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DAILY HERALD

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1907

HE MADE GOOD

Hon. C. W. Robinson was in rather a difficult position in the legislature Saturday, when he rose to continue the budget debate.

Although the honorable gentleman has been in political life for a number of years, the position of Speaker which he has held for nearly the whole period of his experience in the legislature, precluded him from taking part in the debates—practically closed his mouth, so that the people of the province, outside of Westmorland, had little knowledge of his ability as a public speaker.

Recently, Mr. Robinson was admitted to the government and was announced as the next provincial secretary, so that he was expected to justify his selection for that important post by his speech in the budget debate.

The public appreciation or otherwise of Mr. Robinson as a gentleman fitted to fill so conspicuous and responsible a position, depended considerably on the appearance he would make in this debate, and for that reason great interest attached to this address.

Those who had followed Mr. Robinson's campaigns in Westmorland, who remembered the splendid and almost successful fight he put up against Mr. Powell in the federal election of 1896, and who were familiar with his efforts on the hustings in that fight and in the subsequent local elections in which he was returned to the legislature, had no fear but that he would acquit himself in the budget debate with distinguished ability, and they were not disappointed.

The honorable gentleman more than made good his previous reputation by his excellently conceived and forcibly delivered address on Saturday afternoon, and it is not too much to say that his friends were delighted with the showing he made, and his opponents acknowledge that the legislature added another strong debater to its already large contingent when Mr. Robinson stepped down from the Speaker's chair to take his place in the general discussion of the House, and in defence of the government, of which he will prove a most efficient member.

Mr. Robinson's familiarity with the financial affairs of the province, his easy, graceful delivery, his energetic defence of the ministry, his courteous bearing, and the whole matter and manner of his address, were most favorably commented on by his friend and foe alike, and marked him as a gentleman who will rank among the best men preceding him in the position of provincial secretary.

That he will have a brilliant political career is a generally accepted fact, and the government and the country are fortunate in having secured the services of so earnest and capable a gentleman.

TIME TO CALL IT OFF.

When the opposition have no better ammunition to fire at Premier Pugsley, than his change some ten or more years ago from a Conservative to a Liberal, they are really hard up for material with which to attack that gentleman.

Dr. Pugsley, like many another Conservative, because dissatisfied with the Tory way of running the country, he was especially displeased with the unfair treatment St. John received in the winter port business, he saw Portland continued as the winter port of Canada, and his first protest against Conservative rule was when he ran as an independent candidate for parliament in St. John in 1896, and aided in the defeat of the Tory candidates in that constituency. Since that Dr. Pugsley has given no aid or countenance to the Tory party, but on the contrary he has rendered valiant and successful service to the Liberals, and he is entitled to the gratitude of that party and is recognized as one of its leading members.

The late Dr. Stockton, up to a few years ago, was an ardent Liberal, but later he joined the Conservative party, which sent him to parliament. They were glad to avail themselves of so able a man, and his change of political views were not

eternally flung in his face by the Liberals. Surely Dr. Pugsley is entitled to as much credit for conscientiously leaving the Conservatives and joining the Liberals as was extended to Dr. Stockton, and surely the time has arrived when Tory attacks on the Premier because of the course he adopted should be called off. They are certainly not effective, and serve only to discredit those who indulge in recrimination of that kind.

CURRENT COMMENT.

With a desire to give our readers both sides of the case, we shall tomorrow present Mr. Grimmer's speech in the legislature on the budget, crowded out of today's issue.

It will be most regrettable if Sir Wilfrid Laurier is prevented from attending the Colonial Conference by the backward condition of parliament's business. The responsibility for this condition rests with the opposition, who have shown no desire to facilitate the business, but on the contrary have retarded it by useless discussion.

The London Standard says: "We trust that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be able to surmount the difficulties which may prevent him attending the colonial conference, as the conference would be shorn of part of its usefulness and no little of its dignity, if the most distinguished representative of public life in the Dominion were unable to guide it with his counsel and adorn it with his presence."

GOVERNMENT DEFENDED.

(Continued from first page.)

will be connection between Chipman and Fredericton by means of the road and the Intercolonial. This road has cost the province some money, but if a sum which we expend will give us an adequate return and we should not be afraid to expend \$100,000 or even \$1,000,000.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

Then as regards the railway down the St. John river valley. We, who live in Westmorland are pretty well supplied with railways and we all recognize the need of a railway down the St. John river valley. This as a mere local line might not pay but it will as part of a great continental system. It will traverse a country that is well settled, rich in agricultural wealth and that is shut out from the rest of the province during the winter. I do not suppose that even our opponents will argue against the building of the road or that there is one of them who will object to the proposed guarantee of bonds if properly secured. It seems to me that this is the best railway proposition we have ever had and I, for one, feel that the people who live in my section of the country are generous enough to stand by this proposal. This railway is the more important because of the fact that it will bring traffic to our commercial metropolis, St. John, and the development of St. John means benefit and growth for the whole of the province. We can all see a bright future for the province along these lines. The city of St. John with its new connection will go ahead by leaps and bounds, and every part of the province is interested in the growth of St. John.

No one, I think, will deny that this government

Is a Constructive Government.

watching for opportunities to assist in the development of this country. The province is not the same as it was in 1882 for our expenditures have naturally increased and we are giving much more money to education, public services, and other services than we did then. The education grant alone increased by \$52,000 and there will be a further increase of about \$20,000 for the benefit of the teacher. Certainly there is no class in the community which is more worthy of consideration than our teachers.

A great deal is being said by the opposition in regard to the debt of the province but after all is our debt such a burden? It amounted to just \$10.20 per head of the population as compared with \$40.37 for British Columbia, \$91.02 for Newfoundland, \$209.10 for Victoria, \$333.67 for New Zealand and \$368.24 for Queensland. The debt of the city of Moncton, where I reside, is about \$60 a head, and we were told the other day that the debt of the city of St. John is \$116 a head. In view of these figures I say that in New Brunswick we are

Not Going Beyond our Means.

In fact some think we are going too slow. If we consider what our assets are there is certainly no portion of Canada that is in a better financial condition. There is no better test of the prosperity of the people than the amount they have in the government savings bank and in this respect New Brunswick stands ahead of every other province. In 1903, which is the last return I have, the people of New Brunswick had in the savings bank and postal banks \$10,310,511 or \$30.83 for every man, woman and child in the province. This is nearly double the amount held by the people of Nova Scotia, who have been in the savings banks \$17.19 per head and more than double the amount held by the people of Ontario, who have \$13.23 per

head. The average over all Canada is \$12.72 per head.

After all, liabilities are no proof of lack of prosperity.

If they were the banks of Canada would be in a very poor condition. As a matter of fact there are no banking institutions in the world more prosperous although their liabilities have increased to the amount of \$388,000,000 in ten years.

I believe there is no Province in Canada in which the average condition of the people is as good as it is in New Brunswick. Let us take a glance at the resources of the Province. We have 10,000 square miles of well timbered land on which there is an average growth of 300,000,000 superficial feet every year, while the amount cut annually is considerably less than half that. It follows therefore that our crown lands are constantly increasing in value and surely some credit is due to the policy of the government which has conserved our forest wealth. A former government of this Province gave away 1,000,000 acres of our crown lands worth at the least calculation \$3 an acre, while this government pursues an entirely different policy and keeps the crown lands of the province in a constant state of improvement.

The Public Debt.

There is another matter and a very important one, in regard to which I wish to speak. This \$100,000 which we are to receive from the Dominion Government may be so applied as to greatly reduce our interest accounts and in the end wipe out our entire indebtedness. This Province has \$440,000 worth of six per cent. debentures falling due between now and the year 1911. There are other debentures falling due within the same period amounting to \$2,652,000 on which we pay \$125,181 interest. It is the intention of the government to set aside this sum of \$130,000 a year for the payment of special debentures to be guaranteed by the government of Canada. We hope to negotiate these debentures at three per cent. or near it and this will save us at least \$30,000 in interest, which sum will be set aside as a special sinking fund for the payment of the debt. In fifty years this sum, principal and interest, will amount to \$3,483,000 or considerably more than the net debt of the Province. I think that this measure will commend itself to every member of this house.

In conclusion I might say that there is nothing in the state of the Province which makes it necessary to take a discouraging view of our position. It is our duty to realize our magnificent resources and to go forward prudently, yet firmly, on our way. There may be other sections of this country which have greater wealth at present, but the future is ours and we will do our best regardless of criticism to assist in accomplishing the prosperity of this Province to which we belong. (Applause.)

THE PASSION PLAY.

Its Origin. According to the Tradition of Oberammergau.

According to local tradition, the origin of the Oberammergau Passion play was as follows: When in the year 1633 a deadly plague threatened to depopulate the districts of Partenkirchen, Escheloko and Kohlgrub, which are separated from Ammerthal, or the valley of the Ammer, by a rampart of mountains, the Ammerthalers succeeded for a time in protecting themselves against the dread contagion, but one day a native who had been working all summer at Escheloko evaded the quarantine and entered the Ammerthal by a secret path in order to celebrate an annual church festival with his family. Two days afterward he was a corpse, and in less than three weeks the plague had carried off eighty-four of the Ammerthalers.

Despairing of all human succor, the terrified survivors addressed themselves to God and registered a solemn vow that if he heard their prayer and removed the scourge they would represent, every ten years, "for thankful remembrance and edifying contemplation, and by the help of the Almighty, the sufferings of Jesus, the Saviour of the world."

Not a single person died of the plague after the vow was made, though many were affected by it. The first representation of the Passion play in fulfillment of the vow of these simple villagers took place at Oberammergau in the following year, and it has been repeated every ten years without a single omission.

Crayons.
Crayons are made of a fine paste of chalk or pipe clay, colored with pigments and consolidated with gum or wax.

Lake Erie.
Lake Erie was named by the Iroquois Erie, from a fierce tribe living on its shores. The French call it Raccoon lake, and on various old maps it appears as Lac de Conly, Lac Herrie, Lac Erie, Lac Eriocole or Eriez.

An Old Proverb.
One of the oldest proverbs in the English language is, "All is not gold that glitters." John Lydgate, its author, wrote it, "All is not gold that outward sheweth bright."

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Farquhar's Scold.
Farquhar, the dramatist, thought he was marrying a rich, talented, and amiable girl and when asked about her declared that he had got "a scold, who carried her wealth on her back and her intellect on her tongue."

Crete.
Crete was conquered by the Turks in 1669, but has been in rebellion practically ever since that date.

Denver.
Denver was named after James W. Denver, an ex-governor of Kansas. Denver is situated on the sites of two towns, St. Charles and Aurora, which were consolidated in 1860 and the new name adopted.

Insects' Eggs.
No parental care ever falls to the lot of a single member of the insect tribe. In general, the eggs of an insect are destined to be hatched long after the parents are dead.

A Chinese Decoration.
The highest rank of Chinese mandarins sport umbrellas of red silk with three fountains.

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