

The Daily Mail

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1928

A CAPABLE MINISTER.

Hon. L. P. D. Tilley, the senior member of St. John city and President of the executive council holds no portfolio in the government but long political experience and sound judgment makes his services of great value to the administration and he is ever ready to lend a helping hand to his trusted leader Hon. Mr. Baxter and assist in lightening his arduous duties. Hon. Mr. Tilley attended the diamond jubilee celebration at Ottawa last year as the guest of the nation and was one of the principal speakers; he also represented the government at the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto and he was a delegate to the recent Inter-provincial conference at Ottawa. On each occasion he acquitted himself in a manner highly creditable to himself and to the province. As an ambassador of good will to the people of other provinces the president of the executive council has certainly been a pronounced success. Yesterday in the Legislature Hon. Mr. Tilley was selected to lead off for the government forces in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The opposition leader spoke two hours in criticism of the administration, but Hon. Mr. Tilley made a very effective reply in a speech of less than an hour's duration. When he had concluded his remarks there was really little or nothing left to be said and a lot of valuable time would have been saved had the motion to adopt the address been put and allowed to carry. The opposition have no case against the Baxter administration and nobody realizes this better than Leader Dysart. The policy and administrative capacity of the ministry cannot be successfully assailed.

LATE MR. N. W. BROWN

The death of Mr. Nelson W. Brown registrar of deeds for York—the third registrar to die in office within a few years—will be sincerely regretted by many friends throughout the county and province. The late Mr. Brown was a man of dynamic energy and had to his credit a life time of hard and useful work. In his early days he attended the Normal School and afterwards took a B. A. degree from the University of New Brunswick. He taught school for a number of years and undoubtedly made a success of it. He served as school inspector for two years and later filled a position in the Annuities branch of Federal government. For several years past he has filled the office of registrar of deeds for York in a satisfactory manner. A staunch Liberal in politics for many years he was in the forefront of hard fought political battles and on two occasions carried the party standard, but not to victory. As a lecturer he excelled and in the old days of the Scott Act was frequently heard on the temperance platform. The late Mr. Brown had many good qualities, including a generous heart, and there will be universal regret that after many years of struggle and disappointments the grim reaper should claim him, just as he had reached a position where he could enjoy comfort and happiness and freedom from care. The bereaved widow and family will have the sincere sympathy of the entire community.

Mr. A. A. Dysart, the opposition leader spoke for two hours in the Legislature in criticism of the government. The opposition leader is a man possessed of many excellent qualities and is esteemed by members on both sides of the House. He has a habit, however of saying things he does not mean and this was evidently the case yesterday. Personally he is in favor of the government control of liquor, but it would not be policy for him to say so. He certainly fell down badly yesterday when

he failed to make clear his attitude with respect to the New Intoxicating Liquor Act when challenged to do so by Hon. Mr. Tilley. The significance of the opposition leader's failure to reply to Mr. Tilley's question will no doubt impress the active spirits of the N. B. Temperance Alliance.

Leader Dysart who held forth for two hours in the Legislature yesterday devoted much of his time to a discussion of lumber and pulpwood and in criticism of the work of the Grimmer Commission. Having held the office of Minister of Lands and Mines for a period of two months Leader Dysart, may be regarded as an authority on lumber and pulpwood and his observations are entitled to every consideration. No doubt they will be carefully looked into by the government and if it is found that the Royal Commission was wrong and Leader Dysart is right the necessary changes will be made.

Leader Dysart in the course of his speech yesterday stated that he had been informed that liquor was being sold to minors in government stores and that in some cases sales were made after hours and even on public holidays. Of course he was merely repeating street corner gossip but it brought from Premier Baxter the emphatic declaration that no political friends, no qualities for service would prevent any employe of a liquor store thus contravening the regulations from being instantly discharged. So far as the Fredericton Store is concerned we do not think anybody will make bold to say that liquor has been sold after hours and the same no doubt applies to stores in other parts of the province.

Leader Dysart did not reply to Hon. Mr. Tilley's question as to what attitude the opposition would assume in respect to the Liquor Control law in the event of it being returned to power. In this respect at least the opposition leader used discretion.

Leader Dysart had prepared a lot of ammunition for his onslaught on the government in the Legislature yesterday, but when the test came a lot of it proved faulty and refused to explode.

NEW LIQUOR CONTROL LAW DISCUSSED.

(Continued From Page Five.)

there were no stronger supporters of the present Act than the hon. members who sat at the left of the Speaker. His question had not been answered by the hon. leader of the opposition, and he did not believe that the hon. member or one of his followers would dare go back to their constituents and seek re-election on a platform of prohibition. The Veniot government in one year had derived a profit of \$500,000 from the sale of liquor, and his hon. friend opposite was a member of his administration.

MR. DYSART: How did you fare?

HON. MR. TILLEY: We never had a profit of \$500,000.

MR. DYSART: Was that why you changed the law?

HON. MR. TILLEY continuing said that the law was changed because it was a farce and a sham, and the Government had found it impossible of enforcement. The hon. leader of the opposition was only playing politics and had not meant what he had said. He (Tilley) believed that if any real, honest critic would wait until the Act had been in force twelve months, then he would be satisfied it had justified its existence.

The Police Force.

With reference to the Provincial Police Force which his hon. friend had criticized, he wished to say that only one member of it came from outside the Province. In that connection his memory carried him back to the days when the Veniot Government had gone outside of the Province for a Deputy Minister. Commissioner Salt, who headed the Provincial Police Force, had come to the Province highly recommended by the Chief Commissioner of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. A man of experience was needed to organize and train the force, and they had such a man in Commissioner Salt. The men were selected from the different counties in the province, and a fair proportion of them spoke the French language.

MR. LORDON: Are they all strictly temperate?

HON. MR. TILLEY: What do you mean by strictly temperate?

MR. LORDON: I will give my views later.

HON. MR. TILLEY said that while the hon. leader of the opposition had referred to the Liquor Control Act and the Provincial Police, it was surprising that he had said nothing about the new provincial building at Saint John. The Government had last year bought the Pugsley building and remodelled it, and had assembled all the offices of government

employees under one roof. From that building a revenue of \$16,333. per annum was derived, sufficient to take care of the bond interest, repair charges, and all expenses and more than break even. When one recalled the old Queen Hotel transaction which yielded the Province a revenue of 1-3 of 1 per cent on the investment, the Saint John proposition was certainly a most creditable and business like one.

A Hopeful Outlook.

In closing, he would ask the hon. members to consider the future of New Brunswick with its 387,000 people. They had a glorious province, with fine lakes and rivers, beautiful scenery, a good climate, and fertile soil, and why it was not going ahead like the provinces in the west. The Dominion immigration department had devoted all its energies to peopling the provinces in the west, and all now had larger populations than the provinces of the east. He was not pessimistic and believed that some day the tide would turn. The Dominion now had a population of nine million and the time would come when it would have thirty, forty or fifty millions. Canada can only have two sea boards, one on the Pacific and the other on the Atlantic, to provide outlets for its foreign trade. He thought that New Brunswick should devote its energies towards the development of its natural resources. They had been told that the Province was possessed of mineral wealth and at any rate, it had the Minto coal fields. There had been criticism of the C. N. R. but it deserves credit for using 80,000 tons of Minto coal annually. He would be very glad if its great competitor the C. P. R. would do the same thing. If it were to do that great stimulus would be given the mining industry at Minto. Near Saint John they had some of the best lime kilns to be found anywhere. The material could be used in the manufacture of ties, and fire proof floors and if used that way would be more valuable than the lime itself. Wood was now being used in the manufacture of artificial silk and there was no reason why an industry of that kind could not be established in New Brunswick. The good work on the roads by his hon. friend the Minister of Public Works would be continued and tourist traffic would be developed. The indications were that in the near future the Province would be the scene of considerable mineral development.

Outside Capital Needed.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition seemed to object to outside capital and was afraid that the Province was going to be bought up holus bolus. He (Tilley) would like to ask him if he had followed very closely the legislation of economic affairs in the province of Quebec, than which there was no more thriving province in the Dominion. New Brunswick needed development, and how could it be done without capital. Did his hon. friend blame the government because there was no market today for long lumber? Did he blame the Government because mill owners had sold their holdings to larger concerns engaged in the manufacture of pulp and paper? As a matter of fact, the long lumber industry had not become extinct but the market or it was not good. He had in his possession a printed circular from the only mill operating in Saint John where there had once been ten or eleven, announcing for sale a cargo of British Columbia boards and planking. This lumber had been brought through the Panama canal and was being sold at a lower price than our own lumbermen could afford to accept. He did not think that the Government could do any harm to New Brunswick by bringing in all the outside capital it could get, as a means of providing work for the people and keeping the young men at home. Once outside capital was brought in care should be taken that nothing should be done to injure the investment. In that respect they should take a leaf out of the book of the Province of Quebec.

He wished to say that he joined heartily in the expression lately voiced in the House of Commons in regard to the growth of a national sentiment. He did not think the growth of that sentiment would cause any cleavage in the tie which bound Canada to the motherland. With the west linked up with the east they would become one in sentiment, and there would be a strengthening spirit which it was good for one would be good for all. All should remember that Canada was their country and the right arm of the British Empire.

MR. DOUCET moved the adjournment of the debate, which was made the order of the day for tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

Adjourned at 5.50 p. m.

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Dated at Fredericton this 7th day of February, A. D. 1928.

FRED I. HAVILAND, City Clerk.

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