

# Budget Debate Was Continued In The Legislature Yesterday

Mr. Fairweather and Dr. Coffyn From the Government Side, and Messrs. Tweedie and S. R. Leger (Gloucester) Discussed Provincial Finances.

The debate on the budget was continued in the Legislature yesterday afternoon and again last evening. The speakers, included J. H. A. L. Fairweather, of Kings County, F. M. Tweedie, of Northumberland County and Dr. Coffyn, and Mr. S. R. Leger of Gloucester County.

E. C. Atkinson, of Sunbury moved the adjournment of the debate and will continue this afternoon.

## J. H. A. L. FAIRWEATHER

Mr. Fairweather said his remarks would be brief but he would refer to the honourable leader of the Opposition. He said there were queer things going the last few days in the Opposition ranks. There had been political piques all summer, now rumblings were louder, the opposition had even picked the date of the election, they talked much of their platform. He reminded him of the story of Aesop and the fable about the mountain in labor which had brought forth a mouse. He was surprised to see the member for Victoria introduce a resolution, surely the leader should tell the house in what capacity he was speaking. He said the policy of the opposition was to send out feelers to find out what the people wanted, then nourish this with the idea of getting popular votes. The policy of the premier was very different since he does what he thinks is best for the people. He challenged the Opposition to submit a model budget. He said another year would probably bring a balanced budget. He had a great deal of sympathy for the brother of the prodigal son, who had saved and stayed at home. In the same way the West had spent money and New Brunswick had tried to get along. He advocated the determining of facts and figures as to how much New Brunswick was paying into the Dominion treasury and what we are

receiving and how much consideration is given to our geographical position, the whole thing seemed vague.

## F. M. TWEEDIE

F. M. Tweedie, continuing the debate said a glowing picture had been painted last spring, and many thought the government would appeal to people. But a jolt was received from Ontario, and Saskatchewan, and a few bye-elections, so that they did not know which way to turn. Premier Tilley called a convention and took a show of hands. They thought they could prepare the way.

He said nearly 60 per cent of our revenue was used to carry the interest on the debt of the province leaving \$2,000,000 to carry on. This was impossible, continual borrowing was disastrous. He thought something should be done to keep the tourist trade in the province. He thought the Dominion Tourist Bureau was doing good work, but he considered the provincial bureau a fifth wheel and overlapping with money spent needlessly. He approved of the scheme which he saw in the Daily Mail was being sponsored by the Fredericton Board of Trade of building an attractive tourist log cabin which would place literature, information and other advantages to tourists, thus inducing tourists to spend some time in the province, to his mind money spent in establishing tourist bureau at various points in the province would be of more advantage than the 35,000, which had been spent by the provincial bureau. He criticized the roads and said there were too many engineers. He also stated that most of the money spent for gravel on the Miramichi went to the man who got the order. The government had made arrangements, which had been disastrous to

the Miramichi section they being now without industries.

Mr. Tilley: A mill will start in the spring.

Mr. Tweedie said he hoped the government will provide mills that will give employment to the people.

The House resumed last evening with Colonel A. J. Brooks, Deputy Speaker in the chair. The session continued until about 9:30 p.m., the speakers being Dr. Coffyn (Government), and S. R. Leger (Opposition), both of Gloucester County.

## DR. COFFYN

Dr. Coffyn, of Gloucester, said the ground had been covered so successfully there was no need of much more being said. He always thought the chief work of the opposition was criticism. Their chief aim was to try to create distrust of the government, hoping this distrust would result in victory at the polls. It would be better if the Opposition showed deficiencies of the Government and tried to improve them and thus try to save the country. No man or no group of man seems to know how or when it is to be done. No one knows what is going to happen, no one knows how to balance the budget. The Opposition pretends to know. This shows either a very great ignorance of difficulties ahead when they make that statement.

The Provincial Secretary Treasurer in an admirable speech set forth things as they are and things will adjust themselves in time.

Things must be done today which did not have to be done years ago. There was need for continued increasing of expense to meet rapid progress. We resort to issue bonds. That is not created by the Tilley Government. Rapid progress of last twenty years has brought inevitable need for money. The load of penalty is increasing every day. If this government were to say—"We will go back", the cry would be "No" We are not able to go backwards, but not retrograde. The Public will become fully aware of the

wisdom of keeping intact the social and public services which have incurred public debt. No man will condemn it. He believes the day is coming when all would be in better condition all burdened municipalities will be able to pay their way. It is necessary that we should not lag behind, but it is obvious that New Brunswick is not so wealthy. Agriculture is the main asset. The foundation is being laid by the department of agriculture for the fullest development. Another asset is the fishing industry, but it will be some time before fisheries are placed in their proper position. The government is not to blame for debt, his constituency would add nearly one half million to the debt. Mr. Tilley—"Does that include the New Bridge?"

Dr. Coffyn said he did not know that the Agnes McPhail idea would apply to Mr. Doucet. If his heart beats, let him give more money for pulpwood instead of not accepting his seasonal indemnity.

Mr. Doucet: "I give more than that".

Dr. Coffyn: "I understand Mr. Doucet is not satisfied with what is being done in favor of colonization. Mr. Doucet: "Are you satisfied?"

Dr. Coffyn: "The Gloucester young men were never so well treated as they are by the present government." Men are given lots, roads, free seed. We would like to see where any Liberal Government ever did as much. It is no use putting too many men on timber lands because if they are not watched they divide timber lands and lease the lot. Encouragement is given to those who show they are going to be good settlers. There was strong demand to extend hydro lines, it is hoped to extend line from Campbellton to Bathurst. There would be many users of energy from Bathurst to Belledune, which is a thickly settled district. The county he represented, had much to be thankful for. The books show a large amount given for relief, the fishing industry had been tremendously bad and the fishermen don't seem adapted to any other industry. He trembled to think what would have happened if the province and the Dominion had not been ready to give assistance to the Municipality. The question of the new bridge at Bathurst was settled, they knew now where it was going to be.

## S. R. Leger (Gloucester)

Before referring to the masterly presentation of his Budget by the Honourable, The Provincial Secretary Treasurer, may I add my congratulations to the new Lieutenant Governor of our Province. We are grateful to know that once again this high office is occupied by one whose eminent career in the wider field of Dominion public life so well qualifies him to perform the duties of the office, and whose personal qualities of dignity and charm will ornament his official acts with that grace the citizens of the Province of New Brunswick wish in their first citizen.

What has resulted by the application of their policies of prudence and economy and of their kind of business principles? Since 1925 the liabilities of the province have increased from approximately \$22,000,000 to a figure approaching \$70,000,000. With very greatly increased revenue during the period since 1925, the debt has steadily and gravely increased until today the carrying charges are so great that it takes as nearly as can be estimated something over sixty percent of the annual revenue to pay the interest charges and this with all sources of revenue tapped and with the citizens of the province staggering under the load of taxation imposed on them. All minds grasp the principle that the person or government which spends more money than it receives, year after year, is headed for bankruptcy.

I can assure these gentlemen that when the day they have postponed so long arrives, while they may be disappointed, I cannot believe they will be surprised by the evidence they will receive of the common sense and prudence and good judgment of the people of this province.

I have been particularly interested in the reference to agriculture. I submit that this, the greatest of our industries, has been deliberately neglected by the Government in the riot of spendthrift financing for other departments, and particularly the Department of Public Works. While slightly under four per cent of the total revenue was expended for the assistance of agriculture in 1929 when

the farmer was prosperous and needed little assistance, the proportion of the total revenue spent on agriculture in 1934 when the farmer was having his hardest time for generations was reduced to the insignificant portion of slightly over three percent. And in answer to the statement of the Honourable Secretary Treasurer that "The settlers and farmers have always been the object of our greatest solicitude," I would reply to him for the farmers that "Money talks."

The glorious achievement of spending \$9,000 of their money to finance a shipment of \$2,000 worth of potatoes to Egypt and India which is one of the boasted achievements of the man of action will not commend itself to the farmers; not even to those who received the 25c or 35c a bog for their potatoes.

The Honourable member from Sunbury, Mr. Taylor, spoke of stabilizing the price of butter. I could refer him in this connection to the man who five years ago undertook to get a better price for the farmer for his butter. In my constituency of Gloucester, in the days of Liberal administration we had exhibitions or fairs at which the farmers, Liberal and Conservative, exhibited their produce. Encouragement was given to agriculture and much good resulted. Although in 1934 \$300 was voted for an exhibition in Gloucester County, that was the last ever heard of it. No exhibition was held. Since this government has come into office it is difficult to see in my county that anything has been done to assist the farmers at all.

I shall give one example to illustrate the comparison between the price the farmer receives for his produce and what he pays for necessities of life in the way of manufactured commodities. We all know about the price that the farmer has received from 1930 up to now for hides, from two to two and a half cents a pound. A farmer who has a son working in the woods must pay from \$3.00 to \$3.50 to buy a pair of moccasins. Is it reasonable that the father at home has to sell four hides to give a chance to his son to buy a pair of moccasins at \$3.50? How many pairs of moccasins could we get from four hides? I

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