

Six Speakers Participated In the Budget Debate In the House Yesterday

Mr. Groom of Charlotte Handed Out Some Hot Shot to the Opposition Ranks—Other Speakers Were Messrs. Richard (Kent), Smith (Kings), Dr. Violette, Guptill and Downey.

With the Premier and Leader of the Opposition absent yesterday, the proceedings of the Legislature were very tranquil and satisfactory progress was made with the debate on the budget. No less than six members, three on each side made contributions to the flow of oratory and placed their views on record for the edification of present and future generations. The list consisted of Mr. Groom of Charlotte, Dr. Violette, now the sole representative of the republic of Madawaska, Mr. Smith of Kings, Mr. Richard of Kent, Mr. Guptill, of Charlotte and Mr. Downey the good looking and unappropriated blessing from the noble county of Albert, famous for its conglomerate rocks, its gushing oil wells, and its black fox ranches. Mr. Fairweather of King's moved the adjournment of the debate and has the floor this afternoon.

In the Premier's absence Hon. A. J. Leger led the House, while Mr. Richard of Gloucester stood by for the opposition, but did not find it necessary to function.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Assembly Chamber,
February 28th, 1934.

The House met at 3 p.m.

The following bills were read a third time; authorizing the municipality of Gloucester to issue debentures; to authorize the city of Moncton to issue debentures; to amend the city of Moncton Assessment Act; to confirm a certain agreement between the city of Moncton and the Moncton Tramways, Electricity and Gas Company Limited; to fix the assessment valuation of the Record Store and Furnace Company, Maritime Manufacturing and Auto Painting Limited, Tuttle Brothers Limited, John Abrams' Sons, Limited, J. A. Marvin Company, Limited, Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company, B. W. Lockhart Limited, all in the city of Moncton.

The following bills were read a second time; to amend the Corporation Tax Act; to amend the Intoxicating Liquor Act to amend the act respecting the Court of Divorce and Matrimonial causes.

MR. BROOKS, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Reilly, presented a report of the Standing Rules Committee.

MR. ATKINSON presented a report of the Municipalities Committee.

HON. MR. LEGER introduced a bill to authorize the funding of the floating indebtedness of the province. The amount, he explained, was \$392,517.

HON. MR. SMITH presented the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for 1933.

HON. MR. LEGER presented the annual report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Hospital at Saint John.

MR. TWEEDEIE gave notice of softwood saw logs and softwood logs used for pulpwood were cut on the limits comprised in the fifty year pulp and paper license held by the New Brunswick International Paper Company.

Mr. Groom's Speech

MR. GROOM, resuming the debate, taunted the opposition with having no policy of their own to present and an inability to find anything worth real criticism in the government's conduct of affairs. He congratulated the new Premier on his selection as leader of the government and said he had brought to his office the same energy and business acumen which enabled him to make a success of his private business. The people of the province, also, were to be congratulated that we had a Premier so efficient and prompt in action. The leader of the opposition had with much bravura challenged the Premier to come before the people and yet he admitted that his (the opposition) party had as yet no policy but that it would be formulated in due time, stating "it would be the essence of the finest wisdom of the provincial Liberal Executive." Think of it, he said, a leader of an opposition, eight years out of power, challenging the government to come before the people, and then admitting that the opposition had, in those eight years, formulated no policy.

Election Talk

Everyone knew that there must be a provincial election in this province not later than 1935 and, if the opposition were preparing for it, it was now time they announced their policies and their principles so that the public might have ample time to consider the merits of the same and compare them with the effective administration of the government. Thus, the people would be able to vote intelligently, which cannot be done if the opposition policy is to be kept in a closet until the election is on. Until the opposition had something to offer other than a campaign of mud slinging and insinuation, they were not justified in even suggestion that this government should go to the people before the expiration of their term.

Political Bombast

Since coming to the House hon. gentlemen opposite had been giving a lot of political bombast about the several changes in the leadership and personnel of the government. It was true there had been changes and while we regretted the loss of Mr. Justice Bax-

ter and Mr. Justice Richards, we were proud that as a party we had chosen such men to be leaders. We are, he said, also happy that their mantles have fallen upon shoulders of those who were equal to the responsibilities and carried on so well. Opposition suggestions as to further changes and promotions made us proud of the fact that our party was able, upon choosing members, to choose in them possible Premiers and in the past they must have chosen wisely and well as evidenced by the promotion of these men to higher spheres and important positions. Members on this side of the House were not ashamed of the record of the Governments since 1925 nor were they afraid to go before the people when the proper time came. Apparently for lack of any policy to promulgate, hon. gentlemen opposite had been throwing out a smoke screen to make the public think they were doing something. For instance, the complaint had been made that the new Premier had been selected by a dictator. As a matter of fact he had been chosen unanimously in caucus and had every member of this side of the House behind him, but the public were not concerned with who selected the Premier, but rather as to what he would do to help the industrialist, the farmer, the fisherman, the laborer and the housewife struggling to provide food and clothes.

A Man of Action

Already he had shown these people that he with his government could do things and he (Groom) believed that when the time came they would all rally to the support of a Premier, a government and a party that had so well brought them through a time of stress and trouble to embark upon an era of prosperity. In his administration, the new Premier was no dictator. He consulted with the members of his government and people interested in the various lines of production and, when he had a policy to declare he did not, like the leader of the opposition, get the president of his party organization to make the announcement, but was capable of doing it himself. When he reviewed certain happenings around this House during the past two years and had observed the President of the Liberal party sitting in the galleries or peeking through the door, apparently to see that his orders were carried out, it appeared to him, that, instead of witnessing the founding of a great political party, they had been watching a school play in which the inspector had taken the school from the control of the principal, and wishing to make himself strong with the pupils and the parents back home had seen that each pupil had a part to play and he would congratulate the inspector and the pupils as one by one they proudly stood up and presented their quota of enquiries.

Loss to the House

He was glad he could agree with the leader of the opposition upon one thing and could heartily endorse what that gentleman had said regarding the loss the House sustained when Mr. Michaud left it for another sphere. The House had also lost a valuable member by the elevation of Mr. Justice Richards whose courtesy, prudence and considered judgment would be a gain to the Bench as they were a loss to this House. To his successor in the office of Attorney-General he extended congratulations on his well merited promotion and he would add to his colleague and friend the new president of the Council he wished to extend his public congratulations. He felt the Premier could not have chosen anyone more admirably fitted for the duties of the office.

Political Picnics

Last year, when speaking in the House, he had referred to the Liberal party as being "ill". Apparently this had had the effect of inducing the party to send its leader on a sort of vacation to give a number of picnics in his honor and that course apparently had had a rejuvenating effect, for, when the leader came a little later to a meeting in Fredericton, he seemed to have recovered his youth and called on the young people of the party to come in and bring an infusion of young blood.

Skeptical Party

Hon. Gentlemen opposite had been complaining for some years that the press of the country did not convey their views to the public and had apparently lost faith in that great public service, so much so that they could not believe the news published from day to day in regard to industrial recovery and better prices for farm products and to reassure themselves as to what was going on they had inquired from the government as to what was the basis of the statement, in the Speech from the Throne, that agricultural conditions were improved. Another enquiry revealed their state of mind when they inquired as to what were the annual deficits and the net debt of the province in different years. They apparently had arrived at a point at which they could no longer believe, not only the press and the public accounts, but even statements made in preceding years by leading men in their own party, for a reference to the

record of this Legislature would show that the opposition themselves had, each year, been stating what they considered were the figures of the deficits and the net debt.

An Omission

There was one enquiry, however, upon a subject which was street talk that had not yet been submitted and that was, who is the leader of the Liberal party.

Well Looked After

The leader of the opposition and some other speakers of his party had criticized the administration for aiding industries in the southern part of the province without giving consideration to the northern section. The hon. member for Gloucester (Doucet) had remarked that the North Shore was getting nothing but the crumbs that fell from the table, despite the fact that to the people of the northern counties went, not only nearly all the money spent on colonization, about \$75,000 last year, but they also received over one hundred thousand acres of the Crown Lands of the province worth at least \$200,000. In these Crown Lands the people of the south owned per capita an equal interest with the people of the north, while less than half this amount was given if anything, including fish bonuses, loans etc., extended to the people of the southern counties, was totalled. These latter people and their representatives were glad that assistance was given to the people of the north and that the government was doing more for them than any preceding administration had ever done.

Lumber Industry

Referring to conditions of the lumber industry in the past few years, Mr. Groom said that Northumberland was not the only county that suffer for the industry in the valley of the Saint Croix and along the Saint John River had been hit just as hard. It was not the pulp leases which killed the industry on the Miramichi but the impossibility of competing in the American markets with British Columbia Douglas fir coming in by the Panama Canal and in the British markets with Russian and Scandinavian lumber. The North Shore held on a little longer than did other parts of the province, but the industry there was doomed by reason of the then present market. The Empire pacts of 1931 gave an opening to the British market and lumbermen began to realize that they might recapture a portion of that trade which their fathers had enjoyed in the old country. The result had been a revival in the long lumber trade and he felt confident that when the full benefit of the Empire pacts were realized that this province could not supply the demand from present sources and then if lease holders were not operating, steps would be taken to make new arrangements.

Pulp Mills

The leader of the opposition had criticized the government for not forcing the erections and operations of pulp mills on the Miramichi though he well knew that all over the continent pulp mills established for years had been closed down. United States pulp mills had been gradually restricting their purchases until the cut for them was reduced by at least one-half. If such old established companies had so curtailed their operations, how could it be expected that new mills would be established. As a result of falling prices and limitations of demand in the pulp and paper business practically chaos had come in the pulp and paper industry. The member for Northumberland (Gill) had urged the cutting of more lumber even in excess of

the annual growth. He considered this very poor advice as trees could not be grown at will; it took years to replace them.

Province's Finances

He (Groom) also thought that the hon. member for Northumberland (Tweedie) was ill-advised in criticizing provincial finances when the finances of his own county were in such shape that it could not sell its bonds without government assistance. That deplorable condition in Northumberland had not arisen over night and the hon. member might well have employed his talents in a criticism at home and first case the beam out of his own eye, and then he would see more clearly how to remove the moat from his brother's eye. He thought the public men from Northumberland might have been better engaged in seeking to create a feeling of faith in the ability of their own people to overcome the obstacles confronting them rather than in creating a spirit of hopelessness by their public utterances. If he was correctly informed Northumberland had resources other than lumber and the people's attention there might be well turned towards their development. Other counties, each had industries that had been hard hit, but their people did not throw up their hands in discouragement. They turned to whatever they could do and contrived to exist. He believed that if the people of Northumberland were encouraged instead of discouraged by their leaders they would once more establish themselves as a component part of the province and be able to take care of themselves.

Northumberland's Case

Criticism had been offered because hydro had not been carried, to the Miramichi, but was such an extension justifiable when the people there claimed they had no industries to use the power and were unable to pay their taxes. How, he would ask, would the chairman of the Hydro Board expect that such people could pay for electric current. He thought that the proposed extension to the Miramichi under the circumstances of the last two years would have been very inadvisable from a business standpoint.

Visited Charlot

The leader of the opposition in an address last summer at Roanoke, in Charlotte was said to have stated that the present government coming into power in 1925 under favourable circumstances had piled up a formidable total in deficits. He, however, did not mention finances for the year 1926 to 1929, but he started with the year 1930 after the only favourable circumstance, namely prosperity, which had been in effect in 1925, had disappeared and the years of depression set in and he did not tell the people that previous to 1925 the government then in power in prosperous times, had rolled up a mass of deficits which the new government had had to take care of.

He (Groom) would point out that in common with nearly all governments over the world deficits had been caused in this province by the falling-off of business and the necessity of extending relief to those people thrown out of employment, who could not help themselves. Had it not been for the money thus spent for relief purposes this government would not have had deficits even though the revenue had been tremendously decreased.

Forest Service

Criticism had been extended because the costs of the forest service had not decreased in proportion to the revenue from the forests, to his mind a criticism entirely beside the mark. What, he would ask, would have happened to our forests during the dry summers of 1930, 1931, and 1932 if they had not been properly protected from fire. He thought the policy of the government in providing lookout towers, telephone lines, and fire wardens with efficient equipment was to be commended.

The Department of Public Works had incurred very large expenditure in an effort to relieve unemployment, a circumstance not deserving of criticism. He believed that every department of government had been carrying on with less expenditure than the

needs of the country really demanded and the Civil service was worthy of commendation in that, with more duties to perform, they had carried on efficiently under reduced salaries.

Duncan Commission

Opposition friends for the past few years had been continually urging that this government should take action to see that the recommendations of the Duncan Commission were fulfilled. Yet, when the hon. Premier had taken action they seemed to fear that some credit might be received by the present administration and they therefore asked this House to vote for delay. He, however, believed that the people of the province would stand behind the Premier in the action he was taking and were long they would get the beneficial results.

Must Stay Home

While he desired that New Brunswick should receive fair play and all the rights to which she was entitled, he believed that the prosperity of the province depended more upon the initiative and industry of its own people than any benefits that would come from outside. In times gone by thousands of our citizens had gone to the United States to Central and Western Canada and had there become leaders. Had they remained at home and applied their energy in New Brunswick he believed most of them would have done as well. Now there was no opening for our people in other countries and they had to remain here and this was the time for them to show themselves capable of utilizing the resources at home for their own benefit and for the benefit of the province.

A Fine Province

New Brunswick had many advantages, tempests and droughts were largely absent. Our farms at one time produced sufficient feed for large herds and could do so again yet we imported largely of feed; able to produce some of the best fruit in the world we imported apples from British Columbia, South Africa, New Zealand and even the United States and he felt that if our people were really determined to do the best they could with the resources we had that this province would be a wonderful land in which to live. He thought the proposed marketing bill would be of assistance, but it could not be a cure all, behind it must be the desire of our citizens to produce and market only the best of everything. Nature had been very kind to this province, free from violent storms, surrounded by salt sea breezes, with fish and game, with timber lands almost unexcelled, with lakes and rivers and scenery that, had we a Bobby Burns, would make New Brunswick as famous as Scotland, there was every incentive for people to make their homes here with a motto for the future of "Better products for a bigger market in a greater province".

DR. VIOLETTE'S SPEECH

MR. VIOLETTE said he would first extend his congratulations to ex-premier Richards on his well deserved promotion. It was also customary in this House to offer congratulations to the Mover and Seconder of the Address, and this he did most heartily. The House had been particularly honored in having the Mover of the Address from the same constituency two years in succession, and this year they had had King Brooks and Queen Evans. They had done well considering the little material they had to deal with. He regretted the loss sustained by the House in the transfer of Hon. Mr. Michaud to Ottawa. He took it, however, that he had disappeared from this sphere to look after our interests in the larger Parliament. When he considered all the good things that had been said of his recent colleague, Mr. Michaud, he wondered what would be said of him (Violette), when he passed from this House. He result of the by-election in Restigouche-Madawaska proved to him that the next election, either Federal or Provincial, was a foregone conclusion. He wished all success to Mr. Michaud in his larger sphere.

Lost Opportunity

Mr. Violette said he observed that the men at the head of affairs were going to give the ladies an opportunity of sitting in this House, and

while he appreciated having the member for Gloucester sitting beside him, yet if the Government had called on the by-election in Madawaska, he might have had sitting with him a lady representative from the "Republic of Madawaska".

If he interpreted the words of the Attorney-General and other speakers from the Government side rightly, they on the Opposition side were nothing but kickers. He would say, however, that hon. members did not know what real kickers were; they should have been here before 1925. He hoped that those kickers in the days prior to 1925 would soon be back on the opposition side of the House.

Money Barrels

While the figures presented to the House by the Hon. Provincial Secretary-Treasurer differed from those given by the financial critic of the Opposition, yet he (Violette) would remind them that the Opposition were always right in any controversy with a Conservative. In order to settle the question of finance once for all, he would suggest that the money barrels be brought to the floors of the House, where they could all count the money and determine whether the net debt was forty seven million dollars or sixty one million dollars.

A question very often brought up in this House was that relating to the Grand Falls development, but it seemed to him that some of the Government members didn't like to hear of it. In the northern part of the province they still believed Grand Falls should have been publicly developed. In that section they had to pay too much for electricity and they could not get power from Grand Falls.

An Admission

With regard to colonization, he would admit that the Hon. Premier had tried to do something in Madawaska, but he would remind him there was still more to do. The New Brunswick Railway Company owned a large tract of land in that section, and he wished that Hon. Premier would acquire a portion of it for a few settlers.

Last year when he had spoken in the House, he had referred to the matter of the Voters' Lists, as to the way they were prepared. Under the Provincial Law, a man whose name was not on the list could not vote, but under the Federal Law a man by taking the required oath was given the

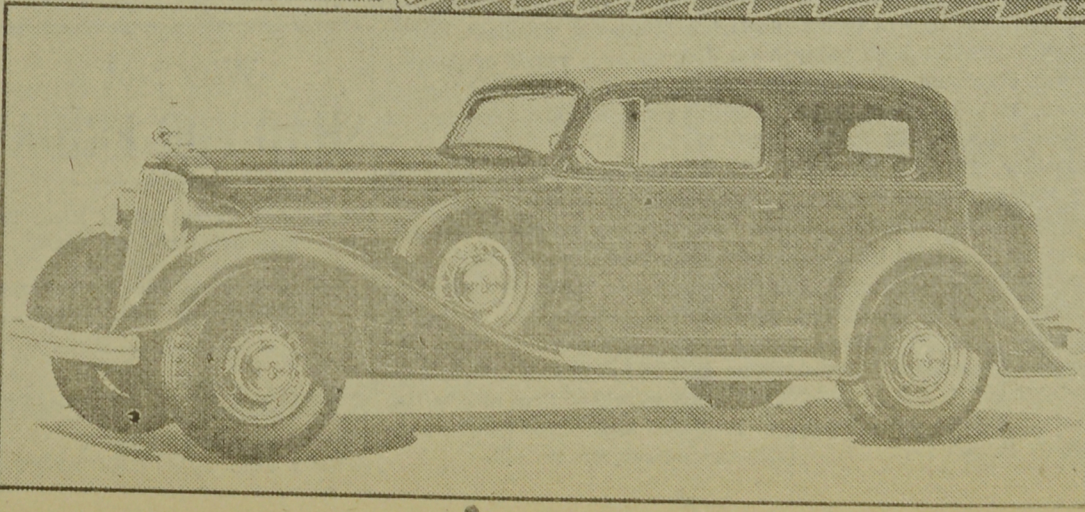
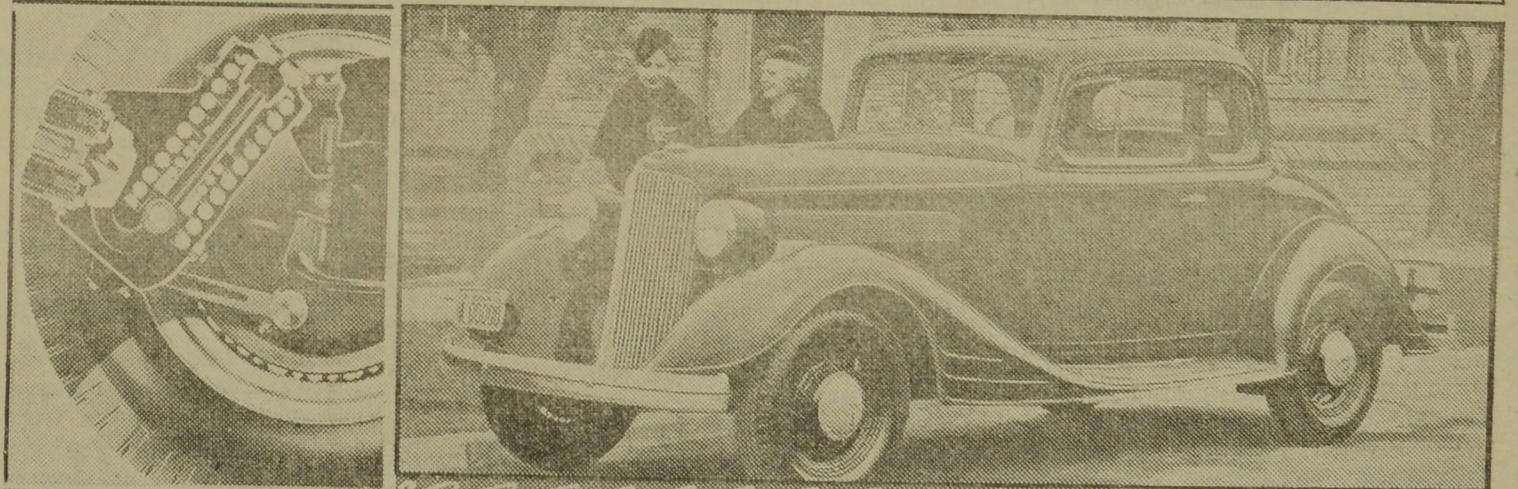
(Continued on Page Six)

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