

GUNTER WANTS BETTER SECONDARY ROADS FOR YORK COUNTY FARMERS

(Continued from Page One)

Referring to our reorganized school system Mr. Gunter showed how it was a step in the right direction and would greatly benefit those in the rural communities. It was, he said, the first evidence of a wise educational policy along practical lines in agriculture, forestry and handicraft. He congratulated the Minister of Education on his foresight in promoting a system which would benefit not only the people in the town but also the farmers and their sons and daughters in the rural districts.

Mr. Gunter suggested that in increased agriculture, dairying and stock raising, and in the development of our tourist trade lie our future sources of revenue in this province. He also pointed out something new in the way of sport fishing in this province not known to many people. That is that pollock next to salmon is the best game fish that swims. There is a pleasure and excitement in catching this fish with a rod.

Mr. Gunter's speech which was one of the most practical addresses heard in the Legislature this session is as follows:

In rising to continue the debate on the Budget, I first wish to join with the previous Speakers in expressing my profound sorrow over the death of our late Minister of Health and Labor, Dr. Roberts. I fully concur in all that has so aptly been said by the other Speakers on the floors of this House, and my deepest sympathy goes out to the sorrowing family.

We, a short time ago, also lost by death, one from our community, whose loss will be keenly felt. I refer to the late Dr. W. C. Crockett, who once occupied a seat on the floors of this House and represented York County. He was a man widely known and respected by all with whom he came in contact. To the bereaved family I extend my most sincere sympathy.

I was very pleased some time ago, when away up in the woods in the interior of the Gaspé region, to get a belated paper from Fredericton and learn that Dr. McGrand from Queens, and my colleague Ernest Stairs from York County, had been chosen to move and second the reply to the Address from the Throne. These gentlemen performed their pleasant duties in a very creditable and pleasing manner, and I know that as a result of the manner in which the Mover extolled the virtues of his County, that Queens will be a serious contender for the location of the National Park, and as a result of the manner in which Mr. Ernest Stairs placed the virtues of York County to the fore, being a resident of that County myself, I was reminded of that immortal song, one line of which reads: "Home, Home Sweet Home, there's no place like home."

I congratulate the Provincial Secretary Treasurer and the Government on having balanced the Budget last year, and this has been accomplished after having taken on the additional burden of Old Age Pensions and a sizeable increase in other social and public services; Old Age Pensions alone having added over half a million dollars to the expenditure of this Province in 1937. The Minister is also to be congratulated for his masterful and clear presentation of the Budget and the bright financial picture he has drawn.

Improved Branch Roads

Whereas the year 1937 saw a favourable difference of \$312,000 in the Budget as compared with the estimate made by the Provincial Secretary Treasurer one year ago, I trust that this year will show even a greater gain and that in anticipation of this buoyant revenue the Department of Public Works will find it possible to make a sizeable increase in expenditure on secondary and branch roads, because, even though the improvement on the trunk roads will be of untold benefit to this Province and will eventually pay their way, nevertheless, the inhabitants of the communities living at a distance from the trunk roads must have the secondary and branch roads improved as these are to a large extent getting into a very unserviceable condition, mainly owing to the neglect of our predecessors.

Pensions

As usual it remains for a Liberal Administration to take the initiative and as the late Dr. Roberts made a name for himself and this Province, throughout the British Empire, so the Dymant Administration by being the first government and the first Province in the Dominion to pay pensions to the blind, has established a precedent and brought honor to our Province. This being another move to extend aid in the earliest possible moment to those who are actually in need of assistance. Again referring to Old Age Pensions, I am reminded of an episode related to me by a gentleman from an adjoining County some few weeks ago. This gentleman was one of the extra staff of Old Age Pension Inspectors temporarily engaged for a couple of months in 1936 to help get Old Age Pensions under way, and when he

visited a certain home last fall he was taken to task by an aged lady for not having sent her name in for an Old Age Pension. He told the lady that he never received her application, and she replied, "No, I did not return it to you, because until after the cheques commenced being received, I thought it was all a hoax." Evidently this lady's mind still reverted back to 1930 under the old administration, and I trust that she is now disillusioned and is receiving her Pension.

Fair Wage Board

The Government has brought into operation since the last Session of this House, the Fair Wage Board. You have received the annual report of this Board, and I do not propose to detail what has already been accomplished, excepting to say that several strikes and differences between the employer and employee have been settled by this Board, to the mutual satisfaction, I believe, of both parties. However, in this connection, may I quote, Mr. Speaker, from a speech made in this House last Session by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I have a sympathetic feeling for the Honourable Leader when I realize that he and his colleagues are expected to make a showing for their followers throughout this Province, by criticising this Government, and having to do so with practically no foundation or ground to work upon. Therefore, coming from this source, the words I shall quote made a very favourable impression upon me at that time: (here the Leader of the Opposition recommended that a Board or Commission be formed to act as Arbitrator between labor and industry, and with a view to bringing them to an agreement as regards wages and working conditions where occasion requires).

Now it would appear that this Board, which has gone a long way in accomplishing that Utopia in the industrial field which the Hon. Leader has outlined, has been created almost exactly along the lines this gentleman had in mind. However, as the Bill creating this Board was introduced on the floors of the House only a day or two after the speech I just quoted and, as this Bill had been some time in preparation and longer under contemplation by the Government, it looks very much like the Hon. Leader had some intimation this Bill was on the way and, astute politician that he is, got into the records in good time the remarks I have quoted.

However, I am glad to find that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition approves of this Board, which has already accomplished very beneficial results for industry in this Province.

Our School System

The re-organization of the school system as proposed by the present Minister of Education and Federal Relations, is a step in the right direction and should have been done long ago, and the tying up of the educational, vocational and agricultural systems for the benefit of those who live in the rural communities, is the first evidence of a sound and wise educational policy that this country has seen for a long, long time.

York County Progress

I am not in a position to say much about other Counties, as I have been out of the Province a great deal, but may I be permitted to say, Mr. Speaker, that in my own County, we have made great strides in more intensive farming. Time was when the Nashwaak and other rivers were filled with lumber, but when these vast limits became depleted, the markets greatly impaired and this great source of remuneration lost to this County, our people turned their attention more to Agriculture and with in the past few years, have made great strides in this direction, as witness, the Stanley Fair, the Harvey Fair and the Keswick Fair, three successful annual fairs being held right in this county. In fact it has been said that Stanley has the finest purely Agricultural Fair in Eastern Canada. From the Stanley district over 700 hogs were shipped out to the packing plants within the past year, bringing in a revenue of over \$15,000 and, with another 500 to be shipped within the next three months this will result in a revenue of close to \$20,000 being received from this source in Stanley district alone within a short space of time, and certainly the Harvey district has every reason to be proud of its success in the breeding of Jersey cattle and its dairy products, which have brought such fame to that section, and whose cattle are in such demand that buyers are coming from all parts of that

great Republic to the south of us, and paying fancy prices for these cattle, which makes me therefore repeat that with the educational, vocational and agricultural Departments all working together in co-operation, with the view of making our Rural schools of such value to the inhabitants thereof, that no necessity will exist for them to go outside their own community to receive the training they need in order to make them as they should be, the finest type of citizen on this continent and therefore in this world, as it is my humble belief that here in this Province will develop the highest type of Agriculture in North America.

It is as much owing to the high type of citizen we have in New Brunswick in being willing to co-operate with the Government and regain his independence, as to the progressive policy of the Government in providing work and wages, that this Province has been the first to get entirely off Direct Relief.

New Sources of Revenue

Several large industries such as ship building, that once flourished in this Province, have become extinct and other great industries, such as lumbering, have become greatly curtailed and to prosper we must bridge the gap with something else. We have two chief sources of additional revenue in sight to accomplish this, namely: Increased agriculture, dairying and stock raising, toward which our Educational and Agricultural Courses and assistance are being shaped, and the revenue to be derived from the great increase in Tourist Trade which our hard surfaced road programme combined with adequate advertising and publicity by the Tourist Bureau will make possible.

Roads Are Asset

A great deal of criticism has been offered by the Opposition to the increase in the public debt by the cost of hard surfaced roads, but unlike the gravel roads, which, where traffic is heavy, will, in a short time, wear out and blow away, the hard surface road is permanent and in addition to the boon they will be to our own people, the increase in tourist revenue, by the advent of the said roads, will add greatly to the assets of the Province. Bridges also have to be renewed, at a large cost, because with the greatly increased traffic and heavy vehicles, bridges which were adequate for the gravelled trunk high ways, are, in many instances, entirely unable to carry the traffic, hard surface roads and the increased tourist trade will demand.

Economic Government

This Government being composed of sound and commonsense business men, planned quickly and speedily, to place this Province with all its natural beauties, at the forefront, and the present Director of the Tourist Bureau was quick to seize the opportunity, with the result that last year even with a great part of our trunk roads torn up and under construction, the tourist business was the greatest in history, and not content with this, at the Sportsmen's Show in Boston and New York, just completed, our guides stole the whole show and got into the limelight to such an extent

that New Brunswick received such advertising that would have cost us thousands of dollars under ordinary conditions.

Our Sport

This Province has long been noted for its great salmon and trout and other fresh water fishing, but it remained for the present Administration to point out to tourists, the opportunity for deep sea fishing, by catching salt water fish, such as cod, haddock, pollock, mackerel and tuna fish, which abound in all waters surrounding our Province, from the Gaspé on the north to the Passamaquoddy on the south and east. It is not generally known, but the pollock next to the salmon, is the game fish that swims, and scores of tourists, having discovered that fishing pollock with a rod is next in pleasure and excitement to fishing salmon, are wending their way to New Brunswick each year in ever increasing numbers, to follow that sport; thus bringing pleasure to themselves and profit to the native fishermen. Tuna has already been indicated in abundance off the southern coast, the latest reports indicate the presence of tuna off the northern and eastern coasts of the Province.

I have seen tourists in several places along the Gaspé Coast out fishing cod and other salt water fish with the native fishermen as guide, this giving him a satisfactory revenue with practically no extra expenditure on his part. When this type of fishing is better known and developed along the coasts of New Brunswick, our fishermen will derive a very valuable source of revenue from the tourist trade which is sorely needed in these communities, and thus this Government, by its wise policy, is bringing an added income to that hardy class of men who work night and day to eke out a meagre existence. There is no need for me to go further into this subject, as the man who represent the Counties by the sea, are in a much better position to give you fuller information than can I, and also deal with commercial fishing. My remarks only refer to the opportunity the deep sea fishermen will have to derive additional revenue from this increasing tourist trade.

The Administration

Now to sum up. This Administration by its wise and prudent policy, has turned a contemplated deficit of \$283,000.00 into a surplus of \$29,000. It has abolished direct relief and restored the confidence of the people in themselves and in their Government. It has gained the confidence of the investing public. In its social legislation, it has shown qualities of statesmanship sadly lacking heretofore, and above all, has restored confidence and faith in Representative Government. I thank you.



OPPOSITION

(Continued from Page Five)

rangements, they sent forward shipments from the port of Saint John some 7,000 bags of New Brunswick potatoes. Shipments had been made on consignment and pending receipt of account sales our adversaries announced, and the announcement was broadcasted from the house-tops of their friends in this Province, that a wonderful market had been found through the unremitting zeal of the Government, and the farmers of this Province were on the verge of fame and fortune. This happy consummation never developed, however, the words were barely uttered when account sales arrived revealing a loss of thousands of dollars to the Province and sealing the doom of the farmers so far as an Egyptian market was concerned. Another occasion can be recalled when the same Party tried their hand at potato marketing on behalf of the farmers of Carleton County. It was during those years when that great county of Carleton basked in the sunshine of political prominence and enjoying the prestige it did at the foot of the throne, some of its prominent citizens were enabled to secure, with financial assistance of the Government, orders for the shipment of what with a burst of loyalty they termed "patriotic potatoes" to the Belgian markets. The result proved disastrous in more ways than one in view of their record, I would therefore suggest to my Honorable Friend, that potatoes have never proven a profitable subject for the farmers nor creditable for the Government when handled by his Party.

Another subject dealt with by the Honorable Gentleman was that of Old Age Pensions and if deserving of any commendation I regret to have to say, it is more because of ardor than good judgment. During the election campaign of 1930 his Party gave a solemn pledge to the public, that if returned to power, they would enact legislation providing for Old Age Pensions. They obtained a renewal of confidence due in great measure to the support and votes given them by the old people. The necessary legislation followed but it was only to become effective upon proclamation by the Government in Council, and as it was never proclaimed by our predecessors, the law, to all intents and purposes, became a dead letter. They had disappointed and deceived the temperance people in 1925, and fearing retribution they determined, in their desperation for power, to try other schemes and the aged became the victims. Hundreds of our old people passed to the great beyond during the years preceding the advent to power of this Government with feelings of bitterness in their hearts because of the treachery and deception practised on them by Tory politicians. Had they been honest and fulfilled their obligations upwards of \$600,000.00 would have been paid to that class of our citizens during those years, an amount which would have contributed in substantial measure towards relieving the serious economic situation in our Province.

The subject of Education is one

which also received the attention of the Honorable Gentleman. He seemed to stress the need for immediate attention. There should be no delay. He referred to the present system as failing to develop originality and independence on the mind of the child; that courses were overcrowded and children overworked with the result, that in many cases, nervous wrecks were being produced. The Honorable Gentleman seemed to forget that the need for revision and change in the present system and curricula is now new; the Government of which, the Honorable Gentleman was a loyal supporter appointed a Commission to investigate and report on the situation. The Commission made an exhaustive inquiry and in due time submitted their report to the Government, but for some reason unexplained the report was never acted upon nor its recommendations put into effect. The procrastination and delay, therefore, belong entirely to the Party led by my Honorable Friend who must therefore rightly assume responsibility for the causes of which he now complains. Had the Honorable

Gentleman given evidence of the courage of his convictions and insisted upon action on the part of the Government the situation would no doubt have been improved. His failure to do so and his silence and indifference until a new Government was placed in charge of the destinies of the Province will hardly enhance the confidence of the public in his present sincerity for the cause. The question of Education is one of outstanding importance, our population being made up of many mixed communities with people of different nationalities and creeds presents a problem requiring very careful consideration. A spirit of reasonable tolerance is essential on the part of all in any honest undertaking to bring about its solution. I would therefore suggest to the Honorable Leader of the Opposition that instead of advocating haste he would be better advised in offering co-operation to the Government in their efforts designed to improve our Educational System.

Hard-surfaced Roads afforded my Friend another source of criticism. Consulting the record we find the Conservative government inaugurated the paved road project in 1930. It was another one of the political schemes which found birth in the fertile minds of the Conservative Leaders and invariably on the eve of a political campaign. Fearing the loss of the temperance vote and consequent defeat and in an effort to make good that loss from another source, the amount of \$10,000,000 was dangled before the people to attract especially the eye of motor car owners, and as in 1925, the new scheme worked again successfully and they were returned to power. Authority was secured from the legislature to bond the Province for \$10,000,000, of which the records reveal \$8,000,000 was spent during the subsequent years. That amount should have provided for the construction and completion of approximately 375 miles, but we find that only 32 miles were built. Where the balance of the

money went has always been a mystery to the motorists and people of New Brunswick. The present Government has completed and in course of completion 869 miles, and if ever the expenditure of public money was justified, it was justified in the road paving policy. It has contributed substantially to the relief of unemployment whilst at the same time removing the objectionable dust condition which for years has been one of the greatest obstacles in our quest for tourist travel that is now rapidly becoming of importance as a revenue producing industry in our Province in general. Nor does this include the benefits derived by our own people in the added comfort and pleasure enjoyed in motoring over paved roads. Neighboring provinces and the adjoining state of Maine are annually increasing their paved road mileage. The money expended on paved roads is a sound investment and is secured by a full compensating asset, one, which I believe will bring to this Province in dividends alone resulting from increased traffic and increased tourist business more than ample to justify the cost.

The people of this Province have seen 'Conservatism' in action. They have seen solemn pledges made on the eve of election flagrantly violated after the Party got into power. They have seen shameful treatment meted out to that class of our people represented by the old and aged; they have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars of their money thrown away for the benefit of supporters and favorite contractors. That has been 'Conservatism' in action up until 1935. For these reasons, I would have a word of advice to tender the Honorable Leader of the Opposition, who is yet a comparatively young man and one for whom I entertain nothing but respect. I would suggest that he made frankness and honesty the cardinal planks in his political platform. Recently we learned through the press of revision contemplated in the policy of the Federal Conservative Party. May I also suggest to the Honorable Gentleman when his Provincial platform is under consideration that he remove therefrom every vestige of deception, also eradicate that spirit of superiority complex inherent in Conservatism since the days of old; indeed, before Responsible Government, as we know it, existed in this Province, when our forefathers were denied their rights and liberties because of the autocratic exercise of influence and authority on the part of those in high places. That superiority complex with which they appear to ascend to a higher level, above the common people, where surrounded by the classes in an atmosphere of exclusiveness the poor man is not permitted to penetrate.

To the Government and our esteemed Leader who have in less than three years in the exercise of magnificent judgment and unrelenting zeal contributed so much to the progress and advancement of this Province, the comfort and happiness of its people, I say "Carry on, continue in the march towards the mark of the high calling in the service of our Province."

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