

The Humble Potato Occupied Attention Of House Yesterday

Resolution by F.W. Pirie and Amendment by Hon. Lewis Smith Debated—Amendment Carried—Budget Debate is Resumed.

The humble potato held the undivided attention of the law makers of New Brunswick yesterday. Considerable clashing took place between the two fighting lines. The air waxed warm, the atmosphere was political all on behalf of the farmer who would earn his daily bread by means of the "Murphies." It all happened this way. The bold and brave opposition in their great interest for the farmer brought in a resolution demanding help in the way of a bonus from the Federal government so as to ensure fifty cents per barrel to the producer.

Mr. Pirie, of Victoria, the mover of the resolution, went on to explain that the Federal government had in the past given cash bonuses to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, also that the fishermen of the province of New Brunswick had received assistance. He said the farmers were not asking anything unreasonable, that after all this help would only be a drop in the bucket compared to what the Federal government had done for the Western provinces who were still asking for millions of dollars. Mr. Pirie himself as a potato grower, wouldn't accept the bonus personally, but he hoped the resolution would receive the support of every member of the House.

Mr. Dysart, leader of the Opposition, in rising to support the motion, said the resolution was voicing the sentiments of the agricultural population and that it was non-political. He said tariffs were in a large measure responsible for the hard plight of the potato grower.

Hon. Mr. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture, rose to move an amendment to the resolution. Referring to Mr. Pirie who, the speaker said, was a large potato grower and always managed to get the lion's share of the market, he would state that the resolution before the house was 99% political and one percent self advertisement. He said the marketing Board had been created to help the potato grower and since its inception the decrease in shipping had been less. He commented on the method of approach to the Federal government by the opposition first striking below the belt then asking for a favor. The Federal government had given bonuses to the Western provinces only one year and this help had been open to all parts of Canada. He therefore moved that this resolution be amended, this being seconded by E. W. Melville, of Carleton county. The member from Carleton county thought the Opposition were discourteous to Ottawa. The government had taken up this matter previously and had been confidentially advised that this could not be done, but something would be done in the way of assisting the farmers.

Mr. Melville said it was rumored there was a new opposition leader wanted.

Opp.—Order, order.

Speaker—"I would ask the Hon. member to stick to his topic."

Mr. Melville—"The leader of the opposition did not stick to his topic."

Mr. Pirie—"It seems as if my resolution got under the skin of the government members."

Mr. Melville—"I was stopped, I rise to a point of order."

Speaker—"Every speaker must confine himself to lines of the amendment."

Continuing, Mr. Pirie said that on account of the potato plot better known as the Marketing Board New Brunswick potatoes had been discriminated against in favor of the upper provinces, and he quoted figures to bear out his contention. Mr. Pirie said the most serious effect of the potato scheme was that Ontario and Quebec were getting every encouragement. The Quebec farmer does not have to use commercial fertilizer which gives him an advantage. He felt the scheme was liable to drive the New Brunswick farmer out of the business and he urged the

Minister to check up and abandon the potato scheme.

Mr. Groom of Charlotte said if the present scheme does not suit, let us modify the scheme but let us do something to create a market. He did not believe an increase of one or two acres per farmer in Quebec would have the effect of driving the potato grower out of business. He also stated that Mr. Pirie was in a position to go outside and establish contact which the small grower did not have.

Mr. Perry, of Carleton county, opened his remarks with his usual store of humor, saying there was no better citizen in private life than Mr. Pirie but in politics he was awful (laughter). When prices went up years ago, everybody began to raise potatoes. The greatest obstacle to the farmer now was the large producer and farmers object to mass production. He was heartily in favor of helping the farmer, there was market for only one half the New Brunswick crop. He would hate to see Mr. Pirie leave the country but after the next election he would feel like leaving the country.

The Speaker presented both resolution and amendment to the House. Mr. Dysart rose before the adoption of the amendment. He considered this the most important discussion of the session. The resolution in its amended form was not impaired from the original resolution except that it was slushy. "If we have a right, we should demand it," said Mr. Dysart, let us have the sand to use the word "demand" and as to remarks about wanting to know who was the leader of the opposition, if the government should dissolve the house, they would soon know who was the leader of the opposition. He regretted the unfortunate amendment of the resolution.

The House divided on the resolution and on the amendment both of which were as follows:

THE RESOLUTION

Whereas the potato growers of New Brunswick are suffering serious losses due to the lack of general markets for their products and the low prices consequent thereon,

And whereas, the markets in Ontario and Quebec, which heretofore afforded to our producer a limited outlet for their potatoes, have been practically lost to them through the operations of the federal potato marketing scheme which, with its system of pegged prices, restrictions and arbitrary regulations, has created conditions under which our producers cannot compete in those markets with the farmers of Ontario and Quebec; for which conditions the Dominion Government must accept responsibility,

And whereas the Dominion Government has, for a number of years, given substantial assistance to the wheat growers of the West in various forms including bonuses on their entire crop during a certain period; while the fishermen of New Brunswick have also received during recent years financial assistance through bonuses granted them,

Therefore resolved that in the opinion of this House, the Government of this Province should immediately demand that the Government of Canada, in order to meet the present emergent conditions, grant to the potato growers of New Brunswick on the merchantable portion of their 1934 crop a sufficient bonus to ensure them a return of 50c. a barrel on all stock marketed, or to be marketed by them, and on all excess stock a bonus of twenty-five cents a barrel.

The amendment which was moved by Honourable Mr. Smith seconded by Mr. Melville, that the Resolution in its amended form shall read as follows:—

"Whereas the potato growers of New Brunswick are suffering serious losses due to the lack of general markets for their products and the low

prices consequent thereon;

And Whereas steps have been under the Dominion Marketing Act and the Provincial Marketing Act, to help the potato industry by organizing the Eastern Canadian Potato Marketing Board, covering the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario;

And Whereas the said Board is now functioning through agencies in each of the said four Provinces in an endeavour to dispose of the over production of the potato crop.

Therefore resolved that in the opinion of this House the Government of this Province should immediately request the Government of Canada to grant to the potato growers of New Brunswick such bonus or other assistance as will be of the greatest advantage to those engaged in the potato industry in this Province.

The amendment was carried by the following vote.

The House divided and the amendment carried on the following vote:—

YEAS—Hon. Messrs. Cockburn, Leeger, Tilley, Harrison, Stewart, Smith, Taylor; Messrs. White, Fairweather, Atkinson, Brooks, Siddall, Groom, Perry, Jewett, Dougan, Melville, Taylor, Evans, Moore, McAllister.—21.

NAYS—Messrs. Dysart, Doucet, Bordage, Anderson, Richard (Kent), Gill, Tweedie, Colpitts, Downey.—9.

Mr. Doucet of Gloucester continuing the debate on the budget accused the government of lack of statesmanship and responsibility. The Hon. Provincial Secretary Treasurer had tried to put balm on the soreness of the public in regard to the finances of the country. He criticized the tactics of the premier about deciding the date of the next election, also the raising of salaries. The minister of public works should have foregone the raise of salary since he styled himself in the past as a rich man. He himself was ready to forego his indemnity although one of the poorest members in the House. He criticized the lavish expenditure of all the departments except that of agriculture, road machinery had cost 1,500,000.00, now much of it rusting away.

The Smith Foundry purchase he claimed was unnecessary; Pay roll padding he said, also added to the deficit. He claimed the provincial hospital was a burden on the municipalities. He advocated that more money be spent on the teaching of agriculture holding out Denmark as an example. He said we were behind Quebec and Nova Scotia in this department of agriculture should spend more money in these lines. He was proud of the stand he had always taken on colonization which requires serious thought.

Resuming the debate after supper Mr. Doucet concluded his speech by pointing out the good work done by the different Liberal administrations.

W. B. EVANS

Mr. Evans of Queens (Government member) extended congratulations to the Honourable Provincial Secretary-Treasurer for having so fully and clearly defined the financial situation of the province. He felt confident that we are coming to more prosperous conditions. The serious social and industrial conditions had been beyond the control of any government. The government had by careful administration, by economizing, and wise legislation lightened the burden the people had to bear and there were now many proofs of the return of prosperity. The credit of the province had remained good and there was an increased activity in all kinds of industry. One matter of great importance to Queens County, which he had the honor to represent was that of branch railway lines. The Duff Commission had recommended the closing of the Norton to Chipman line by the C. P. R. He had strongly protested against this and mentioned it to the Hon. Premier, petition had been sent in, they had got action for which he wished to thank the Premier. There are three thousand residents who have no other way of communication in winter time. The province has too much money tied up in branch lines to close them. The Norton-Chipman last winter had more traffic than it could handle. He felt sure the Marketing Board

could solve the problem of getting a price to the farmer for his products. The Minimum Wage in the woods had also proved very beneficial. As to the public debt, the government had to spend money to keep up the necessary services. The government tried to increase revenue by industrial activity and by subsidy from the Federal Government. The White Commission had given us an increase of 300,000 which was no small amount. We have many things to show for the debt we have incurred. He would like the opposition to name any one expenditure they would not have made, he would like to see them rise and have the courage to say just what they would not have done. As to old age pension, he said all agreed older people should be looked after, but the cost of old age pensions would be beyond the means of this province he did not introduce social legislation because he did not know where to obtain the wherewithal necessary to do it with. Legislation had been passed to protect the miner. Mining inspectors and safety engineers were employed in the mines and a large percent of the accidents came from the lack of safety habits on the part of the miners who needed to be more safety conscious. The Government has set the good example of burning Minto coal where possible, the Minto Coal Mines being the largest single industry in the Province. They had to compete with lower freight rates from Nova Scotia which prevents them paying higher wages for the hazardous and strenuous work of the miner.

Mr. Evans said the day was not far off when the Commission would need a source of increased energy and the logical place to secure this was from the Grand Lake plant, which he assured the Hon. Premier on inquiry could supply that increased energy. He referred to the annual speech of the Hon. Member for Gloucester on colonization and increased representation. Queens County always had two representatives and would strongly protest against any representation being less for Queens, which was not based on population. Before the next session the people of the province would have an opportunity of saying whether they wanted the present government to remain in office or if they wished the Opposition to form a new government. The present government has worked diligently and we feel assured the Tilley Government will be returned.

MR. BORDAGE

Mr. Bordage of Kent County spoke at some length and made one of the best speeches which he has made in the Legislature. He dwelt on the finances of the province, and claimed that the government has been remiss in carrying out several promises of reform. He criticized the government's colonization and agricultural policies and what he claimed was extravagant expenditure in the Public Works and other departments he believed that the erection of an agricultural college erected in Fredericton would do much to assist in the development of the agricultural resources of the Province. He believed also that the farmers would be more interested in the promotion of smaller fairs than a few larger exhibitions. In the smaller fair the farmer would exhibit their cattle, sheep and swine and would be interested in seeing that his neighbor did not get ahead of him in the raising of farm products coming at a late hour at the close of a heavy day it is impossible to handle his speech as fully as one would wish.

VATICAN City, March 12—A Mexican named Carlos Roberto Murgay, who was arrested five days at the Vatican after several attempts to see Pope Pius, sailed from Trieste yesterday on the S. S. Saturnia.

Vatican and Italian police announced that his departure from Italy closed an incident which at first seemed like an attempt on the life of His Holiness.

Italian police questioned Murgay for a whole day after his arrest, having found a long, sharp stiletto inside his shirt while on the Vatican premises.

They did not disclose what they discovered concerning the man's affiliations, revealing only that he was a Mexican and a Catholic.

They sent him to Trieste, accompanied by a policeman, since his round-trip ticket to Italy called for embarkation there. The official announcement was that Murgay was "permitted to sail".

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NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is Hereby Given that pursuant to the provisions of the Towns Incorporation Act 1927, and amending Acts and under by virtue of a Warrant to me directed dated the 29th day of January, A. D. 1935, and issued by the Town Treasurer of the Town of Devon, in the County of York for taxes against the Charles Bolster Estate, assessed in the name of Mrs. Charles Bolster, I will sell at Public Auction in front of the Town Office, in the Town of Devon, in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick on SATURDAY the SIXTH DAY of APRIL, A.D. 1935, at TEN O'CLOCK in the FORENOON, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand of the said Charles Bolster Estate in and to the following lands and premises, namely: "ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Village of Gibson in the Parish and County aforesaid and described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the Northwest side line of Gill Street sixty-six feet Southwesterly from the centre of the C. P. Railway and the Southwesterly corner of Lot No. 1 now occupied by Percy E. Jewett, thence North twenty-two degrees, fifteen minutes West along said Jewett's line ninety-nine feet six inches (99' - 6") to a stake, thence South sixty degrees forty five minutes West fifty feet to a stake, thence South eighteen degrees East eighty-seven feet to a stake on the Northwesterly side line of Gill Street, thence along said side line North seventy-four degrees east fifty feet (50 ft.) to a place of beginning containing four thousand six hundred and sixty-two feet more or less."

Terms—Cash.

Dated at the Town of Devon, in the County of York this Fifth day of March, A.D. 1935.

LEO F. HAYES,
Marshal, Town of Devon.

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