

Hon. W. S. Anderson

(Continued from Page Four)

Mr. Speaker, I have passed over the various departments of Government but lightly knowing that they will be covered fully by the ministers in charge. I come now, however, to a great public service of which it is my duty to speak more particularly—The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission.

This institution, which from a small beginning back in 1920, has now spread over the entire Province with lines extending into every county of the Province with the exception of the counties of Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska.

While we feel proud of this great publicly owned utility, especially as it was brought into being by a Liberal Government, I wish to express my appreciation of the wise careful manner in which previous commissions guided this institution along safe economic lines. I also wish to thank the permanent staff for their loyal support without which the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission would not be rendering the service which it is today.

The plant of the New Brunswick Power Commission includes the Musquash Hydro and the steam plant at Minto with a combined capacity of 26,000 H. P. These are connected by a high voltage line in such a manner that one can easily help the other in time of need. From these points are constructed 308 miles of high voltage lines and stretching from these are 1,265 miles of distribution lines reaching out and serving customers a total of 28,702.

To give some idea of the growth of the business—in October 31st, 1935, there were 753 miles of distribution lines and today there are 1,265 or an increase of 512 miles. In the year ending October 31st, 1935 there was generated and purchased a total of 41,759,200 K. W. H., while this past year the total amounted to 60,655,000, almost 50 per cent increase in two years.

While making rapid extensions the Commission has at all times tried to proceed in a safe economic manner. Before a project is undertaken the engineers study the district and ascertain as closely as possible the number of customers which will be needed to make the line a paying project. If these can be secured the work is undertaken as rapidly as possible.

Perhaps, however, the brightest feature is the splendid financial condition in which the Commission finds itself at the present time. While it is true that since the project was first undertaken there is an accumulated deficit of \$558,839.24, there has been set aside a maintenance and renewal reserve of \$536,000.07 and also a sinking fund of \$1,462,699.08. When we consider that the Minto plant is practically new and that the Musquash plant has been kept in first class condition with the dams, owing to the heavy reinforcing which has been done during the past two years, stronger than when constructed, we begin to realize something of the value of this great asset which belongs to the people of the province.

This year was the most successful in its history, after putting aside a greater amount than ever before for maintenance, renewal and sinking funds and setting aside \$37,002.82 as a reserve for future purchase of power, we are still able to show a surplus of \$1,285.73.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult indeed to estimate the value of this utility to the Province of New Brunswick. It cut to a fraction of their original cost the light and power bills of the people of Saint John and has also substantially reduced the cost of electricity in every city and town which they have entered. It has spent and is spending immense sums of money among the people in new construction and maintenance. Last season alone, it provided a market for over 33,000 tons of New Brunswick coal, and last but not least, it has reached out into the rural districts, brightening the lives and lightening the burden of many of our people.

There are many of our people who do not believe in public ownership, claiming that private companies can carry on more efficiently and economically. In this respect, we were pleased and gratified a few days ago, to learn that at a dominion wide gathering of engineers the statement was made that our Minto plant held the record in the dominion for economic efficiency.

In this plant the development of a K. W. H. required the consumption of 17,300 British thermal units. The plant which came next in line is in the City of Regina and requires 17,800 B. T. U.'s, to produce the same results. From that, the figures run up to one plant which consumes 37,157 B. T. U.'s. We think of this record and how, with a total permanent staff of 75 the Commission is able to operate two power plants, maintain and patrol 308 miles of high voltage and 1,265 miles distribution line, keep personal contact with 10,690 direct customers, maintaining the while an office staff which is a distinct credit to themselves and the Province of New Brunswick, we begin to realize just what a publicly owned utility can be made to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this

MR. F. H. COPP

(Continued from Page One)

Mr. Speaker I wish to extend congratulations to the Honourable the Provincial Secretary on his masterly presentation of the Budget, and to compliment him further on having it balanced as well as having his estimates provide for the second balanced Budget in as many years.

Mr. Speaker in continuing this debate, I might mention the principle thoughts I am about to express in words, were prompted by the remarks of two of the Opposition speakers.

One of these gentlemen stated "the Government had never adopted any of the suggestions of some of its supporters on this side of the House."

Possibly the Honourable Member had in mind the political associations we have on this side caused by the seating arrangements, and took it for granted that all suggestions originating from here were non-productive of results.

However, I am pleased to state many recommendations I submitted in my contribution to the 1936 Budget Debate, have received attention, and have been acted upon. I desire to offer the Cabinet my congratulations in having implemented so many of my thoughts in their programme of progress for 1936.

Fox Industry

I mentioned at that time that the Minister of Agriculture had included \$500.00 in his estimates for assistance in developing silver fox farming, and while this amount was inadequate, stated it was a step in the right direction, and hoped the Minister would continue his efforts. I am pleased to report this has been acted upon in the appointment of a Fox Field Man for the Province.

I am confident the farmers of New Brunswick will appreciate this forward step, in following the lead of our sister Province of Prince Edward Island, and supplying a much needed assistance to this branch of agriculture.

The Exporters of fox pelts in Canada have almost dropped from first to second position in quality of fur to our Scandinavian competitors, and it is well our Government has adopted this wide awake course, in transferring one of its staff to this particular branch of Agriculture.

This Field Man is now taking special studies at MacDonald College to better equip him for this important work, that he may be capable of passing along necessary information and advice to ranchers to assist them in producing a high quality pelt.

Owing to the decline in the market subject, we have purposely refrained from making reference to the work which will be undertaken by the commission, but until such time as they have been passed by the Government we cannot make any definite announcement. Several others are receiving our most serious consideration and our hope is that the coming year would see a great expansion in the service which we are trying to render our people.

Mr. Speaker, in coming before the house at this time, asking for funds to carry on, we have few apologies to make. As the members of the Opposition state, we have spent and invested much money and we think wisely.

We have paid large sums in old Age Pensions; Restored free school books; Gave further assistance to Vocational Schools; Spread Electric Power lines through the country; Gave assistance to new settlers; Encouraged Agricultural; Spent large sums on the prevention of the spread of T. B. and on care of patients.

But most important of all, Mr. Speaker, we have by these large expenditures picked New Brunswick up out of the slough of despond and placed her once more on the upward path. We have been the first province to abolish direct relief, and we want right now to say to those who have tightened their belts and are standing on their own feet without Government aid that we appreciate their effort and our hearts go out in sympathy to those who are struggling to howl out for themselves new homes from the forest.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this Government has done much, but much more is still to be done and must be done unless we would slip again into the same old rut. For instance, the County of Northumberland saddled with over a half million of dollars. This year we have practically been all rolled up since the beginning of the depression. This year they collected in taxes far in excess of any in their history, but nevertheless, the deficit in this year's business was in the vicinity of \$200,000. The condition of the town of Chatham is even worse. Built on a good farm land, what plants which have disappeared entirely leaving a dwindling number of farmers to pay the overhead of a once prosperous city. I say, Mr. Speaker, the condition is desperate. It is not only a Chatham and Northumberland County matter, it is a Provincial matter. We never can have a prosperous New Brunswick with a cancer like this in our midst. I am not going to say what the solution will be Mr. Speaker, but the Government has been working diligently and earnestly and there will have to be a solution.

this assistance is needed more than ever before to educate the farmer as to quality, so that inferior non-profit breeders may be pelted.

This should also give farmers the knowledge to recognize the qualities of outstanding animals for replacement, and retain only these for breeders.

It may be interesting for some of you to know, excluding British Columbia, the annual revenue in Canada from furs equals that of our fisheries.

With the lower price of pelts and the increased cost of feed, it might be advisable for our Dept. of Agriculture to go still further and help finance cold storage plants in convenient points, and otherwise assist by strenuous effort to procure reduction in meat prices.

I believe we are only the second Province in Canada to take the forward step in the appointment of a Fieldman, whose time will be devoted exclusively to fur farming, and this will go a long way to restoring confidence in this industry.

Hand Craft and Weaving

Another one of my suggestions offered at that time, was that encouragement be given to hand craft and weaving.

I am pleased to note our Director of Education in connection with the Federal-Provincial Youth Training Plan, has instituted classes in different parts of the Province under the supervision of Miss Hayes, instructing necessitous girls in this art.

This I am sure will be of not only great assistance to them in home life, but will be a steady source of revenue to many a needy girl, as the hand woven materials always find a ready market with tourists and many others, who require a distinctive article at a price much in advance of a machine woven cloth.

In addition to these classes being taught in many parts of the Province, and preparations rapidly nearing completion for many more, we have six additional courses starting immediately for boys.

Different subjects are being taught so that a young man may choose the training which he prefers and which will be of the most assistance to him. Surely this Vocational Training for our young people which they otherwise would not be able to procure without Government aid is one of progress, and will assist them in developing their talents to fit them for their chosen profession in life, with a far greater earning power than they had not been able to secure this particular class of education.

Tribute to Pioneer

In discussing education I wish to pay tribute to a pioneer of this work. You hear considerable these days about the Fathers of Confederation. History will repeat itself, and future generations will read of the Honourable Fred Magee being the Father of Vocational Training.

It was well for the Province this gentleman had the foresight and faith in his convictions at the time he was a Member of this House, to press for legislation which made Vocational Education possible.

Education

In speaking on the estimates last

Session, I made reference to the crying need for improvements in our antiquated educational system. I wish again to refer to this important subject and cite some concrete comparisons and quote some figures showing conditions existing in the Eastern end of Westmorland county, which I have no doubt are similar to other sections of the Province, and would urge our Minister of Education to take immediate steps to remedy.

In order to cope with this undesirable situation, it will be necessary to have the authority of Parliament and I pray Legislation may be introduced this Session to set up County Units of Administration for Education, and make Rural High Schools not only possible but an actual accomplishment.

The figures I am going to submit are from the Parishes of Botsford and Westmorland County: There are 22 school districts in Botsford Parish, 20 of these one room schools and 2 two room schools. In Westmorland there are 7 one room, 1 two room and at Port Elgin in the same Parish 1 five room. In the High School Department in Port Elgin the principal is actually teaching three grades of 55 pupils.

When you understand this is the only High School in these two Parishes and with one teacher attempting to take care of that many pupils, no one can help but realize the situation needs improving.

But this is not the most serious defect. In the two Parishes mentioned with 487 children between the age of 12 and 19 inclusive attending school, there are only 50 in Grade 9; 26 in Grade 10; 17 in Grade 11. Besides these there are 12 pupils from these Parishes attending High School elsewhere.

The opportunity of teaching Grade 11 is limited to only Port Elgin in these two Parishes and this school can accommodate a very few outside of the town limits, owing to Grades 9, 10 and 11 being taught in the same room by the one teacher.

I have yet to come to the most pathetic portion of my comparison and that is that 605 boys and girls in these two Parishes of High School age, between 12 and 19 inclusive, are not attending any school. Is it any wonder with conditions existing such as these, where children occupies the unfavorable position it does in literacy in comparison to the rest of Canada. These facts are astounding, and possibly unknown by the majority in this House, and certainly demand an immediate solution.

In Holland, Denmark and Sweden they have Folk High Schools where the rural population are taught Vocational, Agriculture and other subjects so necessary to rural life and prosperity, as well as the elementary courses. From this advanced educational system these countries almost control the markets of the world in many agricultural products.

This same system might be adopted in New Brunswick.

In order for this Province to be prosperous the youth must have educational advantages.

With our improved facilities of transportation on paved highways and open winter roads, no difficulty would be experienced in the section I men-

tion, of convening these children to a Central Regional High School.

The public are looking for improvement in rural education. To keep pace with all other progressive policies of this Government this Legislation is necessary without further delay.

I would like to have spoken further on this, and quoted more figures to champion the cause of our youth in Rural Sections, but realizing statistics are tiresome, trust I have said enough on this important question to hasten our ultimate goal.

Old Age Pensions and Blind Pensions

In my remarks I am emphasizing progress and action, as one of the Opposition members speaking last week stated the previous Government was a Government of action, and in order to prove his statement, mentioned their developing a market in Egypt for potatoes, yet the Hon. member stated in the same breath the present Government was not one of action.

Contrast if you will the Egyptian shipment of potatoes under the Conservative Government with the Argentine markets developed under the present Government, then draw your own conclusion.

Another reminder of both progress and action. I am not sure that our Opposition friends are aware that about a half million dollars per year from the ordinary accounts of this Province are being paid out to the aged people. In fact, it may have slipped their minds entirely that the late Government of which they were followers promised this contribution some five years previous to their defeat, but it was left for a Government of action to put the same into effect.

Our Government has extended these benefits to include Pensions for the Blind. In this we are not following the lead of other Provinces, but are pioneers in this advanced Legislation, being the first in Canada to pay pensions to the blind.

Personally I am at a loss to know by their remarks if the Opposition approve of Old Age Pensions or do not approve of them.

They do not seem pleased with our increased revenue, by which we are able to take care of this advanced Legislation without a deficit, forgetting that increased revenues have been secured by greatly improved economic conditions under Liberal rule.

In fact, when we have Liberal Governments in office in Canada, we have prosperity and a contented people; whereas with a Conservative aggregation holding the reins of power we usually have the reverse.

Our revenues have been wisely spent so that the people of the Province are receiving benefits and privileges never before enjoyed, and yet with all these improvements we were able last year to provide the first surplus since 1929, and another surplus is predicted for 1938.

This no doubt is disquieting news to our Opposition friends, but it is never-the-less true, and is what the people of this province have been waiting for and what they appreciate.

Road Programme

Yes, we hear a lot from the Opposition press and Members of the Op-

position, and referred to by the Financial Critic yesterday, about the nine million increase in the Capital Debt of the Province, mostly for hard surface roads. I can recall a Conservative Government in this House in 1930 securing Legislation authorizing them to expend ten million on permanent roads. Did the present Opposition Members who were in the House at that time criticize the Legislation, and oppose the expenditures, or have they just recently awakened and decided they would prefer doing without this marvelous improvement in Highway travel?

It would appear as if the introduction of this Legislation at that time was merely for the purpose of winning the election, with the idea of pigeon-holing it with the Old Age Pensions.

If the old Government had been re-elected in 1933 and continued their same wasteful expenditure in preparation for hard surfacing as they did in 1934 and in the spring of 1935, I am afraid the full ten million would have been expended and the public would only be enjoying a small proportion of the 800 odd miles of paved highways which we have today.

Speaking of this expenditure, it might be well to enumerate a few of the advantages and pleasures we are enjoying from these permanent roads.

1st, and foremost and probably one of the most important, was the work this undertaking provided for many idle men who were unable to find employment, thus ending direct relief in New Brunswick.

2nd, Purchase of fill and rock for the base, which distributed a considerable amount of money among the farmers, and let me say to my Opposition friends, that Conservatives as well as Liberals shared in the sale of this rock.

3rd, Elimination of dust nuisance, thereby lessening the danger of accidents and removing objection of our citizens and of tourists to our previous dusty roads, and who will now return 10 fold, yea 100 fold, to this unspoiled vacationland by the sea.

4th, Reduce cost of road maintenance, by elimination of road patrols on this portion of the highways.

5th, Create to the Province a permanent asset. While the top may wear and need replacing, the main portion of the investment in the sub-base will last indefinitely.

6th, This expenditure represents an asset of great magnitude, which is more than can be said about the increase for years in the Public Debt, caused by deficits and road machinery bought by the old Government.

When this Government came into power they found many of the Secondary Roads in a deplorable state of repair. With our extensive trunk road programme, it has been impossible for the Department of Public Works to repair as many of these by-roads as my private members would have liked.

However, these roads will soon receive the consideration they deserve.

Fisheries

Following up the progressive policy of this Government a Fisheries Advisory Committee was appointed by order-in-Council on November 24th last and have had several meetings giving thorough consideration to the

various phases of the fishing industry in this province. They have submitted many recommendations which will no doubt be elaborated on by other speakers.

In view of their recommendation the Government has sent to the Caribbeian area two gentlemen well known in the fish business—Messrs. Calder and Guptill, with the object in view of forming contacts to improve trade and increase shipments of fish to that country, particularly smoked herring.

Twenty-five years ago the Gaspe River, on which the thriving town of Port Elgin is situated, boasted of a great many smoked herring establishments. Today they have all disappeared and only two or three remain in Westmorland County, on the Northumberland Strait shore.

Many thousands of dollars were paid to the fishermen for the green herring and it is hoped with a revival in the West India market this dormant industry may again flourish, particularly in the Grand Manan area.

I noticed our Opposition friends were unable to criticize the personnel of this delegation from a political standpoint but they were afraid only the expenses of the Liberal delegate would be paid, and not those of the Conservative Ex-M.P.P. Let me say to the Honourable gentleman who made this remark that the present Government is imbued with a broader spirit, and that he need have no fear but what the expenses of both gentlemen will be taken care of.

In closing I wish to compliment my good friend the Opposition Financial Critic, on his address and offer him my sincere sympathy in not having more available material to assist him in his difficult task.

I thank you Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members for your kind indulgence in listening to my remarks, with only the surface touched of a very few of the many accomplishments achieved by the present Government during their two and one-half year term of office.

I thank you.

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2 "An answer like that will soften the bitterest critic. There is only one condition. You must be sincere when you say it. And you should be—because it is perfectly true. You really would feel that way if you were the other person. You couldn't help yourself. Heredity and environment would dictate your feelings."

3 "So try to understand the other person. Try to be sympathetic. Three-fourths of the people you meet are thirsting for sympathy. "Give it to them. Give it to all of them—even to the most bigoted, unreasonable and antagonistic among them. 'Love your enemies!'"

4 "What a pleasant place this old world will become when we all learn that simple lesson! "So remember, put yourself in the other person's place ... show sympathy and understanding—and watch the magic work!"