

Hon. B. F. Smith Continues Debate on the Address

Veteran Member for Carleton Heard in an Interesting Address—Says That People are Demanding Economy in the Administration of Affairs—Mr. Doucet of Gloucester Replies on Behalf of the Opposition.

The debate on the address in the Legislature is nearing its close, but it looks now as if it would run over until next week. The speakers yesterday were Hon. B. Frank Smith, the senior member for Carleton for the Government and Mr. A. J. Doucet of Gloucester for the Opposition. Mr. Lord of St. Stephen has the floor this afternoon and will be followed by Hon. A. A. Dysart, who will probably be the last speaker on the opposition side. Premier Baxter will likely conclude the debate for the government when the House resumes after the week end adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Smith spoke yesterday for an hour and a half and held the close attention of both sides of the House. He is one of the veterans of New Brunswick politics and naturally is well informed on public questions.

Mr. Doucet, who is one of the brightest of the Acadian members of the House followed Mr. Smith, concluding his remarks at six o'clock, when the House adjourned until this afternoon.

The Official Report.

Assembly Chamber, March 18th, 1926.
The House met at three o'clock.

The Bill relating to the Companies Act was read a second time.

HON. MR. REILLY submitted the first report of the Standing Rules Committee.

Notices of Inquiry for Monday next were given by Hon. Mr. Veniot, and Mr. Doucet.

MR. MCKENZIE introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the St. Croix Water Power Company.

The bill was read a first time.

MR. HARRISON introduced a Bill to amend the Municipalities Act, which was read a first time.

HON. MR. STEWART presented a bill entitled an Act to incorporate certain persons under the name "Les Filles de Marie de L'Assomption" of the Diocese of Chatham.

HON. MR. RICHARDS introduced a bill to amend the Vocational Act 1923, which was read a first time.

HON. MR. RICHARDS introduced a bill to amend the Incorporation Act of the town of Marysville, which was read a first time.

MR. MCKENZIE introduced a bill incorporating certain districts in the parish of St. Stephen, Charlotte County.

HON. MR. RICHARDS introduced a bill to incorporate St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fredericton, which was read a first time.

MR. PECK introduced a bill to legalize the action of the Municipal Council of Albert with regard to valuers' list, which was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Baxter the name of Mr. Melville was added to the Municipalities Committee.

Hon. B. F. Smith.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) on rising to continue the debate on the Address, said he first wished to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to the high and honorable position which he occupied in this legislature. He was convinced that he would discharge the duties of his high office with credit to himself and to this House. He also congratulated the mover and seconder of the Address. The mover had discussed the subject in the Speech from the Throne with much ability and the seconder had also acquitted himself creditably, notwithstanding that he had to speak under a disadvantage. He also wished to convey his congratulations to the leader of this government. He went back a space of thirty-five years when he remembered the leader of the government quite a young man in life. Surely it marked the genius and ability he possessed and the earnestness with which he had applied himself, that he had risen to the highest place in the gift of the people of his native province. He remembered him when he first entered the City Council in St. John. Today he came to the House mellowed with years of experience, with ability and genius which he was sure would be a great asset to the province when he has had opportunity to guide its destinies for a few years. He hoped the Premier would be spared to do that honor to the people for many years to come. He was sure that he was eminently fitted for the position he now occupied. As he looked around the legislative chamber he could not see one face that was there when he first came to the House a quarter of a century ago.

Congratulated Mr. Veniot. He must also congratulate the leader of the opposition. He had known him for some years, and as he looked across the floors of the House he would say he had never seen him in a position for which he was better fitted. He had the ability for work and social qualities for the honorable position he holds, and he hoped he might be spared to adorn that position for many years to come. As he had listened to his hon. friend the other night, the thought came to him of the great difference there was between victory and defeat. He (Smith) knew what it was to taste defeat and also to hear the shouts of victory. It was a nice thing to accept defeat gracefully, knowing it to be the will of the people. The leader of the opposition had laid his defeat to the duplicity of the Temperance people, the hypocrisy of the lumbermen and lastly, he had said, race and religion had something to do with it. He would ask him if he considered if the latter reason given by him had anything to do with the result in Gloucester county. He would ask him to look at the result in Kent and did he attribute that result to the three things he had mentioned, or did he attribute that to the will of the people? He might also refer him to Madawaska, where the majority for his candidates

was so greatly reduced; and then in Westmorland he lost entirely the support he formerly had there. He referred to these things to show that they had in no measure anything to do with the defeat of the late government. As to hypocrisy of the lumbermen the hon. gentleman seemed to have spoken of someone in his own town. He could not tell to whom he had referred. He did not know whether the hon. gentleman believed in conversions or not, but he might refer back to ancient history and find some examples of sudden conversions. For instance there was the sudden conversion of Saul who afterwards became one of the greatest apostles of the Master.

People Were Alarmed.

It was not the Temperance people, not because of the hypocrisy of the lumbermen, or any race and religious cry that caused the people of the province to turn against the late government. He believed the people had become alarmed. In his judgment the people as a whole could reasonably and pretty generally be trusted to do the right thing. He was satisfied that it was the desire of the people to have a change of government, because they had become alarmed at the rapid rate of increase of the public debt of this province, and the possibility of going on with Grand Falls, which would mean a huge expenditure. The province could not go on plunging headlong into debt. When he first came here twenty-five years ago the public debt was between three and four millions of dollars. They believed then that the debt was really more than it should have been. Now, with the public debt close to thirty-eight millions, and the old government verging on an expenditure around fifteen or twenty millions, was it to be wondered at that the people of this province refused to be hoodwinked and still retain in power a government which was plunging the province so rapidly into debt. The imperative duty of this new government was to practice economy. That was one of the verdicts in the late election. This very issue was brought into the contest in his own county. In Carleton he would say that he and his colleagues had denounced the policy advanced by the then government, and had asked the people to consider it from the standpoint he had already mentioned. In the recent contest, after having placed the issues fairly and squarely before the people, without the introduction of any of the things his honorable friend had referred to, the people of his county had given the then opposition a majority of 2,500. He could not help believing that the people of that county must have been thoroughly convinced when they went to the polls and gave them a greater majority than ever before, that the arguments they had used were sound.

Grand Falls Power.

Dealing with Grand Falls he said naturally the development of that water power would be expected to benefit the counties along the river Saint John. He could not see how it would be possible to extend the transmission lines into the rural districts as the expense entailed would be greater than the people to be served could afford. He had tried to use his best judgment in considering the question of Grand Falls development. He had been led to several conclusions. It seemed to him that before the province went ahead and developed Grand Falls it was proper to ask if the takers of that power would be prepared to enter into a long-term contract. He had looked around and he could not find any statement from any large users of power whereby there was any guarantee, that was so essential for the safe-guarding of the province in the making of such a large expenditure. Referring to public development of hydro in Ontario, he pointed out the differences in the matter of thickly populated centres in that province in comparison with the sparsely settled districts in the province of New Brunswick, and in the face of all these facts he would say as a citizen of the province of New Brunswick he would be opposed to any government going headlong into that expenditure without having a full knowledge that the financial safety of the province was guaranteed. We had to look to the development of our wood and paper industry along with the development of Grand Falls.

The Exodus.

If he was to take the statements made by men in the past we were approaching a soft-wood famine in the province of New Brunswick. It was the duty of this government to grapple with the public domain in a manner as never before. If we did not con-

serve it, then in a very few years the industries some people see in their vision would not be humming. There was one thing today, this Government, as well as all the governments of Canada had to grapple with, and that was the exodus of our young men and women to the United States. They did not go to the United States because they would rather live under the Stars and Stripes rather than the Union Jack, but they went because they were compelled to go. The United States had followed a fixed policy for the last fifty or sixty years and the result was that no nation in the world could compete with that country from an industrial standpoint. It was no wonder that our people liked to go there and secure the big wages. We would never be able to stop them unless we had a definite fixed policy calculated to develop the industrial life of this province.

He would not be satisfied with any legislation which would financially involve this province to any great extent. He was in perfect accord with the development of Grand Falls and would co-operate and try to assist in necessary legislation which in his judgment could be safe and not legislation that would leave us in the dark in twenty or twenty-five years time.

Agricultural Matters.

Coming to the subject of Agriculture in His Honor's Address, he said this province was retrograding from an agricultural standpoint, and had been for the last twenty-five years. We had never had a definite or settled agricultural policy and worked along that line for any length of time. In Carleton county they formerly had many butter and cheese factories, but today there was not a single one in the whole county. All the counties did not possess the same natural advantages as the county of Kings for the dairying industry. Other counties had not the nearby markets, such as St. John and Moncton. He believed the lines laid down by the Minister of Agriculture were sound, but he did not believe that they should specialize too much along one line.

The Potato Crop.

The counties along the river Saint John were especially adapted to the growing of potatoes. There was no product today which offered such quick returns to the farmer. Last year had been a very poor one, but this had been an exceptionally good one, and farmers who had not gone down and out entirely had recouped their finances to so that they could carry on for some years. In the matter of shipment of potatoes to Cuba, this province possessed advantages that were not open to other parts of the Dominion and not even in the United States. With the tariff against potatoes in the United States it was today we could never take advantage of the American market for the disposal of that product; and therefore New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had taken advantage of the Cuban market. A movement was now on foot in the United States to see if they could secure a harbor where they could enter into closer competition with these provinces. We must always be on the alert to see that our farmers get the very best advantage possible. This year we would ship half a million sacks of potatoes to Cuba from the port of Saint John. Therefore this important industry must not be lost sight of by the department of Agriculture. He did hope that in the years to come this basic industry of our province (Agriculture) would not be neglected, but would be assisted in a manner that would result in bringing greater prosperity to the people.

Freight Rates.

Perhaps nothing would have more effect on stimulating agriculture, as well as other industries, than a readjustment of freight rates and transportation generally. In New Brunswick we too long had been on the outside of Confederation. He was not a secessionist, but it could not be denied that the Maritime Provinces had certain disadvantages. In referring to the unsatisfactory freight rates, he was not reflecting on the railways. The Canadian freight rate structure had been built up year after year by a patchwork process. The west had sent their experts to get special rates on wheat and on fruit. Central Canada sent freight experts to the government and railway commission to secure advantages. While we in New Brunswick, without rate experts, had suffered and were today being discriminated against, he did not think it was the intention of other parts of Canada to be unfair to us, it was simply a case of where we had failed to look after our own interests. In his opinion there was only one way to secure proper rates for the Maritime Provinces and that was to abolish the whole rate structure, begin at the bottom and build up a fair and equitable system for the whole country. The next matter he noted in His Honor's Speech was that referring to immigration, natural resources and industries. Our immigrants should be most carefully selected. There was room for the right type of people on our vacant farms.

We had wonderful natural resources some of them being sadly depleted by careless cutting, the budworm, and disastrous fires. This condition of our forest areas brought us to the question of whence could we obtain our revenue. Everything conceivable was being taxed and we could not go much farther unless we found other resources. What about our minerals? We should, he believed, turn our attention to investigating our mineral possibilities. How rapidly knowledge in this respect could be obtained would depend on the attitude of the government. We should find out what deposits can be profitably developed. He did not pretend to have any knowledge on this subject, though he knew

both silver and copper were to be found in Carleton and elsewhere. Some money should be spent to make a thorough examination of our mineral resources, for we must solve the problem of obtaining more revenue. It was the most important duty of a government to provide a balanced budget. It might be a hard thing to do this year or next, but we had to come to it and every member of the legislature should help. Demands would come from every county for money, and it would be the duty of the members to tell their constituents that the budget must first be balanced.

Prohibition Issue.

The Temperance Alliance and its friends were demanding the enforcement of the Prohibitory Act, a very proper demand and this government had pledged itself to comply with it. That would mean the cutting off of perhaps half a million dollars from the revenue as compared with past years. Whence would come the money to replace it? These conditions had to be faced. For himself, he believed Prohibition should be enforced to the hilt, and he was glad to know from the Chief Inspector himself that he had a free hand. But some form of taxation would have to be devised to replace the revenue from sales of liquor. Our public services must be maintained. We had obligations in connection with our highways that must be met. We had spent millions of dollars upon roads, which were unfortunately not permanent, but we must protect that investment, for to build and not maintain was criminal. He must give some credit to the ex-minister of public works for his efforts on behalf of good roads, and to thank him for the kind words that he had said before the Rotary Club in Moncton in regard to his (Smith's) work in laying the foundation for a good road system which he (Veniot) had been glad to build upon.

Returning to the matter of Prohibition, he said in his opinion there had never yet been an honest attempt to enforce the Act, and this Government must redeem its pledge and make a serious and honest attempt to carry out the law.

Public Utilities.

He would refer briefly to the proposed development at Grand Falls. He wondered where we would land if it were placed with a private company. Might it be possible for that company to exact such rates as would prevent the use of the power? Was it possible to safeguard the people. He believed that if the Public Utilities Board was properly manned the people could be guarded. So far the Board had not been properly functioning, for he knew of one company in his own neighborhood that had secured a Charter from this legislature and had not only paid magnificent dividends on their investment, but had lately sold out their investment for a very large amount. Had the Utilities Board been doing its duty the cost of electricity could have been lowered to consumers. He strongly urged that the most capable men procurable should be put upon the Public Utilities Board, men who would have such a knowledge of the business propositions coming before them that they could not be deceived by any camouflage to which the companies involved might resort.

Mr. Doucet's Speech.

MR. DOUCET, in rising to continue the debate, said he felt more or less bashful after listening to the oration of the preceding speaker. He congratulated the Speaker of the House and hoped he would discharge his duties with honor to the province and justice to all. He would also congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address. He did not concur with all the mover had said, but he delivered his speech with great ability and force. The seconder, speaking in French, he presumed by the wish of the Premier, had created a precedent which should be followed in practice. He expressed his regret at the death of the Queen Mother whom he warmly praised. Her epitaph should include the words of the poet:

"Be kind, be true, be pure,
Right only shall endure."
He regretted exceedingly the deaths which had occurred among the members of this House. He had always appreciated the late Mr. Flewelling for his fair-mindedness and courtesy. Mr. Potts he had not personally known, but he was a man of ability, a great worker and left a good example of energy and activity.

Hard Times a Vote Getter.

A great change was apparent in this House since the last session and the people should know the real reason. A big wave had swept the province resulting in the Conservative victory. What was the cause? We should get to the real reason why the parties changed places. First, hard times was responsible for this condition. The late government was not responsible, it was an after-effect of the war. As a result of hard times there was much unrest which was exploited to the last inch by the Conservative Party preaching blue ruin. Second, Prohibition was exploited to the full. Today many temperance people admitted it. The government must now enforce the Act. If there were an election today the temperance people would have the same reasons to vote against this government as they had to vote against the old government last summer. He would only say that this government had appointed very unreliable vendors and inspectors and took no trouble to supervise them. The third reason was Big Interests. He understood the preceding speaker to deny that the big interests had helped the government, but when he knew the largest business firm in New Brunswick was supporting this government it was hard to think he was sincere. The fourth reason was prejudice, and it was, perhaps the main reason of all. This was always would be a reason unless it were obviated by every candidate openly stating that racial and religious qualifications had nothing to do with public efficiency. The government in power could really claim no credit for the position they occupied today. How could it be otherwise. They had no policy during the campaign, and had none yet. No policy on

roads, on agriculture, forestry, education nor hydro. They were simply adopting any carrying on the policies of the previous government, to whom would go the credit of any success. He only hoped this government would continue to follow in the footsteps of its predecessor, and improve and ameliorate the position of the province and bring more industry and prosperity. The electorate, in his opinion, made a great mistake in August last. The late government did not deserve the treatment it received. The opposition had to submit to the will of the people, but their attention should be called to the great work which the Ex-Premier of this province had done. The election was a great victory for the Conservative Party, but that did not mean that it deserved credit and glory, which remained with the late government. It should be remembered that even in the last election forty-five percent of the voters remained Liberal. There was much more liberalism in the country than in the legislature.

Possibilities of Agriculture.

The Speech from the Throne lacked both policy and ideas. The man who inspired that Speech seemed to have awakened from a long sleep. Agriculture was mentioned, and it should be our main effort to promote this important industry, whether it be with live stock or field crops. He hoped this government would continue the development policy of the late government. Dr. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Canada, had spoken in Fredericton last January and clearly outlined the prosperous condition of the farmers of Canada and the great opportunities which lay before them. Dr. Grisdale's speech was a stinging rebuke to the salami hawlers of this province.

When there were so many members of the government he saw no reason for appointing a Commissioner to oversee industries, natural resources and immigration. Surely the Minister of Lands and Mines was capable of looking after his own department. It was a most useless appointment and the government should abolish the appointee and give the \$25,000 required to encourage the dairy industry, encourage the people to remain at home instead of wasting it on an unprofitable and useless appointment. It was almost impossible to find immigrants suitable for New Brunswick and we had no room for them. His idea would be to spend the money on our own people.

He would rather from the Speech that the government was turning its whole attention to the tourist traffic. He would suggest some attention should be paid to the roads in rural districts.

The Hydro Question.

Hydro was a great question. As yet the House had no details of what was to be done at Grand Falls. The member for Kings said Grand Falls would be developed without one cent of cost to the province. He thought what cost nothing was not likely to be of much benefit,—it was very difficult to get anything without paying for it. He maintained the government had no mandate to abandon control of Grand Falls and give it to a private concern. For himself he favored government control, and in this he was of the same opinion as the Minister of Lands and Mines and the President of the Council, as well as the Minister of Agriculture, who in speaking in this House in previous sessions had strongly urged the development of Grand Falls under public ownership. He hoped that accession to power had not changed the minds of these gentlemen.

He congratulated the Ex-Premier of the province upon his sincere endeavors during his tenure of office to promote the welfare of the province. He conducted affairs with sincerity, ability and honesty. Rewards were few in the political life, but he was sure his leader must feel satisfied with self-contentment.

Warns Government.

He congratulated the government in power, but he would warn them that they must not think they were too firmly seated, for the province was seething with discontent. So afraid of this discontent was the Premier that he did not dare bring on the election in the county of Saint John. He supposed that the government was in power for four years at least and he hoped they would lead the province to greater efficiency. He would help them by expressing his best sentiments towards them in the county where he lived. Economy was what was needed and he hoped the government would lead the way in that regard.

MR. LORD moved the adjournment of the Debate, which was made the order of the day for Friday.

HON. MR. BAXTER moved that Mr. Squires be Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

HON. MR. BAXTER asked for leave of absence for His Honor, the Speaker, Hon. Mr. Stewart, Mr. Heckbert, and Mr. Lavoie for tomorrow.

HON. MR. LEGER moved that the Public Accounts of the province and the Comptroller General's Report be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Adjourned at 6.15 p. m.

FILM FOLK BUY ART.

Hollywood, Cal., March 18—Rudolph Valentino paid \$5,000 for a painting by Granger, Cyril Chadwick \$8,000 for a Keith and Mrs. Tom Santschi, wife of the veteran hero of Western films paid \$11,000 the sale's top price for an antique Canton vase, when the estate of Harry I. Katz was sold at auction.

Katz a musician and diamond broker, was killed a year and a half ago and the murder is still unsolved.

Miss Louise Sterling left last evening for New York where she will visit relatives.

Tongue Was Coated Bad Taste In Mouth Every Morning

Mrs. J. R. Adams, Assiniboia, Sask., writes:—"For months I was troubled with a coated tongue, and had a bad taste in my mouth every morning."

One day I saw where your **Milburn's LAXA-LIVER PILLS**

were advertised for just such a condition as mine, so I went at once and bought three vials of them, but after using one-and-a-half, all my troubles disappeared."

For 32 years Laxa-Liver Pills have been put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

ADDRESSED TO THE LADIES

Paris, March 18—If any evidence were needed that women have become as inveterate smokers as men, it could be found in the following notice outside a motion-picture theatre in Paris:

"To assure good visibility, please do not smoke in the halls. This request is addressed particularly to ladies."

ICEBERG BOASTS A WATERFALL

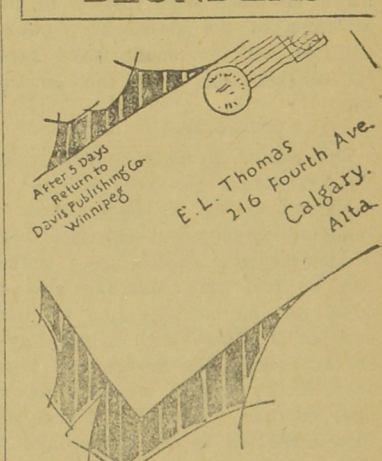
Seward, Alaska, March 18—Exceptional mild weather off the Alaskan coast is melting the huge icebergs recently broken from the Muir and Mendenhall glaciers at a rapid rate. One large berg was passed by the steamship Northwestern, whose captain reported seeing a good-sized waterfall pouring over a steep side.

London, March 18—European express and railway companies are clamoring for an increase in rates to make up the deficit caused by the lightness of the luggage of female travelers. Men used to be called the "suit case sex," but women have gone one step better. They are now the "hatbox sex."

Saratoga trunks, which used to be a gold mine for express companies and European railway lines, are no more. Milady's wardrobe has become so slight that she can put her entire winter and summer outfit into a hatbox, which she carries in her compartment with her.

Most European lines have a sixty-pound limit on baggage which may be checked free. Consequently transportation lines are almost as hard hit as cloth manufacturers and dye makers by the brevity of skirts and lack of lingerie.

BLUNDERS



WHY IS THIS WRONG?

Thousands of letters are delayed in delivery from two to ten hours in big cities because business men do not place their return street address on letterheads and envelopes. Even though a company may be an important one, all postal employees do not have its address committed to memory. Consequently its mail will surely be delayed if persons who must reply to its letters are given no street address.

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick by the City of Fredericton for the passing of an Act authorizing the said City to issue Debentures in a sum not exceeding the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00), for the purpose of constructing permanent streets in the said City.

Dated at Fredericton this 3rd day of March, 1926.

C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.