

THE DAILY MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1935

HON. LEWIS SMITH

Hon. Mr. Smith, Minister of Agriculture, made good progress yesterday in steering the various estimates of his Department through the supply committee at the Legislature. Mr. Smith, in addition to being able to give much valuable information regarding the various branches of his Department, is always willing to take suggestions in a pleasant and in a reasonable way. It is the custom and the duty of an Opposition to make criticism—which should be helpful if in the right spirit. All the members of the House, we believe, will agree that Hon. Mr. Smith is sincerely trying to do his best. He is a practical farmer and a successful one. The writer has seen him with the "cow's breakfast" hat and the pitchfork earning an honest dollar at his fine farm at Coverdale.

Hon. Mr. Smith has a pleasant word and a genial smile for everybody and he has the respect of all the members of the House. Getting right down to honest-to-goodness facts and cutting out politics, we think that Hon. Mr. Smith has made a good job of the Agriculture Department. . . . just as good as any man could do at the present time.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING BILLS

Mr. Richard, M.P.P. for Gloucester County, last evening criticized the Provincial Government for not putting the public printing up for tender. He would not say however that he would do this if he were a member of the government and were handling the printing. He was pressed by Premier Tilley to reply to this question but was not foolish enough to commit himself.

As a matter of fact the present provincial government do practically the same thing as putting the printing up at tender. They ask for competitive prices on all of the larger jobs and they do not confine their asking to newspapers only but to job offices as well, although they know that they can get practically no support politically from these job concerns. In our experience the Tilley Government cuts prices to the bone in having printing done and in some cases insist on having the job at prices which does not allow the printer much to come and go on.

For years it has been the policy of different oppositions to criticize the government in power about the printing and to suggest that the printing be put up at tender. Having been in power before, the present opposition know very well that this cannot be done successfully, and Mr. Richard is just talking nonsense when he suggests such a thing.

Away back in the nineties the Blair government abolished the King's Printer Office. The then King's Printer had made a fortune. The printing was then given to different newspapers who supported the Blair party but we never heard of these printers dying and leaving any big estates. Dr. Stockton when in Opposition, cried for tenders for printing. Mr. Flemming had another one, "Cheaper school books for the children of the poor." Mr. Hazen cried for printing by tender. When these people came into power they found that they could not call for tenders every time they wanted different forms printed. Mr. Foster and Mr. Veniot found out the same, and now Mr. Tilley and Mr. Leger are finding out the same thing. The Tilley Government is making the most practical attempt to keep down the printing expenses that has yet been made by any party in power, although we must confess it is not always popular with the printers. The only foolish part of the of the printing plan of the provincial government is that little printing press with two paid employees which the government conducts in one of its buildings. The press does small jobs like

letter heads and envelopes which could be done much more quickly and economically by any job printer. But this, a hang over from the Veniot-Carter-McQuade scheme of things. It was, we understand, an idea of Ned Carter's and should never have been introduced. Ned had some wonderful ideas about things of this kind. The Tilley Government felt heir to this idea and to our mind this is the only thing about their printing that is expensive. No one can find fault with the present government regarding the prices paid for printing. In many instances they are paying paying too little rather than too much and they always have a half dozen or more printers willing to take jobs for almost nothing.

OUR PUBLIC HEALTH

The presentation to the Legislature last evening by Hon. Dr. Taylor, Minister of Health and Labor of the year's operations of his department seemed to meet with a very satisfactory reception. Hon. Dr. Taylor does not indulge unduly upon the time of the House but when he does speak he is always heard with attention. He reviewed the work of the year 1934 at some length.

Criticisms of the opposition were also dealt with. The cost of the department has been cut down, the services expanded and its efficiency materially increased, he said.

In 1925 the salaries of the department totalled \$20,318 and in 1925 with the number of clerks increased from four to seven the total was \$25,063, an increase of \$4,745. On May 1st, 1927, the late Dr. D. V. Landry was appointed an additional district medical officer and with the additional clerks had accounted for the increase. General expenses in 1925 were \$7,909 and in 1934, \$3,809, a reduction of \$4,099.

Printing which had cost \$3,801 in 1925 cost \$2,591 in 1934, a reduction of \$1,210.

With respect to grants to hospitals, the total amount contributed by the government in 1925 was \$11,450; it was increased to \$27,600 in 1930, and a reduction made in 1934 left the total of \$20,987, or almost double the grants of 1925. There had been no duplication of services in the department as had been stated by the member for Gloucester.

He went on to say there had not been a case of smallpox in the province for a number of years due to vaccination carried on by officials of the department. Diphtheria at one time exacted a heavy toll but the number of cases had been so reduced that the present generation hardly realized what a scourge it had been. During the past six years there were 61,234 toxoid inoculations, and in 15 years no less than 116,000 people had been successfully vaccinated.

The general death rate of the province had been reduced from 14.7 in 1920 to 11.7 in 1933 per 1,000 of the population while infant mortality had been reduced from 134.9 to 81.8 during the same period.

In concluding his remarks he paid a high tribute to the late Dr. H. L. Abramson, former director of laboratories. His death was a severe loss not only to the department but to the province. The death at Sussex of Dr. C. A. King, medical inspector of schools, was much to be regretted and the department had lost another faithful servant in the death of Dr. O. E. Morehouse, who had carried on faithfully as district medical officer in the counties of York, Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska.

THE STEVENS NATIONAL PLAN IS ACCEPTED

OTTAWA, Ont., March 27—A majority of the Royal Commission on Price Spreads and Mass Buying, has accepted the plan of Hon. H. H. Stevens to establish a national trade and industry commission, according to reports circulated here yesterday. The commission would exercise wide powers of regulation over trades and profits by corporations. The Commission continues to sit every day, and it is doubtful if the report will be ready before the end of the week.

SNAPSHOTS

Gloucester County has York trimmed as to jail conditions. At Bathurst fourteen men were confined at one time in a room fourteen by fifteen feet in size. The black hole of Calcutta. There was no room for bed bugs.

The funny antics of some Justices of the Peace were discussed in the House last evening. The sooner these incompetent persons are shaken clear from the justice's courts, more respect the public will have for these courts.

One Magistrate gave two girls two years for "assault by insult." It is needless to say that his court should be beneath contempt.

The items regarding Jails and Magistrates brought up in the House last evening provoked an interesting discussion.

Wandering thought: Did the young lady get her compact back?

You can say this for the older type of radio static: it is non-political.

Uneasy Street is much the longest and most thickly populated.

Much happiness is simply an unexpected escape from trouble.

A Boston youth confesses stealing \$2,000 because he wanted to be his own boss and get married. In the order named.

One must make up his mind that some people will not like him. They don't know why and he doesn't either.

Corncocks, leaves, old wood and coal dust are used in Germany as motor fuel. It would be awkward, getting caught with an empty tank between city dumps.

Spring is that delightful season which you enjoy while looking forward to it from the winter, and looking back to it from the summer.

Mussolini expresses alarm and anger at a decline in the Italian birth rate. Whether mothers can be shot for singing "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier" is being investigated.

A Boston physician says that she understands cat language and gives a couple of examples. She doesn't mention, "Which is the most comfortable chair?" the first thing that a cat always asks.

INSANITY AND RELIGION

Unfriendly critics sometimes argue that mental disorders proceed from the influence of religion. Some materialists assert that "religion arouses the fears, excites the sensibilities and unsettles the reason". The reverse is generally, the fact. Physicians constantly call religion to their aid in dealing with neurotic cases. One authority quoted to this effect is Dr. A. B. Richardson, lately in charge of the United States Hospital for the Insane at Washington. In reply to a question from an outsider he stated that he had tested the matter thoroughly. He continued: There are only two patients in this hospital whose insanity has any relation to religion, and I think, from their predisposition to insanity, that they would probably have become insane on some other subject, if they had not on religion. Now, if you had asked me how many people in Ohio are kept by religion from insanity and out of these hospitals, you would have given me a question hard to answer, for they are a multitude. The good cheer, bright hopes, rich consolations, good tempers, regular habits and glad songs of religion are such an antidote for the causes of insanity that thousands of people in Ohio are preserved from insanity by them. But for the beneficial influence of religion, Ohio would have to double the capacity of her hospitals in order to accommodate her insane patients."

Jail Farm Discussed By the Legislature

(Continued from Page One)

to the advantages of a prison farm. It was not proper that prisoners should be crowded together in a cell with no opportunity to work. In Saint John the experiment of taking them out in chain gangs had been tried, but objection was raised and it had to be abandoned. He had some hope that provision might be made to send prisoners to Fredericton to work under the direction of the R. C. M. P., but realized that he would have to move cautiously in the matter. No doubt, hon. members had heard of the Government securing an option on the Cossar Farm at Gagetown with a view of utilizing it as a Boys' Industrial Home. The idea had his approval, but it was largely question of finance, although the option given by Dr. Cossar was at a low price. The matter of establishing a jail farm had been under the consideration of his department for some time, but nothing had yet been decided upon. It was true that many prisoners were sent to jail by justices of the peace, which was responsible for much of the overcrowding. There were several jails in the Province which he thought should be improved, among those of Gloucester, and Kent counties. It should not be forgotten that responsibility of maintaining the jails rested upon the various Municipal Councils, but in view of financial stringency, the question of remedying present conditions had not been stressed. Police magistrates were for the most part competent men, but that could not be said of some of the justices of the peace. The matter of getting a better system was now being looked into. Mr. Anderson thought that the Intoxicating Liquor Act was largely responsible for the overcrowding of county jails. The Government paid the board of the prisoners and should provide proper accommodation for them.

Hon. Mr. Harrison said that as the Government collected the fines from offenders under the Act, it was felt that it was no more than right that it should share with the Municipalities the cost of boarding the prisoners. Mr. Groom thought that in many instances overcrowding of jails was due to the belief held by Magistrates that they had to make convictions.

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Federal Opposition Want of Confidence

(Continued from Page One)

comes. The Liberal financial critic predicted a net deficit of \$135,000,000 next year, to add to the \$812,000,000 increase in the debt since 1930.

Turning to wheat operations in the Winnipeg pit through John L. McFarland, head of the Central Selling Agency of the Wheat Pools, Colonel Ralston said it had resulted in Canada losing markets in the United Kingdom. McFarland, he said, started operations in 1931 with 5,000,000 bushels of wheat from the previous year's crop. Instead of selling, he bought and today his holdings hung over the market like a dark cloud.

In 1933, he said, McFarland started to buy wheat—a transaction which, I submit, had the effect of rank speculation on the part of the Dominion, speculation with the money of the people of the country."

The McFarland operations, Colonel Ralston charged, were not initiated to help the western farmer "put for the eventual glorification of Mr. McFarland and this government." In 1933 a pegged price was instituted with the result Australia and Argentina captured the United Kingdom market from Canada and the government, through its holdings of wheat, became a market competitor of the farmer.

The budget, Colonel Ralston declared, was an admission by the government its previous tariff and fiscal policies were failures. "They are only fooling themselves if they believe the last-minute recantations are going to make the Canadian people forget."

"There is no escape from the issue," he continued. "We on this side of the House believe we express the views of the great mass of citizens throughout the country when we say that what the people of the Dominion are waiting and anxious for is a chance to register at the polls their opinion regarding the record of this govern-

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DIED

BALLARD.—At Marysville, March 26, 1935, Alfred Ballard.

The funeral will take place from the late home on Friday afternoon at two o'clock. The service will be conducted by Rev. M. H. Manuel, assisted by Rev. Dr. Wightman.

EXTENSIVE PROBE

It was indicated from the Department of Lands and Mines here today that the investigation being made by wardens in connection with the recent widespread slaughter of deer is now being extended from Victoria and Madawaska counties into Restigouche county. Five cases of alleged infractions of the act are being heard today to St. Quentin, Restigouche county. Wardens responsible for the information are Warden R. A. Pringle, of Cross Creek, York County, and R. C. M. P. constable P. Godin. To date there have been eleven convictions registered against deer slayers.

ment in the past five years and the grotesque attempt it has made to obscure that record by these eleventh-hour professions . . .

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