

HON. MR. RICHARDS TAKES PART IN DEBATE ON THE BUDGET

(Continued From Page 3.)

statement which came from the operators. In 1925 cost for scaling in the province of New Brunswick was 22 cents per thousand. In Quebec the system was much the same. The government maintained a service of forest rangers and check scalers; the records were turned in the same as in this province. The cost there last year was 22 cents per thousand, identically the same as in New Brunswick. His hon. friend was therefore not correct when he said the licensees in Quebec paid the whole cost of scaling. In connection with the sale of their new pulp wood areas he understood a new system was being introduced whereby the government will reserve the right to scale the cut and charge the licensee fifty cents per thousand. Perhaps this was what the leader of the opposition had in mind when he made his statement, but this system as yet applied in only a few instances.

Crown Land Revenue.

He had prepared a statement showing the total revenue from our Crown Lands during the past few years. In view of the discussion, comparing the cost of stumping on Crown Lands and on private lands, he thought it was only fair to show that lumber cost more than the licensees paid by the scale. First, there was the bonus paid to province in 1913, of which the licensees were paying annually \$42,000 per year. Then there was the renewal mileage charges and the fire tax of \$3.20 per sq. mile. Last year the total return from Crown lands was \$1,038,000 and the scalers' returns gave something over 270 million feet or an average cost per thousand to the licensees of \$3.83. He had received a similar statement based on the same costs for Quebec, and last year Quebec received \$3 per thousand from their licensees. Virgin territory, of which there is considerable yet in Quebec, is sold at an upset price per square mile of from \$200 to \$600 and these cases, so long as other conditions are complied with, practically go on in perpetuity. He made these statements not in an controversial spirit, but merely to give the members of the House and the country actual facts.

The Season's Cut.

The estimated revenues from stumping this year were \$636,500, a reduction of about \$250,000 from last year. If there was any blame for this the present government would have to accept two thirds of it. Last year the cut as returned was a little over 270 million feet. This year, taking the fullest information thus far obtainable, the estimate was 254 million. How much less than this quantity would have been cut if there had not been a reduction, could not easily be estimated. If there was to be a division of responsibility as between the government and the opposition, the present government would be responsible for about \$70,000 of the reduction and the preceding government for about \$140,000. In the minds of many people this reduction in the cut was not an un-mixed evil, for they felt that we should have more careful cutting.

Conditions Differed.

The preceding speaker had quoted from remarks made by Hon. J. A. Murray in this House in 1920 urging an increase in the stumping rates. He would remind his hon. friend that at that time the lumbering situation was very different, and it might have been possible to have got a greatly increased price. Everyone knew the difficulties of the lumber situation during the past two years, and it was to help meet this difficult situation that the reductions were made.

Government Policy.

As to the present situation, it was reasonable to ask for the government's policy. Speaking for his department and for the government as a whole, he would say that the stumping rate would be fixed for next year on or before August 1st by order-in-council as the law provided. In fixing the rate the government would be guided by the best information obtainable. It would not be arrogant, but open to consideration of all conditions affecting the industry, and after the fullest information, would be guided solely by what it believed to be the best interests of the people as a whole. The government was not bound to any class or group, it was under no pledge to any individual or collection of individuals, and it would try to make the rates fair to the lumbermen and fair to the people as a whole. The government fully realized the splendid asset we had in our Crown lands and believed it to be its duty to see that they were conserved.

Fire Protection.

Fire protection was perhaps the most important question, and he believed that prevention was better than reforestation. There might have to be new policies in connection with the changes occurring in lumbering methods and market demands. When the time came for these the House was entitled to a consideration of all the information obtainable, and he would like to say that every member of this House at present was entitled to go to the Crown Land department and get all the information to be had there. He would not trespass further on the time of the House but when the estimates came down he would be glad to discuss any further Crown Land matters in committee.

M.R. Niles' Speech.

MR. NILES, in rising said he felt he had the sympathy of the House in rising to make his initial bow. He congratulated the Speaker and spoke very feelingly of the late J. M. Flewelling, with whom he had been both a playmate and a schoolmate. The province had a new government; many factors defeated the old one. He would speak of two only. The first was Prohibition. The Veniot government had been called a rum-selling, boot-legging institution, because it had placed in the treasury over three hundred thousand dollars through the liquor commission. He noticed that this government was placed \$175,000 of income in the estimates as well as carrying large stocks of liquors and he would ask what was the difference in principle between making \$300,000 or \$100,000 out of this trade. It did not look as if the government was carrying out the pledges made during the past campaign.

A Big Canvas.

The second factor was the stumping question. The old government had reduced the stumping from \$4 to \$3 and that was a big canvas against them. The new government was now more to be blamed than the old one, for in the opinion of the people they should have raised the stumping rather than lowered it.

The estimated deficit was the most interesting item before the House and the fact that it is proposed to unload it on the municipalities made it of tremendous interest throughout the country. He did not like the pessimistic attitude of the provincial secretary, and feared before the young men had finished reading his speech they would have their grips packed and be ready to leave. A great many of our ills were, he thought, due to pessimism. He travelled about a bit, and when he came back to New Brunswick he felt that we had here the best country on the face of the earth. He deprecated the increase of taxation on banks, which he feared would

THE SOCIALISTIC TREND STIRS THE OLD COUNTRY; CONSERVATIVES ALARMED OVER STATE CONTROL

London, April 7—"We are all socialists now," was the immortal remark made by Sir William Vernon Harcourt more than a quarter of a century ago, but even that distinguished Chancellor of the Exchequer when he uttered the assertion hardly could have foreseen the remarkable strides toward nationalization that his country was going to take a generation later.

The significance of the Conservative insurgent movement in the House of Commons last week, when nearly fifty Conservatives fought the electricity bill, fostered by the Conservative government, is that the party is beginning to be seriously alarmed by the trend toward state control of this country.

A comparison of the Baldwin government with the Coolidge Administration in the United States comes to mind at once, because both were elected practically at the same time, and with the same purpose. Just as the Coolidge landslide can be traced to the fears of the American people of the La Follette program of nationalization, the unexpectedly large majority which Great Britain gave Stanley Baldwin in the House of Commons was due to the electorate's distrust—distrust of the Socialists and the extremists in the Labor party.

Private Control Extended.

But there the resemblance between the Coolidge and Baldwin administrations ceases. The Republican rule at Washington has constantly endeavored to take the government out of business, to sell the government's fleet of merchant ships to private operators

close the branch offices in smaller towns, thus denying banking facilities where they were much needed. The tax on insurance companies would come directly back to the people, and an increase in amusement taxes would also deprive the smaller communities of their picture houses. It was perhaps all right that the municipalities should take more care of their sick and insane, but to issue warrants against them for the estimated deficit was the surest way to drive people from the country.

Chance For Economy.

The government had a good chance to practice economy. They might first start with representation in this House. One-half of the members that were here today could as well attend the public business, and he would ask what member outside of members of the government earned \$1,000 for his work during the session.

In conclusion he would say that the government should get proper value for our stumping and not make presents to the favored few. The stumping was being sold this year much below its real value.

MR. MELVILLE adjourned the debate, which was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

HON. MR. LEGER submitted reports of the St. John General Public Hospital and the Vocational Education Board.

MR. VENIOT asked leave of absence for Mr. Michaud. Adjourned 10.15 p. m.

and to dispose of Muscle Shoals to private interests.

On the contrary, under the Baldwin regime the British government, partly by force of circumstances, it is true has gradually expended the limits of government control of private business. By the first budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Churchill, the state became well involved in the insurance business through a comprehensive scheme for widows' pensions. The housing shortage problem in England is being solved by two different schemes of government subsidies; but as this government aid apparently was insufficient to spur private enterprise in Scotland, the government itself has undertaken to enter the housing business and to construct 1,000 steel structures north of the Tweed.

The Conservative government has decided to end private business in wireless, and to make broadcasting a government monopoly with a public commission in charge. This government which has elected to oppose Socialism, has come to the conclusion that electrical power in Great Britain is not being developed rapidly enough by private companies.

Other Developments.

Therefore it is using its big majority in the House of Commons to push through a measure whereby the government will create a central board armed with compulsory powers for the acquisition and control of generating stations and main transmission lines.

Finally, there is the report of the coal commission, headed by Sir Herbert Samuel, recommending that the state buy up all coal royalties and permitting British municipalities to go into the business of selling coal.

Premier Baldwin, in stating recently that his Cabinet was willing to accept the report as a whole, confessed that it did not accord with the views of his government, but that the Cabinet would agree to it for the sake of peace in the coal industry. Rumors have been floating around for some time that the Marquis of Salisbury is so disturbed by the socialistic nature of the Samuel report that he has been "considering his position," which is an English euphemism for thinking of resigning.

THRILL OF OCEAN TRAVEL LOST TO WOMAN SALT, 87

New York, April 7.—The luxury of the giant modern trans-oceanic liners, the assurance that one will arrive at one's destination within a few hours of a scheduled time, has robbed ocean travel of much of its thrill for Mrs. M. S. Wainwright, of Rye, N. Y., who recently arrived here completing her ninety-second Atlantic crossing.

Mrs. Wainwright, who is 87 years old, crossed the Atlantic first in 1863 with her husband. In those days, she said, "One called on his courage, murmured a prayer for a safe voyage, and gambled with the seas. That is what I liked."

L. S.—That person is always looking at my nose.

A. B.—Probably a reporter.

L. S.—Why a reporter?

A. B.—Oh—they're supposed to keep an eye on everything that turns up.

Her Face Was Covered With Large, Red Pimples

Miss Greta Carlisle, 23 Leonard St., Brantford, Ont., writes:—"A short while ago, my face was completely covered with large red pimples, and it seemed that it was almost impossible for me to get rid of them, as nothing I took seemed to do me any good."

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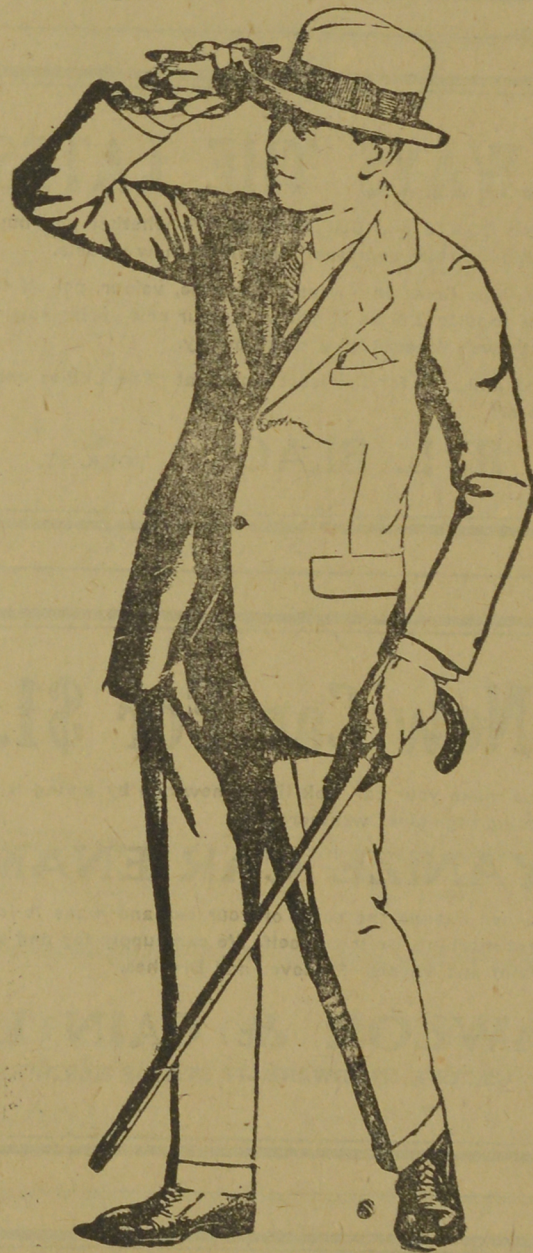
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