

## AN ABLE AND BUSINESSLIKE SPEECH BY MR. BURCHILL

Senior Member for Northumberland Replies Effectively to Opposition Criticism in the Legislature—Opposition When in Power Did Not Practice What They are Now Preaching—Stumpage Question.

Following is a report of the excellent speech delivered by Hon. J. P. Burchill on the budget in the Legislature on Wednesday evening:

MR. BURCHILL said that there was a divided responsibility in regard to the finances of the past year, as one party was in power five months and the other seven. It would not be for twelve months that the government could be judged fairly in the matter of administration. He would proceed to reply to some of the statements made on the opposite side of the House, of which he had taken memoranda. The ex-attorney general's criticism of the budget had not been of a serious nature, however, he had been struck by the remarks of that gentleman concerning the duties of the members of the House in the present crisis of the Empire. He had said that it was the duty of the government to conserve the natural resources and economic wealth of the province in order to be worthy of the sacrifices being made on the other side of the ocean. Those remarks, however, had been as applicable five years before as when they were made. If the name and credit of the province had fallen to the place where the ex-attorney general said it had, the responsibility rested upon his own party. The advice given was excellent but if the line of conduct pointed out by him at this time had been followed some years before by his colleagues, the province would be better off financially and morally. The lessons taught by investigations of Royal Commissions in recent years should be taken to heart by the gentlemen to the left of Mr. Speaker, and also by those on his right, so that the future would be cleaner. Let the dead past bury its dead. Let it be learned from the sacrifice of war how to conduct public business in a manner of which no one should feel ashamed.

The Valley Railway.  
Valley Railway matters had been referred to by several speakers. That project had been opposed by him from the start, not on account of any sectional feeling against the St. John Valley, but because of the financial position of the province and its sparse population. In reply to the statement of one hon. gentleman that the project had met with no opposition, he could say that he was not correct. He himself had opposed it and the journals of 1910 showed that he had. At the time he had felt that he was right, and he thought so today. If the views he had expressed then had been adopted, the province would now be in a much better position. That railway was needed by the people of the St. John Valley, but it should have been a Dominion project.

The hon. member for Albert had re-

ferred to the government regulation charging higher stumpage in southern New Brunswick than in the north and had offered criticism. He (Burchill) would criticise the action because the stumpage in the south had not been made heavy enough, and when a change had been made, the distinction had been abandoned altogether. For the benefit of the legislature he would draw attention to the fact that when stumpage was first imposed in 1874 a marked distinction was made between the north and the south. Sixty cents per thousand was imposed on lumber cut on waters draining into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and eighty cents on lumber cut on waters draining into the Bay of Fundy. Since that time the distinction had been wiped out, but it should be re-imposed. He had not desire to work an injury to lumbermen of southern New Brunswick, but he must call attention to the fact that it cost more to take lumber to market on the North Shore than it did in the southern counties.

An hon. member had referred to the misdoings of the present government. That government had been in power only seven months and had not had time to have misdoings of its own, when its time had been fully occupied to the misdoings of its predecessors. The people of the province were quite willing to let the present executive occupy the treasury benches for a little while longer.

### Executive Government.

To the hon. member for St. John, who had suggested that there should be only four ministers, he would say that the present government had just the same number of administrative heads as had the administration which that hon. member supported. Gentlemen upon going into opposition were prone to suggest reforms to produce which they had made no attempt when in power. They always wanted the other fellow to do it. It was correct that the Nova Scotia government contained but four ministers, but they were paid salaries sufficient to make them independent of any other source of income. The cost of that government probably was as great as that of New Brunswick. He would not say, however, that four ministers could not attend to all the business of this province. The same member had criticised the expenditure of the public works department in various counties, evidently desiring to create the impression that some counties were favored above others. Such a statement was ridiculous for it would be impossible to treat all the counties the same—the apportionment for highway privileges must be distributed according to the mileage and the needs of the roads; the same would apply

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to colonization work. Imagine the howl that would have gone up from the other side of the House if every county had been given the same colonization expenditure. The remarks from the opposition side along those lines had been for the purpose of reproduction in the press and not for any benefit to the House. Election campaign funds also had been discussed. The great responsibility for the corruption of the electorate lay at the door of defects in public life. There was no corporation or public body, which would subscribe to a campaign fund if it did not expect get any return. If that would be cut out, electoral corruption would be stopped. His remarks did not apply to his own section of the province, for such conditions did not exist there. The problem of campaign funds could be solved by the various candidates agreeing among themselves to spend nothing. If he had to buy his way into the Legislature he would not be there.

## EASTER DISPLAY OF FLOWERS

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FLORIST.

## DEDICATE AND PREPARE FOR

# Greater Food Production

Every One's Duty. Give One Week to Preparation for the Spring Crop Drive

### PLAN EARLY!

### BE READY!

A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been made to all County Councils to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss ways to increase Food Production. ALL CLERGYMEN to proclaim from their pulpits on April 14th the terrible truths of the 1918 food situation. ALL CITIZENS to co-operate loyally in the sacred cause of producing more Food this year.

The Crisis is with us—the Time of Sowing is at hand—the Responsibility upon New Brunswick is great.

### PLANS—

### SUGGESTIONS

- (1) Arrange definitely crop rotations.
- (2) Secure seed early.
- (3) Where possible arrange to co-operate with neighbors in the seeding season. Change work.
- (4) Prepare to remain on farm every day after seeding commences, until the seed is sown. Transact all necessary business now.

### EQUIPMENT—

- (1) Carefully overhaul all harness.
- (2) Put all machines and implements into shape.
- (3) Procure the most needed repairs; secure a few extra.
- (4) Have all tools, such as axes, saws, hammers and wrenches, ready and conveniently placed.

### SEED—

- (1) Reclean seed unless it is satisfactory.
- (2) Treat Oats for smut. Add 1 pint Formalin to 36 gallons of water. One gallon of this mixture will treat about two bushels of grain.
- (3) Treat potatoes for scab.
- (4) Have seed prepared before Spring operations commence.

### FERTILIZERS—

- (1) Procure them early; the supply is very limited.
- (2) Have you used more than necessary in past seasons? Plan to use more green manures.

### CROPS—

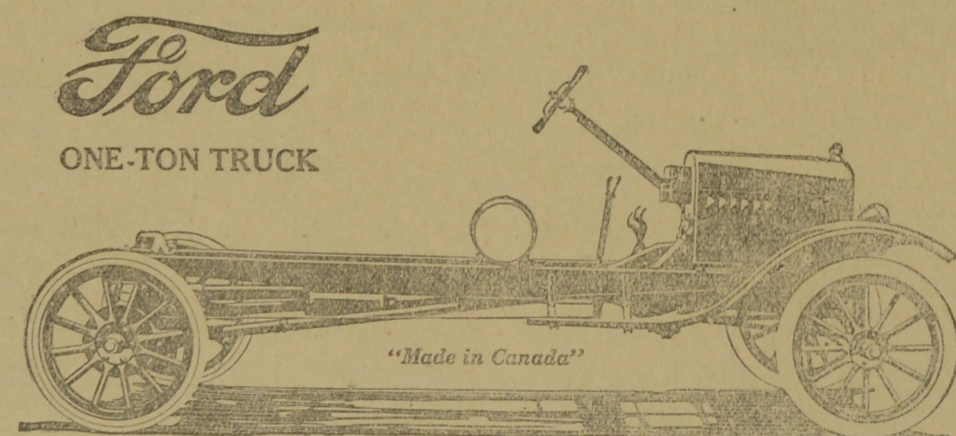
- (1) If your land is suitable for wheat, sow a few acres; if not, arrange in order that some cereal will be grown.
- (2) Food, not dollars, is the great essential—use your land so that your country and also that you may feel the best possible use has been made of every acre.

Consider what may happen if America falls short in Crop Production in 1918!

New Brunswick is expected to do its duty in this hour of crisis.

J. F. TWEEEDDALE,  
Minister of Agriculture of New Brunswick.

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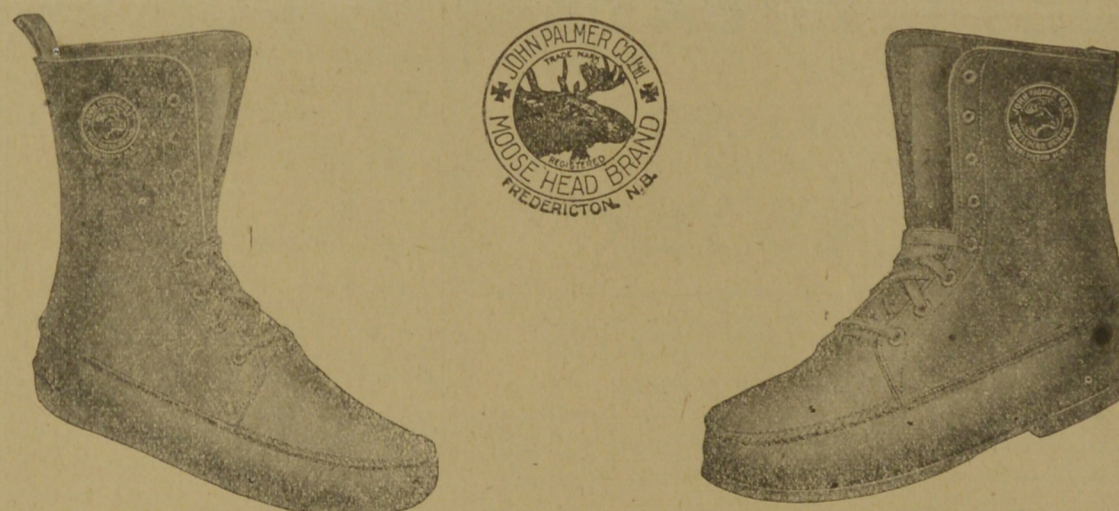
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