

## "OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM CAN GIVE STRONG LEAD PROMOTING HAPPINESS IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS" -- McGRAND

### Old Age Pensions In New Brunswick Average Highest

Cost Administration Less Than Other Provinces in Canada

Relief Racket Eliminated

Favors Two-Party System Best for Good of the Country

(By Mrs. J. L. Neville)

Dr. F. A. McGrand, M.L.A., of Welsford, member for Queens County, resuming the debate yesterday created a favorable impression on the House in his maiden speech. He ably rebutted the accusations levelled at the Government in regard to alleged excess expenditure in connection with the Administration of Old Age Pensions showing that such expenses had been less in New Brunswick than in any other province. He justified the policy of the Government as to free school books and showed that the present Administration since coming into power had accomplished many of their promises, Credit Unions, use of hardwoods for culverts, the Fair Wage Officer was instituting against the relief racket which had existed previously. He showed that in 1936 more money had been given out for relief than at the height of the depression year, which was 1933. The average pension paid out was higher than the average of other provinces. As to the money spent in election campaigns there were proofs to show that the Opposition had spent more money in their attempt to return to power. Dr. McGrand touched on Education and stressed the importance of the bringing of our Public School system within close reach of rural districts thus helping to bring contentment and happiness to the rural districts rather than an inclination to make for cities and towns. He cited examples of certain industries which might well be developed and add increased revenue to the farmers. The cultivation of the cranberry was an example, this phase of agriculture having removed depression from the Cape Cod areas and had become a basic source of revenue to that part of Massachusetts. Continuing, Dr. McGrand said:

"I think it would be well if we submitted our economic problems to the National Research Council of Canada for investigation and guidance. This institution at Ottawa has seldom been asked to lend a hand to help us. "I heard Dr. H. M. Tory when he was Chairman of that Council make the statement that he made an investigation of economic conditions in Japan in 1926 and that that investigation he made the statement that Japan would in less than 10 years take a leading place in world commerce. Not because Japan used cheap

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### WITH THE LEGISLATURE YESTERDAY

The House met at 3:35 p.m. Mr. Boucher was in the Chair in the absence of the Speaker.

The following bills were given the second reading: to provide for the purchase of property and reconstruction purposes for the Provincial Hospital, Saint John; to amend Chapter 12, 24 George V, 1934, the Succession Duty Act, 1924.

Mr. McDonald, from the Standing Rules Committee, presented their sixth report.

Mr. Blakeny, from the Municipalities Committee, presented their first report. Mr. Blakeny announced that delegations in respect to bills before the Municipalities Committee would be heard next week as follows, on account of the large number of bills before the Committee: Milltown and St. Stephen, Tuesday; Moncton, Thursday.

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#### INVESTIGATION CONTINUED

Police investigation is being continued into the series of breaks which occurred here a couple weeks ago, resulting in the thefts of nearly \$1,000 worth of goods. Three establishments were entered by the marauders, and in one store, a jewelry firm operated by E. Blackmer, about \$900 worth of watches and other articles were stolen. So far no arrests have been made. Whether any progress has been made by the investigators, could not be learned.

#### ONE CASUALTY IN CLASH

(Special to The Daily Mail) JERUSALEM, March 6—A clash occurred today between Jews and Arabs near Palestine. A large number of the population were implicated during the fight. Revolvers were used with one Arab shot dead and others seriously wounded.

John Sillicker of Summerside, P. E. Island, has returned to his home after visiting relatives and friends in this city.

### Our Educational System

TO people who for years have boasted of the wonderful school system which New Brunswick possessed the figures on our Educational Standing presented in the Legislature this week by Mr. Blakeny must have come as a shock. It came as a shock to many of us not so long ago to learn that this province ranks the highest in illiteracy of any province in Canada according to the last census.

The trouble is that New Brunswick educationists have for years gone along in the self-satisfied way proclaiming to the world that we had "the best system of education to be found anywhere." Nearly forty years ago, after the close of the South African War, a Commission appointed to establish a system of government in South Africa, visited New Brunswick. This Commission decided that we had the best system of education that it had discovered in the British Empire. We sent out to South Africa to assist in founding a school system at Petoria the then principal of our Normal School, Dr. Eldon Mullen, who was accompanied by the Misses Bridges of this city and others and they founded the school system at South Africa. From that day to this, our educationists have folded their arms and stood upon a pedestal and proclaimed themselves superior to anybody else in so far as the matter of education went. The result was that while the other provinces of Canada progressed and got in new ideas, we stood still with our arms folded and rested on our laurels.

Today we have the result. But with the efforts that are being made to reform our educational system a better day seems about to dawn.

Some people are set in their ways, and this applies to ninety per cent. of the school teachers and educationists. The figures which were presented by Mr. Blakeny should come as a surprise and a shock. For instance, in a recent report made to the Government on the educational work carried on in the camps organized under the Federal relief scheme, out of 100 men who applied for educational classes that ten per cent. had only been in Grade 1, and 57 per cent. had never passed Grade IV. From the report of the Matron of the Inter-provincial Home for Young Women, situated at Coverdale, we learn that of 143 girls who have been admitted since the home was opened in 1926, ten per cent. had never been in school and could neither read nor write; another ten per cent. said they had been in school but could not read; fully 50 per cent. were below Grade V standing.

As an indication of the need for a change in our school curriculum, let me quote some facts gleaned from the report of the Chief Superintendent. These are taken from the report for the school year 1934-35. Take Grade II as the first grade that it would be fair to start with as a large number of children enter Grade I late in the year and remain in the same grade during the next year. That explains the drop of over 5,000 between Grades I and II.

Registration in Grade II is given as 10,364, Grade V, 9,456; Grade VIII, 6,723. It will be seen from these figures that there is a drop of 37 per cent. in registration between Grade II and Grade VIII. There may be several facts that contribute to this, but when everything has been considered the loss is too great. It would be interesting to know just how many pupils in this Province are repeating a grade this year and what it is costing the ratepayers to furnish instruction for these repeaters.

In his address in the Legislature Mr. Blakeny says:

"Some years ago a survey was made of the schools of one city in this Province to find out how many students were repeating a grade and it was shown that it was costing the city \$6,250 annually to furnish instruction to repeaters. If that is true of this one city in the first eight grades and the same percentage of failures is true throughout the Province, it is costing the ratepayers of this Province some \$360,000 yearly to instruct these pupils for a second year in a grade. Admitting that salaries are not as high in the rural areas and reducing the amount by 50 per cent. or to \$18,000, still the loss is too great. There are two places to look for the cause, either the course is too difficult, or the teaching is not what it should be.

"The High School picture is even worse as we are losing 50 per cent. of the pupils who enroll in Grade IX before they reach the graduating class. Quoting from the Report of the Province of Vocational Education who made a study of the high school situation, we find that out of eighteen schools surveyed the following results were obtained:

18 schools gave a registration in Grade IX of 934.

Of these 27 per cent. or 252 pupils failed to make a pass mark. 190 of these are repeating the grade and 62 left school.

"Grade X. 659 students, 176 failed. 129 are repeating the grade, and 47 left school

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### NO ARRANGEMENTS YET FOR MAYORS' CONFERENCE HERE

Chief Magistrates to Discuss Proposed Bus Bill

No definite plans have yet been arranged relative to the proposed conference of the mayors of Fredericton, Devon and Marysville, to discuss the act of legislation being sought by the City of Fredericton regarding the operation of buses here. When the bill was presented to the municipalities committee of the provincial legislature yesterday, it was deferred until the chief magistrates of the three communities conferred with a view of "ironing-out" the difficulties.

The proposed bill will prohibit the bus company operating a route in the suburban districts from entering the city. Major A. J. McEvoy of Devon, and Mayor G. E. Long of Marysville, strongly opposed the bill, contending that it was discriminating against the company operating the suburban routes.

The mayor of Devon, one of the strongest opponents of the bill, declared that such action was showing lack of consideration to the people of the suburban centres who were entitled to the privilege of having bus service to the city.

Although no definite date has been arranged for the proposed meeting of the municipal officials, it is believed that such a meeting will be held next week.

### SASKATCHEWAN MAY HAVE SERIOUS 'HOPPER PLAGUE'

(Special to The Daily Mail)

OTTAWA, March 6—The Department of Agriculture announced today that Saskatchewan may have a most serious plague of grasshoppers this year. Manitoba has a good chance of probably escaping the plague. 53,000,000 acres in the Prairie Provinces will be infested, it is said, 10,000,000 acres more than were effected last year. Eight million acres will require protective measures.

#### EARTHQUAKE FELT IN GREECE

(Special to The Daily Mail)

ATHENS, March 6—Earthquake shocks were felt today in Greece and were most severe according to reports received. Several shocks were reported in a radius 200 miles from Athens. The shocks were also felt in Tokyo. No damage has yet been reported.

### Discrimination Against N. B. Coal Industries Aired

New Brunswick Should Receive \$94,500 From Federal Government

Got \$8,609 From Ottawa

Wants National Park to be Located in Queens County

(By Mrs. J. L. Neville)

Dr. W. M. Jenkins, M.L.A., in continuing the debate on the budget yesterday at the Legislature paid tribute to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor who was a former teacher of the speaker and was loud in the praises of Queens County. He told the House of the beauties of his county and its advantages particularly as a suitable site for the proposed National Park in a humorist style he drew a picture in comparison between the muddy waters of the Petitcodiac and the clear blue waters of the St. John River. Agriculture, lumbering, mining and fishing were some of the points brought out in favor of his argument. Mr. Jenkins made a strong appeal for better treatment from Ottawa for the coal industry of New Brunswick. He touched on education and pointed out lack of uniformity between the different provinces which was unfair. He expressed himself in favor of the construction of a bridge on the St. John river between Saint John and Fredericton with the idea of a toll charge and also the completion of the eight miles of the Richibucto Road which is now under construction as a benefit to Minto and Chipman and the revenue producer.

Continuing, Dr. Jenkins said in part: Mining of coal, as the Member for Sunbury County has already told you, is in need of fair treatment from the Dominion Government in regard to subventions and freight rates, and the sale of coal to the railways. If these disadvantages can be overcome, a better price will prevail in Minto and Chipman coal, and will be reflected in better wages to labour. At present the industry is operating either at a loss or very small profit. In 1934 the capital invested was \$1,855,392; employees, 1,035,000; output, 413,750 tons; total value \$1,026,343.00; net profit per ton .03c.

Based on the above are the following figures: total profit, \$8,442.00; per cent. profit on capital invested, .005 per cent.; interest on capital at 6 per cent. \$11,384.00; amount of default \$101,942.00.

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### HON. DR. ROBERTS GIVES RULES FOR AVOIDING FLU

Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, Minister of Health and Labor, speaking on the spread of the current epidemic of severe colds has prepared the following rules and suggests that they be adhered to at the present time. The rules are as follows:

1. Avoid mingling with crowds as much as possible.
2. Avoid close contact with those who may be suffering with nose and throat affections.
3. Avoid those who cough or sneeze

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### Conference Between Canadian Premier and President of the United States Concluded. No Statement Given Out

### DOMINION PLANS TO SPEND 35 MILLION ON RELIEF

OTTAWA, March 6—Appropriations for unemployment relief in the supplementary estimates tabled in the House of Commons today totalled \$16,288,400. In addition \$19,500,000 was provided for monthly grants-in-aid for the provinces.

The unemployment relief appropriation was divided as follows: Relief settlement agreements with Provincial Governments, \$400,000; Federal contribution to Provincial and municipal relief projects, \$7,331,000; agricultural re-establishment in co-operation with Provincial Gov-

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### Leave For Pacific Coast On Well-Earned Holiday

(Special to The Daily Mail)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6—The conference between Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada, and President Roosevelt was concluded last evening at the White House here. No statement was given as to the subjects taken up but it is expected that details of the range of subjects discussed will be known in the near future. The Canadian Premier left today for the Pacific Coast for a few days' rest.

Members of the press were told nothing as to the purpose of his visit to President Roosevelt. He did make the point, however, that his trip to Washington was at the invitation of Mr. Roosevelt. He said that he did not know how long he would remain

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### MR. ABERHART FACES REVOLT, IS REPORTED

EDMONTON, March 6—Pre-session rumors of revolt within the ranks of Social Credit followers of Premier Aberhart were revived in Alberta Legislature corridors tonight with the report a group, said to number over 30, had decided to force a showdown with the Premier on social credit.

Their demands are said to simmer down to "a try, at least," for social credit, and discussions as to impending line of campaign were said to have been conducted in a downtown caucus tonight. One member admitted that they had discussed "matters to be considered at the next caucus."

### PARTY LEADERS AND CHIEF WHIPS DOMINION GUESTS AT CORONATION

OTTAWA, March 6—The two chief Whips of the House of Commons, Ross W. Gray, Liberal member for Lambton West, and A. C. Casseiman, Conservative member for Grenville-Dundas, are going to the Coronation of King George VI with the Canadian delegation.

Both served in the Canadian Artillery in the Great War, both are graduates of Osgoode Hall, and both are extremely popular in Parliament, not only in their respective parties but among all groups in the House.

The Canadian Parliamentary delegation going to the Coronation will include Prime Minister W. L. Mac-

kenzie King, and Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, the Conservative Leader; Hon. Charles Dunning, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Hon. Ian Mackenzie and Hon. William D. Euler.

The Speaker of the Commons and the Speaker of the Senate have been invited, also Hon. Raoul Dandurand, Government Leader in the Senate, and Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Conservative Leader in the upper House. James S. Woodsworth, Leader of the C.C.F. group in the Commons, will be invited, representing the minority groups.

No lady members of Parliament are going over unless they go privately.