

The Opposition Leader Opens a Bombardment On the Government

His Terminal Facilities Were In Good Working Order and His Speech Was Shorter Than Usual and More Ineffective—Concluded His Remarks With An Amendment to the Address.

The debate on the address got away to a good start in the Legislative Assembly yesterday afternoon. Mr. A. A. Dysart, leader of the opposition, was the only speaker and held forth for nearly one and a half hours. The fact that he was suffering from a severe cold placed him at a disadvantage and he failed to do full justice to his subject as it became necessary for him to boil down his speech. Nevertheless he managed to say about all there was to be said and in the opinion of many of those who listened to him he said some things that without prejudice to the interests of the province could very well have been left unsaid. His speech was really the swan song of the out, although an effort was made by the opposition leader to embellish it somewhat. He had some criticism to offer respecting the recent cabinet changes, and found fault with the speech from the throne, which he described as a "jumble of words with a regrettable paucity of ideas." The opposition leader was certainly given a most attentive hearing by the government benches as not once was his speech interrupted. In closing Mr. Dysart moved an amendment to the address.

The Opposition members were to the front yesterday with a batch of enquiries and the indications are that the crop will be a heavy one during the session.

Three government bills were introduced during the afternoon, two by Hon. Mr. Harrison and one by Hon. Mr. Leger. One bill has to do with the redemption of provincial debentures and the others relate to auto insurance and pawn brokers.

Hon. Mr. Tilley moved the adjournment of the debate and is speaking this afternoon. There is likely to be an evening session to enable the debate to be concluded by Friday of this week.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Assembly Chamber,
February 13th, 1934.

The House met at 3 p.m.

The following bills were read a second time: an Act to amend the Provincial Hospital Act; an Act to amend the Elections Act.

HON. MR. REILLY presented a petition for a bill to amend the Moncton Tramways Electricity and Gas Company Act. The amendment simply struck out the word "tramways" as this service had been discontinued.

HON. MR. LEGER introduced a bill to provide for the redemption of \$808,000 provincial debentures falling due in March 1935.

HON. MR. HARRISON introduced a bill respecting auto insurance. He explained that this was simply a bill which enacts the regulations which are now in force respecting auto insurance. There had been a temporary Act passed in 1932 and under it the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council had power to regulate auto insurance. That went into force on December 1st, 1932. The bill simply placed it in the Acts of the province.

Bills at Petition

HON. MR. LEGER presented the report of the schools of New Brunswick for 1932-33.

HON. MR. HARRISON introduced a bill to amend Chapter 196, Statutes 1927 relating to pawn brokers. He explained this was simply a bill to prevent the pawning of military decorations and introduced at the request of the Canadian Legion.

Mr. Perry presented a petition of the town of Hartland for a bill to fix the valuation of certain products of the New Brunswick Products, Limited. MR. COFFYN presented a petition of the Municipality of Gloucester for a bill authorizing the municipality to issue debentures.

Some Enquiries

Notices of enquiry were given as follows:

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) respecting guarantees by the government to certain undertakings with a view to alleviating unemployment in certain parts of the province; also with reference to several works undertaken by the government or with its assistance to alleviate unemployment having reference to a bonus given hake fishermen.

MR. RICHARD (Kent) as to the net debt of the province at the end of the fiscal years 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, at date.

MR. DOUCET in regard to assistance given to colonists; also respecting the uses of the Unemployment Relief Camp in the counties of Sunbury and York; also as to free seed and sustenance allowances to colonists.

MR. COLPITTS respecting the use of tractors, trucks or other equipment owned by the province by private persons; also respecting any measures contemplated by the government to secure markets for natural products; also as to what kind of farm produce is noticeable in the upward trend of farm produce prices.

MR. NILES as to the cost to the province of the welcome extended to General Balbo and staff, July 14th last;

also whether the government had appointed A. A. Margison an arbitrator to determine land damages claimed by certain parties in Carleton County.

Mr. Dysart's Speech

MR. DYSART, resuming the debate on the Address, after referring to the unsatisfactory condition of affairs the world over where with an abundance of good people were hungry and helpless children in misery and want, said that happily evidences indicated that things were now on the upgrade and the darkest period of depression had been survived. Empire trade, particularly with the Mother Country was improved, yet, he said the complete victory was not yet won and a hard long road still lay ahead. In referring to the Speech from the Throne he would first pay his respects to its sponsors. The Mover and Seconder in discharge of their perfunctory duty had indulged in happy pleasantries. He therefore offered his felicitations to those hon. members for a duty well done.

Speech Criticized.

The disjointed character of the Speech led to the conclusion that each member of the "Big Eight" had made contributions to it at random. Its thirty-five paragraphs covering a wide range all the way from the General Balbo flight to the mining of coal at Minto; from the low price of farm produce to the guaranteeing of private corporation's bonds; from the two cent per hour Sunbury project to the revived pre-election hard surface road program; from a request for further Dominion subsidies to the valuable legal opinion upon Maritime rights; from the revival of the Transportation Commission to the revision of auto fees; from an endeavour to live without revenue to an expression of full confidence that with divine guidance we may guard and provide for the interests of New Brunswickers. On the whole, it was rather a tame affair, a jumble of words with a regrettable paucity of ideas.

It was fair to say that a forecast of legislation reasonably designed to improve conditions might have been expected.

Some Changes

The Opposition shared in the appropriate reference to the elevation to the Supreme Court Bench of the late Premier, Mr. Justice Richards. The House must sense its loss in the departure of Hon. Mr. Michaud to a wider sphere of public service. He regretted that the Speech had made no reference to the untimely passing of Mr. Justice Byrne, one of New Brunswick's most highly honored and respected sons, whose death was a distinct loss to the province, its Bench and Bar.

In all the thirty-five paragraphs of the Speech no mention had been made of Hydro. In other years it had been prominently mentioned. What, he would ask, had happened to this important public utility during the past year that it had been thus ostracized? Neither had any reference been made to an important change in the Department of Agriculture, nor the rift which was rumored to have occurred between the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture regarding the appointment of a new Deputy Head. While, no doubt the new appointment was a good man there had been a rumor that his selection had been dictated to the Premier by certain forces in another quarter of the Province.

No mention had been made of the budgeting for the deficit of \$87,000 in March and the harvesting in October last of a deficit in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.

Marketing Act.

It would be disappointing to the House and the citizens of the province to note that no mention was made of any broad constructive policy to cope with the major pressing problem confronting the province today. Except in referring to a Marketing Act nothing was said that would lead to any new policy in regard to trade development. He would not attempt to discuss the proposed bill until it was introduced, but in the meantime he might say the introduction of the measure would seem to be commendable, for it was well known that the spread between the actual producer and the consumer was altogether too wide. He hoped that the measure would be broad enough to deal with the problems of the fishing industry as well as others.

Cabinet Changes

He would offer his congratulations to the Premier upon his elevation to that position of trust and responsibility, though he thought it somewhat strange that the selection of a Premier had not been left to party supporters within the province, for rumor had it that his selection had been dictated by powers outside the province and in another sphere. It was well known that the hon. gentleman (Tilley) a few years ago moved Mr. Bennett's nomination for leader of the party at a great western convention; it was, he presumed, a case of one good turn deserving another. He had not, however, been able to gather in the office of Attorney-General with the

Premiership as the then President of the Council (Mr. Harrison) insisted that he should be placed in line for promotional retirement, and to that gentleman he would offer his hearty congratulations.

Counties Overlooked

When it came to the finding of a new President of the Council, Carleton, York, Kings, Sunbury and Queens Counties were overlooked, although many claims were preferred, but the representatives now had to pay tribute to the hon. member from Charlotte, which county thus obtained a double representation in the government. It was little wonder that this government was now referred to as the South Shore government—with due apologies, of course, to that lone North Star the Minister of Public Works.

Some Vacancies

Thus stood the heroic band on the bridge of the stranded ship. The Attorney General anxious to desert his post for the Bench!! the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer engaged in a death struggle for the red chamber opening!! The Minister of Public Works had been mustering his forces for a permanent trip to Ottawa and was said to have close competitors such as the Minister of Health and the present Premier. There was now va-

cancies in the House from York and Madawaska and the Opposition invited him to open these constituencies and test the Opposition challenge that he does not enjoy the confidence of the electorate. He would make a passing reference to some recent election results. First, the people of Nova Scotia spoke and the lights went out for Toryism in that Province. The new Premier was one of Canada's most talented young public men. What Nova Scotia did so gracefully. British Columbia duplicated and the Tory machine there was annihilated. Then followed elections in the Federal sphere, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Madawaska-Restigouche spoke emphatically for the Liberal policy. In Restigouche-Madawaska the Minister of Public Works had taken off his coat and the result was that wherever he did the most work, there the Liberal majority was greatest. That hon. gentleman had run his course, but unfortunately not until he had run the provincial ship of state on the rocks.

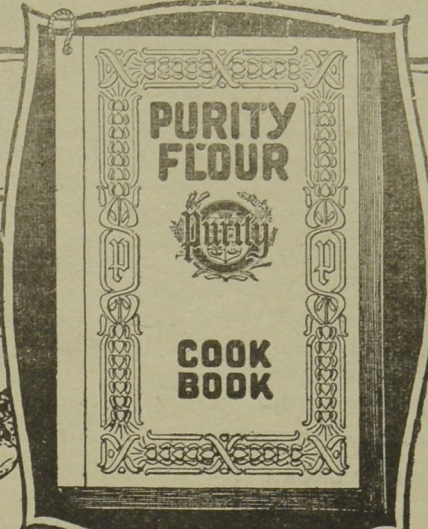
Acute Distress

While there was general distress throughout the province, distress in the lumber industry was exceedingly acute and it was directly chargeable to the lumber policies of this government and its predecessors. The devastating effects of the legislation opposed by the then Opposition was at the bottom of the present acute distress. The handing over of immense areas of the Crown land to large holding companies, thus closing out many mills that were giving employment to thousands of people without the establishment of pulp and paper mills in the Miramichi district had resulted in the terrible unemployment existent the last few years and today. What was needed was a bold, vigorous policy that would enable the vast areas, now withheld from cutting, to be utilized either by pulp and paper mills either

(Continued on Page Six)

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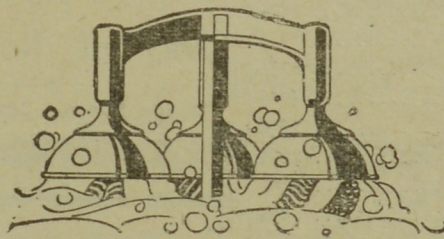
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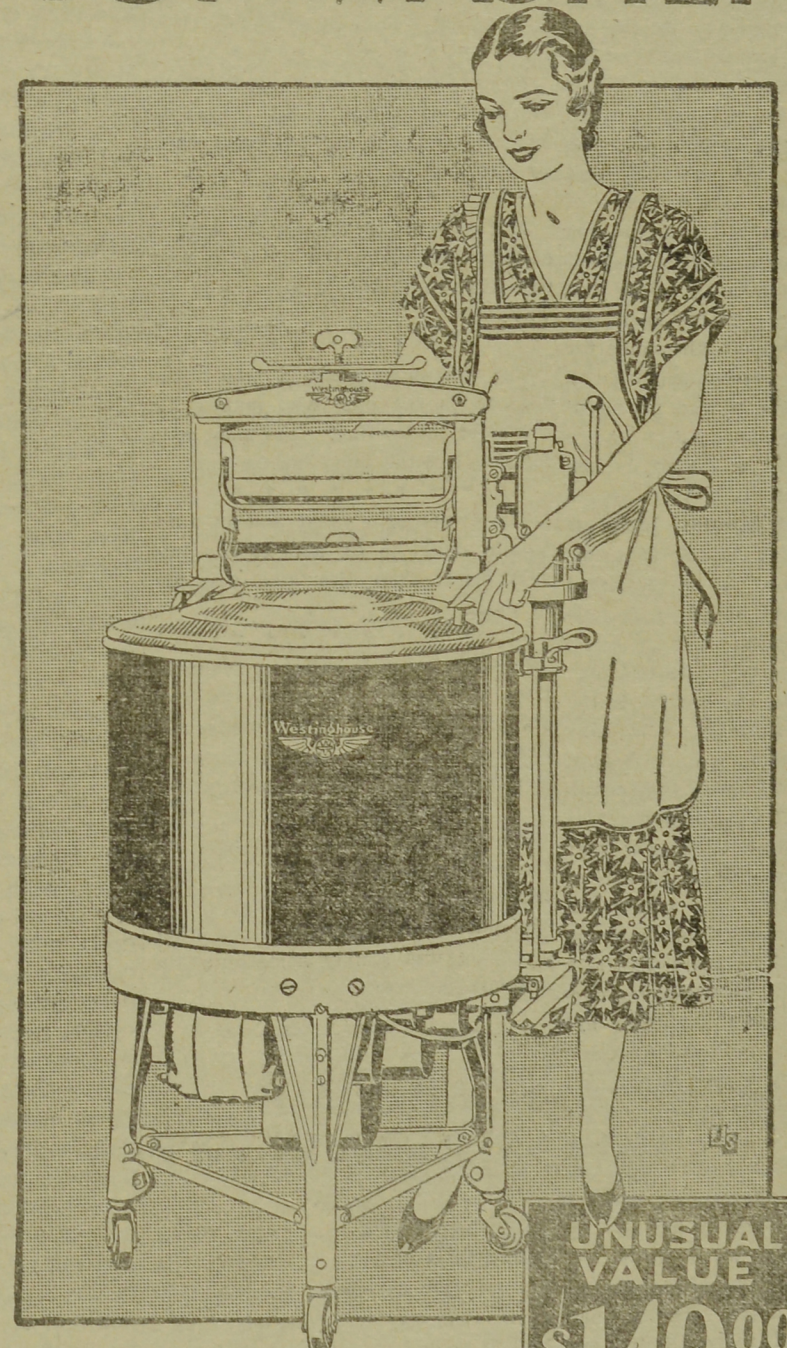
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