

THE DEBATE ON BUDGET IS FINISHED

Premier Tilley Ably Rebuts Accusations Of Opposition

Alleges Statements Made by the Opposition Are Inaccurate and Unfair—Predicts Employment and Balanced Budget—Foresees Victory at the Polls for Government.

Premier L. P. D. Tilley in his opening remarks yesterday paid a warm tribute to the memory of the late W. H. Todd, ex-Lieutenant Governor of the province and extended the sympathy of the people to his distinguished wife, Mrs. Todd. The memory of Hon. Mr. Todd would always be honored by the citizens of New Brunswick.

Continuing the debate, he called the attention of the Opposition to conditions, the world over, which required much executive ability saying it was no bed of roses to be at the head of affairs at the present time the difficulties of which the opposition did not know. The sneering attitude of the Opposition was not statesmanship. He recounted the achievements of the government and foretold employment for all in the near future. He scathed the tactics of the opposition, who assumed much undue superiority. In a humorous trend of mind he described the dream of victory, at the polls of the opposition likening their expected victory to the change from the sublime to the ridiculous. He saw the vision of their dream with the various portfolios of the cabinet assigned to the front row and by humorous comparisons managed to portray the embryo incumbents of office in an unfavourable angle. He dwelt on the mistakes of the opposition. The Premier referred the leader of the Opposition to an article in the Daily Mail as an answer to criticism in regard to a sprinkler system installed in the Parliament building, such article showing economy effected to the province. He branded their platform as election promises. The Government was just as anxious as the opposition was for Old Age pensions and this measure would be adopted as soon as finances permitted.

The opposition thrust unalloyed criticism, never a word of praise for the faithful service of the government to the people. The Premier never travelled at the expense of the province in the interest of the Tilley clubs, and he resented unfair and inaccurate statements made in regard to the va-

rious department and furnished justifying replies to each charge.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,
March 21, 1935.

The House met at 3 p.m. The following bills were read a second time: to authorize a guarantee of temporary loans made to Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company Limited; to revive, amend and continue an Act relating to the Madawaska Log Driving Company; to incorporate the Maria F. Ganong Old Folks Home.

HON. MR. COCKBURN submitted a report from the Corporations Committee.

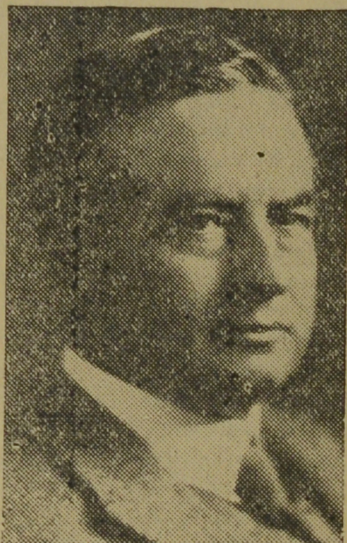
MR. FAIRWEATHER submitted a report from the Law Practice Committee.

HON. MR. TILLEY

HON. MR. TILLEY, continuing his debate on the amendment to the budget, expressed the deep regret of himself and all the members of his Government at the death of Hon. W. F. Todd, Ex-Governor of the province. He had well administered his high office as Chief Executive in a competent and broadminded way. He was a member of a distinguished family in the Saint Croix Valley and a genial and lovable character. He had been ably assisted by his distinguished wife and he would long live in memory as one of N. B.'s highly honoured Governors.

He wished to speak very frankly, not only to the members of the House, but to a broader audience including all the points of the province. These were trying times, not only in N. B., Canada and the United States, but all over Europe, when men in public life had responsibility thrust upon them that demanded all the wisdom, judgment, broadmindedness and executive ability with which they were endowed. The situation economically was such that the young people, the new voters, were not thinking as in the days of the past along the lines of partisan politics, but were looking for the leadership of men who were thinking of the interests of the people regardless of party. Men who were merely seeking office did not appeal to these young people unless they gave evidence of real constructive ability. He felt that the gentlemen of the Opposition did not realize what they were undertaking, nor the responsibilities which would devolve upon them if they were successful or they would not be so keen to get into power.

The Government which he had the honor to lead was proud of its accomplishments of the last few years, what it was now doing and what it proposed to accomplish. The Leader of the Opposition had sneered at a list of some of the recent accomplishments but had not shown how he could have done better. Did he think that was constructive criticism or evidence of statesmanship? He would mention a few of the things which the



HON. L. P. D. TILLEY, K. C.,
Premier who closed the debate on the Budget.

leader of the Opposition had sneered at, actions which had been and were designed for the betterment of conditions in the Province.

Achievements

(1) A Provincial Marketing Board had been established, non-partisan in its membership, for one of its members was a life-long Liberal of distinguished financial ability, who had disinterestedly agreed to serve on the Board.

(2) A Forests Operations Commission had been chosen, which had secured improved conditions for woods' workers. These men were not getting paid at the rate of \$32 per month instead of from \$8 to \$15 as last year.

(3) Legislation had been put into effect to give women a right to sit in the Legislature.

(4) Single Men's Unemployment Relief Camps had been established, where today 700 to 800 men were given employment under comfortable conditions.

(5) A hard surfaced road policy had been put into effect and a start made on the building of 65 miles which would be finished as soon as the weather permitted and an additional 70 miles thereafter proceeded with. That program would give employment to a large number of men throughout the season and should materially help to relieve unemployment.

(6) There had been increased activity in colonization and this effort had not been confined to counties represented on the Government side of the House, as some North Shore members could testify and those gentlemen might compare what had been done in the last few years with what the Government, they had supported, had accomplished when in power. For instance, in 1923, 128 lots were approved to settlers and \$6,426 was expended to provide them with roads; in 1924, 155 lots with \$5,579 spent on roads; in 1925, 128 lots, with \$4,439 expended. Against this should be compared what had been accomplished by the pres-

ent Government in 1932 there had been 353 lots approved and \$3,183 spent on roads; in 1933, 678 lots with an expenditure of 45,146 and in 1934, 482 lots with an expenditure of \$65,214, showing some difference from when the Opposition's friends were in power.

(7) A bonus was given to help the fishermen to carry on, which materially helped to keep a large number of men off relief in the fishing districts.

(8) A rebate was given on the gasoline tax where it was used by fishermen, farmers and for industrial purposes.

(9) The wages paid to men upon the roads had been increased to keep pace with improved conditions.

(10) Representatives of municipalities were invited to confer with the Government regarding all matters of joint interest between the province and the municipalities.

(11) A new wing was added to the Provincial Hospital and the whole institution remodeled and improved to enable better care for the patients.

(12) The Counties of Northumberland and Gloucester had been assisted to put their finances in a condition to carry on.

He would ask the House if there was any evidence of partisan politics in any of the above mentioned matters. When dealing with the Counties of Northumberland and Gloucester, the Government had never given a thought to the political complexion of the members representing those two counties. And although those gentlemen had not expressed any approval of the action of the Government he was glad to know that a large majority of the people in those two counties appreciated what the Government had done.

(13) The Civil Servants had had their salaries restored after suffering a ten per cent cut.

(14) Sawmills licensees had been required to operate on their leases and afford employment.

(15) An interprovincial conference of lumbermen had been arranged and support given to provide for a representative for the lumbermen in the United Kingdom.

(16) Increased assistance had been given for the holding of Agricultural Fairs.

(17) An electric power line had been constructed from Minto to Nelson, Newcastle and Chatham, to provide cheaper power an delight in the Miramichi district.

(18) Assistance had been given to the marketing of N. B. lumber in Great Britain with the result that shipments from the Crown Lands in 1934 were double those in 1933.

(19) A bill to improve the Dairy industry had been brought before the House to assist producers and dealers in dairy products to stabilize production and prices.

(20) Legislation to improve housing conditions had also been introduced to provide for provincial assistance to municipalities that wished to revive dormant building operations and provide more comfortable homes for their people.

It would not, he thought, be out of place to consider the view point expressed by members on the Government side and the public towards the tactics of the Opposition party. It had, last summer, held a convention in Fredericton, not very largely attended it was true, but still a gathering sufficiently large to draft a platform. However, that platform was not then, nor until very recently, displayed to public view. After the convention their speakers went out on the stump and stated that the party did not need a platform for it was only necessary to note the calibre of the men who were being nominated to ensure their election.

Comparisons

Well, he said, while all the candidates were not in the House, still there were perhaps enough for comparison. He understood that the hon. member from Madawaska (Dr. Violette) was not going to run, so he could not be compared with Dr. Taylor as Minister of Health. Then there was Mr. Richard (Gloucester) who would have to go a long way to reach the standard of the present Provincial Secretary, and who was there on the other side to compare with the President of the Council (Cockburn). As for himself, he was too modest to compare himself with the leader of the Opposition, so he would leave it to the public to decide. Mr. Niles was not a lawyer, so he could not be Attorney General, Mr. Doucet, the fighting clansman from Gloucester, might essay to be comparable with the Minister of Public Works but perhaps he would have some difficulty in reaching the standard. The hon. member from Kent (Bordage) was perhaps and could be compared with the present Minister of Agriculture (Smith). Then the hon. member for Northumberland (Anderson) would have to stand comparison with the Minister of Health (Taylor) and lastly on the front row, Mr. Leger of Gloucester would have to measure up to the Chairman of the Hydro Commission—so far for a partial comparison.

The Opposition having dreamed of a change in the House, had put their speeches in the newspapers before they were given, had toured the country, coming back to the House, they had announced their eight-plank platform and with the assistance of their friend outside the House (who would like to be in) they had had a number of speeches prepared which they again handed to the press before delivering them.

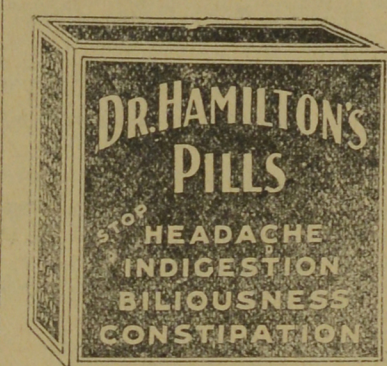
Their first plank was a Department of Federal Affairs including fisheries. It had generally been understood that the administration of the Fisheries was in the hands of the Dominion, but evidently some new deal was in progress. However, the whole proposition in the country was considered a joke and it had been suspected that

the proposed plank was put in to try to persuade an outstanding citizen in Saint John to be a candidate with a view of offering him a seat in the Cabinet. He (Tilley), however, very much doubted if the gentleman they had in mind, who was much more interested in securing the rights of the province under Confederation than he was in party politics, would be induced to accept any such offer.

Another plank was a balanced budget and he would challenge the leader of the Opposition to show how it could be accomplished under his program without so cutting down the work of the Departments as to injure the Government services.

The third plank was the substitution of man-power for machinery in road work "when economically feasible." Just what, he would ask, did that mean? It was a nice story to carry to the electorate in some sections at least, but the hon. gentleman well knew that the roads could not be kept up without modern methods. Before any serious minded man would pay any attention to such a proposition, he (Dysart), would have to explain just what he meant by "economically feasible." The present Government's policy was to employ men as well as machinery, and work on hard surface construction would employ large numbers.

(continued on page three)



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