

PORTRAIT OF FIRST GOVERNOR

PRESENTED TO PROVINCE

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Could it be honestly said this work was reckless, extravagant or unbusinesslike?

Apart from the stage-play offered on the budget or the Address by his friends opposite there had been no real criticism offered when the matter of bonding legislation was being considered for road or bridge improvement. Members of the then opposition had pressed for more lavish expenditures for their respective constituencies; therefore it ill-became these men to criticize expenditures suggested by themselves.

Opposition Platform.

Another plank in the opposition platform touched upon Prohibition, and they went on record as favoring the enforcement of the Act so

long as it remained on the statute books. That resolution had been passed at a meeting of the party in St. John. That resolution charged the late administration with favoritism in granting of vendorships. On the strength of their promises largely hinged the support the present government had received from the temperance people.

A Preacher's Statement.

Could it be contended by the present administration that in the appointment of vendors political favoritism had not been shown? One reverend gentleman in his pulpit in St. John had stated that though several months had passed since the new government took office, yet during the Christmas holidays it was shown that liquor

flowed more freely than for a long period.

HON. MR. TILLEY—May I ask the name of the man who preached that sermon or made that remark?

MR. DYSART—I have no objections, but it appeared in one of the St. John papers.

HON. MR. TILLEY—The reason I ask that question is to see whether this was the reverend gentleman who wanted us to appoint thirteen vendors after we had completed our list of twelve.

MR. DYSART—You tell me the names of the twelve I will tell you the thirteenth.

Continuing, Mr. Dysart said the President of the Council stated in the House that he was not the only one who had opposed prohibition and rather tried to get behind the cloak of Mr. Magee.

HON. MR. TILLEY—There is nothing inconsistent in my attitude on this question.

MR. DYSART asked if he (Tilley) thought it consistent to support the resolution favoring the en-

forcement of the Prohibition Act, and then speaking in the House that he was not in favor of Prohibition.

Nothing Inconsistent.

HON. MR. TILLEY—I say there is absolutely nothing inconsistent in my stand. So long as the Prohibition Act is on the Statute books I hold up both hands for a thorough and efficient enforcement of it. But that did not change his views on the question.

MR. DYSART said he could not accept the attitude of the hon. gentleman in advocating liquor laws similar to those in the province of Quebec, and then stating he favored the enforcement of the Prohibition Act as a good brand of consistency.

HON. MR. TILLEY—Are you in favor of government control?

Mr. DYSART said that the hon. gentleman had opposed Prohibition when it was introduced in the House in 1916 and then for ten years he had remained silent.

Divided the Province.

What had been accomplished in the way of enforcement of the Prohibition Act? The only sign of action was their having divided the province into fifty-two districts, and each division was presided over by an inspector, without regard to qualification for the post. In Kent they had four inspectors. They had asked for one at Buctouche, but this request was overlooked and the present appointee lived ten miles distant.

In the last campaign Prohibition played a very important part. On every platform in Kent it was discussed and became the mascot of the opposition. It was fondled and lullabied. This particular privilege had been assigned to his friend, Mr. O'Leary. For services thus rendered he had since been rewarded and was now the chief labeller of wet goods throughout the province, with a seat on the liquor commission. Being of an ingenious turn of mind he proceeded to inject into

the service much needed reform. All wet goods were to be standardized and the contents of each package guaranteed. To this end there was to be affixed to each bottle or package as proof of genuine quality the miniature portrait of the commissioner authenticated by his signature. It reminded one of the Nota Bona sign on Chamberlain's pain-killer or other patent medicines "Beware of false imitations, none genuine without the signature of the Commissioner, Arthur E. O'Leary." To borrow the expression of the Minister of Lands and Mines when leader of the opposition, this was truly a colossal farce.

The Crown Lands.

The matter of deriving adequate returns from the Crown lands had been a matter which has engaged the public mind for many years. Both parties had apparently given the matter honest consideration, but so far no satisfactory solution had been found. Hon. members of the House would recall that in the budget proposals the value of the crown lands was estimated at \$60,000,000. Following this, the Minister of Lands and Mines in his address stated that the gross estimated revenue from this source for the current year would amount to \$636,000. This gave the province a net revenue from this great provincial asset something less than one percent.

The provincial secretary-treasurer had informed the House that the rate of interest payable by the province on the bonded indebtedness varied from four to six percent. He further stated that the present administration was fortunate in securing a reduction of from 5½ to 5 per cent. on bank overdrafts.

The Minister of Lands and Mines in the course of his address stated that the forests of the province should contribute to the revenue of the province to the fullest extent. It now appeared, however, by the budget proposals of the present government that the spectre of direct taxation would reach all conceivable forms of property in the province.

An Outstanding Problem.

It seemed to him that the one outstanding problem calling for solution was that of public domain, the Crown Lands of the province. This revenue-producing asset should yield a large return in the face of changed conditions in order that we might balance the budget. Possibly some operators considering the location and holdings found it burdensome to pay the present rate of stumpage of \$2.50 while others whose holdings were more accessible could well afford to pay as high as \$6. It must be apparent to members of the House that our timber limits were not equally accessible. Some operations were carried on at the headwaters, where supplies had to be carried from twenty to eighty miles, while others were adjacent to mill property. In some cases logs must be driven great distances through difficult streams, and required the operating and maintenance of driving dams. Then, again, there were holdings

plains through which flowed splendid driving streams, while others were located on mountain sides making cost of operation exceedingly heavy. These and other considerations brought him to the conclusion that a drastic revision on all stumpage rates was long overdue, in order that all operators should be treated fairly. The idea of having one cast-iron rate for the whole province when it was known that there was a wide range in the economic value of the holdings of the different operators throughout the province, became absolutely economically unsound.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) Hear hear. MR. DYSART, continuing said, timber limits varied in value in proportion to their accessibility to the market. Therefore it seemed to be imperative that an exhaustive study of the whole field should be undertaken to determine the economic value of all timber limits, and fix for each district or area a rate of stumpage that would be fair and equitable having due regard to the interests of the provincial treasury, the future of the industry and financial success of the operator.

Our great timber asset should be taken out of politics. Under direct government control this was impossible. The solution seemed to be to place the administration of the Crown Lands and the fixing of rates of stumpage in the hands of an independent Commission, whose term of office should not be subject to every change of administration.

Alleged Irregularities. He wished to deal for a short time with the charges of irregularities made by the Hon. Minister of Public Works during his speech on Friday. He would refer to the awarding of the contract for the Campbellton-St. Leonard road, to the effect that the awarding of such contract was arranged before hand and was a foregone conclusion that it be given to the Concrete Builders. He was instructed by Mr. Veniot, who was Minister of Public Works at that time, to give a point blank denial to

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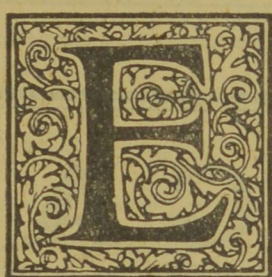
Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made at this Session of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick by the City of Fredericton, for the passing of an Act relating to the assessment of rates and taxes in the said City.

Dated at Fredericton this sixteenth day of March, 1926.

C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.

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