

# Legislature Is Prorogued After Seven Weeks Session

## Lieutenant-Governor MacLaren Read Speech From Throne Last Night Proroguing House; A Heated Session.

The House closed last night. With the close of the last session of the present Legislature near at hand interest soared high on both sides of the House as well as in the crowded galleries.

Hon. Mr. Dysart, the leader of the Opposition after much heated discussion managed to hold the floor and send an avalanche of questions in regard to certain expenditure on the part of the government. Mr. Richard of Gloucester and Mr. Pirie of Victoria were in the vanguard with more questions and criticisms.

The government had ready answers. The Attorney General, showed that slot machines an occasion of evil had been ordered removed without discussing at penalizing undeserving cases and justifying the action of the R. C. M. P. As to the alleged enormous cost of the force, the federal government had a right to be paying the sum of that it was paying, since much of the police duty was Dominion. The alleged Compensation Board scandal over an item of ten dollars brought about by the mislaying of a letter containing the said ten dollars was not so revolting as the leader of the opposition had claimed.

Various other matters were heatedly discussed as the session of 1935 drew to a close. Hon. Mr. Dysart, Hon. Mr. Stewart, the Attorney-General Hon. Mr. Harrison and the Premier, Hon. Mr. Tilley all took a hand in the discussion, which was the most heated heard during the session.

Considerable discussion took place over alleged irregularities in the Coun-

ty of Kent in connection with relief matters and also in connection with the workmen's Compensation Board affairs.

Hon. Mr. Dysart criticized these matters and in the course of the discussion said that it all went to show that great men sometimes went wrong. He thought it unfortunate that such a statement should have gone abroad, because it was likely to be accepted by the public at its face value. It was important to keep a check on public officials, otherwise, it would be difficult to tell what might happen. He had not asked that the name of the official of the Compensation Board be given to the public, but he noticed that the Attorney General had not been so careful regarding the names of officials who had been connected with relief accounts. He had in mind a case in the county of Kent. There had been shortage reported in other counties, but a member for Westmorland, who was looking after the matter, fell upon the county of Kent. In its determination to match an official of Kent County, the Government had led itself into a trap by trying to make it appear that there was a shortage of funds. The report of Leo Cain had besmirched the name of L. P. Robichaud, because he had declined to accept a statement from the Premier and because he was a political opponent.

Hon. Mr. Harrison in referring to the special investigation in Kent, said that during the previous year there had been investigations in Northumberland, Restigouche and Albert counties. The reason for the special

minion, and frequently the same complaints that came to Fredericton were also sent to Ottawa. It was only when information from the Kent County people themselves came in and the secretary treasurer had appeared at Fredericton, that investigation in Kent was started. That there was reason for it was abundantly shown, when it was found that out of approximately \$23,000 spent, there were only vouchers for about \$5,000, and yet the secretary had certified that he had vouchers to cover all the money spent. The Hon. Leader said "send an auditor;" what, he would ask, would be the good of an auditor with no accounts for him to audit. Investigation had shown that there were serious irregularities; in some cases even county councillors and their sons were drawing relief, to say nothing of station agents in receipt of salaries. Why, he would ask, was the report in regard to Albert County not asked for? There were irregularities there, as there were in several other counties, and the reports he (Stewart) had received were treated as departmental papers, and not given out to the public unless asked for in the regular way.

It was not expected that the secretary treasurer should have personal knowledge of all persons on relief, but he was expected to see that he got proper returns from other officials, and he was the only officer in the county with which the Government had to deal. He (Stewart) had not given out any information till it was asked for, and the Leader of the Opposition was the man who was responsible for parading the secretary-treasurer's name before the public. The investigator had had to go throughout the length and breadth of the county to find vouchers, and to the extent of \$5,000 he could not find any. Only on receiving the secretary-treasurer's signature to a certificate that he had vouchers in his hands covering all expenditures was further money sent to him.

Mr. Dysart said that the Minister (Stewart), after displaying the Cain report in the press, says the Opposition is responsible for parading Mr. Robichaud's name before the people. It was too bad that there had not been a change in government in 1930, so that there might have been men in the Government who would have had things in shape and not in the hopeless muddle that they had been in the last few years. Two years ago he (Dysart) had shown in the House that in Westmorland County a man with forty cows, eight horses, tractors and motor trucks was on relief; one of many similar cases in that county; yet no investigator was sent to Westmorland County, but this was election year, and every political advantage must be taken.

Following this discussion the House took up much time in the middle of the night discussing the prices paid for road machinery and Mr. Dysart quoted figures to show that the machinery purchased by the government in this province cost much more than the same machinery in Nova Scotia.

The report of the Public Accounts Committee as published in yesterday's Daily Mail was presented to the House. It was signed by the supporters of the Government on the Committee. The opposition members on the committee had refused to sign the report.

Mr. Richard (Gloucester), on the motion to adopt the report, said that as a member of the Committee he had refused to sign it, as he did not have time to fully investigate the accounts of the province. It has been revealed that a quantity of liquor had been shipped to Boston to a Sportsmen's Show in January 1934. The director of the Bureau appeared before the Committee and admitted that he was aware of the shipment, but that the matter had been looked after by his predecessor. Where the liquor was purchased and what amount was paid for was not disclosed before the Committee. The meeting adjourned on Tuesday with the understanding that the director would return with certain information, but he had not done so. At the meeting this morning the chairman refused to allow this official to be recalled, and he also refused to summon Mr. Fulton of the Liquor Control Board to give an explanation. He (Richards) claimed that the Committee should have been given an opportunity to investigate the whole matter, but the rule of closure was applied. A telegram from the sec-

(Continued on Page Three)

Inquiry in Kent was because of damaging reports that recipients of relief were compelled to pay one-third of the cost of the same into the county treasury. The county on the other hand had to show that it had paid its share of relief before it could get any money from the Provincial and Federal Governments. It was necessary for the secretary-treasurer to certify that the county had made its payments, and the peculiar method of dealing with the matter which had been employed was thought to be a fit subject for investigation.

Mr. Dysart said he would like to see the certificate that the Kent County secretary signed. There was nothing about a certificate in the Cain report.

Hon. Mr. Harrison said the relief accounts came into the Public Works Department, and the certificates must be there.

Mr. Dysart said the information given by the Attorney General was contrary to the report. Why did the Government when they could have got an auditor for ten dollars a day, send a political supporter at twenty-five dollars a day to besmirch the name of a political opponent? No such certificate as he (Harrison) had mentioned could anywhere be found. Why single out Kent County to get a dagger in the back of a political opponent?

Hon. Mr. Tilley said the leader of the Opposition talked as if the whole matter was a political plot. The facts were—when the different municipalities met with the Government at Fredericton last fall to discuss relief, the only county that did not make a proper statement was the County of Kent. It was the only county not able to produce vouchers for more than a small portion of the expenditure. Under those conditions, it was surely time to send an investigator into Kent. Would the Leader of the Opposition say that some people were not compelled to pay in one-third of the money to which they were entitled under relief?

Hon. Mr. Harrison read from the Commissioner's Report, showing that a large number of vouchers were not in the secretary-treasurer's hands.

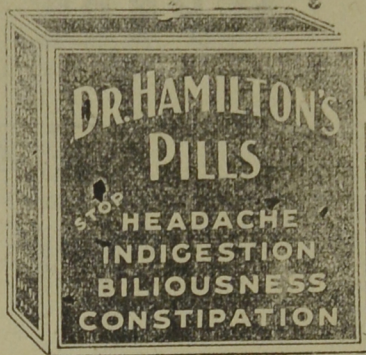
Mr. Dysart said that was a horse of another color. Why did he not produce the certificate? Was it fair to hold the county secretary responsible for all the officials in the county? He could mention certain Conservative merchants in some parishes, in fact Mr. Robichaud found that a very prominent supporter of the Government was at fault, and he went to the man and got his accounts straightened up for him. A more honorable young man than Mr. Robichaud could not be found in the Province, yet the Attorney General had tried to besmirch him because he was a Liberal candidate.

Hon. Mr. Tilley said it was because Kent County needed investigation of the Secretary-Treasurer to the way more than any other county for last fall he had had to draw the attention the books were not kept.

Mr. Dysart said it was the fault of the department; if they had employed the accountants he had before referred to, they could have gone around and instructed the county officials just how to keep their books. Instead of sending auditors, the Government had sent a lawyer with no experience in accounting. Rumor had it they were grooming him for political honors. Mr. Cain was not satisfied with drawing twenty-five dollars a day, but he piled up his travelling expenses in an unreasonable manner. His expense account showed that he had travelled seventy-five miles over the same road for three consecutive days, working in Rogersville and sleeping in Rexton.

### HON MR. STEWART

Hon. Mr. Stewart said the Leader of the Opposition was talking idle nonsense. Investigations had been held in Albert, Northumberland and Restigouche, on account of complaints coming in from responsible citizens, and it should be remembered that the province had to act because part of the money was coming from the Do-



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(L.S.)  
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The Administratrix of the above deceased intestate having filed her accounts in this Court, and asked to have the same passed and allowed and order for distribution made, you are hereby cited to attend if you so desire, at the passing of the same, at a Court of Probate to be held in and for the County of York, at my office in the City of Fredericton, in the County of York, on MONDAY, the FIFTEENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, at the Hour of TEN O'CLOCK in the forenoon, when the said accounts will be passed upon and order for distribution made.

Given under my hand the 22nd day of March, 1935.

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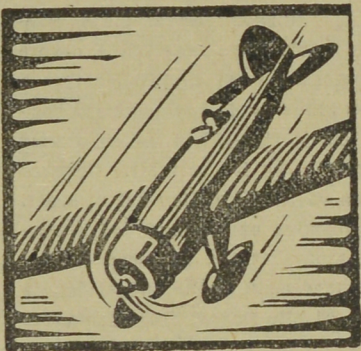
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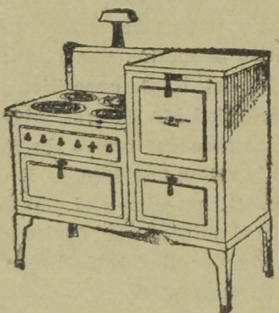
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