

Our Paved Highways Good For 25 Years Says Premier Dysart

I desire to occupy the attention of the House for a few moments this afternoon to discuss certain aspects of the Budget which has been so ably presented by the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

Not having taken part in the Debate on the Address, may I briefly refer to the splendid contributions made to the Debate on the Address by the Junior member for Queens and the Honourable member for York. Both addresses constituted a real contribution to the Debate of this House and I desire to add my word of commendation to the efforts of each and should like to couple with their names, those who followed in that Debate.

Before touching upon the Budget proper, may I digress for a moment to make reference to a matter referred to in the Address and alluded to by several speakers, namely, that perhaps greatest pageant of all time, the Coronation of King George.

It was my proud privilege to represent the Province with members of my family at that great event. I shall not here refer to it in great detail, for you all have heard, through the ether waves, all that we heard and I rather think it best to let your imagination picture the great passing scene, rather than endeavor by cold words to bring to you vivid recollections of all that transpired.

I would like to pay tribute to the untiring efforts of Canada's High Commissioner, Honourable Vincent Massey and Mrs. Massey, who did so much for Canadians generally. One cannot overlook the wonderful contribution, energy and skill of Sir Howard D'Elville, shall I say that Empire builder, who virtually founded and developed the British Empire Parliamentary Association.

'Twas indeed a great privilege to see the British Isles at their best, to see London for the first time bathed in sunshine. Although transportation was seriously crippled by the Great Bus Strike which continued throughout the days in London, yet there was no confusion, there was no apparent irritation, Englishmen moved on as though nothing had transpired. Everywhere one saw the eternal skill of the Englishmen in action. Tommy always wearing a smile and so courteous and considerate to all. Taxi drivers were never seen to wear a frown and no caustic word was heard to fall from the lips of any. How striking the contrast of the taxi driver in Paris or the United States or even Canada.

The magnitude of the throngs that wended their way to Hyde Park, London, from virtually all sections of England for May Day celebrations, rather thrilled the heart of Canadians. Whispered tones indicated fear lest there be an outburst, but not so the London police. I personally, on my first Sunday there, witnessed a parade that consumed more than one hour to march past a given point, men, women and children of all ages on foot or in huge lorries, wend their way to the great heart of London with banners virtually screaming of communistic doctrines and whatnot, yet all was orderly. Flanking this throng at rare intervals, strolled the black-uniformed Tommy, smiling and jolly with the crowd. An empty van, followed by six mounties brought up in the rear of the large procession! The screams of some of those young Socialists "We want a free nation, not Coronation", brought only a nod and smile from the police officers. Asked if they were disturbed by such statements, their answer was "This is our safety valve; give the boys a chance to blow off steam and we have no trouble".

The scene in Hyde Park, where thousands congregated to hear scores of speakers on Sunday afternoon, was indeed most interesting. Topics covered a wide range, embracing religion, socialism, communism. Through these vast crowds police strolled, jolly with the boys, all of which gave special significance to the expression, "safety valve".

One would find it exceedingly difficult if one were asked to point out the most significant incident of this memorable event. Naturally, the informal gathering in Buckingham Palace, when the representatives of the overseas Dominions met with His Majesty King George and Queen Elizabeth, when addresses were presented by the representatives of the different Dominions, ranks high. The dinner at old Westminster Hall, wherein some twelve hundred sat in to luncheon, which event was honored by the presence of His Majesty, constituted an event of more than passing historic significance. The Ball at Buckingham Palace was a never-to-be-forgotten event.

The privilege of meeting at first hand the members of the Government, Chamberlain, the present Prime Minister; giant, dom-set eyes, the intensity of whose glance recalls the great Gladstone; the calm and easy Baldwin, the serious-minded, yet pleasant Sir John Simon; the genial, yet pensive Anthony Eden; the dignified Ramsay MacDonald, and not forgetting the colourful Lloyd George. The meeting with those men at various

functions, is, in the judgment of many, ample reward for such a journey.

No reference, however brief, to the many stirring events, could possibly be complete without reference to Britain's sea power—inspection of the Fleet at Spithead. Down these virtual corridors, a full six miles in length, between rows of Britain's men-of-war, as well the smaller craft, and back through other corridors and past the floating forts of Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, United States, create impressions one could not, if one would, efface.

Mingling with leaders of industrial life in the Old Land one, as it were, absorbed the English viewpoint. We have all heard of the old adage "His word is his bond". That, I think, is as true today as ever.

It is not altogether inspiring nor re-assuring to hear quite frequently the expression that Canada is defaulting on her obligations. When that broad statement was challenged, one frequently heard the names of Honourable Mr. Aberhart as well as Gerry McGeer of Vancouver.

Everywhere one sensed the desire of the Britisher to trade on a larger scale with Canada and some mentioned the unbalanced nature of the Ottawa Trade Agreement.

In the field of lumber, one got the impression that the requirements of the trade must be complied with and that quality and price must continue to determine the extent of our trading. Shipping on consignment was frowned upon by many quarters, but one very definitely got the impression that quality lumber prepared to the standard demanded by the trade would always find a market. A word of warning was thrown out, however, to the effect that the market once lost is exceedingly difficult to regain and some concern was expressed in certain quarters over the possibility of Canadian lumber finding its way to the American market.

Throughout the various interviews with the lumbering interests, I was assisted by the Maritime representative in the person of Mr. Fensom who, I believe, is doing a good job on behalf of this Province.

May I now refer to a matter of some significance which has not found a place in the Speech from the Throne. I refer to the honour conferred upon my good friend the Leader of the Opposition.

Fredericton Convention

Rumour has it that Tilley clubs were revived throughout the Province and the remnants of the faithful were drawn to the City of Fredericton one quiet afternoon in October last. The number, it is said, reached near the 2,000 mark, representing all available opponents of this Government throughout the Province.

The torn and tattered mantle of the once robust party was, on that occasion, drawn about the figure of my friend who, a friendly press of the day pen-pictured as "the tall, frail, flashing-eyed foe of the Dysart Government".

The Government of the day came in for no word of commendation at that sacred gathering. Virtue in any one of this Government's many achievements was found not to perch on any twig of the speaker's imagination. After much noise, extreme exaggeration, and some political pettiness, recalling the efforts of the school boy in mock parliament gatherings, the assembly dissolved itself with its new crowned king. That it emerged without platform was a matter of little moment. They could not well adopt the platform of this Government and they could draft none of their own in which the public would have any confidence, so the matter of platform was quite overlooked in the burst of oratory that flooded our City Hall.

Although six of the former ministers of the Crown, all of whom were found wanting less than two years ago, graced the stage on this occasion, none was found to put forward a resolution of confidence, sympathy, or condolence.

The newly crowned hero is not new to this House. Since 1925, he has consistently represented the County of Carleton and, although he served under three Premiers, all of whom had something to do with Government making, he was not found, during that long span of years, to grace the front bench.

A New Moses

Possibly the Premiers erred in this respect, and there are those who feel that, in our young friend, a new Moses has been found, one who may lead the remnants of his party to the Promised Land. All must regret, however, that he was allowed to drift for so many years idly and aimlessly amidst the bullrushes of adversity in his nursery basket, for it is quite apparent that he is now quite a full-grown baby.

Clothed with new power, and feeling the weight of the tattered mantle about his delicate form, the new leader exhorted his followers in various parts of the Province to "buckle on their armour and do battle".

Rumor has it about Saint John that my friend has become a profound reader of fiction and, among his favourite works may be found that of

James Fenwick Cooper, "The Last of the Mohicans".

Like a good general, he shoots his skirmishing parties well to the fore and, so as to make no slip in the preparing of suitable timber for the contest that must come, he settles on the County of Saint John and puts in the field two members of this House. That was a master stroke, scarcely less spectacular than the recent achievements of the world-famous Hitler and, like Hitler, he accomplished his goal without bloodshed.

May I here express my full concurrence with the statement of the leader of the Opposition, delivered in this House a few days ago, respecting the role of an Opposition under our democratic form of Government. In my humble opinion, an Opposition ought to be prepared to work, first in the interests of the country and, secondly, party. Its criticism ought to be constructive.

One must express regret, however, that my friend did not acquire and give expression to this doctrine some months ago, otherwise, he would not have committed the great wrong perpetuated by himself in that so-called Miramichi strike.

The Strikes

Press reports of the day indicated that he was in conference with certain men who were responsible for that strike but, insofar as I am aware, men who are not particularly concerned with the providing of employment. The financial resultant injury of that strike can be measured in tens of thousands of dollars, but the loss of confidence of the investing and industrial public in that area has given the Government the greatest concern. It is so easy to tear down, to disrupt, to destroy confidence, but it is quite another matter to build squarely, and faithfully, and well.

More recently, my friend mysteriously turns up at Minto on the very occasion of the strike, and the press report of the day indicated that he was in conference with the leaders of the strike and rushed into press with his dramatic statement: "I lay this strike to the door of the Dysart Government".

That industrial disturbance has cost the citizens of that area tens of thousands of dollars, has done the industry a great wrong, and the suffering of thousands of little ones may never just be known.

Actions speak louder than words. The ignoble part played by the leader of the Opposition in those two industrial strikes represent the antithesis of his pronouncement in this House as to the standards by which an Opposition ought to be guided.

A Falsehood Nailed

To seek to follow the peregrinations of my friend through this Province would be an endless task—to endeavor to clarify and tell the whole story respecting the many misleading statements attributable to him, would be quite impossible. After all,

there must be some standard of fairness in political warfare and I must ask the House to pause with me a moment while I discuss a rather unfortunate incident, the outcrop of his utterance at Shediac last summer. In short, he charged me with "deliberately paying the Speaker a double salary, the one as Speaker with the modest emolument of office, and the other as solicitor for the Fishery Commission".

If that were true, it were unfortunate, but I ask the House to withhold judgment until I recite the facts.

May I preface the words with the statement that the Honourable the Speaker is as fair in the discharge of his duties as it has been my privilege to know a Speaker in this House. I personally occupied that position for a full term—was then followed by Honourable Mr. O'Brien, who in turn was succeeded by the Honourable the leader of the Opposition.

I repeat, in point of fairness, in my judgment, our present Speaker is surpassed by none of these. He is eminently fair in his decisions, courteous and considerate and, if anything, gives full benefit of the doubt to the Opposition.

During the last Session, the Honourable the Speaker informed me that he had been requested by the Ottawa authorities to act as solicitor for the Fishery Commission and wished to know if there would be any objection to his being absent from the House from time to time, provided a satisfactory arrangement for a deputy Speaker could be made. I expressed the opinion that the House would concur in any such resolution but, out of courtesy to the Opposition, asked him to interview the Leader. This was done and the Leader of the Opposition gave his full consent. I thereupon moved the House for leave of absence, which was granted unanimously.

No word of protest fell from the lips of the Honourable the Leader until, carried away in the Town of Shediac, he draws the concealed stillette from under his tattered mantle and plunges it into the back of his victim.

I ask Honourable members, and particularly friends of the Opposition throughout the Province, if they approve of that method of political warfare. It has been my privilege to carry on in this House as Leader of the Opposition from 1926 to 1935 and I can, with full confidence, say that during that long span of years, there was no breach of faith, for we acted on the old British principle "a man's word is his bond". Tactics of that character are hardly worthy of my Honourable friend, and I personally feel a deep sense of regret that he has seen fit to sacrifice a friend for paltry political advantage.

Finance

Few subjects come in for a greater range of discussion in this House

than that of finance. Few of us have mastered the intricacies of that vast subject. For my part, I am prepared to accept the statement of the internationally famous firm of accountants, P. S. Ross and Sons.

Our entire finances seem to be divided into two groups, the one capital and the other current. The capital debt is shown by statements okayed by this firm which represents our debt as being \$66,000,000.00. I accept that figure. It also shows how the debt is built up, what carrying charges are necessary to service that debt, what our sinking funds are.

Respecting the current accounts, however, some differences of opinion seem to arise, and here again I am prepared to accept the statement of that firm of auditors, and say to this House and the Province that the Government completed last year's operation by converting an estimated deficit of \$293,000.00 into a surplus of \$29,000.00. I mention this fact because my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition in the House Tuesday, stated that P. S. Ross and Co. was wrong and that the province closed its year's business with a deficit of \$187,000.

Possibly he does not appreciate the fact that he is virtually charging this firm with the commission of a fraudulent act to say the least. This firm was brought to the Province by the late Government, back in 1935, and has continued steadily since, without interruption, to audit the accounts of the Province. I accept their word as to our surplus, duly certified to by them, and I reject as pure political gossip the fabricated deficit of my friend the Leader of the Opposition.

While we budgeted for upward of a quarter of a million deficit, my friend the Leader of the Opposition fervently hoped and prayed that the deficit would exceed the million dollars mark and he, on various platforms throughout the Province where he could be heard, so expressed himself. In this he was supported by a coterie of party followers.

It is a mighty tribute to the splendid co-operation received from supporters of this House and the Government that we were able to dis-appoint our friends.

What we did last year, we hope to repeat this year. We have widened and extended the services, we have carried greater and more generous benefits to all classes of the people, and we hope to live within our means.

A cursory examination of the debt reveals in brief form some worth while assets as justification for the increase. Take, for instance, the ten millions invested in Hydro. Who is there in the Province today, outside possibly of a few private ownership men, who would turn upon that wonderful achievement. Count the thousands of homes made happy by the carrying through this Commission of

the great benefits of cheap electricity and, like many other services, it is a revenue producing asset that is self-supporting. All the Government does is lend its credit to the institution, provide funds at a cheap rate of interest, and the users of Hydro pay back the money. That is the ideal set-up.

That portion of our debt representing our public institutions, is likewise an asset, but not self-supporting, for instance, the Chamber in which we now stand, Departmental Offices, T.B. Hospitals, and Provincial institutions. These are all essential and all important. No state could be without them.

Then there is the question of bridges, represented by \$12,000,000.00. Where is the Government body that would refuse to extend to the public the services which these great structures insure? They are a necessary link in our transportation routes and, unlike conditions obtaining in other Provinces, our bridges are free, not toll bridges.

Next, we come to the great question of roads, represented by \$86,000,000.00. None will challenge the statements that, for much of that expenditure, no worthwhile asset can be found. Bonds were issued for long terms for certain constructions which were away before the bonds had reached the quarter-mile post, so to speak, and again the gap was filled by the issue of new bonds, and by this vicious circle the debt crept up stealthily year by year, to a staggering peak where, until 1935, the public called a halt!

The wasted money could not be recovered, repudiation could not be entertained. What our friends now say is precisely what we said during the years 1930-1935.

I shall say nothing of the Sinking Funds at this juncture, nor of the vicious system adopted by our predecessors to provide Sinking Funds. We shall start at scratch from the year 1935, when we took over and ask the question, what ought any responsible body of men do, who had just come fresh from the ballot box, as it were, with a fresh and unquestioned mandate from the people of this Province.

A private company, faced with the problems that confronted us in 1935, would have probably called a general meeting of its shareholders, announced that they could not go on, and proceed to re-organize, squeezing mercilessly the little fellow on the way, compelling him to accept a few shares in the new set-up for the many in the old. The public would be no wiser, but the innocent shareholder would suffer.

Governments cannot carry on that way, so it became necessary for us to honour our obligations, accept the debt load of which substantially thirty-odd millions had been built up during the regime of the last Government, and move on from that point.

One of our real problems was to endeavour to restore and thus maintain our Provincial credit at a high level. The phenomenal increase in our debt between 1925 and 1935, of roughly \$5,000,000 per year on an average, coupled with a long trail of mounting deficits, all of which were in turn bonded, was not wholesome. It was for these reasons largely, that the late Government was hurled from power.

The relief problem, which in this Province had demoralized our citizens, just had to be met and, in the face of much criticism, we did what we thought was right, and the results have abundantly proven that the course determined upon was the only sane course to follow.

The folly experienced during recent years, whereby this whole country sought to buy itself back to prosperity on borrowed money, became apparent, and we realized that the wheels of industry and the development of our natural resources would solve our problem. To that end, we directed our energies, with the result that today we stand in a most enviable position in the eyes of all Canada. Our basic industries were stimulated, and we soon felt ourselves moving out on the broad road to industrial recovery.

"Sheer Humbug"

My friend the Leader of the Opposition, has borrowed from his predecessor in office the expression "financial sanity". At least the report of his speech is so carried in the Moncton Times. I do not think he used that expression in this House, but after all that is by the way.

My friend has been so nonplussed and dismayed because of our having attained the goal of our ambition that he is still at sea and like one in a haze gropes around.

He would have us show a surplus on current account of a cold million. He would have us finance our Capital Expenditures out of current revenue, and at the same time would have us substantially reduce our debt from the same source. He would have us step up sinking fund provisions by 100 per cent which would mean an extra charge upon our revenues of at least \$350,000.00. He would have us pay all the old age pensioners, 11,200, at the rate of \$20.00 per month or an additional \$150,000.00. He would also extend the benefits of Old Age Pensions to the other 6,000 who are definitely not eligible, thus adding another \$350,000.00 to our expenditures. He would extend free school books to grade eight, thus imposing an extra charge of \$50,000.00, to say nothing of the various other services which would amount approximately to \$900,000.00.

Then he would step to the revenue side and have us waive \$100,000.00 by reducing the tax on autos, another \$100,000.00 in connection with trucks, another \$300,000.00 in connection with

(Continued on Page Three)

"LET THE OTHER MAN DO THE TALKING" SAYS DALE CARNEGIE

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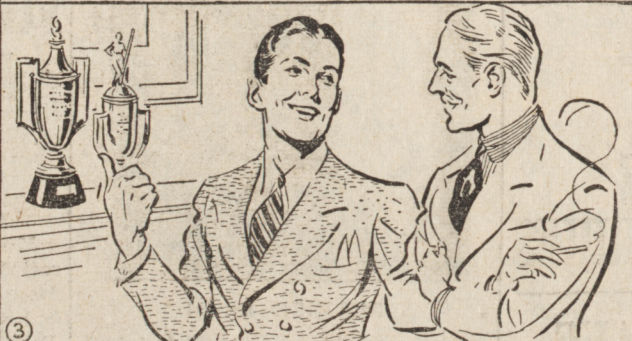
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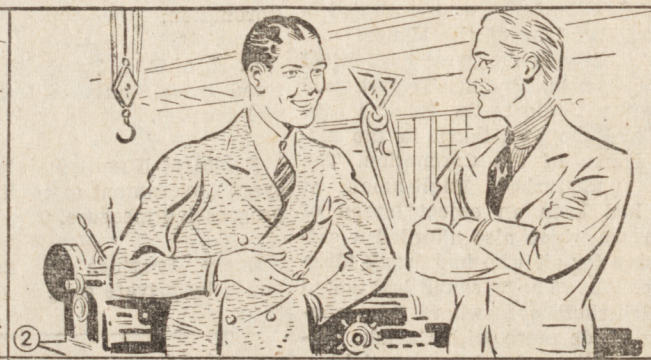
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"By all means let the other man tell you about his accomplishments if he wants to. But don't start boasting about yours."



"If you disagree with what he says, don't interrupt. Besides being rude, it is bad policy for he won't pay any attention to you until he has expressed his own ideas. So listen patiently until he has talked himself out. But don't abuse your turn even then."



"A modest man never offends anyone, and really, we ought all to be modest, for none of us amounts to much. Do you know what keeps the smartest men in the world from becoming idiots? About five cents worth of iodine in their thyroid glands. Five cents worth of iodine isn't worth getting a swelled head over, is it?"

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