

Great Speech in the House by Minister of Public Works

An Effective Reply to Opposition Insinuations---How Bridges were Painted Under the Old Government---Mr. Potts Given Some Attention---The Old Government Started the Colonization Work in Queens and on the North Shore.

Following is a continuation of the great speech delivered in the Legislature on Friday by Hon. Mr. Veniot, Minister of Public Works:

His hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Tilley) had asked why gasoline had been charged to Permanent Roads Account. It was because he had to use gasoline to make those roads, to run the white elephants of road trucks which his predecessor had purchased. His hon. friend might have been able to run them on hot air; he required gasoline.

Surprise had been expressed by his hon. friend from St. John that the bridge at the Reversing Falls had been painted without tenders being called and because the paint had not been purchased in Canada. If the United States was not an ally he supposed this would lay him open to a charge of disloyalty. He had not called for tenders and he would not call for tenders for painting steel bridges because the late government had left them in such a scandalous condition that no man could tender on them. Perhaps the member from St. John would have preferred him to let a contract like that famous 30 per cent.

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contract but he did not do business that way. Although \$400,000 or \$500,000 had been spent in the construction of the bridge at the Reversing Falls only four or five years before it had been necessary to spend \$15,000 to scrape off the rust and paint it, as the result of the neglect of the previous government. He had purchased the paint after full investigation by his engineer and consultation with the Canadian Pacific and New York Central Railways. His hon. friend had not shown sufficient knowledge of public works to justify any ambition to fill the post of minister.

MR. TILLEY—"If ever I am I will not expend \$15,000 without calling for tenders."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"Would he prefer a contract like that at 30 per cent. profit?"

HON. MR. VENIOT continuing said that when at his instance Mr. Dugal had asked a question about that contract he had been refused information but had been told that he could go into the department and look into the books.

His hon. friend (Mr. Tilley) had referred to colonization and had asked why colonization roads had not been built in Kings, Queens Albert or York. Did he know of any colonization in York? His hon. friend had not known what a colonization road was until he had asked him (Veniot) on the morning before he had made his remarks. He had told him but he seemed to have forgotten. Reference had been made to colonization in the county of Queens. He wondered if, when his hon. friend made that remark he had seen an article in the Gleaner attrib-

uting this to the minister of lands and mines.

MR. TILLEY—"I did not see it."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"I am glad to hear that he does not read the Gleaner. I have a higher opinion of him."

HON. MR. VENIOT continuing said that while he approved of the opening of colonies in Queens he must also say that when the responsibility is placed by a newspaper on the present minister of lands and mines it was not correct. It had been done by the old government and they had the right to do it. If the French are the colonizers in the province, they had the right to be protected in their efforts. The government had been criticised because of colonization along the International Railway but this colonization also had been undertaken by a previous government. The names of Hazen and Grimmer settlements bear testimony to this and those gentlemen were entitled to credit for anything they had done in opening up those colonies.

His hon. friend from St. John (Potts) had grown quite eloquent in regard to his own loyalty. The speaker said he had nothing to say about that matter but there was one statement to which he must reply and that was to the effect that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said: "Let the boys die." "Let the boys bleed." That statement of the hon. member was incorrect and he must have known it was. He had been pleased to notice that when the remark was made the oppo-

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sition members had been men enough not to applaud. The statement had fallen on deaf ears and let it be a lesson to the hon. member from St. John city. That hon. member had not been content with reference to the recent Dominion election without paying his respects to the minister of public works. To him he had referred with the words: "The Minister of Public Works who used the patronage of his office in the last Dominion election."

The speaker said he had taken part in that election and had followed Sir Wilfrid Laurier and was still following him. He believed as did the hon. leader of the opposition that a man had a right to his own opinion. However, he wished to state to the House that when the hon. member for St. John city made that statement he stated what was not a fact and he asked him to take it back. The hon. member evidently knew so little of parliamentary procedure that when another hon. member stated one of his remarks was incorrect he would not

arise in his place to take it back.

HON. MR. VENIOT referred to a statement made by the hon. member from Albert (Smith) who had let the public have the impression that the public works report had stated that two miles of permanent road had been done near Moncton Bridge. The statement in the report was that in a distance of two miles there were long stretches of permanent work. He had given the hon. member an opportunity of accompanying him over that very piece of road and inspecting the work. The hon. member had been notified of the date on which the minister would visit Albert county but had not been there. Later the hon. member had explained that he had intended to be present but had been prevented by

the fact that a train upon which his father was coming had been late.

MR. SMITH (Albert) asked permission to explain that he had gone to Hillsborough by motor to meet his father but that the Albert train had been derailed. On his return to Moncton he was unable to find the minister.

HON. MR. VENIOT continuing said that the explanation merely bore out what he had said. He had imputed no motives to the hon. member but if the latter had had the interest in the affairs of Albert county which he professed to have during the present session he would have been there to meet him. The same hon. member

(Continued on page 3.)

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