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MONDAY and TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 23, 1918

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Kaiser Smashed in Jaw By Captain of Guards!

PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE IN BERLIN
 WHEN CAPT. VON WOHLBOLD, GOADED
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 CRUELTY, GAINS ENTRANCE
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 "THE BEAST OF BERLIN"

TONIGHT! Last Times to See BUSHMAN and BAYNE in "RED, WHITE AND BLUE BLOOD" and Tenth Episode "THE RED ACT."

GREAT SPEECH IN THE HOUSE BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Continued from page 3.)

able. That statement by Mr. Clarke remained uncontradicted until the hon. member had returned from England, when Mr. Clarke immediately gave out another interview in which he stated that he did not mean what he had said in the previous one. It simply meant that the then premier of the province was taken to task by the hon. member and compelled to take back water. That was one of the great things which the late administration was going to do for the returned soldiers. If caught in a trap they always tried to make it appear that they had not intended to do that. That was the way they had carried on the affairs of the province. When accused of wrong doing during the election campaign of 1917, they did not attempt to justify their conduct but promised to do better if they were returned to power. The hon. member for St. John county had told the House of the things the late government had intended doing, but did not do, when in power. The people of the province did not want that kind of a government; they did not want a government that was always intending to do things, but a government that will take hold of the problems that present themselves and work in the interests of the people.

The hon. leader of the opposition had made reference to the bonding of floating indebtedness and had intimated that it was not the right thing to do. If it was wrong in 1918, it was wrong in 1916, and why did not the hon. member stop the ex-minister of public works from bonding \$70,000 of road expenditure in that year. He noticed that the hon. member for Carleton was taking notes; he did not have the courage to speak yesterday, but he would have ample opportunity for taking notes before he (Veniot) got through with him.

Referring to the over-expenditures of 1916, he said that the amount in round figures was \$154,000. The government saw a deficit staring it in the face, and not wishing to have it used against them in the approaching election, an order-in-council was passed setting forth that it had been necessary to spend a large amount in special road improvements. The sum of \$100,000 was obtained by the Lieut. Governor's warrant, with the understanding that the money would only be spent upon certificate of the engineer. They charged the sum of \$70,000 to special road account and had issued another warrant for the balance. Out of that expenditure the sum of \$43,162 was classified by the then minister, without consulting his engineer. He (Veniot) had made that statement last year and it had been contradicted and withdrawn. Today he would repeat the statement, and he would not withdraw it as he did last year, because he had in his possession documentary evidence to prove it.

The hon. Premier in his speech on the opening day, made the statement that the hon. member for Carleton had asked many questions last year concerning the dilapidated bridges.

The hon. member for Carleton had contradicted the hon. premier, but a reference to the debates of last year would show that the hon. member had asked a number of questions concerning the dangerous condition of bridges. The Florenceville bridge was among the number about which the hon. gentleman had sought information. Plans for the rebuilding of that bridge had been prepared while the hon. member was in charge of the department, but he had neglected to issue a call for tenders, although he knew that the bridge was in a dangerous condition. He had left it for the present Minister of Public Works to do for the county of Carleton what he as its representative had failed to do. If it had been a pleasure for him (Veniot) to do something for the fine county of Carleton. He had spent some days in that county curing a by-election in 1916, and had been treated with the greatest courtesy and hospitality. He had made the prediction on that occasion that the then Minister of Public Works would not hold office more than fifteen months.

MR. SMITH (Carleton)—"You also predicted that I would be defeated."
 HON. MR. VENIOT—"No, I did not. I knew that you were too astute a politician for that. I knew also something about the means you had at your disposal and if you want information about it I can supply you with it now."

The hon. leader of the opposition had complained because the estimated expenditure for public works had been reduced by \$134,000. He would say in regard to this that the estimate was less than the amount expended last year. When he took charge of the department he found that the late government had left much unfinished work, which had to be provided for. The Provincial Hospital had been so neglected that the heating system had become useless and a new one had to be installed. A new heating system had also been installed in the Legislative Building and would result in a saving of 20 per cent in coal. "The old government had been warned that the heating system in the building was antiquated and there was danger of an explosion at any time, but they had taken no action."

When he (Veniot) entered the government, he found that he could not administer his department by remaining in his office, but found it necessary to go through the province and acquaint himself with the needs of the people. He had seen this and in his travels had found bridge after bridge in a dilapidated condition, due to the neglect of the former government. He had told the people that their needs would be met, even if he had to over-expend in his department. He had not waited for a recommendation to come from every Tom, Dick and Harry, but where he saw work was necessary he arranged to have it done. That was the reason there had been an over-expenditure in his department.

While hon. gentlemen opposite found fault with him for spending too much money, the hon. leader of the opposition complained because he was not notion complained because he was not cult matter for him to please them all.

An hon. member had stated that a government could be best judged in its administration of affairs by the manner in which it could control the controllable expenditure, and he (Veniot) agreed with that sentiment. They blamed the present administration for not controlling the expenditure. The same hon. members who now found fault, sat in council on the 27th of March, 1917, after they had been defeated at the polls, and by one sweep of the pen passed an order-in-council increasing the salaries of officials of the agricultural and public works departments to the extent of \$2,000 a year. They had done that too after they had been stripped of authority to do other than routine business. He had heard the hon. leader of the opposition say that he took full responsibility for the action of the late secretary of the agricultural department in participating in the recent election, but he denied having sent out Mr. De Grace. He had said that Mr. Daggett was allowed to go out on the stump in the campaign of 1917 because he had been vilified. If that were so, what had the hon. member to say about Mr. Daggett's activities in connection with the Carleton election of 1916? The hon. member had stated that Mr. De Grace had not taken part in politics with his consent. He (Veniot) could say that after the election Mr. De Grace had come to his office pleading for his life and had told him that he had been forced by a superior officer to go out upon the stump.

He had been surprised to find that the hon. leader of the opposition had some criticism to offer regarding the way in which the estimates were brought down until he learned that his hon. friend was referring to estimates for permanent expenditures. These never had been brought down in the past and why should the government be condemned for not bringing them down now. His hon. friend had said that the government should do differently because it was a business administration. It was a business administration and it would carry on the affairs in a business-like manner.

A little while before his hon. friend had referred to efforts on behalf of returned soldiers and had asked why the government did not do more for returned soldiers. He had not been fair enough to say what had been done. He (Veniot) wanted to say that this government had employed returned soldiers, not as laborers with pick and shovel, but had found work for from twenty to twenty-five at salaries from \$75 to \$95 per month, with one engaged as bridge inspector at four dollars a day. There were from twenty to twenty-five letters on file in the office of Chas. Robinson of St. John, the secretary of the Soldiers' Aid Commission which he had written asking Mr. Robinson to recommend soldiers for the vacancies in the public works department. He had written three months ago about one vacancy and Mr. Robinson had informed him that he had no one that he could recommend. At that time he had thought that Mr. Robinson had represented the Great War Veterans' Association and spoke for all returned soldiers. Since he had learned differently he had written to the Veterans' Association in the city of Fredericton asking them to recommend applicants for the position of caretaker of the Legislative Building and now had in his office applications from six returned soldiers from among whom a choice would be made. If the hon. gentleman had wanted information he could have had it, but he wanted to leave the impression that this government had not been doing anything for the returned soldiers. Too much could not be done for those men but instead of carping criticism he would prefer to seek from members of the opposition information regarding veterans who seek employment.

His hon. friend the King of Nackawick, Mr. Pinder, had expressed surprise at finding him occupying a cabinet position. He had sat in the House with Mr. Pinder many years before—MR. PINDER—"You are not so good as then."

HON. MR. VENIOT said that he was quite good enough to deal with his old friend. In those days many years ago Mr. Pinder had looked longingly towards a government seat; in 1908 he had an eye on the department of public works; in 1916 his eyes were almost glued on that department and when Hon. John Morrissey left the government the intencness of his gaze almost blinded him. If he had not been held up to public reprobation as the result of his Southamptton Railway activities he might have had the position. His hon. friend had said: "Who would have thought of seeing Peter Veniot as minister of public works." His hon. friend would remember an incident in 1895 when

(Continued on page 4.)

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