

MR. PINDER DISCUSSES FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE

Senior Member for York in the Roll of a Critic---Has a Fling at all Departments of the Government---Was given a gentle Reminder of His Railway Building Experiences by Hon. Mr. Veniot---Wants "Business Methods" Adopted.

Following is the official report of Mr. Pinder's speech on the budget delivered in the Legislature on Monday evening.

MR. PINDER said he wished to touch upon a few points. Sizing up the government from his place in the House he would say the premier must have had a laborious task in selecting a cabinet from the timber at his disposal. For Attorney General he had had to choose a man who required a deputy at the very start and the appointment of a deputy evidently was necessary. He could not help but sympathize with the premier, who on account of his inexperience had to have courage to attempt the task. Had the premier possessed more efficient helpers he might have done better. There was one member of a former administration to whom he might have looked for assistance, but it appeared as though that member had abandoned his office as adviser to the

premier for that of adviser to Hon. Mr. Speaker. A dentist had been selected for the office of minister of lands and mines, who, however, appeared to have done not so badly as had been expected. The assistance he had received from officials in his department probably would account for that. The Provincial Secretary appeared to be occupying the position of a "joker." Last session the budget had been delivered by a forecastle member and this session it had been written out and handed to the Provincial Secretary to read. When the cabinet was formed who would have thought that Peter J. Veniot would have been placed at the head of the province's greatest spending department? He (Pinder) had dabbled in politics for upwards of 50 years and he could say that in any ten of those years he had not seen so much money squandered as in the past year.

HON. MR. ROBINSON—"You must not forget those first five months." Continuing the speaker said he referred to the items of expenditure. In Douglas \$1,920 had been expended. He could not see how that much could have been spent on that work. That amount should have done much more. He personally had visited the work and knew what had been done. He had seen gravel being piled upon the road without the grass being removed along the sides. The sum of \$1,526.23 had been expended upon Culliton Hill. The report said it had been "made permanent." It was a force to apply the word permanent to such a road. The top of the hill had been cut down, the clay being removed to the bottom. The expenditure was nothing short of robbery. A ditch which had been dug there had since been filled in by clay washed off the road. The job might have been permanent while it was being done but it was not now. Men had been em-

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played at \$2.50 a day. He had seen them driving to work at 7.30 in the morning and returning at 6 o'clock in the evening. They did not get in a day's work. He had watched the work and knew the crews had not been well handled. One-half the money would have done the work. On Monroe's Hill near the job which he had referred to \$1,299.32 had been spent. None of the work was permanent. The speaker referring to some wharfing also done in the parish of Southampton in York county, said one of the men employed on the job told him that he never had got \$75 more easily in his life. The wharfing had been done the year before and the blasting had been delayed until the cold weather in November and December. With the heavy expenditure no great improvement had been made. On the Northdale Road Culvert there had been expended \$749.30. This was the way to a settlement which did not have more than six or seven people in

it. \$100 would have put in a new culvert, but the worst feature was that there was no decent road by which one could get to it. It was ridiculous expenditure. A few hundred dollars spent on the road would have made it passable. On the North Lake Road between Canterbury Station and North Lake \$123 had been spent. The road should have had a heavier expenditure if the work had been in more competent hands. A road machine had been put on the road and it had made it impassable for the whole summer.

HON. MR. VENIOT—"Did you go over that road yourself?"

MR. PINDER—"Yes, I went over it."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"You make that statement do you?"

MR. PINDER—"I do. I went over the road and I didn't have any travelling expenses for going to either."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"Perhaps you might have if you could have charged them up to the Southampton Railway."

MR. PINDER—"I might have, but I did not. I notice, however, an item of some \$1,200 for travelling expenses for the minister."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"You might remember that I had an auto and not a stallion."

MR. PINDER continuing said that it was realized that money on the roads did not go as far now as it used to go. The government should stop methods of expenditure followed in the past year. The contract method of building roads might well be followed. Tenders could be called for travelling sections of the road and the work could be done more economically. The line followed in the past year was merely throwing money away. Had the hon. minister gone over the roads in his own county of Gloucester?

HON. MR. VENIOT—"Yes, I did, and I went over more of the roads of York county than you did."

MR. PINDER—"People from Gloucester county say that boys have been working on the roads in that county for men's pay, and that men had been paid for working on the roads when they were hauling hay."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"This is a serious charge. Let the hon. gentleman name the men and make his charges. This House will investigate."

MR. PINDER—"Don't be in too big a hurry. Perhaps you will get enough names later on. I don't believe in making statements I can't back up. I expect to be back here next year."

HON. MR. VENIOT—"Next year is a long way off."

MR. PINDER continuing said that he hoped the premier as a business man would see that better value was given for the money expended on the roads. Referring to the agricultural department he said there were too many officials. With increased production so important it might not be a bad idea for the department to se-

cure 400 or 500 acres of land and turn the office staff out on it. The department had seed and fertilizer and the men who knew how for they were always telling other people how to farm. The minister was a practical farmer and stock raiser and he might do well. The speaker referred to the purchase of seed grain and strongly criticized the purchase of western oats for seed in New Brunswick. Prince Edward Island oats should have been bought. He knew by experience.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE—"We got all the seed oats from the Island that were available."

Continuing the speaker said that the Federal government was assisting to the extent of \$25,000 and there was no reason why the people should not be furnished by the department with seed and fertilizer.

Practically all members of the government to whom he had not made reference were forecastle members and as such were practically useless except for a little advice for which they need not be paid. He had noticed however, from one of the bills before the House that one of them was to get a portfolio. It would cost from \$30,000 to \$50,000 to operate a Department of Public Health. The expenditure was unnecessary and the government should move slowly in the mat-

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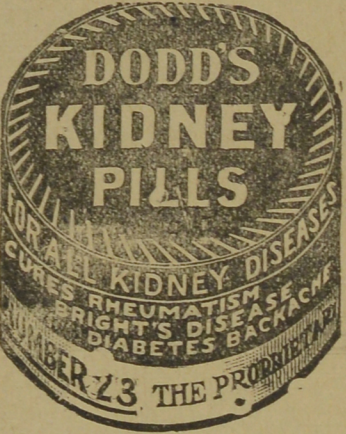
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NO EXTRA FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Ottawa, April 15.—Although no official announcement has been made, it is stated that the government has passed an order-in-council regarding the pay of civil service men serving overseas to the military pay. Civil servants who enlisted early in the war were given their civil service pay as well as their military pay. This privilege was subsequently withdrawn, in so far as new enlistments were concerned. Under the new order in council all civil servants will, it is understood, stand on the same footing as men of other callings who are serving with the overseas forces.

ter. No doubt there was room for improvement in some matters of public health. There had been a smallpox scare but he had never heard of any deaths resulting from it. In his part of the country people quarantined for smallpox had been out playing baseball. It had just been a chance for the doctors to make some money. It was the easiest thing in the world to get two or three men jobs at the public's expense. This department was ridiculous with every cent needed for war expenditure. Perhaps his remarks had not not been very beneficial to the members of the government party but he believed the time had come when economy should be practiced. Private business never would be conducted as had the affairs of the province during the past year. The Minister of Public Works himself would not conduct his own private business as the work of his department had been done. He would see that the men did a fair day's work.



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