

The Daily Mail

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16th, 1926.

A MASTERLY SPEECH.

The Mail devotes considerable space today to a shorthand report of the great speech delivered by Premier Baxter in the Legislature yesterday in concluding the debate on the budget and offers no apology for doing so. Hon. Mr. Baxter is in the opinion of those competent to judge, the most forcible, talented and resourceful man to fill the post of first minister of this province since the balmy days of the late Hon. A. G. Blair, and his speech of yesterday deserves to rank in importance with a state paper. Fearlessly and without camouflage he dealt with the various problems which now confront the people of this province, making himself clear on every point and leaving no room for the slightest misunderstanding.

The budget debate has dragged along for over two weeks and much criticism has been heard from the opposition benches in reference to the financial proposals of the government, while suggestions have been offered which it was claimed if carried out would do away with the necessity of imposing direct taxation. The Premier had no difficulty in proving conclusively that the position taken by the opposition was neither sound nor logical. He told the House in effect that the province had been living beyond its means, the day of reckoning had arrived, and the government after careful consideration of the different sources of possible revenue had decided to impose a measure of direct taxation as a means of curbing extravagance and at the same time restoring the equilibrium between expenditure and income. While not unduly severe in his criticism of previous governments he did not hesitate to place the blame for the present condition of affairs at their door where it very properly belongs. He expressed every confidence that the people, knowing the circumstances, and believing in the sincerity of the administration in carrying out its policy of reform would come forward and provide the necessary revenue to enable the various public services to be maintained and the business of the province to be carried on in a sound, economical and efficient manner.

The Premier of this province is a very busy man and has been carrying a "peak" load since the opening of the present session. During this week he has actively participated in a conference which is going to have far reaching results for the people of this province. It is marvellous, therefore, that he should have been able to find time to prepare the speech which yesterday electrified both the House and galleries. If Premier Baxter is not a super man he is the nearest approach to one, which the public life of the Maritime provinces can now boast of.

The news of the death at Montreal this morning of Col. George Ham, for years publicity agent of the C. P. R. will occasion deep regret all over the Dominion. The late Mr. Ham was a native of Whitby, Ontario, and a journalist by profession. He was employed on papers in Winnipeg in his early days and served in the press gallery at Ottawa. Back in the early eighties he joined the C. P. R. staff and has ever since been known as "George Ham of the C. P. R." He was a great booster for the road and his personal friends throughout Canada and the United States were numbered by thousands. The newspaper men of the Dominion will

sincerely mourn the death of the man who brought laughter to Canada.

Premier Baxter in his speech yesterday complained of inaction on the part of New Brunswick politicians in touch with the Federal government with respect to the taking over of the Valley Railway. When a senatorship or judgeship becomes vacant there is never any evidence of inactivity on the part of some political leaders.

The opposition leaders proposal to tax electrical energy was given a rather short shrift by Premier Baxter in his speech on the budget yesterday. As the Premier truly said such a tax would not be likely to produce much revenue at the present time.

We know some men who having gone into religion with the idea salvation is free immediately lost interest when they found they were expected to contribute to its upkeep.

Speaking of getting the other fellow's viewpoint, the labor candidate for Governor in Minnesota is a farmer and the farm candidate a lawyer.

When a minister goes wrong he gets into the big headlines because members of that profession have trained the public to expect something better of them.

April is that season of the year when it is not considered necessary to organize a picnic to precipitate a shower.

It may be that after history is rewritten ten or a dozen times it gradually gets back to something approximating the truth.

Another advantage of a square dance is that you're not always stepping on the same feet.

LANCASTER EXPENDITURES DEALT WITH

(Continued From Page One.)

ty-one feet wide. He never contemplated the Province paying for pavement as wide at that. The Province had undertaken to pay for the widening of the road.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he wanted an opportunity to go over all these letters in the presence of the Minister and his deputy. Evidently a number of letters were missing.

A letter dated October 20, 1924, was read, in which Hon. Mr. Veniot stated that Province would pay the cost of the Simms retaining-wall. The letter was to County Secretary Kelley.

Difference In Opinion.

Witness said that in his mind the widening of the road included everything—paving and all.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that was the point of difference. The paving was entirely separate from widening.

Coun. William Golding asked that the witness state the verbal agreement made by Hon. Mr. Veniot at the Victoria Hotel.

Witness said that he had understood the widening included paving.

To Mr. Crouse, member of the Highway Board, witness said that he understood the Province was to pay for detours.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that his agreement was that necessary detours were to be paid for by the Province.

Witness continuing said that the Highway Board went ahead with the paving, as nobody told them to them.

The chairman read a letter from Hon. B. M. Hill, formerly Chief Road Engineer and afterward Minister of Public Works, to Hon. D. A. Stewart present Minister of Public Works, stating that the Province was responsible for paving the approach to the bridge, for the Simms retaining-wall, for the removal of material from the Hospital Grounds necessary for widening the road, for paving a strip twenty-four feet wide and for a gravel road beyond the pavement.

Mr. O'Brien, the witness, said that he regarded the approach to the bridge to extend as far as the C. P. R. crossing.

Not in Company.

Witness proceeding said that he, John T. O'Brien while a member of the Lancaster Highway Board, never was connected with the Maritime Construction Company. There evidently had been confusion in the mind of Hon. Mr. Stewart concerning the O'Briens. Witness said he had complete faith

in the present government to make the burden as light as possible.

Hon. B. F. Smith remarked that opinion was all right, but the committee was trying to find out where the responsibility of the Province began and ended.

J. King Kelley.

J. King Kelley, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality of the city and County of Saint John was called. He gave information concerning the financing of the road construction.

Witness said he believed that Hon. Mr. Veniot at the Victoria Hotel, engaged that the Province pave the road, but details were not settled. Witness expressed the opinion that the Province should continue the paving. It would be foolish to leave the work as it was.

There were some lively clashes between ex-Premier Veniot and the witness.

Mr. Kelley said he could not recall what occurred at a conference which he and Mr. O'Brien had with Mr. B. M. Hill at Fredericton.

B. H. Kinghorn.

B. H. Kinghorn, Chief Road Engineer, was called and presented certain correspondence.

Hon. Mr. Veniot pointed out that this correspondence showed that the paving now in dispute was not begun until after September 15, 1925, after the defeated government went out of office. In face of a definite statement that the Province would pay for only a strip of pavement twenty-four feet wide, the Lancaster Highway Board went ahead and laid pavement and charged the cost to the Province.

Hon. B. F. Smith said the committee was confronted with the situation that Mr. Kelley and Mr. O'Brien under oath said they went ahead on the strength of a verbal statement of Hon. Mr. Veniot at the Victoria Hotel.

Hon. J. E. Michaud and Hon. Mr. Veniot objected that the witnesses had merely given their understanding of what the ex-Premier had said.

The Mysterious Letter.

Mr. Kelley was asked concerning the letter which Hon. B. M. Hill was said to have telephoned to Hon. P. J. Veniot in Bathurst. When he said he never had received that letter. A letter of date of September 10th which was put in evidence by the witness, was denied by him as being the letter.

Late Miss Lois Hawthorne.

The funeral of the late Miss Lois Hawthorne took place this afternoon from the home of her parents, 703 Brunswick street. There was a large attendance of friends and relatives of the bereaved family and there were many beautiful floral pieces. Service was conducted at the late home by Very Rev. Dean Neales and interment was made in the Rural Cemetery. The pall-bearers were J. G. Kirkpatrick, A. Gordon Coy, Cecil Cook, Paul H. R. Barry, Dr. A. W. G. Good and William Gibson. The mourners were James H. Hawthorne, John B. Hawthorne, Kenneth A. Scott, Frank H. Lingley, Harold Limerick, Sterling Limerick, J. G. Bruce, A. R. Wetmore.

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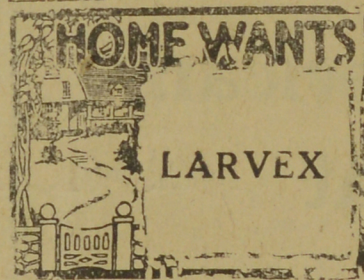
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