Per-

(Continued on page three)

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## "SALADA" TEA

"Fresh from the Gardens"

Now York State man is accused of China threatens to break off diplomatic relations with Japan. The car and then deliberately running over reasons seem obscure, but there may her. And some people say the women have been something personal in one of Tokio's remarks.

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