

# Hon. Dr. Roberts Outlines Work of Health and Labor Department

Mr. Speaker: In rising for the purpose of making an additional contribution to the Debate upon the Budget, I might say that I approach the task with a considerable degree of trepidation not for one moment, Mr. Speaker, because of the Government record, but rather because of the fact that I have been laid by for the last few weeks and am only now approaching my normal physical self. I might say that until Friday last, I had decided it would not be wisdom on my part to undertake the preparation and delivery of an address at this Session of the House, but, Mr. Speaker, there are so many matters of importance in which a great many of our citizens are particularly interested, that come within the purview of one or the other of the two Departments over which I have the honour to preside I felt if I was able at all, I should make some pronouncements.

Continuing, I would like first to express myself as concurring in all that has been said in the matter of felicitation to our new and beloved sovereign, King George VI. Our prayer, I know is that he may long reign over a peace loving, peace enjoying and loyal people. The new King has his Throne set in the forefront of a happy family circle, from which no doubt gracious influence will always proceed and while we pray for our King, we also pray for our Queen and members of the Royal Family.

Once again, in this upheaval which the Empire has passed we have evidence of the security of the British Throne, and the deep reverence which is paid to its sacred traditions of government.

It is almost impossible to make any reference to the crisis already referred to through which the British Empire has passed during recent months without feeling that a burden of deep regret is borne by every British subject, at the abdication of King Edward VIII of his own free choice. Regardless of any criticism which may be passed upon, the former King personally, it may be confidently asserted that no matter what may be his future in the days to come, his hold upon the hearts of the British people is quite secure and no matter where his lot may be cast, British subjects everywhere will always give the Duke of Windsor a large and tender place in their affections.

I would like at this time to convey my deep sympathy to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and his family in the irreparable loss suffered by them in the passing of Mrs. MacLaren.

Continuing, I wish to express my sincere regrets at the passing of our comrade, Mr. Durling. It was not my privilege to be acquainted with him other than the opportunity afforded in meeting him from time to time during the last session, but even with this, I was much impressed with his demeanor, and I have learned since his passing, of his outstanding qualifications not only as a citizen, but the interest he took in all that pertained to the general welfare of his native County and Province. My deepest sympathy goes to his family.

I also wish to express my deep sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Scully, a former member of this House, and a most outstanding citizen of the constituency I have the honor of representing.

My references of sympathy would not be complete, were I to close this portion of my address without referring in the same vein to the demise or passing of the late Hon. Dr. Veniot, former outstanding Minister of Public Works in the Foster Administration, later Premier of this Province and more recently Post Master General of Canada. This Province and the whole country has suffered a loss which a large host feels most keenly. There are but a few present in this House who were brought into that close contact which is made by the head of a Government, and those who sat with him in executive Council. That was my own personal experience with Hon. Peter J. Veniot and the memories of it are very sacred. All who shared that experience cannot pay too great a tribute to his tireless energy, his devotion to duty, his utmost desire to be fair, his friendly social attitude to political friend and foe alike. During the first few days of the Federal House of Commons at Ottawa, glowing tributes to the memory of Dr. Veniot were paid by Premier Mackenzie King and Sir George Perley, acting as Leader of the Conservative Party. The tributes of both of these gentlemen were of equal magnificence, and let me here say to the Opposition members in this House that we on this side of the House deeply appreciate the graciousness of their Acting Federal Leader, and may I further say that if all of us seek to maintain

most of these amenities in public life, it will be all to the general good. I wish at this time to tender my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Veniot and family. Just let me add that it is a striking coincidence that an honoured son of an honoured father should represent in the Federal arena the same constituency so long ably and faithfully represented by his highly esteemed father. As a colleague in the medical profession, I would like to congratulate Dr. Veniot and express my satisfaction that his future public career seems to be so well assured.

I regret much that during the year Death removed from our official staff, one of our most faithful and efficient medical school inspectors in the person of Dr. Geo. W. Bailey. Dr. Bailey was one of our pioneer officials, one of the first to take the post graduate course for medical school inspectors at McGill University. He was always most deeply interested in his work and performed the service in a manner most acceptable to all. I wish at this time to convey to Mrs. Bailey and family my personal sympathy and that of the department.

If you will stop for a moment and realize that Agriculture is our chief basic industry destined by Providence so to be, and then consider that for a quarter of a century at least, it has been going behind to so great an extent that between seven and ten millions of dollars have been going out of this country to the Western Provinces and to New Zealand and Australia to provide us with butter, eggs and cheese; then to think that in a period of about 18 or 20 months the whole situation has been changed by the Government through the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and his Department is now able to reasonably assure us that agriculture has been so well directed and assisted that New Brunswick will be able to take care of practically all of its needs along these lines. Then again that the Government through this Department has been able to decide upon legislation that will require that all products of this basic industry in particular are to be standardized, one of the most important contributions toward continued success in this particular Department of Government. I think we all have every reason not only to congratulate the Minister, but congratulate ourselves because of the same optimism set forth in one of the most outstanding addresses on Agriculture, given in this House during the last quarter of a century.

Now, Mr. Speaker since the opening of the House this year, you have had presented to you in a most palatable form, facts regarding practically all of the services of Government, all of which have not only been interesting but of extreme importance as related to the best interests of the Province.

There remain yet, the two Departments over which I have the honour to preside—Health and Labour—both of outstanding importance. In the matter of Health, however, I wish to state, it is the most important service of Government, not excepting any. This, of course, as you very well know, is not because I happen to have been the parent of the New Brunswick Health Department, and again at this time presiding over its destiny not at all, but it is most important because of the fact that it deals directly with New Brunswick's most important asset, viz., the health and lives of its citizens. It is quite true it has taken many years to instill into the minds of our people that this is a fact and yet I have no doubt there remains some doubting Thomases. We trust before closing our address, we shall be able again to lay before you the outstanding importance of such a Department regardless of where it may be found.

May I suggest the next in importance, almost if possible of equal importance, is the Department of Education. It has been said: "Two of the most important cornerstones on which we erect a successful career are Health and Education. They seem to be inseparable when considered from this particular standpoint. A man is crippled physically without the one and intellectually when not in possession of the other."

I wish here to congratulate my colleague from the City of Saint John the Honourable the Minister of Education, in having been selected to fill that most important portfolio, and wish for him every possible success in this new field of endeavour.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that the boy or girl, regardless of how brilliant an education he or she obtains, who because of laxity of Public Health Administration, is exposed and becomes ill with any disease that should be prevented, and eventually becomes crippled for life or dies, his or her education amounts to but little, and on the other hand regardless of how robust and healthful who has no education is helpless and hopeless. Mr. Speaker, give a Province or State that sees to it that its every new born citizen as it develops is surrounded by an atmosphere of Health and Education, and I will show you a Province or state that need never worry as to its commercial, industrial and financial success.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to worry the members of this House with a repetition of the early history of the Department and the difficulties with which we were confronted both at home and abroad; other than perhaps a passing reference, when making comparisons of the progress that has been made since first it began to function in 1918. You all have or should have a fair knowledge of such.

I shall refer to some of the accomplishments of the last twelve months, but what I wish to lay special emphasis upon, is some of the problems that are confronting us at the present moment, and possible solution: First of these is the great problem as it exists today, viz., "The White Plague" Tuberculosis, and well as it named the White Plague, for that is what obtains today in New Brunswick.

Mortality statistics re Tuberculosis as it existed in this Province in 1920 was at the rate of 102.3 per 100,000 representing 409 deaths. In 1923, this increased to 112.8 per 100,000 or 448 deaths. In 1934, after fifteen years, from 1920, (which is just related was 409) was reduced to 67.1 or 268 deaths almost to half of the original number.

This wonderful reduction has happened in 15 years with less than the facilities which we have today. You can readily understand with the application of the first regulations governing the proper care and prevention of this disease, the results would naturally be illuminating. It is the remaining half that clears slowly, but in addition to this, due possibly to the results of the era of depression, and in part to a more intelligent front presented in unearthing new cases, but the fact remains the municipalities have been carrying heavy burdens as regards relief;

secondly, due to poverty, the returns from taxation have been at a low ebb, and as a result several of the counties have become so indebted to the existing sanatoria for the care of this disease that the hospitals can no longer carry on, unless the municipalities pay. This means first that these T. B. Hospitals still have 10 per cent. of beds empty on the one hand, and multiple number of cases that are active permitted to exist as a menace to those with whom they have come in contact, on the other. We have numerous instances, in large families of 8 and 10 where one has become infected, condition not recognized, gets worse and eventually the whole family is wiped out of existence by the plague, whereas by proper supervision and care that first case, had it been removed to a San and properly cared for, would have been cured, and the lives of the remaining members of the family saved.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this state of affairs, if permitted to continue, will advance in this depreciating manner almost in arithmetical progression, which makes it a most serious situation. Then again, heretofore and at present, the one who decides whether a case of T. B. is at the beginning stage or advanced, is the warden or the Municipal Councillor, and no doubt in some cases the official would naturally favor a friend regardless of his or her physical status. In this regard, I am not criticizing these county officials—they have been carrying on in accordance with present Municipal legislation, and until the state points out the decided inefficiency of such methods, they should not be too severely criticized. (We today in our Department, have practically every District Medical Health Officer trained in the diagnosis of tuberculosis, and already we have conducted surveys of certain communities with the result that we have exact and scientific information of many citizens, young and old, regarding the presence of tuberculosis. We have our officials provided with portable X-rays, so that they have this as an added factor in arriving at a correct diagnosis.

The total cost of carrying on the treatment of tuberculosis in this province at the present moment is \$350,000 less \$25,000 which comes from

private patients, pension cases and Indians, leaving a net cost to take care of patients unable to pay of \$325,000. The three institutions report their maintenance expenditure for 1935 as follows:

Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital, \$157,974.84; Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$113,652.80; Notre Dame de Lourdes, \$72,998.27; total \$344,625.91.

The one outstanding feature of this whole problem is to have it so arranged that only those trained in the diagnosis and selection of cases, be the one authority who decides upon the case or cases that are to go to a sanatorium or tuberculosis hospital, and having decided that there be nothing whatever in the way of that patient or those patients being admitted to the institution selected. By adopting such regulations and continuing them, this Province should be practically rid of tuberculosis inside of ten or fifteen years.

Smallpox in 1920 seemed to be equally as great a problem, there being some 14,000 cases. (It is true as yet we have no vaccine or serum to protect the people from T. B.) but inside of nine years this Province was freed from Smallpox and there has not been even a sporadic case since that time. The secret of being able to clean up this most expensive disease is that of segregation, and if 200 or 300 lives were being sacrificed at some particular point on our highways, due to a bridge that was proving its unworthiness, regardless of cost, the Municipality or Government that failed to correct conditions and save those 200 or 300 lives, would not long remain popular in the eyes of the citizens. I sincerely believe that we should look upon it as a menace to life and health with equal interest, and remove from our fair province this one blighting condition.

After all, it is the question of money. We all realize the difficulties in this regard, but I think I can say to this House and to the people of this Province that the Government has already looked upon this condition of affairs as most important, and I feel satisfied that it will, in some way, this year, make a beginning in an attempt to eventually, when monies become available, carry out our full programme.

(Continued on Page Three)

NEVER BEFORE HAVE CARS BEEN  
OFFERED AT SO GREATLY  
REDUCED PRICES!

## SPECIALS

AND REMEMBER THAT NEW CARS  
ARE ADVANCING IN PRICE  
VERY RAPIDLY!  
**SALE**

Ford 1935 Deluxe  
Sedan, trunk ... \$560.00

Ford 1936 Deluxe  
Sedan, trunk ... \$740.00

Ford 1936 Business  
Coupe ..... \$625.00

Ford 1934 Tudor \$385.00

Ford 1936 Tudor Sedan,  
trunk ..... \$635.00

Ford 1931 Coach \$175.00

Ford 1929 Coupe \$100.00

Ford 1930 Sedan \$215.00

Chev. 1934 Master  
Coach ..... \$405.00

Chev. 1929 Coach \$150.00

Chev. 1929 Sedan \$190.00

1935 FORD 2-TON  
157" w.b. Duals, New  
Motor, New Tires, New  
Battery, etc. .... \$640.00

1934 Ford 2-Ton  
Duals ..... \$390.00

1935 Maple Leaf, low  
mileage, only ... \$700.00

Pontiac 1930  
Sedan ..... \$225.00

Buick 1929 Sedan \$195.00

Nash 1930 Sedan  
Brougham ..... \$225.00

Plymouth Sedan 1929  
Model ..... \$130.00

1935 International  
2-Ton long w.b., a good  
truck ..... \$575.00

1936 Ford 2-Ton  
Hydraulic Hoist Body,  
Steel box, good as  
new ..... \$990.00

1935 Dodge 2½-T.  
long w.b. Duals, new  
tires, etc. .... \$575.00

1936 Ford Light  
Delivery ..... \$550.00

1930 Buick  
4-P Coupe ..... \$225.00

1930 DeSoto .... \$90.00

Buick Roadster .. \$75.00

Star Sedan ..... \$75.00

Pontiac Coach ... \$75.00

Hudson Sedan ... \$50.00

Reo Sedan ..... \$50.00

Chev. Coupe .... \$30.00

Essex Sedan .... \$140.00

Ford ½ Ton .... \$125.00

# Sale

KING AND REGENT STS.

THESE CARS ARE BACKED BY OUR DIAMOND VALUE GUARANTEE  
KNOW YOUR DEALER AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW CARS!

## UNIVERSAL SALES LIMITED

FORD SALES AND SERVICE

PHONE 466