

# Five Members of the House Took Part in the Budget Debate Thursday

The Policy of the Government Cordially Endorsed by Messrs. Fairweather, Melville and Moore; Messrs. Pirie and Colpitts in a Critical Mood; Mr. Niles Has the Floor Today.

The Legislature chalked up a good days work yesterday and made substantial progress with the budget debate. During the afternoon there was a brief recess to allow the Committee on Corporations to complete the hearing on the Dental Bill. The Committee will further consider the measure in private session.

During the routine Hon. Mr. Tilley presented a petition from the Municipal Council of Northumberland praying for the passing of an Act to authorize an issue of debentures.

The House in Committee agreed to a number of private bills, including one to authorize the town of Bathurst to issue debentures.

Mr. Fairweather of Kings resumed the debate on the budget and treated the House to a most interesting discourse. He was the first member to refer to the death of Sir Arthur Currie, Canada's greatest citizen soldier, who died a short time ago, and paid him a graceful tribute. Mr. Fairweather also referred to the appointment of Major M. F. Gregg, a King's County boy to the position of Sergeant at arms in the House of Commons. Incidentally Mr. Fairweather scored the "dam the government" policy of the opposition.

Mr. Pirie of Grand Falls, was the next speaker, and devoted much of his time to a dissertation on the public debt, deficits, Grand Falls and other topics. He made the surprising statement that had the government called on a by-election in York, John B. McNair of this city would now be occupying a seat in the House—a splendid flight of the imagination.

Mr. Melville, who is recognized as the leader of the farm group in the House, followed Mr. Pirie and replied effectively to most of his diatribes. Mr. Melville expressed himself as favoring a reciprocity with the United States and advocated the abolishing of Grand Juries.

Mr. Colpitts of Albert, who permits himself to be described as "a millionaire fox rancher" was the next speaker. Mr. Colpitts may or may not be a millionaire, but he is the principal owner of what is said to be the largest fox ranch in the world. He is a short thick set man with a Bonapartist countenance and seems to take his politics very seriously. His speech was short, but he got in some hard knocks at the government which seemed to amuse, but fell harmlessly on the occupants of the treasury benches. Mr. Colpitts is said to be organizing a bull moose party for the next election.

Mr. Moore of Queens followed in a brief but excellent address. He found cause for pride in the fact that the noble county of Queens had expended less on direct relief than any other county.

Mr. Niles of Victoria adjourned the debate and is speaking this afternoon.

## THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Assembly Chamber,  
March 1, 1934.

The House met at 3 p.m. The following bills were read a second time, to authorize the funding of the floating indebtedness of the province; to confirm and ratify the action of the Common Council of Saint John in reconsidering the assessment for 1934; to provide that the aggregate amount of any estimate for school purposes in the city of Saint John shall only be assessed upon receiving majority vote of the Common Council; to confirm and ratify the action of the receiver of taxes and chairman of the Board of Assessors of the city of Saint John in not selling real estate in 1933; to amend the Saint John Building Act; Parish of Simonds Building Act; to authorize the municipality of Kent to issue debentures.

HON. MR. TILLEY presented a petition of the Municipal Council of Northumberland for a bill authorizing the issue of debentures.

HON. MR. TAYLOR presented the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer.

MR. GILL gave notice of enquiry respecting automobiles used by the Liquor Control Board and as to costs of operation allowed each member during the last fiscal year.

HON. MR. COCKBURN, seconded by Hon. Mr. Taylor, gave notice of motion for the suspension of Rule 78 to permit the presentation of a petition for a bill authorizing the town of Milltown to issue debentures.

A Bathurst Bill  
The House went into Committee with Mr. Agar in the Chair and took into consideration a bill to authorize the town of Bathurst to issue debentures. The bill was agreed to with amendments. A bill to enable the city of Fredericton to issue debentures was agreed to and also bills to authorize the town of Chatham to issue debentures; to authorize the municipality of Westmorland to effect temporary loans; to authorize Madawaska to effect temporary loans and to authorize the municipality of Queens to issue bonds.

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester), on the bill to authorize the town of Bathurst to provide for the relief and support of the poor submitted an amendment relating to the agreement that had

been reached between the town of Bathurst and the parish of Bathurst in regard to the Alms House. The amendment in effect made it clear that the town of Bathurst would provide for the Alms House similar fire protection as was given the residents in that locality and also providing that poor from the town of Bathurst would be maintained in the Alms House at cost. Both parties, Mr. Richard said, had agreed to the arrangement entered into.

The bill was reported as amended. The Committee rose and reported.

Mr. Fairweather

MR. FAIRWEATHER, resuming the debate, said that after the speech of the Attorney-General and the member for Saint John (White) he felt there was little he could add to the debate. The provincial debt, colonization and provincial rights had been fully discussed and he would be brief in what he had to say.

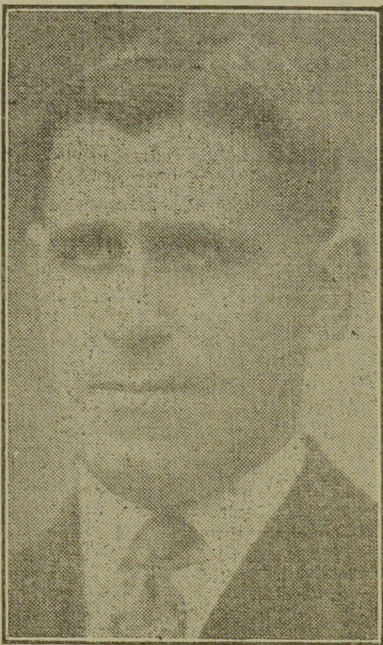
Earlier in the Session the hon. leader of the opposition had twitted the government and members supporting it as to what would happen if there were certain changes in the government and as to who could be called upon to take the places of gentlemen who might be called to other spheres. He could tell the hon. gentleman that the back benches on this side of the House were just filled with front bench material and he wished to extend his congratulations to the first one (Mr. Cockburn) to be asked to step forward. The leader of the opposition also suggested that the new Premier had been chosen by the leader of the Conservative Party at Ottawa. The only time that he knew of when Rt. Hon. Mr. Bennett had visited New Brunswick during the year was on the occasion of the Loyalists Celebration in Saint John, but he had not brought a big stick and no caucus was held at which he could have wielded it. When the ordinary citizens of this province went out to buy an axe handle and if he was an expert, he looked over the bundle offered to him and selected what his experience told him he wanted. He wanted one well seasoned, not too stiff and not too willow-like. In the same way the party chose its Premier, who certainly was a well seasoned politician, he was not too stiff for he was always willing to listen to suggestions, yet when he had made up his mind he was not easily swayed from his course. In Hon. Mr. Tilley, he felt, that the party and the province had a Premier of great constructive ability giving every ounce of his mental and physical strength to his work for the people, regardless of party affiliations. He (Fairweather) thought that possibly the leader of the opposition had got some of his information that he brought to the House from the fairy tales that had been told to entertain those who attended the various Liberal picnics last summer.

## A Liberal Caucus

The hon. leader of the opposition had described what he supposed might take place at a government caucus. He (Fairweather) would describe what took place at a Liberal caucus. The scene was in an upstairs room in the parliament building where were gathered opposition members, in the corner was a barrel of Buettouche oysters which, he would say, was not always emptied in the room, but sometimes was distributed among all the members of the House. On the wall was a scroll which read thus:—"Damn the government, damn it for what it does, damn it for what it does not do, but always damn it". There came a knock at the door and a messenger delivered a bundle of documents labelled "Notices of enquiry for Tuesday next." These were dealt round to the various members. A sealed package was opened and was found to contain instructions as to what each member of the party should do during the day and the leader of the opposition and the financial critic were commended for their addresses to the House, but the members for Northumberland were cautioned that they must put more pep and fire into their remarks in future. Then the proceedings closed.

## Machine Rule

The opposition members, he said, were fine fellows and good personal friends of his, but they seemed to be bound hand and foot by the Liberal machine to condemn everything. Individually, he thought, they would like to be rational for they must realize that a government, receiving the endorsement of the people as the present one had at both general elections and bye-elections, must be sometimes right. They seemed to have developed a colossal capacity for destructive criticism and their persistent cry was "Cut down expenditures". Yet, when they were asked to agree with such a policy as in the case of Vocational Education and the abolition of certain school books from the free lists, they opposed their own policy persistently. Last Session when a certain bill was before the House asking for exemption from taxation of one of the largest corporations on the continent, the leader of the opposition had been opposed to the bill in the Committee, but he made a mysterious trip to Saint John and when he returned he was in



ARTHUR MOORE  
A Member for Queens Who Took Part in the Budget Debate Yesterday.

favour of it and whipped all his followers except one into line, in support of the bill.

MR. DYSART—"The hon. member has misrepresented the matter."

MR. FAIRWEATHER said he was sorry if he had made any misrepresentations, but he had certainly heard the attitude voiced by his hon. friend in Committee.

## Too Much Bickering

Continuing, he said that he thought the people of the country were tired of political bickering which did not mean anything. The opposition evi-

dently had no policy and in their careless criticism did no credit to themselves nor to their constituents. They apparently hoped to make people believe that this government was responsible for the bad world conditions and to impress them that the opposition might have done better. He (Fairweather) thought that we should be proud that the condition of New Brunswick was better than that of almost any country in the world and he felt that the ship of state referred to by the hon. member for Northumberland (Tweedie) was not in the leaky condition described by him, but was sailing wing and wing before a fair breeze for the harbour of the third term, well handled under Captain Tilley, and likely to make that harbour and start out for a new voyage under the same Captain.

## An Efficient Officer.

In the financial statement of municipalities presented to the House it would have been noted that Kings County stood well and in this connection he would like to pay a tribute to that grand old man Mr. G. O. D. Otty, its Secretary Treasurer, for many years past, to whom much credit was due for the county's splendid showing.

## Tributes Paid.

In referring to the position of returned men, he spoke of the recognition which the government at Ottawa had made of a New Brunswick boy and holder of the Victoria Cross, Major M. F. Gregg in appointing him Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Commons and paid a tribute to the memory of the late General Sir Arthur Currie who had died during the recess. Referring to Sir Arthur and his great genius as a commander, he quoted from the proceedings at a memorial service held lately at Portland, Oregon, attended by army and navy officers from the United States and the Consuls of most of the large nations. Among them a German officer of the Great War in his remarks mentioned General Currie as the greatest general the war had produced and said had it not been for his genius and the character of his troops on a critical occasion the victory would have been with Germany instead of with the Allies.

## Returned Men

Suggestions as to a memorial to Sir Arthur Currie was being made, but he thought that the memorial that illustrious officer would best like would be that every citizen of Canada should do all he or she could to care for and encourage the men who had gone through and come back from the horrors of war. Thousands of these men

who would not be pensioned, yet suffering greatly from the effects of the war were not yet competent to take their places efficiently in productive or industrial life. Some of them from the stress they had been under were what was termed as "burned out." A case had come under his notice recently where a visitor to a city had remembered about an old comrade supposed to be living there. This visitor enquired his way to him and found the man with a wife and two small children without employment for over four months and at the stage where there was no food in the house, almost in utter despair. His friend, the visitor, gave him immediate assistance and then got him a job which lasted for a few months. He was then again helped and bucked up to take a civil service examination, was successful in getting an appointment and was now alright. Had that man not been remembered there might have been tragedy and he (Fairweather) felt that if all would remember these men and lend a helping hand it would be helping to fulfil a public duty as well as paying a debt of gratitude. In the words of Kipling he would conclude—"God of our fathers be with us yet! Lest we forget, lest we forget!"

HON. MR. TILLEY moved suspension of the Rules to enable the introduction of a bill to enable the municipality of Northumberland to issue debentures.

The House took recess till 8 o'clock at 4.15 p.m.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

MR. MELVILLE presented a report of the Agricultural Committee.

HON. MR. COCKBURN presented a report of the Corporation Committee.

## MR. PIRIE'S SPEECH

MR. PIRIE, resuming the debate on the budget said he wished to congratulate the Premier and those of his hon. colleagues who had received promotion in this Legislature. His only regret was that hon. gentlemen on the government side of the House had not received promotion to which they thought they were entitled. If, however, out of the shakeup that had taken place they got a Premier of action, they would have something to be thankful for.

## Public Debt

There was a difference of opinion between the two sides of the House as to the public debt. The opposition claimed the debt was between sixty-seven and sixty eight million, whereas the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and others on that side claimed that

the net debt was forty seven million. The opposition claimed that the deficit last year amounted to \$941,907.51 plus the amount that was not shown, while the government had stated the deficit was \$429,517.04. The Provincial Secretary-Treasurer had budgeted for a deficit of \$87,171, while this year he had budgeted for \$153,840, and if he hit the mark as close this year as he did last year he would have a deficit at the close of the fiscal year of \$1,662,305. He wondered what would happen if the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer budgeted his own private business with the same degree of accuracy as he budgeted for the province. He realized that all made mistakes but did not believe members of the government would continue to show deficits in their own private concerns. He wondered, if the members of the government were sitting as a Board of Directors in a private company, would budget for such deficits of \$87,160 and \$150,000 a year. He thought they would not and therefore in all fairness he thought the Cabinet should give more consideration to the matter of deficits and not betray the trust the people of the province had placed in them. They should run the business of the country in the same way as they conducted their own private business. If they did find it necessary to show a small deficit because of some unforeseen event, he would have not criticism to offer. In 1931, 1932 and 1933 they budgeted for a surplus but had ended the year with deficits. In the face of all these facts the Attorney-General had the affrontry to say that the government was administering affairs of the province so well they would be quite content to leave the matter to the judgment of the public. That was what the opposition was asking for. If the government would give the people an opportunity the province would soon be rid of the most dangerous gang of administrators that was ever known. Evidence of what would happen in the event of an election was seen during the last twelve months throughout Canada. Every riding in Canada where the people had been given an opportunity the Liberals had come through victorious. These Liberal victories alone were responsible for the slight pickup that had occurred in business.

## Last Year's Deficit

The Attorney-General had stated that the lowest point of the depression was reached in April 1933. The

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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

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 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