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YORK STREET

DEBATE ON THE BUDGET CONTINUED IN THE HOUSE

Continued from Page One.
Assembly Chamber,

April 6, 1920.

The House met at 3 o'clock. HON. MR. TWEEDDALE submitted the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1919.

MR. CAMPBELL, with the unanimous consent of the House moved that Rule 78 be suspended to permit of the introduction of a Bill from the New Brunswick branch of the International Order of Kings Daughters and Sons in relation to a certain trust.

HON. MR. VENIOT submitted the 65th annual report of the Department of Public Works.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE, with the unanimous consent of the House moved for the suspension of Rule 78 to permit of the introduction of a Bill incorporating the Fraser Paper Co. Ltd. He explained that the Bill had been advertised since March 20th in daily papers of St. John and Fredericton and also in the Royal Gazette, and he did not think that any interests likely to be affected would be without the information. Mr. Allen, the Superintendent of the Tobique Salmon Club, was familiar with the provisions of the Bill.

MR. DYSART, on the order of the day being called, resumed the debate on the Budget. He said that he agreed with the hon. senior member for Northumberland that the Budget debate gave considerable attitude to hon. members who might wish to discuss matters of public interest. It was the correct principle and while all cherished it they should perhaps be careful and not extend it to far. He had pleasure in extending congratulations to mover and seconder of the address and could endorse what had been said of them by previous speakers. In regard to the speech of the hon. seconder of the address the St. John Standard had stated that little was expected of him and he had lived up to it. He considered the Standard's observation as uncalled for and he did not think that paper had in that connection voiced the sentiments of hon. members opposite.

He considered the conclusion of the treaty of peace as one of the outstanding events of the year, and he hoped that all nations would retain unsullied the great privileges which had been won for humanity. Sir Arthur Currie, speaking before the New York Canadian Club, had expressed the hope that the peace would be a lasting one, not only between all nations but between families and classes and in the industrial and political world. He (Dysart) could heartily endorse that sentiment.

Another event of importance during the year was the great Liberal convention at Ottawa, where had assembled men from all sections of the Dominion to give expression to the grand principles laid down by Cobden, Bright, Gladstone and Laurier. Those principles had been shelved by the administration now in control and its predecessor in office but he hoped the time was not far distant when the people of Canada would be given their rights. It was a matter for regret that a plank had not been incorporated in the platform of the great Liberal party which would give to the people of the Maritime provinces their just rights as part of the Confederation. Another convention had been held in St. John during the year and he regretted that the hon. leader of the opposition was not in his place that he might congratulate him on the victory won over the recalcitrant elements of his party. Aspirants for the leadership included his hon. friend from St. John (Tilley) who with others had been instrumental in calling the convention. After what had happened he was surprised to see the hon. member occupying his old seat at his leaders right. The hon. members for Albert had voted against their leader on the amendment to the address, but the hon. members for St. John had evidently been passified by his promotion of the position of financial critic. He (Dysart) felt that the immortal board of Scotland must have had such a man in his mind when he penned his ode to a wee mouse. Another hon. member from St. John also had ambition for the leadership of the party. Both in and out of the House he proclaimed himself a British subject but by seeking to stamp out the French language in New Brunswick he showed himself to be at variance with British fairplay. The hon. member had butted against a stone wall at the opposition convention and had been compelled to swallow his convictions.

He wished to extend his congratulations to the hon. provincial Secretary on the able and concise financial statement which he had presented to the House. He also wished to congratulate the Government upon the inauguration of a new system of accounting which made it impossible to cook up the accounts and insured a plain and correct statement. It was true that the deficit incurred during the year was a large one but the money had been well expended in the public interests. The revenue had been insufficient to meet the demands, and he trusted that the Government, either from the stumpage or some other source would find means of supplementing it during the year. The Government was to be commended on the courage they had shown in facing the situation as disclosed by the statement on the year operations. Government is like individuals might make mistakes, but if such mistakes were tainted with fraud, as was the case when his hon. members opposite were in power, the deception would always be odious to honest men. He believed that the money expended during the year had been honestly expended and

in the interests of true economy. His hon. friend (Tilley) had criticized the report of Price, Waterhouse and Co. and had laid stress on the word "view" which had been used by that firm. There was in the hon. members criticism evidence of the fact that suspicion haunts the guilty mind. An hon. member for Albert had supported his leader during the last session but at the convention had voted against him. He considered the hon. member a true type of christian who endeavored in every case to return good for evil. His talk about bonds being sold in the American market reminded him (Dysart) of a remark of a Carleton County man who had said that the more mention or potatoes set him thinking of profits. The more mention of bonds evidently set the hon. member for Albert thinking or profits.

There had been some criticism by hon. members opposite in regard to the patriotic fund tax. Whether or not such criticism was justified it had been effectively answered. He believed that the whole thing was wrong in principle as the burden should have been borne by the Federal Government. A Montreal man, who was supposed to have originated the scheme had been given the honor of knighthood for his trouble. In making the assessment the Government had used its best judgment, but under the conditions which then prevailed it was impossible to tell the exact amount that would be required.

With reference to permanent roads the hon. member for Carleton had inaugurated a policy in the fall of 1916. A start had been made on permanent roads in the County of Kent and the work had to be completed by the present government the following year. On the road from Cacagne to Buc-touche the work had to be done over again and the province would have been better off if a start had not been made in the fall of 1916. Checks in payment for work done under the old government had been with held and he personally had assisted in the settlement of a claim which had been allowed to stand for thirty six months.

An hon. member for St. John had said that he had felt like weeping for the children who paid the moving picture tax. He (Dysart) wondered if the hon. member wept when he learned that a quarter of a million dollars was extracted from the pockets of the people in connection with the Valley Railway. He wondered if he wept over the \$100,000 which went into the pocket of a St. John man, or did he weep when \$61,000 was paid to a member of the Legislature.

MR. POTTS said he would like the name of the hon. member of the House who had been paid \$61,000.

MR. DYSART said that the money had gone into the pocket of an hon. member but he had not expressed an opinion as to how wrong it had remained there.

MR. POTTS said that the hon. member having made a statement should be prepared to back it up.

MR. DYSART said he thought the hon. member need have no difficulty in securing the information from the records. Continuing, he said the hon. Minister of Lands and Mines was to be congratulated on his success in organizing a system of fire protection and in looking after the classification of crown lands. In regard to the stumpage rate he believed that the matter was deserving of careful consideration and he felt that the government could be depended upon to deal justly with all parties. In this connection it might be advisable to adopt a sliding scale for the different sections of the province.

He wished to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Public Works on the manner in which he had administered his department. He believed him to be the best Minister of Public Works that the province ever had. He had been called a spendthrift, but he had spent the money judiciously and in the best interests of the province. Of that there was not the slightest doubt. He (Dysart) could say without fear of successful contradiction that the roads of Kent County were one hundred per cent better than ever before. Even the Ex-Attorney General, when on a visit to the county had admitted that the hon. minister had done good work. Praise from such a source was certainly of considerable value. Often they received a cue from sources close to his hon. friends opposite. For instance a former member of the House now a Senator, in talking to a supervisor had expressed surprise that there was money to spend on the roads in view of the fact that it had been alleged that the province was bankrupt. The reply of the supervisor was that the money was now actually spent on the roads, whereas under the old administration it found its way into somebody's pocket. He (Dysart) believed that good roads were essential to the welfare of the country, and the hon. minister of public works was deserving of great praise for what he had accomplished. Lack of colonization roads was a severe handicap, and was no doubt the cause of considerable dissatisfaction, especially among young people in remote sections. Often they became discontented and moved out of the country. That was a state of affairs for which good roads would provide a remedy.

Hon. gentlemen opposite had criticized expenditure upon the roads of New Brunswick, but the neighboring province of Nova Scotia was planning to spend \$17,000,000 upon highway development between the present date and 1924. The speaker read extracts explaining the connection of the Nova Scotia highway development scheme with the Old Home Summer and the Olympic games which it was intended to hold in 1924. It was the intention

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to have the road system of Nova Scotia linked up with the highways of New England through the Province of New Brunswick. It was a gigantic undertaking, and if New Brunswick were awakened to the opportunity and embraced it it would not be necessary to think so much about the drain of population to the West.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture would himself speak shortly and touch upon many matters connected with his department. There was, however, one item which he (Dysart) must mention, and that was the establishment at Moncton of a co-operative creamery for the three counties of Kent Westmorland and Albert. It was one of the best things ever done in the Province. He knew in his own county of Kent of men formerly engaged as little more than casual laborers, who were borrowing money to invest in dairy cattle on account of the establishment of that co-operative creamery. There was a suggestion which he wished to make, and that was the organization of a series of short courses in agricultural subjects for each parish. Exhibitions were good, but nevertheless failed to reach certain classes. The excellent staff of the Department of Agriculture would furnish the instructors for such courses. They would be of great benefit and he could say that clergy of all kinds were keenly interested in the proposal. The question of lime stone was important, but he would not touch upon it, however, in his own County along the coast there was the question of the oyster beds. It caused a conflict between the farmers and fishermen which should be settled. He realized that it was a matter which must be dealt with through Ottawa which could make a classification of the oyster beds, as to whether they were dead or not. The

(Continued on page 3.)

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