

THE LEGISLATURE IN THE DAYS THAT ARE GONE

Sketches of the Days of Blair Hannington; LaBillois' Times! A Glance at the Measures As Seen By an Old Reporter

The Legislative Session of 1883 was one of the most notable in history of the provincial Legislature. In that year the Hannington Government was defeated on the floor of the House and a new administration came into power. It was headed by the late Hon. A. G. Blair and held office, with changes in the cabinet for twenty-five years. The following article written in May 1883 deals with the first session under the new government. It was written by the late Frank H. Risteen of this city when that brilliant writer was only twenty-one years of age.

Fredericton, May 1st, 1883. — The memorable session of 1883 will shortly be gathered to its fathers. It has been perhaps the most notable since the year of the cholera; certainly so since 1867 when the potato bug—the worm that dieth not—took advantage of the Free Grant's Act and settled in our midst. Many of the members have already left the precincts of the noble Spoon Island pile. They have heard a voice we could not hear that said they must not stay; they saw a hand we could not see that beckoned them away. Rural members, however, still haunt the shades, having a decided prejudice against going home until the by-road appropriation has been applied to the medieval mud of Sleepy Hollow. There are worse places than the cold shades in which to spend the heated term, but having had their photos taken, said rural members are anxious to be absorbed into the bosom of their family, wherein they are sadly missed, moreover, at this season of the year from the smiling potato patch, the coquettish onion bed and the haunts of the capricious cucumber. All the government members have ere this made their proscenium bow clearly, showing that the sweeping reforms of the new regime include a thorough revision of the English language. That \$5000 relief and aid fund for the benefit of the late fired out sufferers had at least been wound up, but it is plain that many of the real sufferers have not had an aching void plastered up with a fair share of the spoils.

A Goodby Heritage
The simple Acadian farmers in the House have reaped a goodly heritage this spring, while many of the bone and sinew members have not even obtained a glimpse of the Vineyard, but are compelled to lay up treasures of hope where moss will not attempt to boycott nor thieves break in and gerrymander. The patent, automatic jumping Jack from Restigouche who now wears the look of a bloated bond-holder, is still roosting on the picket waiting for a bid, but the government cannot think of investing, until the debenture debt of the province is funded, floating stock is likely to remain below par. It takes a lightning calculator to keep the run of the men who possess Her Majesty's confidence, and the people's funds at present. The party in power has a good safe working majority until the dew drops fall, but when the morning cometh behold the woodbine twineth—gone! yea, that majority has adjourned where like fog on the river, dew on the squash vine, bark on the hemlock, gone and forever.

"Of all sad words of tongue and pen, The saddest are it might have been, But sadder far it seems to me, It is but hadn't ought to be.

Extremes
It has been observed that extremes meet, and this can doubtless be endorsed by any modern house-keeper, who has tried to make a ten inch stove pipe coincide in all focus of points with a nine inch elbow joint, especially at this season of the year when the tack hammer goeth where it listeth, thou hearest the sound thereof but canst't officially announce whence belongeth or whether it whangeth! So it often occurs to pass that the would-be-politician, like the should-be-preacher, receives a call to the ministry, resulting from a too lofty conception of his inability to grapple single handed with the mighty problems of the age—this age of syndicates, joint stock corporations and No. 7 feet. But the more these born-to-blush-unseen, never-saw-a-rail-road, and don't-believe-in-steamboats-men imagine that they have been especially dug up from the common dust to dust, to check the downward and backward spirit of the age, may be perhaps, possibly, so much the more, a great deal of the woods are full of them. The array of talent in the House includes surveyors, good at bringing down a measure; very fat ex-aldermen who are on the committee of corporations, tailors who ask leave to sit again; grocers more particular about their bills than their provisions; watchmakers who promise to look into the case and see how it works; ice dealers who give notice of inquiry (Shall we gather at the River? and what shall the Harvest Be?); wood-choppers fond of acts (axe) for forcing a di-

vision; carpenters often employed to place a petition (partition) on the floors of the House; ex-policemen who warble in dulcet tones, The Gates Ajar For Me", and "Do Not Turn me From Your Door", besides a full grown, home made, warranted to wash poet, who unsung his lyre the other day and got out the following stanzas; size 7 by 9, catch-as-catch-can metre, to wit:

Mary had a little lamp,
T'was filled with paraffine;
One day the lamp exploded,
And Mary left the scene.
Or 10 by 12 go-as-you please:
There was a young man named La-Billeway,
Whom some person ought to kill,
away,
In his youth supercilious,
He grew up hard pill-i-ous,
This wily young man named LaBilleway.

Yet perchance some fair maid may in future
Set her cap for this crafty young Blucher,
For if only she had him,
Her name would be madam
Anthony, Angelo,
Michael, Corregio,
Jersalem, Geo. Henry LaBoucher.
This poet who hails from the Parish of Johnston, Queens County and his muse is of the pollywog origin, evolved from the infusoria of the alder swamp and the buckwheat patch, is likely to make a stiff brush for the lead with the great anti-clinker, self feeder bard of Hampton who dedicated the following slight testimonial the other day to his beloved pa-in-law, who recently ascended the golden spout:

EPITAPH
His only wish and his only care,
His only hope and his only prayer,
His only thought for the world to come,
Was a string of eels and a jug of rum.
The Provincial Secretary is also a poet of no mean order, as the following agonizing willie-do found in the Ladies' Gallery will show:
Sweet maid unknown to me,
Perchance Alas thou art;
As some fair flower born to bloom alone
Fortune that giddy dame has placed our ways apart,
And now I'm fixed and Heaven's work must be done.
Perhaps the grave and Rev. Seigneur of the Telegraph did not intend this gem for publication, but those who live in glass houses should pull down the blinds.

Must Watch Their Step
Several times within the past week parties in the House have been as evenly divided as a Guillemot goat that has had a fall out with an automatic lawn-mower. His end is piece, so is the other end; or as badly mixed up as a car of tan-bark tele-scoped in the rear by a mullatto cow on the Fredericton Branch Railway. In such cases the first list counts game, or as the poet has,
Thrice armed is he who
Hath his quarrel just;
But four times he who
Gets his blow in fust.

Letter M.P.P. Interpreted
Moreover, it has occurred thrice this session that neither government or opposition M.P.P.'s (which being interpreted standeth for Mighty Precarious Party) could keep the Blithe from changing his skin, fulfilling that which was spoken by Sir Albert L. Smith, his mark, saying, "Gentlemen, electors, we are the people, but the trouble is there ain't enough of us! Mr. Blair's government is like the free will church of Hooker's Creek. Mr. Blair is pastor of said church, left in charge, as well as choir and collector, and doubtless ere the close of another fiscal year will hold the portfolio of sexton. A glance from his imperious eye, like a wink to a blind horse, is sufficient to make any of the Amen-corner members dry up as quick as a tear drop on a grass widow. Disorderly Sergeant Elder sometimes assumes the vertical without receiving the word command, but all that Premier Andrew has to say unto him is, "go and be goeth," "do this", and he doeth it. A country editor blocking the nabob manager of the Fredericton branch syndicate for a pass to the Junction could scarcely look more serylle and obsequious than does weeping William when he chances to break loose from the short catechism and is brought up sharp at the terminus of his tether by the warning signal, "cel-grass ahead", from the one-mile power man with the lantern jaw, iron grey foliage and banged mustache." And the entire troop, like Wiggins trained warrior planet having swung into line the same way. Mr. Ritchie has nothing to say; Mr. Gillespie the same only more so; Mr. Ryan more or less, and certainly not less, rather the reverse, while Mr. Mitchee sits in his chair

like unto a monument at crystallized imbecility.

A Patrick Henry
Mr. White of Carleton is the Patrick Henry of the cabinet, but like the Irishman's flea, when you put your hand on him he isn't there, for he always votes solid against his views as expressed in the House. Hon. George is a kind of encyclopedia of New Brunswick on all subjects from diamond borers to figure 4 mus-quash traps and is looked upon as a valuable addition to the collection. He and Mr. Leighton have long since smoked the pipe of peace, or rather the piece of pipe, and all goes merry as a breakfast bell.

When White Was Bliss
Mr. White's profile has a striking resemblance to that of Mr. Bliss, the genial clerk of the House. A local artist made an admirable sketch of the member for Carleton the other day and then by touching up his bump of benevolence a little and adding a pair of specks converted the same into a life-like portrait of the clerk, whereupon a member of the fourth estate added the inscription, "Where spectacles is Bliss 'tis folly to be 'White'". The honourable George has some good points, but he is addicted, I am afraid, to declaring large dividends of conjecture from trifling investments of facts.

A Saint John Member
Among the lesser lights in the dress circle may be mentioned Mr. Quinton, of Saint John, whose vast intellect just now is wrestling with a blonde mustache which is the exact shade of seven-cent sugar. Mr. McLellan who sports a crushed strawberry hankiechief and a busted tomato neck-tie; Mr. Barberie who fails to beat the go-as-you-please record this year because his patent heel-plates anchored him in the carpet, and Mr. Park, the Adonis of the House, whose desk has been piled up all the session with discarded tokens of misplaced affection emanating from the fair inmates of the ladies gallery.

Up To The Average
In this brief sketch there is no room for details. Looking at it as a whole, as a small boy examines the muzzle of the gun, or from a sectional point of view, as the coroner's jury examined the small boy, previous to interring his remains in a small box—the House is about up to the average as to its percentage of patriots and statesmen. In regard to the self ordained mission of moulding the destinies of the province, their love of country and of office it is a toss up between the rival parties, the thushness of the whereas being about equal to the moreover. At all events like the mule of Texas that kicked the can of dye-in-a-minute and was translated, the present House remains to the last the courage of its convictions. R. H. F.

BABY'S OWN SOAP
Best for You and Baby too

HON. MR. SQUIRES WANTS DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADDED TO GOVERNMENT

Wants Minister of Pensions; Believes Attorney General Is Overworked; And Also Wants A Minister of Health

Hon. Mr. Squires, leader of the Opposition believes that there should be a Minister of Labor, and a Minister of Pensions, and that instead of the Attorney-General also acting as Minister of Health, that some doctor should be picked from amongst the members and be made Minister of Health. He would abolish the office of Municipal and Federal Affairs. He also expressed himself in favor of hard surfaced roads.

In addressing the House yesterday afternoon on the budget debate Hon. F. C. Squires leader of the opposition discussed at length the financial statement made by the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer. He claimed that the province was entering upon a realm of cruel and costly financing and the government was gambling with the future and had marched into the danger line financially and that the government had gone from country to country trying to sell bonds. He made a comparison of the manner in which Ontario and Quebec sold their similar short term bonds.

Mr. Squires complained that the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer had not told the House what had been done in regard to reducing the public debt. He complained of the increased interest charges and the increased costs of servicing the debt.

Continuing Mr. Squires referred to the new taxation on gasoline and taxation.

He said he was opposed to the gasoline tax and the corporation tax and believed that taxes should come down with increased revenue and improved business conditions. He believed also that with unsettled conditions which he claimed were bound to come in the near future that it was impossible to avoid business disturbances. He claimed that much of the departmental expenses was unnecessary.

In discussing the Federal and Municipal Affairs Mr. Squires criticized the amount paid for salaries and expenses which amounted to a total of \$16,455.00. He advocated the abolishing of the department. He also criticized the salaries of the Old Age Pension officials and suggested the Minister of Federal Affairs become Minister of Pensions.

He admitted that the Attorney-General works hard in the Department of Justice and also in the handling of the Health Department. He suggested that some of the doctors of the House be appointed and relieve the Attorney-General of the extra burden.

Continuing Mr. Squires discussed hard surfaced roads. He said that he was not opposed to the building of hard surfaced roads. In fact, he said

that he was in favor of such roads.

Mr. Squires believed that a survey of the necessities of the farmers of the province be carried out without delay, and that ways and means be instituted to assist all needy agriculturalists in placing their farms on a production basis.

In discussing the Minto coal situation, Mr. Squires said that one of the chief factors seriously affecting the price of coal is the small price paid by the Canadian National Railways. This was brought down to a low level during the depression and not one cent of increases have the operators been able to obtain since. Wages and costs have increased. The C.N.R. as the largest purchaser practically controls the whole price structure, and no consideration is given to labor conditions nor to wages, nor to industry in any way.

Mr. Squires expressed himself as in favour of a Department of Labor and Industry with a deputy Minister at its head who would be acceptable to labor. This department, he said, could investigate labor conditions as well as industrial conditions, and would be a factor in bringing outside industries to locate in the province.

Discussing the Shediac air terminus he claimed that New Brunswick was getting little consideration from Ottawa in this regard, and he claimed that war against the Ottawa authorities was the only effective method of preserving what we have from the central provinces. He claimed that Saint John and other parts of New Brunswick was suffering from gross neglect of the government at Ottawa.

Mr. Squires seconded by Mr. Smith of Saint John County moved the following amendment to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair and the House go into a committee to grant supply.

I now move, seconded by Mr. Smith Saint John County, the following amendment to the Motion before the House.

Whereas this Government has, during the past year, exceeded all records of expenditure, both in current and capital account, and are budgeting for a still greater expenditure for the present year; and

Whereas the net debt of this Province was increased over \$9,000,000 during the past year, and on October 31st last amounted to over \$66,000,000; and

Whereas the interest and sinking funds, which make up the carrying charges of this great debt load amount to nearly \$4,000,000, greater in itself than the total revenue of the Province a few years ago; and

Whereas the additional debt charges have been the cause of a contemplated increase in taxation which will

bear directly upon the business and people of this Province at the very time when, due in a large degree to the Government's unwise increase of stampage rates, many have been thrown out of employment; and

Whereas due to the low market prices for many of the farmers' cash crops, particularly that of table stock potatoes, and the high prices that the farmer is compelled to pay for live-stock feeds, and for other causes, there is a great deal of hardship falling to the lot of the farmers of this Province; and

Whereas in many lines of business there has been a recession of activity, as well as a very considerable shrinkage in the value of the products of industry; and

Whereas there is a great necessity for, as well as many opportunities to, curtail both current and capital expenditure;

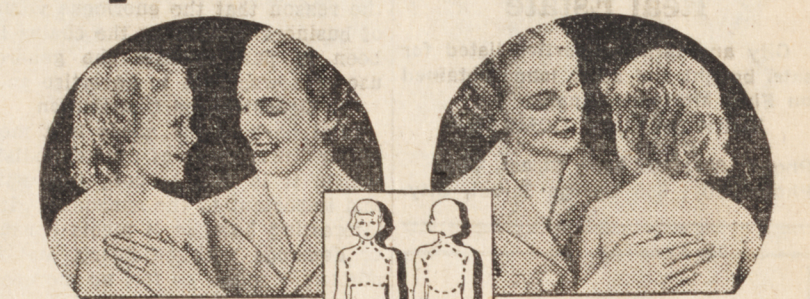
Be it Resolved that all words after the word "that" in the Motion now before the House, be struck out, and the following be substituted therefor,—"you do not now leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, until such time as this Government gives assurance to this House that it will cease all wasteful and extravagant expenditures in both current and capital account, and practise retrenchment necessary to bring this Province back to a sound economic basis."

Imports of Canadian Cheese Into Scotland In 1937

Imports of Canadian cheese into Scotland during 1937 were much greater than those for the previous year—the figures being 64,175 cwts. and 46,435 cwts. respectively out of total imports of 179,560 cwts. and 146,282 cwts. in the respective years, writes Mr. G. B. Johnson, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Glasgow, in the current issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal.

New Zealand, with 90,992 cwts. as against 76,588 cwts. in 1936, still retains the lead in cheese exports to Scotland, a position that Canada held for many years previous. New Zealand owing to climatic conditions is a better all-year dairy produce country than Canada, and costs of production are lower. Also, New Zealand currency has for many years been kept at a discount of 25 per cent as against sterling. The best makes of Canadian cheese, when fully matured, are in, or closely approach, the luxury class in quality, but are unable to make luxury prices. They always sell at a premium over New Zealand cheese, but when the premium is too high the mass of buyers turn to the New Zealand product.

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The 3-Minute VapoRub Massage

Massage VapoRub briskly on the throat, chest and back (between and below the shoulder blades). Then spread it thick over the chest and cover with warm cloth.

Almost before you finish rubbing, VapoRub starts to bring relief two ways at once—two direct ways:

1. Through the Skin. VapoRub acts direct through the skin like a poultice or plaster.

2. Medicated Vapors. At the same time, its medicated vapors, released by body heat, are breathed in for hours—about 18 times a minute—direct to the irritated air-passages of the nose, throat and chest.

This combined poultice-and-vapor action loosens phlegm—relieves irritation—helps break congestion. While the little patient relaxes into comfortable sleep, VapoRub keeps right on working. Often, by morning the worst of the cold is over.

Avoids Risk of Stomach Upsets
This safe, external treatment cannot possibly upset the stomach, as constant internal "dosing" is so apt to do. It can be used freely, as often as needed, even on the youngest child.

Now White—Stainless
Thanks to a new process, VapoRub now comes to you in white stainless form. Only the color is removed; it is the same VapoRub—the same formula and the same effective double action.

VICKS VAPORUB

Mothers! Look in your VapoRub package for full details of Vicks Plan—a practical home guide to greater freedom from colds. In clinic tests among 17,353 people, this Plan cut sickness from colds more than half! Follow Vicks Plan for Better Control of Colds

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"PAY LITTLE ATTENTIONS"
SAYS DALE CARNEGIE

HAVE YOU SMOKED A TURRET LATELY?

You will be paying your wife one of those thoughtful "little attentions" if you take care that there is always a plentiful supply of Turrets at home for her and her guests. Turret, you know, is an unusual cigarette, made with the finest Virginia tobacco combined in an original and unique blend. That is why Turret smokers say they seldom find complete satisfaction in any other cigarette. If you haven't smoked a Turret lately, try a package today and enjoy a welcome change yourself. Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada, Limited



"Flowers don't cost much, especially in season. Often you can buy pretty little bunches of daffodils and violets for a few cents.
"Yet, from the infrequency with which the average husband takes any home to his wife, you might suppose them to be as rare as orchids—as costly as diamonds."

"Why wait until your wife takes to a sick bed to show her that you care enough about her to give her a few flowers? Why not send her some tomorrow?
"Or a box of candy, or anything else that you know she will appreciate? Women attach an incredible amount of importance to these little attentions."

"And not only women. Men, too, love to have someone make a fuss over them. Such a little thing as a wife waving good-bye to her husband in the mornings would help to make many a home a happier place. Marriage, you know, is made up of a series of trivial incidents. Too many couples underestimate the importance of little things."

"Comparatively few marriages are wrecked on the rocks of real tragedy. Nine times out of ten, unhappy husbands and wives would tell you that their love 'went in little ways'. So, if you want to keep your home life happy, pay attention to trifles, be considerate in the 'little ways'."

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