

Three Speakers Heard In the Budget Debate In the House on Friday

Mr. Perry of Carleton Took a Whack at the Dominion Farm Loan Board—Too Much Red Tape—Messrs. Downey and Richard of Kent Repeat the Opposition Tale of Woe.

After listening to three speakers debate the budget the Legislature adjourned yesterday afternoon at 5:45 p.m. until three p.m. on Tuesday. The speakers were Mr. Downey of Albert and Mr. Richard of Kent for the Opposition and Mr. Perry of Carleton for the Government. The speeches of the opposition men were not very illuminating, but the House listened with patience to what they had to say in criticism of the government. In reality it was the old story repeated many times already this session and now grown threadbare.

Mr. Perry, who is one of two farmers in the House, injected considerable pep into the debate and was attentively listened to. In the course of his remarks he took a fall out of the Dominion Farm Loan Board, which he said was of no benefit whatever to the farmers of his County.

Mr. Evans of Queens moved the adjournment of the debate.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Assembly Chamber,
March 11, 1932.

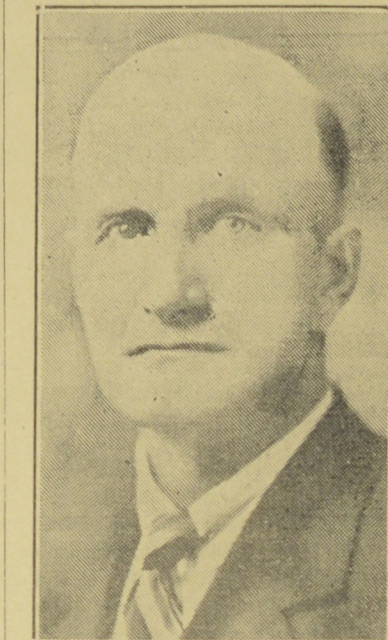
The House met at 3 p.m. The following bills were read a third time:—To fix the assessment valuation of certain industries in the city of Moncton; to authorize the city of Moncton to sell certain lands; to authorize the city of Moncton to issue debentures; to authorize the town of Newcastle to issue debentures; to amend an Act consolidating several acts relating to the town of Moncton; to further amend an act authorizing the municipality of Kent to make temporary loans; to amend an act authorizing the municipality of Westmorland to make temporary loans; to authorize

an amendment to the valuation of the county of Westmorland; to further amend an act authorizing the municipality of Northumberland to make temporary loans; to regulate the assessment of the poll tax in the town of Saint Andrews; to authorize the sale of lands by the town of Saint Andrews; to authorize the town of Edmundston to issue debentures; to authorize the town of Bathurst to issue debentures and passed by the House.

Second Reading

The following bills were read a second time: Relating to the canning of fish; respecting taxes on life insurance agents; to amend the Judicature Act; to amend an act respecting criminal prosecutions; to amend the Corporation Tax Act and to impose special temporary taxation on Banks and certain companies; relating to sewerage and water supply in the city and county of Saint John; to incorporate the Farmers' Co-Operative Dairy Company Limited; to amend Rates and Taxes Act relating to the town of Chatham; to further empower the city of Saint John to impose licences; to amend an act respecting debentures of the Board of School Trustees of Saint John for building a high school; respecting the Maine and New Brunswick Electrical Power Company, Limited; to authorize the municipality of Victoria to make temporary loans; to provide for the issue of debentures by the Municipal Home Commissioners of the county of Victoria;

HON. MR. TAYLOR submitted the report of the Department of Health. MR. BORDAGE gave notice of enquiry as to the employment of A. D. Holyoke by the provincial government. MR. COLPITTS gave notice of enquiry as to lumber purchased from J. B. Cheunard.



W. GLADSTONE PERRY
The Junior Member for Carleton

MR. ATKINSON submitted the report of the municipalities Committee. HON. MR. LEGER submitted the report of N. B. Liquor Control Board. HON. MR. RICHARDS submitted the report of the Commissioner of the New Brunswick Police. HON. MR. RICHARDS moved that certain bills be placed on the order paper for submission to the Committee of the whole House forthwith.

Bills Considered

The House went into Committee to consider the following bills. The bill giving the town of Chatham authority to grant exemption from taxation to W. & R. Walsh, Limited was agreed to. The bill relating to the valuation of the town of Edmundston was taken up.

HON. MR. RICHARDS thought this bill should be allowed to stand until the principle involved in it and other similar bills was decided upon, and he moved that it be referred to the Committee on Municipalities. The bills authorizing the town of Chatham to issue debentures; authorizing the town of Saint Leonards to issue debentures; authorizing the town of Dalhousie to issue debentures and authorizing the city of Fredericton and Victoria Public Hospital to borrow money for a nurse's home were all agreed to. They were reported to the House and adopted, leave being given to refer the valuation bill back to the Municipalities Committee.

Mr. Downey's Speech

MR. DOWNEY continuing the debate on the motion to go into supply said it was a pleasure to call the attention of the House to matters pertaining to the welfare of the people, and in doing so he felt that he was in accord with the judgment of a majority of the industrious citizens of the province. He would congratulate the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer on the ability he had shown in presenting his budget, displaying his various kinds of book-keeping leading to a desired end. By the way his skill in figuring was improving he had no doubt, but that in the near future the Provincial Secretary would discover a method of book-keeping that would entirely wipe out the provincial debt. However, regardless of the hon. gentleman's book-keeping the fact remained that the total liability of the province was \$56,000,000; practically double the amount in 1925. That fact could not be denied and it was of no use to sidestep by putting figures in a different way. The present total liability figured a responsibility of about \$775 on every average family in the province, having in mind that the present government assumed office pledged to a platform of economy could there be a more glaring example of hypocrisy and untrustworthiness. He thought not and that the sooner hon. friends opposite woke up to that fact and instituted a real programme of economy and efficiency and lower taxation the sooner would they do credit to themselves. When the people had realized that this government had bonded their future as much as all previous governments put together, they would turn their backs upon it with shame. Since taking office their policy had been to increase taxation and their chief aim to give away the greatest assets such as Grand Falls and the Crown Lands. Grand Falls might have now been paying a great part of our taxes and the Crown lands only yielded \$85,000 last year against \$750,000 a few years ago. Those assets had gone and now the government was desperate for ways and means to raise money. It was running true to color by imposing higher taxes on the people, already taxed beyond all reason. Inefficiency and extreme waste was the cause of the higher taxation. So far had the province been plunged into debt that it now took more than the whole taxable revenue to pay the interest and sinking fund on the debt. What a condition for any country to be in. In 1925 interest and sinking funds absorbed \$1,715,000, last year \$2,162,000. He regretted that the government had added another burden of increasing the tax on cars. When they were a real necessity to men seeking work. Thus, another hit was made at the working man and the farmer. Wealthy men would not be affected by the increase but hundreds of poor men would be forced to leave their cars in their garages and lose many opportunities for work. Hundreds of people who ought to have the privilege of licensing their cars for not more than \$5 or \$10 and who would be willing to pay a fair tax on gasoline would be forced to lay aside an instrument of necessity which they had already paid for. They would also be deprived of their chief source of recreation.

The government was not content with being extravagant itself but was forcing undue burdens on the municipalities by fixing unreasonable high salaries which the municipalities had to pay to government friends, compelling men not earning one half the salaries fixed by the government to pay the taxes to support the highly paid officials.

The Election Law

Last session members of the opposition demanded a change in the election law to eliminate the marked ballot menace used to influence voters to support government candidates. Many instances had come to his attention where road supervisors and high paid officials had a pocket full of ballots written so they could be identified. If those marked ballots came out of the boxes the depositors would be in the good graces of the government and entitled to a reward. In his opinion home made ballots should be disallowed and only one kind of ballot for all, so that the electors could vote without fear or favor. So far this session there was no evidence that anything had been done to implement last year's suggestion. He would urge again that the House give this matter its consideration.

In regard to the game laws of the province he wished to point out that the ten point law was not working out as expected. While in theory it was right in practice it was all wrong. Hundreds of hunters unable to tell at a glance whether a moose had eight, nine or ten points, felt they could not chance the animal getting away, so they shot him down. Finding that the moose was undersized many of them kept right on going to avoid a fine. That incident might occur several times in the season by the same person, hence a great waste of game. A six point moose could be told without hesitation and the hunter was usually satisfied with one moose. He asserted that his contention was proved by the figures published by the department for in 1930, 10,204 licenses were sold, while in 1931, only 6,024 were sold. The number of moose killed in 1930 was 950, in 1931 the number was only 363. Less than half the number taken out in any one year for the last ten years. The prohibition of the sale of moose meat was another impractical enactment of last year. In times like the present hundreds of people had been deprived of an opportunity to sell a moose for a few dollars to buy food.

(Continued on page Three)

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