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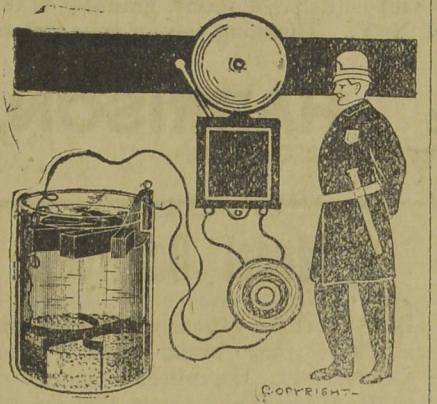
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A PRACTICAL SPEECH.

Mr. Carpenter Quoted Facts and Figures to Prove Success of Government's Agricultural Policy.

Speaking in the budget debate in the legislature Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Carpenter said: Like the preceding speaker I hoped early in the debate to excuse myself from taking part therein, but as it progressed I was driven to the conclusion that I could not give a silent vote. I agree with those gentlemen who have said that this has been a noble debate and one creditable to the intelligence of the House. As in the past the opposition painted a very gloomy picture of government extravagance and misrule and no doubt honestly felt that it was doing its duty as an opposition. I credit them with honesty of purpose, but I see not so very faintly revealed, the desire behind it all to occupy the treasury benches where they would perchance fall into the same practice and methods for which they now assault the government.

The increase of the debt of the country and the rolling up of the interest is one of the main points of criticism and denunciation, but I put it to the opposition to say, would New Brunswick be today without its debt and the great public works for which that debt was incurred. Our debt was created to develop the country. I feel that the government has only done its duty in expending money freely, but under wise conditions, in the interest of the great services of the Province.

The opposition members for Carleton County, have had considerable to say this session about the bridges of that county. I remember 60 years ago it was the Harland bridge, now it is the Florenceville bridge, but surely the people of Carleton have nothing to complain of, as they have been generously treated by the government in the matter of bridges at most important points.

I considered it most unfair when criticising the department of agriculture for the opposition to insult the head of that important branch of the public service because he was only a practical everyday farmer. Why 60 per cent. of the provincial output is provided by farmers who are today the greatest producers in this or any other country. The mines may exhaust the mineral wealth hidden under ground, the axemen may strip the forest bare of its treasures, but the farmer goes on like the brook forever, turning the soil into products for the feeding of mankind.

Comparison has been made in this debate by opposition speakers between what was done for agriculture in 1883 and what is being done by the government for the advancement of agriculture, the object being to discredit the work of the present administration, but in order to make any such showing it was necessary to make figures. The expenditure in 1883 was put by those speakers at \$24,000 and in 1905 at \$27,000. Mr. Smith of Carleton figuring that according to income, the percentage of agriculture was greater in the old time than it is now. But what do we find? Mr. Smith of Carleton, in the course of his speech claimed that in 1883 it only cost \$2 per cent. to expend the agricultural grant, but that is far removed from the fact, as it took 30 per cent. to cover that item of expenditure for that year.

In 1883 the grant to the Provincial exhibition was worked into the account, while it was omitted from the more recent totals which, if added would have made it \$32,000. All the government did in 1883 was to pay out grants to the agricultural societies and grants to the St. John exhibition, whereas now the work is a very comprehensive and exhaustive educational one, the department not only teaching the farmers how to know the make up of every soil, but the lines in which to produce the highest and best as well as the largest output of butter and cheese. Quality as well as quantity in farm products, is the keynote of the present system.

Some of the hon. gentlemen on the opposition side of the House in their zeal to minimize the work of the agricultural department, instituted a comparison based on census figures, they asserted between the farm progress of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick giving our sister province the higher place. Let us examine this statement. The total make of butter in Nova Scotia factories in 1904 was 321,402 lbs., whereas for the same year in New Brunswick it was 907,125 pounds. The total make of cheese in N. S. factories produced the large sum of 1,886,426 lbs.

But let us go further and examine the relative farm statistics of the two provinces. While New Brunswick had by the last census, but 35,000 occupiers of farms, Nova Scotia had 47,487 or 12,486 more. In improved land New Brunswick had 1,405,615 acres, Nova Scotia only 1,244,275. In field crops New Brunswick had 849,795 acres, Nova Scotia 720,166; whereas in pasture New Brunswick had 688,448 acres while Nova Scotia possessed 1,132,051 acres.

Taking the relative grain crops we find New Brunswick with 375,724 bushels of spring wheat and Nova Scotia with 246,185 bushels. In oats New Brunswick raised 4,811,939 bushels and Nova Scotia 2,342,358 bushels or 2,469,581 bushels less than one crop. In buckwheat New Brunswick raised 1,389,518 bushels and Nova Scotia but 195,928 or 1,194,390 bushels less of peas while New Brunswick grew 16,761 bushels, Nova Scotia is only credited with 2,881 bushels. In beans we run a pretty close race, New Brunswick producing 12,392 bushels and Nova Scotia 15,313.

Then take the relative root crops of potatoes, New Brunswick grew 4,588,334 bushels and Nova Scotia 4,

269,610 bushels a credit balance of 318,724 bushels to our province and of field roots we produced 2,061,466 bushels and Nova Scotia 2,057,865 bushels. In hay Nova Scotia is a little ahead raising 646,774 tons to 510,538 in New Brunswick.

When it comes to live stock Nova Scotia shows up in creditable form, but it will have been seen that New Brunswick has nothing to be ashamed of. In milk cows the figures are New Brunswick ahead.

While provincial exhibitions may be good for the farmers and I do not want to be understood as decrying exhibitions, they do not compare in beneficial results, dollar for dollar with what can be accomplished by institute work and I give the commissioner of Agriculture full credit for the grand work his department is doing in this direction. Take a grant of \$5,000 to an agricultural exhibition in St. John. It would cost every farmer \$10 to take in the exhibition properly, whereas, under the institute system the knowledge is brought to their very doors. Take \$5,000 grant to the exhibition, \$30,000 for what the farmers would spend going to it, and \$18,000 for the value of the time lost while away from home and you have a total sum sufficient to place 1,000 institute lecturers in the field and to cover every part of the province. Then if the farmers would take even a part of what they had saved by staying at home and would put it into improved seed and improved stock they would be gainers to a degree that could never be attained through the medium of exhibition grants. Speaking of improved seed reminds me that one of the members for Carleton took great credit for himself this year for improving the seed oats of that county but he omitted to state that the government was at the very time holding its fourth annual seed fair under the auspices of the Carleton Co. agricultural society in the town of Woodstock. There was a great seed exhibit and some \$80 were distributed in prizes.

Last year we heard some hard words about the Central railway, but according to the latest advice the "sink hole" as the opposition delighted to call it, does not look as bad as it formerly did. The offer of a rental equal to three per cent. on an expenditure of \$700,000, while a satisfactory proposition is one that I believe the government would be justified in hesitating to accept until it had made the fullest enquiry into the possibility of even better offers coming in in the near future. I have faith in the ultimate success of the road and in its ability to justify the government for every dollar it has expended on this undertaking.

As to the criticisms of the new Highway Act, I take issue with most of them because they are premature, the act not yet having had time to demonstrate its working, but I must express my strongest dissent from the charge that it is more expensive than its predecessor. Under the old law a man had to pay \$2 on an assessment of \$100. Under the present law he pays \$1.12, on \$200 he pays now \$1.24, under the old law he paid \$2 on \$300, it is now \$1.36 formerly it was \$2 on \$400, now it is \$1.48, it was \$2.50 on \$500, now it is \$1.60. All taxes below a valuation of \$3,000 are lower than under the old regime and this bears equitably on the small land owner.

Mr. Speaker, we live in an age of prosperity and advancement, we live in a country just throwing off its baby clothes and just as we stand together for the good of our province so will it march ahead in the path of progress and industrial activity. I will take pleasure in voting for the resolution and against the amendment.

MR. OSMAN'S PROTEST.

After recess Mr. Osman said while I have listened to this debate with great interest certain remarks have been introduced which, whether right or wrong, others will judge, but which I would prefer had not been said. I heard the remarks of the attorney general which have been objected to and I failed to see that his remarks were too strong, considering the manner in which he had been treated by the opposition. I presume that the people of this province want the services of their best men and I do not think such attacks should be made as the attorney general has been subjected to. Last session the St. John Sun spoke in the most insulting terms of the members of this house, as if we were a gang of robbers, although every man here has come at considerable personal sacrifice. The attorney general is a very distinguished man and he has offered to submit his whole case to an independent committee. If there is any basis for the attacks of the opposition this offer should have been accepted. A man of his ability and value to the country should not be subjected to such attacks.

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