

Dairy Products Acts Promises Provisions For Better Returns For New Brunswick Farmers

Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture, Introduces Bill Which, If Made Law, Promises to Eliminate Ruinous Competition in Dairying Industry—Five Speakers Continue Budget Debate—Short Night Session.

The elimination of ruinous competition in the dairying industry and provision of a fair return for the New Brunswick farmer are the objects of "The Dairy Products Act" introduced as a bill today in the New Brunswick Legislature by the Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture. Following the regular procedure of the House five speakers, three from the Opposition and two from the government, spoke on the budget debate. Those who spoke today were J. W. Niles (Opposition), A. D. Taylor, F. G. Richard, J. A. Moore and R. J. Gill. This makes a total of eleven speakers since the budget was presented on Friday last by the Hon. A. J. Leger, Provincial Secretary Treasurer, leaving about sixteen more to speak before the budget debate is concluded.

Dairy Products Act

The Dairy Products Bill introduced in the House today, by Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture is submitted for the sake of eliminating ruinous competition in the dairying industry and to provide a fair return for the farmer.

This Act shall be effective only in those areas in the province where it is made to apply by the N. B. Dairy Commission. It shall only be made to apply in areas where at least two-thirds of the producer-suppliers milk dealers and owners of factories, petition the Commission to have it made applicable therein.

The Governor in Council may appoint a commission to be known as The New Brunswick Dairy Products Commission, which shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a producer-supplier, and one of whom shall be designated as Chairman, and which shall meet at the call of the Chairman, and which shall have the powers and duties set out in the Act. The Commission shall be vested with all the rights and powers generally belonging to corporations. Its quorum shall be two members, and its head office shall be in the City of Fredericton.

Some of the chief duties and powers of the commission shall be:

To investigate and study the situation of the dairy industry and the dairy products trade in the Province of New Brunswick, or elsewhere, and report to the Minister.

To establish a scale of prices to be paid by milk dealers to their producer suppliers in this province.

To approve, if the commission considers it expedient, any agreement respecting the price of milk or cream, entered into in this province between producer-suppliers, milk dealers or distributors of dairy products.

To fix the price of milk or of cream. To prohibit any sale or delivery of cream lower than the current price.

No person shall operate a factory within an area in which this Act is in force, without having previously obtained an operating permit from the commission.

No person shall distribute or sell milk or cream within the area in which this Act is in force without having paid a license fee of \$1 to the commission.

Every milk dealer must give a guarantee for the payment of the sums which he owes or may owe to his producer-suppliers.

Every person infringing any provision of the Act or any regulation or under its authority shall be liable to, a first offence, to a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars; for a second offence, to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars; for any subsequent offence, to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars; and, in default of payment of any fine and costs imposed by this section, to an imprisonment not exceeding forty days.

In the case of a third offence, the offender shall be liable to both fine and imprisonment, without option.

The Bill was heartily approved by the members of the House as being a step towards better protection for the farmer. It will come up for consideration before the committee on



J. ARTHUR MOORE, Queens County member for the Government, who heartily recommended the Dairy Products Act in his address on the budget debate in the Legislature yesterday.

Agriculture probably next Tuesday.

J. W. Niles

J. W. Niles, Victoria, Opposition, on resuming the debate on the budget, as the first speaker in the House today, reviewed briefly the history of the governments of the province going back to the time when the mother country sent out a governor for us.

The government, stated Mr. Niles, should not should not according to the first audit act of the province spend any money that is not voted, except for unforeseen circumstances, such as fire or flood. Over \$12,958,000 he stated, was over-expended by the government since 1925 without the vote of the government. Over-expending has continued, stated the member of the opposition, and will continue if some means is not taken to curb this ruthless regard of the Act pertaining to spending without warrant.

Sinking Fund

If the sinking funds were added to the credit side of the books the total debt would equal \$67,939.99. The net debt as now indicated in the auditor general's report, shows very little increase. There is no way to compare the net debt of 1925 to that of 1934.

Thursday In The Legislature

It does not seem to me that any account that carries out the balance without giving the debits and credits, respectively is not fair. Cash on hand should be stated in the account. Although in 1925 we had \$3,000,000 in net debt which later went to \$6,000,000, \$787,000 has been expended on this revenue bearing asset. This item should not be classed as a debt to the province.

Hard Roads

In 1930 when Premier Baxter passed a bill voting \$10,000,000 for hard surfaced roads he did not act upon it but left it to the present premier. The House met at 3.10 P. M.

The following bills were read the second time: The Town of Dalhousie Assessment Act, and a bill to consolidate and amend the Life Insurance Act.

Mr. Fairweather submitted a report from the Law Practise Committee.

Mr. Atkinson submitted a report from the Municipalities Committee.

Hon. Mr. Smith introduced a Bill respecting Dairy Products. He said the object was to eliminate ruinous competition and provide for a fair return for the producer.

Mr. Pirie presented a petition from one hundred and forty residents from the Parish of Drummond, praying that the bill introduced respecting the parish may not pass and become law.

Hon. Mr. Leger submitted the report of the Workmen's Compensation Board for 1934.

Hon. Mr. Smith submitted the report on Agriculture for 1934.

Hon. Mr. Reilly submitted the report of the N. B. Electric Power Board for 1934.

Most of the net debt set up at \$48,000,000 is made up of work on roads and bridges. The amount for these two was \$40,000,000. If this \$40,000,000 was placed in revenue bearing expenditures the province's net debt would be reduced by \$40,000,000. The door is open now to all communities and some of the roads are started, but it is a poor time to press the burden on the poor people of the province.

Power

Victoria County has two power sites, Aroostook and Grand Falls. Aroostook Falls puts \$3,500 annually into the treasury but receives no taxation. At Grand Falls the St. John River Power Co. is exempt from taxation for 40 years, and "does the plant pour any revenue into the treasury?" asked Mr. Niles.

In replying to the Secretary Treasurer's remark that "there was not need to frame the budget in order to defend the government," he stated that the government in bringing down the budget had either not shown how much they needed or that they were trying to get into the headlines of the papers.

A. D. Taylor

A. D. Taylor, (Government, Sunbury), in resuming the debate, paid high tribute to Sir Douglas Hazen, the retired Chief Justice, and congratulated the former speakers on their fine addresses.

Mr. Taylor mentioned the gradual increase in production of coal during the past few years. "This was not an accident," stated Mr. Taylor. It was brought about by an important fact, the association of the Province with the Federal Government.

The production of coal in the province is 300,000 tons annually, while the consumption is 700,000 tons.

The railroads are by no means consuming New Brunswick coal it was found in an investigation several years ago. Representatives were sent to interview the officials of the railroads and since then an increase has been noted without any further representation.

White Commission

The premier and the attorney general were to be congratulated on their attempts to have the Commission recommended.

For ten years consecutively the present Secretary Treasurer has delivered the budget in this House and is to be commended on his fine results.

The question of subsidy is a vital one, stated Mr. Taylor, and the minority report of Chief Justice Mathieson when he states that the award of \$300,000 is only a start, is encouraging.

On the taxation question he stated that after all we have no taxation. If you don't drink you don't pay taxes there, if you don't drive a car, you are not taxed there, and so one down the line. "There is no tax in the province that impairs the cost of living."

We pay taxes to the Federal Government directly, but what do we get out of it?

The word "Maritime" is too much used, said Mr. Taylor. Our interests in New Brunswick are not identical with those of Nova Scotia, nor with those of Quebec and Ontario. We are between two millstones, said Mr. Taylor.

Subsidies in 1935 are to be, for Nova Scotia \$1,953,000, and for New Brunswick \$1,950,000. Nova Scotia is receiving much more assistance than New Brunswick.

Citing examples of freight rates he stated that to haul coal from Minto to Edmundston cost exactly the same as to ship it from Springhill, Nova Scotia, to the same place.

This showed, he said, that the freight rates of the old Intercolonial Railroad were not made up on a fair basis of haulage.

Mr. Taylor charged that subventions had been granted to keep the coal and steel industry alive in Nova Scotia. He stated that in 1935 \$2,000,000 (continued on page three)

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