

The Dysart Amendment Was Bowled Out by More Than a Two to One Vote

Premier Tilley Concludes the Debate With An Inspiring Address—Government Program Includes An Agricultural College at the Experimental Station, and Cold Storage Plants—The House Approves Hard Surface Roads—Dental Bill Defeated After Animated Discussion.

After a debate which lasted three weeks and one day, the Legislature yesterday afternoon defeated a non-confidence amendment moved by Leader Dysart by a vote of 25-14 and adopted supply motion by same vote, reversed. The Opposition members were all in their places when the vote was taken but four of them were paired with government supporters. It was the second major division of the session, the first having been taken on an amendment to the Address.

Premier Tilley concluded the debate in an able speech during which he briefly outlined the progressive policy to be pursued by the government. An agricultural school, to be established at the Fredericton Experimental Farm, and a cold storage plant, likely to be erected in this city, were among the headlines in the program. The Premier's speech was listened to with rapt attention and he was heartily applauded when he finished.

At the conclusion of the debate on the address, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, with the Deputy Speaker in the chair, and passed some non-contentious items in connection with legislation. Supply was made the order of the day for this afternoon.

DENTAL BILL DEFEATED

The bill to amend the New Brunswick Dental Act furnished a subject for a spirited debate in the late afternoon and also in the evening. It was a private bill and party lines were obliterated. Attorney-General Harrison sponsored the measure and was the only member of the government to vote for it. The list of speakers in opposition to the bill included Premier Tilley, Mr. Dysart, Mr. Richard (Kent), Hon. Dr. Taylor, Hon. Mr. Reilly, Mr. Groom, Dr. White, Dr. Jewett, Perry, Mr. Melville and Mr. Siddall, while those who spoke in favor of the bill in addition to the Attorney-General were, Mr. Fairweather, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Richard (Gloucester), and Mr. Anderson. A motion to adopt the bill was lost by a vote of 25-14. Four opposition and ten government supporters voted in the minority.

Assembly Chamber,
March 15th, 1934.

The House met at 3 p.m.

The following bills were read a third time, to authorize the town of Milltown to issue debentures; to validate the adjourned annual meeting of the Municipal Council of Northumberland and to authorize the municipality to issue debentures.

MR. FAIRWEATHER presented a report of the Committee on Law Practice and Procedure.

HON. MR. HARRISON introduced a bill respecting certain expenses in criminal prosecutions.

More Enquiries

MR. ANDERSON gave notice of enquiry as to what date the reduction of motor vehicle license fees made in the summer of 1933 became effective; also as to whether William Simpson was employed at the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium during 1933.

MR. DYSART gave notice of enquiry as to what quantities of Calcium Chloride were purchased from James S. Neill & Sons, during the year 1933.

MR. DYSART asked if the government were prepared to lay before the Public Accounts Committee the accounts of the Liquor Control Board without the formality of a motion.

HON. MR. LEGER said the Liquor Control Board Act did not permit of the accounts of that department to be brought before the Public Accounts Committee.

MR. DYSART asked if the government would prepare a bill to amend the act respecting the production of accounts.

Not To Be Changed

HON. MR. TILLEY said there was no intention of changing the present act. There was no liquor Commission in Canada, which, so far as he knew, submitted its accounts to the government.

MR. DYSART said he understood that practice was in vogue in Nova Scotia. He thought it in the interests of the public that the accounts of the Liquor Control Board should be made available to the Public Accounts Committee.

HON. MR. TILLEY said his hon. friend must have had a change of heart since the passage of the Liquor Control Act.

Opposed To Change

MR. SIDDALL said speaking as a temperance man and as one who had opposed the Liquor Control Board Act, he would be strongly opposed to such a proposal as had been made by the leader of the opposition. The working of the Liquor act should be left entirely in the hands of the Commission and should not be placed in the hands of any government. If such a bill as had been suggested was introduced, he could assure them that it would be fought to the bitter end by the temperance people. They had had previous experience with governments having control of the Liquor business in this province and he would not favor making any change in this respect at this time.

HON. MR. TILLEY said he would repeat there was no intention of changing the act from what it has been ever since the Liquor Control Board was incorporated.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER quoted to the House authorities upon which he had given his ruling on Tuesday with respect to a point of order and also regarding the reading of letters or comments by newspapers in contradicting statements made by the members of the House.

The Premier's Speech

HON. MR. TILLEY, resuming the debate on the budget, said as Prime Minister of the province he considered the duty devolved upon the first minister to speak with due care and frankness in reference to affairs of

government in an unbiased way and to a certain extent non-political. He would first give the House a bird's eye view of the financial position of the province. He had previously announced that this government, in 1934, expected to present a balanced budget. When we considered the financial situation in the province, he said, we had to consider the credit, which was necessary to keep the province on an even keel financially, and instead of being in financial difficulties they would carry on in a strong position.

The Net Debt

The net debt of the province at the present time was \$47,413,319 and the bonded debt upon which the province was required to pay interest was \$55,148,162. The annual interest payable on the bonded debt without deduction for sinking fund amounted to \$2,671,014. In addition to that amount the government was called to pay interest on the bonds of the New Brunswick and Seaboard Railway and the Southamptton Railway, the total interest charge being \$2,688,634. The revenue of the province in 1933 was \$5,176,000 which would leave for current expenditure, after paying interest on fixed charges the sum of \$2,487,834.

Ottawa Deposit

His hon. friend the leader of the opposition had said the government had reduced the amount of their deficit this year by the sum of \$529,000, which had been withdrawn from Ottawa. His hon. friend was right in saying that they had withdrawn this amount from Ottawa, but there was no difference in principle in doing this than in the case of a man having a balance to his credit in the savings bank and drawing it out to pay his bills. Even if this government had not used that money at Ottawa and had a deficit of some \$900,000 as the opposition claimed, the government still would have a less deficit than it had taken over from the former government in 1925. It had been necessary to carry forward on sinking fund account \$525,403 for the Motor Vehicle bonded indebtedness. It was now proposed by the government to do what other provinces had done, that was to bring down an act that would fix the amount to be placed to sinking account at one-half of one percent. In doing this they were not impairing the sinking fund account. There would still be sufficient paid into sinking fund account to take care of the bonds at maturity. In this way there would be a saving of \$415,618 a year. In addition to that there would be an increase in stumpage which would materially help the finances of the province. The government also expected to get a very substantial return when the Dominion Government implemented the Duncan Commission Report. For these reasons, he said, he was justified in making the announcement that they would show a balanced budget in 1935.

His hon. friend wanted to know what right the government had to withdraw the \$529,223 from Ottawa. This money, he said, belonged to the province and it had been spent particularly on the roads and bridges.

Capital Expenditure

This government, during its term in office, had made a capital expenditure of \$21,483,519 on roads and an expenditure on bridges up to 1933 of \$2,650,574, making a total capital expenditure on roads and bridges of \$24,134,093.

One of the bulwarks of the British government was to have an efficient opposition and an opposition that honestly criticized the government with respect to its various activities rendered a service to any administration. He thought we had now reached pretty near the limit of additional capital expenditure in this province other than those that were absolutely necessary. That was a frank state-



HON. L. P. D. TILLEY, K.C.
Premier of N. B. Who Closed the
Debate on the Budget
Yesterday.

ment and he made it in all sincerity. When the government found that it took 55 per cent of the current revenue to pay fixed charges for sinking fund upon the bonded debt of the province, it was time for any administration to go very cautiously.

MR. DYSART—"Hear, hear".

Was Applauded

HON. MR. TILLEY—"My hon. friend applauds, but I may tell him that the opinion is agreed upon by this side of the House as well as on the other".

MR. DYSART—"It would be more

becoming if you acted upon that".

HON. MR. TILLEY—"We are acting upon it. If my hon. friend will look at the Public Accounts for the last year he will see that this government has acted in just that way."

Continuing, he said when his hon. friend stated that money had been practically wasted he made a statement that was absolutely inaccurate. In no province in the Dominion had they better roads than we had in the province of New Brunswick. They had built these roads so that they were second to none in any province.

Opposition Attitude

He (Tilley) was surprised at the attitude of the opposition when they said we should not undertake the construction of hard-surfaced roads in this province. The government did not propose to jump into the spending of millions at once, but would build about seventy miles of hard-surfaced roads each year. The cost of these roads, would not be nearly so great as had been suggested by the opposition, and when they saw the contracts for these roads he thought they would be satisfied at the course the government had taken. With hard-surfaced roads they would get rid of the dust nuisance, which was one of the greatest menace to life on our highways. All knew the cost of keeping up gravel roads and the amount that would be saved after the construction of hard-surfaced roads would be very appreciably seen in the sinking fund account.

Between 1926 and 1933 the government had been called upon to spend on public buildings the sum of \$7,948,907 to add to the capital expenditure.

Difficult Period

It would be admitted that they had been passing through a rather difficult period, but the services of the country had to be maintained up to a reasonable limit. The total revenue for the peak year between 1926 and 1933 amounted to \$6,583,726 and for the last year the revenue was \$5,176,418. The government had been criticized for spending too much money, but he thought those criticisms were hardly justified.

Good Intentions

When the curtailments of the past year were noted the Canadian Chamber of Commerce had offered to help in advising how balanced budgets could be obtained and some of the banks were also offering advice. He thought if those well intentioned gentlemen had to meet the needs of the

people upon a democratic basis that they would not find the matter so simple.

He said he would give a resume as frankly and carefully as possible of the financial position of the province. He would not color the picture unduly one way or the other, and was confident that it would be considered a good financial statement. He had given reasons why balanced budgets might be expected in the near future. He had hopes in view of improving conditions that the revenue would come back to that of the peak year.

Has Shown Action

The opposition had stated that they wanted to see a government of action, one that would give the people industry. Everyone, he thought, would admit that when he had been called to the leadership the general situation of business had been extraordinary, yet even under the depression conditions he had claimed the government had shown action, and had followed it up at this session by bringing in legislation to establish a marketing board, one of the best Acts that had been introduced for many years; but, strange to say, all members of the opposition opposed that Act; and they also opposed measures taken to keep labor employed at the Port Royal Pulp and paper mill. They criticized the assistance given to keep fishermen employed. He believed that of all the industries, agriculture and fisheries were the two that were most in need of help, and it was the intention of the government to give its undivided attention to that end. At present, due to the revival of business generally, there was not very much to worry about in connection with coal mining and lumbering. His department had evidence that the pulpwood cut this year would be seventy-five per cent ahead of last year, and the demand for long lumber was such that it was most unfortunate that lumbermen in recent years had pulled down their mills to save taxes, as such mills were now needed.

Lumber Lands

Some people had said that the government gave away the lumber lands of Northumberland. The opposition in the House knew what had happened. Hon. members knew how and when the long lumber business declined, how many of the lessees of lumber lands had to liquidate at their banks, and he would ask could any government be held responsible for that. Was it the fault of the government that J. & D. Buckley sold out

in 1920, that W. J. Mahoney sold thirty-nine square miles in 1932, or James Robinson fifty five miles in 1923 and pulled down one of the best saw-mills in the province, or that J. O'Brien sold forty five and a half miles in 1925. D. & J. Ritchie three hundred and fifty one miles in 1927, the Sinclair Company, two hundred and twenty and a half miles in 1926, and the Snowball Company, three hundred and fifteen miles in 1929? Altogether 1,108 square miles transferred to the Fraser Companies and International Paper, not by the government that arranged the transfer, but the above named gentlemen themselves, who were very glad to sell and be relieved of their obligations.

A Fine Program

He would mention some of the things the government had in view for the immediate future:

1. With the assistance of the Dominion government, he hoped to see an agricultural college for the province built this year at the Experimental farm near Fredericton. This action was to assist in promoting the development of our agricultural resources, our biggest asset, and was designed to assist in placing agriculture in the same position as other callings which had their colleges and vocational schools.

2. An appropriation would be made to provide for cash prizes for farm produce and livestock at county exhibitions, for he felt that more good could be done for the promotion of agriculture within the counties than at the larger fairs.

3. It was proposed to arrange for the provision of cold-storage plants necessary to hold fruit and other perishable products for the market demand.

4. Assistance would be given for a Provincial agricultural fair to be held at Fredericton in co-operation with the marketing board.

5. Test borings for minerals, especially for coal and oil prospects, would be proceeded with as recommended by the Public Accounts committee.

6. A provincial fish association would be encouraged to act under the marketing board, to study the requirements of markets, the preparation, grading and packing of the fish, to arrange for cold storage and brine-freezing plants, and generally to organize for the best methods of marketing.

7. There would be an annual meet.

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Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada

THE report of the Company for 1933 is one of consistent and constructive progress. Its achievements enhance the impressive record of public service it has rendered during the sixty-three years of its existence.

In 1933, as in the preceding three years, people generally experienced exceptional anxiety, the result of incomes being either impaired or entirely cut off. At such a time the unfailing aid and security of life insurance proved of very great value.

In this service the Sun Life Company bore a worthy share. During the year it paid out (exclusive of policy loans) nearly \$100,000,000 to policyholders and beneficiaries. Similarly, during the four years of depression it has paid out over \$380,000,000.

Notwithstanding these substantial payments, the Company, during the same four-year period, increased its assets by \$55,000,000—its insurances in force by over \$307,000,000.

Sixty-third Annual Report—1933

ASSURANCES IN FORCE, December 31, 1933	\$2,770,453,871
This large amount, the accumulating estates of nearly a million Sun Life policyholders, will become payable to them or their dependents during this generation—a stabilizing factor of great social and economic value.	
NEW ASSURANCES PAID FOR	216,567,441
INCOME	152,235,821
DISBURSEMENTS	127,505,801
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER DISBURSEMENTS	24,730,020
PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES:	
During the year 1933	97,457,059
Since Organization	800,170,033
ASSETS	624,146,035
Bonds: government, municipal, public utility and others; stocks, preferred and common; loans on mortgages; real estate; loans on Company policies; cash in banks, and other assets.	
LIABILITIES	609,965,832
Almost nine-tenths of this sum represents the policy reserve—the amount set aside to guarantee all policy payments as they become due.	
PAID-UP CAPITAL (\$2,000,000) and balance at credit of shareholders' account	\$3,342,547
RESERVE for depreciation—in mortgages and real estate	4,885,904
SURPLUS	5,951,752
	\$14,180,203

The valuation of bonds and stocks has been made on the basis prescribed for all companies by the Insurance Department of the Dominion of Canada and in conformity with the basis authorized by the Departments of Insurance of the various provinces of Canada. Policy liabilities have been valued by the full net level premium method, a standard more exacting than required under the stringent provisions of the Dominion Insurance Act.

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.