

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1918

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## Telling Speeches In Local House

Government Men, In Budget Debate, Place  
Responsibility Where it Belongs; Opposition  
Criticism Answered

Prediction, N. B., April 10.—"This must be a pretty good government when the opposition can find nothing more serious in the way of criticism than is found in the remarks of the ex-attorney-general," said Hon. Mr. Robinson, in continuing the budget debate this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Robinson's speech was a fair and impartial review of matters dealt with in opposition criticism, and when he had concluded there was not much left of the carefully constructed tirade which Mr. Baxter had presented to the house on the previous evening. He showed how the responsibility for the financial condition of the province rests upon the previous government which had been in office five months of the year during which time the financial affairs had gained a momentum which could not be restrained by a new administration. A deficit was not unexpected, he said, they had estimated last year that it would be \$400,000 as a result of the heritage from the old government. The only criticism his honorable friend seemed to have to offer, he said, was that too much money had been spent. If this was a fault, it was the old government's fault.

Taking up in detail the matters referred to by the former attorney-general, the speaker showed how little there was in them on which to base reflections on the administration.

Referring to the crown lands finances, he said that the province had lost at least \$1,000,000 through the action of the former government.

The Valley Railway.

His efforts and those of his associates in opposition at that time to prevent the mistakes which have brought the Valley railway to its present condition, were touched on, but the speaker added that he was not a pessimist regarding the future of the road. The prospect of the use of part of the line as a through route to Boston would help to make it pay its way.

Congratulations were extended by the speaker to the government and the province upon the fact that the government included a gentleman of the ability and energy of the member who had framed the health bill, a measure which would make the province a leader in efforts to promote the public health.

The demand for vocational and trade schools was suggested by the speaker as a reason for approaching the federal government with a request that the eastern provinces should be permitted to share in the distribution of western lands for school purposes.

References to the attitude of some of the members on the speaker's right at the time of the federal elections was answered by a ringing statement of the desire of all the government members to hold up the hands of the Mother Country and to lend her every aid in the struggle for the cause of freedom and justice on which the empire now is engaged.

Speaker Cheered.

Prolonged cheers marked the close of Mr. Robinson's speech.

In a more or less humorous vein, touching lightly on various matters under discussion and on some which were not, Dr. McGrath, of Northumberland, was the next speaker. Referring to the suggestion made by Mr. Baxter that the only way to prevent corruption would be by putting the oath to every voter, male and female. He said he regarded this as an insult to the electors.

Mr. Tilley, of St. John, who followed, expressed disapproval of the way in which the estimate of receipts was made up. He also disapproved of the new health department and advocated an executive of four well paid members devoting all their time to the work. His speech was marked by the presence of some of the members who regarded some people, and said that even general charges should be dealt with as they are made.

At the opening of the afternoon session, Mr. Tilley introduced a bill to authorize municipalities to exempt government war bonds from taxation. This takes the place of a St. John bill of the same purpose, the government measure making the permission general. The third reading of a bill amending the school act was rescinded in order to deal at the same time with a St. John bill to increase the school assessment, to which it was said there would be opposition from this city.

Rev. Dr. Shearer Heard.

Rev. Dr. Shearer, dominion secretary for the Social Service Commission, addressed the members at the close of the afternoon session, dealing briefly with some of the matters in which the social workers are interested.

He congratulated the province on the introduction of the new health act, conveying the approval of the body which met in St. John this week. He pointed out that similar legislation had been

Mr. Peck, of Albert county, followed introduced in some of the western provinces since the war began and that economy in such matters might be the worst kind of wastefulness. He also referred to the approval of the Social Service Congress of the Workers' Compensation act now before the house.

Speaking of the aid given by the province towards the care of delinquent girls, he strongly recommended that the extension of this work should be carefully considered by the legislature and also that the great need for care for the defective and feeble-minded should not be overlooked.

Telling Speeches.

Mr. LeBlanc proved his ability as a hard-hitting debater when he continued the budget debate in the evening. His exposure of some of the opposition criticism was deadly; his counter remarks made very much to the point. He was followed by Mr. Gup-till, of Charlotte, who suggested the creation of another ministry, that of marine and fisheries, and promised his support for such an addition to the size of the executive.

Mr. Rolichaud, of Madawaska, who was the next speaker, gave a fine address which was received with expressions of approval from both sides of the house, as he appealed to better understanding and closer co-operation between the Acadians and the people of the province of British descent. It was a timely and telling speech.

Mr. Young, of York, dealt briefly with some aspects of the budget.

Hon. Mr. Burchill's Fine Speech.

Hon. Mr. Burchill made one of the most effective speeches of the day, grilling the opposition members for in-consistency and explaining his attitude towards the Valley railway and dealing with criticisms made by the members opposing it.

Referring to the warning given by Mr. Baxter for the guidance of the government, he said that it was all very well to pass these remarks from the chief of the opposition, but if they had been applied to their own conduct four or five years ago the condition of the province might have been better. Let the members on both sides of the house unite to keep the name of the province clean and its honor stainless. Let us learn that lesson at least from the sacrifices of our sons and brothers in France, he urged.

Referring to the Valley Railway, Mr. Burchill said that when the proposals first were made he had vigorously opposed them because he felt they were beyond the financial capacity of the province, and his honorable friend was wrong when he said there had been no protest from the then opposition.

It was his idea then the railway was to be built it should be built by the dominion government.

Dealing with criticism by Mr. Peck regarding the number of commissions on the St. John River and the North Shore, the speaker said he felt a distinction should be made in the rates such as had been existing years before. The suggestion had been made that the present government should look to their misdoings, and the speaker feared they had not had much time; they had been busy looking into the misdoings of their predecessors.

The member from St. John had criticized the number of administration heads. So far as he was aware the number was the same as in the government. Mr. Tilley had supported without protest. He had noticed that when members were in opposition they wanted the government to do the things they could not or were afraid to do when in power.

The speaker had complained that in some counties more money was spent by the public works department than in others. He ridiculed the idea that appropriations could be distributed by dividing them evenly among the counties.

The member opposite had complained that no money had been spent for colonization roads in St. John and some other counties. There were no colonies in the counties mentioned.

Regarding Corruption.

Regarding Mr. Tilley's remarks on corruption, the speaker said that if they could eliminate corruption such as had existed in some recent governments they would not need to work about corruption among the people. He believed that the simplest method of dealing with the election corruption problem was by the candidates on both sides agreeing not to spend any money. For, himself he had not and never would buy his way into the legislature.

Reference had been made by opposition members to the attitude of government members during the late federal election. He had no criticism to offer regarding the course taken by any man

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on a public issue when he acted according to his conscience, and he did not feel that other members had the right to make such criticisms.

A previous speaker had complained of insinuations that the members were grafters. He had sat in the house many years and he never had heard that any member with whom he had been associated was a grafter with regard to the passage of legislation.

With reference to stumpage rates he invited an investigation of the lumber industry to see if it could bear more burdens. The production of the raw material, he said, had increased in cost 100 per cent in the last six years.

At the close of Mr. Burchill's remarks the debate was adjourned until Thursday afternoon and the house proceeded with other business.

The bill to provide for the assessment for patriotic purposes was taken up in committee of the whole. Hon. Mr. Robinson presenting an additional clause setting forth the fact that \$400,000 would be for the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and \$118,000 for other patriotic purposes.

Mr. Murray, of Kings, and Mr. Baxter protested against the extra amount being included in the same bill, and Mr. Baxter objected to the money being handled by the provincial secretary.

When the vote was taken, however, they did not go on record as opposed to it. The audit act also passed the committee stage with some amendments. Following a time honored custom of the budget debate period, light refreshments were served with the speakers' compliments in the committee room.

Mr. Tilley moved for the suspension of the rule to permit of the introduction of a bill to enable the city of St. John to appoint a commission to act in the matter of the New Brunswick Power Company. He explained that the city wanted authority to appoint a commission of three members to investigate the whole matter in dispute. It was proposed that the commission should have authority to appoint an expert accountant or valuator. Leave having been granted, the petition was presented to the house.

## LONGEST AMERICAN CASUALTY LIST SINCE WAR STARTED.

Washington, April 10.—The largest casualty list for any day since the United States entered the war was announced by the war department today, indicating more activity in the American sector. There are 288 names on the list.

Five were killed in action, three died of wounds, 11 died of disease, seven died from accident, 10 were severely wounded, 245 wounded slightly, and two were missing in action.

Twelve lieutenants were among the men wounded.

## THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL TEACHERS GET RAISE

Winnipeg, April 10.—By the adoption of the school management committee by the Winnipeg public school board at its regular meeting last night, the salaries of 650 teachers will be increased, involving on the board an additional expenditure of \$100,000 for the current year. Principals, supervisors and teachers are all affected.

## SECOND READING GIVEN THE MAN POWER BILL

London, April 10.—In moving the second reading of the man power bill in the house of commons today, which was finally passed by a vote of 228 to 100, Sir George Cave, unionist member for Surrey, said it was the duty of the country to do everything it could do and that only then should it be entitled to use to the fullest extent the help given by its allies. Germany had made Europe an armed camp, he added, and the necessity of taking every man who could be spared was overwhelming.

Sir George declared that he had been advised that the application of the man power bill to Ireland would yield a large number of men, but if only five divisions could be got from Ireland it would be worth while. He did not believe the army would be needed to force the operation of the measure. The speaker added that even if there was an Irish parliament today the question of conscription in Ireland still would rest with the Imperial parliament.

Sir George, being continually interrupted by Nationalist members, said he doubted whether the voice of Ireland had yet been heard in the matter. The speaker of the House appealed to the Irish members to give Sir George a fair hearing.

Closure was applied and carried by a vote of 319 to 105, and Sir Charles Hob-house's amendment declaring that "while recognizing the gravity of the military situation, the house is of the opinion that the measure diminishes the naval and economic power of the nation without adding commensurately to the military strength," was defeated by a vote of 321 to 106.

## CLAN MACKENZIE VISIT TO SONS OF ENGLAND

The visit of Clan Mackenzie, No. 96, Order of Scottish Clans, to Marlborough Lodge, No. 207, Sons of England, last evening, was a splendid affair. The order of programme follows: Entry of Clan led by Piper Cruickshank, with bagpipes, amid great applause; address of welcome by T. H. Carter, supreme vice-president, Sons of England, followed by cheers; songs by F. J. Punter, president Marlborough Lodge; Walter Bag-nell, tuning on bagpipes; W. C. Parker, solo and encore; speech by Joseph Murdoch, chief of clan; Harry Marley, solo; instrumental trio, Messrs. Bond, Bagnell and Massie; speech, Royal Deputy of Clan, H. L. McCowan; home-made violin (one string) solo, Dr. Leonard; solo, Mr. Dennison; speeches, John Stanton and H. W. Brown, recently returned from the front; speech, F. Z. Fowler, past chief of clan; song, F. J. Punter, encore. Refreshments were served during the evening. A welcome was given to J. T. McGowan, clansman, who gave a very interesting address in observations at the front. J. S. Sears was also heard in a patriotic speech. The evening was concluded by the singing of the national anthem.

The Tammany machine is declared behind a movement to make W. R. Hearst governor of New York State.

### ROYAL YEAST

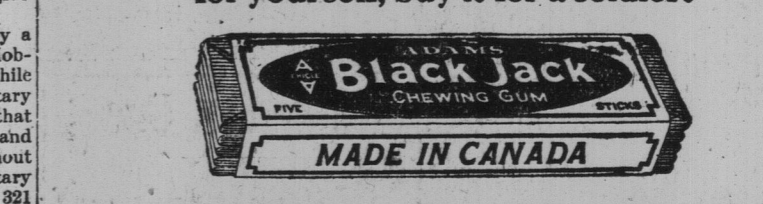
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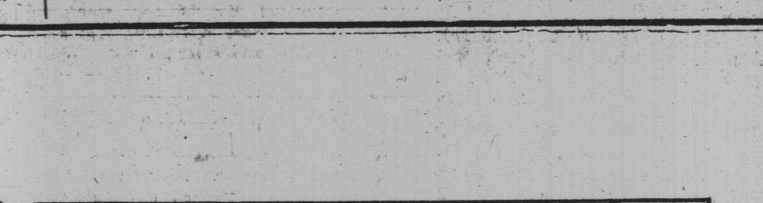


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