

MR. LEBLANC OF RESTIGOUCHE ON PROVINCIAL FINANCES

Popular North Shore Member Contributes Fighting Speech to the Budget Debate— Says the Opposition is Window Dressing for a Federal Election—Mr. Michaud Of Madawaska is Also Heard From.

Good speeches were contributed to the budget debate on Monday evening by Mr. LeBlanc of Restigouche and Mr. Michaud of Madawaska.

Mr. LeBlanc's Speech.

Mr. LeBlanc, continuing, said when the bill to create a deputy attorney general was before the House hon. members opposite were more concerned in trying to find out who was to be appointed and the salary to be paid than they were in giving the Government credit for the legislation. It was well known among members of the legal profession that had the fortunes of war not gone against hon. members opposite in the late election it was their intention to appoint a deputy attorney general. His hon. friend from Carleton (Smith) knew who was slated for the position. It was a gentleman who occupied a seat in the last House and had waived his claim for a cabinet position in favor of the hon. member for Carleton with the promise that he was to made deputy attorney general. He (LeBlanc) had been surprised that the ex-attorney general in discussing the budget had found it necessary to delve into ancient history in order to explain away the muddle that the late government had

got into with respect to the Valley Railway. He had blamed the Liberals for building the Transcontinental through the centre of the province and had indulged in some criticism of Hon. Dr. Pugsley and his connection with the Central Railway. Matters in connection with this railway had been investigated by a Royal Commission and its report had been discussed in the House of Commons. The late Sir P. A. Landry, the chairman of the commission, was one of those whom Hon. Dr. Pugsley had sharply criticised in discussing the report in parliament. He (LeBlanc) had met Sir P. A. Landry a few days after the debate and had told him that he had thoroughly sifted the evidence brought out at the Central Railway inquiry and he was convinced that not a dollar of public money expended in connection with that enterprise had stuck to the fingers of Hon. Dr. Pugsley. That statement had given him (LeBlanc) a certificate of character for Dr. Pugsley that all the howling of the Tory press could not remove.

Shaping for an Election.

Now that a Federal election is in the air the ex-attorney general seemed to think the time opportune to indulge

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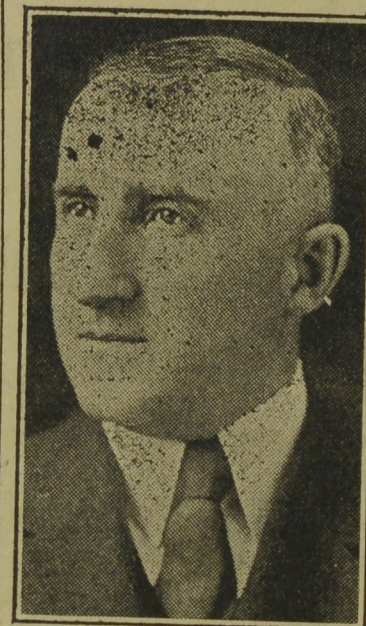
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in some window dressing. If the hon. member had been sincere in his talk about a check paid to Hon. Dr. Pugsley he would have remembered that another check of more recent date has a story attached to it but this check, instead of having four figures consisted of only three. He believed that hon. members opposite since the session opened had been in preparation for a federal election. They had moved an amendment to the address which was clearly a bid for the vote of the soldiers. Before hon. members opposite got the votes of the soldiers it would be necessary for them to get past knock-kneed horses and paper shoes. He was not impressed with the sincerity of hon. members opposite when he saw them bringing for-

ward a resolution in favor of conscription. One hon. member had gone so far as to rub it into his hon. friend the premier for having sent delegates to the Win-the-War conference. It is true that delegates from this province were sent to Montreal but when those in charge learned that they were from the liberal province of New Brunswick they were practically told that they were not wanted.

Mr. Tilley wanted to know what this had to do with the finances of the province.

Mr. LeBlanc replied that conscription had nothing to do with provincial



MR. A. T. LEBLANC, M. P. P.

finances yet hon. members opposite had spent hours discussing it. Continuing he said that at the Win-the-War conference they were given to understand that only one color of politicians were wanted. They listened to the ex-attorney general deliver his speech but Hon. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Sweeney, other delegates from this province, were not called upon. He (LeBlanc) had been struck with the great similarity of a speech delivered at the conference by the ex-attorney general and a resolution which afterwards came before the House. It was not an honorary colonel as stated who was responsible for the resolution but a real colonel. He did not think that there was any sincerity behind the conscription resolution.

In closing the speaker said that he hoped the Government would discover a method by which the cost of collecting stumpage would be materially reduced. He could say that hon. members supporting the Government came to the House with some degree of independence and reserved to themselves the right to criticize measures that did not meet with their approval. There was no such spirit on the other side of the House as hon. members there did not know the meaning of the word independence. He could assure them that hon. members supporting the government would never be induced to vote for a resolution such as that which passed the House unanimously during the late regime.

Mr. Michaud's Speech.

Mr. Michaud said that there were excellent reasons for an increase in stumpage and the hon. gentlemen opposite were to be congratulated on the fact that during the eight years they had been in power the provincial revenue had been increased. Although it should be remembered that the size of logs permitted to be cut had been decreased.

It should also be remembered that in 1907 the Dominion subsidy had been \$491,000, but in 1916 it had been \$637,000. This increase had been substantial, but what had the late government given the province for the increase? Could it be said that the roads were any better? Was agriculture in a more advanced state? In certain branches of agriculture there had been an improvement but that was accounted for by extensive Dominion assistance. Provincial expenditure in the important department of agriculture had practically doubled but the betterment in agriculture was not proportionate. He had only to cite the fact that large numbers of butter factories and cheese factories had been compelled to close.

The construction of the International Railway must go to the credit of the government in office prior to 1908. The transaction bore most favorable comparison with some of the railway enterprises carried on by the government since 1908. There had been severe criticism because the present government had not increased the stumpage at once, but there might be some good and sufficient reason which prevented such increase. Some contract made by the preceding govern-



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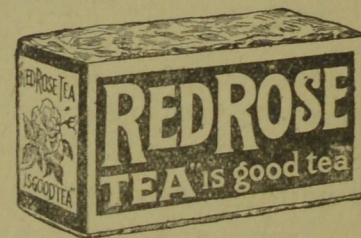
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JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER BEATS BILLY SUNDAY AT GOLF

New York, June 11. — John D. Rockefeller, 78 years and 11 months old, beat Billy Sunday, aged 64, 2 up, in a nine hole golf match this afternoon at Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown.

The millionaire golfer beat the baseball player evangelist 48 to 50 in medal play. Mr. and Mrs. Sunday motored up to the Rockefeller estate in the morning. Mrs. Sunday rested in the house and Billy was supplied with a pair of hobnailed shoes, a golfer's shirt and a pair of flannels and told to make himself at home. In the afternoon a threesome was arranged by Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Sunday and Dr. A. E. Chace of Tarrytown.

Billy has played golf a little before this, but he finds difficulty in handling his driver like a golf club instead of a baseball bat. He steps up to the ball as if he were facing a pitcher and attempts to drive as if he were aiming for the old board fence in centre field. As a consequence, his accuracy leaves something to be desired, but when he does clout it he gets away with a 200-yard drive now and then.

Mr. Rockefeller used a two-thirds ment might exist which might stand in the way.

Mr. Smith (Carleton) asked what contract was that.

Mr. Michaud replied that there might not be a contract but rather a verbal agreement made by friends of the member from Carleton with the lumbermen in return for financial assistance. Such an agreement might not exist but the inference that it did exist was certainly most natural. He hoped that the time would come when the Government would see its way clear to increase the stumpage. The crown lands were the only part of the public domain from which any large revenue could be derived.

Hon. Mr. Murray suggested that coal areas might produce increased revenue.

In conclusion Mr. Michaud suggested that the province might try to get back a portion of the large tract of land granted to the New Brunswick Railway Co.

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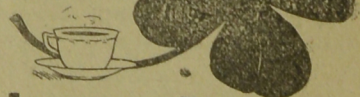
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