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**Sessional Notes.**

The House met at 4.15 on Monday afternoon 10th. When the orders of the day were reached Mr. Arsenault resumed the debate on the resolution to go into committee of supply. Referring to the statement made by a Government member that no public money had been spent improperly, he said that surely the member was not serious in this assertion. It was quite easy to point out numerous instances in which much money was wasted. He showed, as examples, several rights of way in his district that had been bought by the Government, some of them twenty years ago, but which had not been opened up to the present time, although these rights of way had done duty at more than one election. Another instance of improperly spending public money was the purchasing of 2,000 loads of clay from the cellar of Mr. J. J. Hughes Souris, and paying him \$188 for the same. He wanted a place to put the clay and it was spread on the streets of Souris, almost ruining them. He next showed up the unjust and unfair manner in which the adjusters of farm land taxes had done their work. He ridiculed the assertion made by Government members, that our roads were in good condition. He instanced the scandalous and dangerous condition of the western road and other neighboring highways. He said it was now a good many years since the Opposition took up the matter of securing cheaper school books. In 1907 the Opposition introduced a resolution on this matter, but the Government side tracked it simply to cause delay. But the Government later made a show of action in the matter. We have now the report of a school commission appointed by the Government. This commission cost the Province \$4,000 and yet the Government do not intend to take any action on their report. Before the people would be asked to contribute an additional cent towards education, the Government should properly expend the money already at their disposal. He read a long list of schools with attendance of between 6 and 10. 246 schools had an average attendance of less than 20. He went on to show the high cost per pupil in schools where the attendance is small. In consequence of this \$16,000 of public money were spent that need not be, as the shortage, in consequence of this small attendance, was paid out of the public treasury. Good teachers could not be had unless they have proper training. But there is no inducement here to hold trained or experienced teachers. He showed that the expenses of the Prince of Wales College had increased 61 per cent, within the last 15 years or so. The great want of our teachers was normal school training. He concluded his speech by moving the following resolution in amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply; seconded by Mr. McNeill:

Whereas it is essential to the welfare of this Province that the education provided by the Public Schools should be thorough, practical and progressive.

And Whereas the first requisite of good schools is good teachers and in order to retain and procure good teachers it is necessary, 1. That the training school at the head of the system should supply the best normal training that can be provided and 2. That adequate salaries be provided for teachers upon a plan involving increases proportioned to efficiency and length of service and provision for old age.

And Whereas under the school system as at present administered the average salaries of all male teachers and of the higher class female teachers have decreased as compared with 20 years ago, the enrollment of pupils has fallen by 4598 but the annual cost of Education has increased over Seventeen Thousand Dollars.

And Whereas upwards of \$16,000 are now wasted annually through failure to equalize to a reasonable degree the cost of educating the pupils in the different schools, in some instances the cost per pupil in attendance amounting to over \$37.50 being four times the general average and it is necessary that this waste be stopped and the amount saved be applied to increasing the salaries of the teachers and the efficiency of the schools.

And Whereas it would greatly improve the value of the Education afforded by the Public Schools if nature study were substituted for non practical subjects.

This Assembly Therefore affirms that a re-organization of the Public School System is urgently required in order to reform the many abuses which have developed therein to prevent the waste of public money and to provide for the introduction of modern and progressive methods.

And in particular this Assembly is of opinion.

1. That the cost per capita of educating the pupils in all the schools should be equalized as nearly as justice will permit.  
 2. That the course of studies be broadened and vitalized by substituting nature study for non-practical subjects.  
 3. That the study of natural science should extend through every class in each common school and should merge into this special study of Agriculture in the highest school of the system.  
 4. That Prince of Wales College should provide a thorough Normal training for teachers and for applicants for teachers licenses and should also provide an Agricultural Course adequate to the requirements of this Province.

5. That an experimental live stock farm is a necessary adjunct to the agricultural course to be furnished by the Province.

6. That in establishing such agricultural course the work of the college should be co-ordinated with the experimental farms system for illustrative purposes.

Mr. McKinnon thought that every member present should consider this the most important amendment; the most important resolution, indeed, that has come before the Legislature for a long time. Much attention has of late been attracted to the subject of education. Instead of progressing in our educational operations, we are retrograding. He read from the reports of the Inspectors and the Superintendent of education to show that we were advancing backwards in the important matter of education. Other movements in the Province are making some progress, but not our educational department. The same lack of efficiency was evident in the department of justice. He pointed out how the Commissioner of Public Works

had used \$349 improperly in connection with an educational wrangle in his own district. (The Leader of the Government here interrupted several times on the ground that the speaker was not adhering to the amendment before the House, and asked for Mr. Speaker's ruling. After a little sparring across the floor, Mr. Speaker asked Mr. McKinnon to keep as close as possible to the matter immediately before the House.) Referring to a statement of the Commissioner of Public Works that nineteen schools in the Cardigan district would be closed if the law were strictly enforced, Mr. McKinnon quoted from the reports of education officials to show that not one school in that district would be effected in the way the Commissioner had intimated.

The Leader of the Government at last, rose to make some reply. He spoke for over half an hour.

The debate was continued by Mr. McLean on behalf of the Opposition. He pointed out that this matter had been brought up in the House from year to year; yet little or nothing was done. The Government, he said, seemed to think things were well enough. If the report of the Commission is an excellent one, as the Premier says, why then do the Government fail to implement this report? Everyone who wishes to ascertain the real condition of things can easily find out by visiting certain schools, and it will be readily seen that the system is breaking down. The Government seem determined to do nothing to improve our educational system. The Opposition hold that we are paying too much for the returns we get. The Opposition are in earnest in this matter and they can only put themselves on record, if the Government are bound to vote down the resolution.

Hon. I. McDonald continued the debate on behalf of the Government. The House then divided when the amendment was lost on a vote of 12 to 14. The main motion then passed and the House went into committee of supply at 11 o'clock Mr. McWilliams in the chair.

After a short time in committee the Speaker took the chair and the chairman reported progress. The House then adjourned to 11 o'clock next day.

It was 12 o'clock when the House resumed in the evening. Mr. Dobie continued the debate on the amendment. He emphasized the importance of nature study, and other equipment for our young men and young women so that they may take a pride in our own country and stay at home. He thought members on both sides of the House should unite in support of the amendment under review. The Leader of the Government should formulate a plan by which our teachers may be better provided for.

The Leader of the Opposition considered the importance of the question before the House demanded the attention of the Government. It certainly was remarkable that the Leader of the Government failed to express his views on a subject so important as education. He reviewed the attitude of the Government towards obtaining relief for the people in the matter of education. The Opposition commenced agitating for relief as long ago as 1906. But the Government first did nothing, then they presented a return relative to prices of school-books in Jamaica and the Yukon. Next they appointed the \$4,000 Commission, and finally they did secure some school books at reduced rates. Our farmers and others in our Province have progressed very much in the last twenty years; but whatever is under the control of the Government has not only stood still; but has retrograded. Our schools have gone down and down until we have arrived at our present demoralized condition. It certainly was a deplorable spectacle to see the Government sitting down, when a subject of this importance is under discussion. Mr. Mathieson pointed out a number of errors in the education report. In the financial statement in the report, there were many errors. In view of all the facts the resolution in amendment should secure

the support of all members. The whole history of education, under the Liberals, has shown inefficiency in the work and increase in expense. Out of 17,000 pupils attending schools only 130 are engaged in nature study. Even now, let us begin to make reforms in our educational system. Education is especially for progress, but not the education supplied by the Government of this Province. In ten years we have gone back in a remarkable degree. The history of the decline of the old stock farm and the deterioration of the stock kept there shows how the Government neglect education. This was a question of such importance that no government ignoring it would long be tolerated in this Province. Had the Government cared what the people thought, they would not have allowed our educational system to run down.

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During the evening sitting the bill to amend the game act was under discussion in committee. It gave rise to quite a lot of discussion, in which Mr. Mathieson,

Mr. McLean, the Premier, Mr. Richards, Mr. Arsenault, Dr. Warburton and others took part. Finally a little after 10 o'clock the bill was reported with amendments. The House then adjourned.

It was 12.20 when the House met on Wednesday. After questions and other matters of routine, Mr. James Kenney called attention to a somewhat peculiar matter discovered in returns tabled by the Commissioner of Public Works. Several accounts for supplies furnished the Government by E. Wheatley and others were paid by cheques, and a number of these cheques were made payable to James D. McInnis, or endorsed by Mr. Wheatley to him. Mr. Kenney considered it rather strange that Mr. McInnis, a member of the Government, should be mixed up in matters of this kind and certainly thought an explanation was in order. Hon. Mr. McInnis said he had received the money in question. He said that he supplied goods to Mr. Wheatley, who in return gave him orders to get money due Mr. Wheatley from the Public Works Department. It being 1 o'clock the House adjourned for recess.

The House resumed at 3.45 p. m. On motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. Wyatt continued the discussion on the Wheatley, McInnis affair. He pointed out that the vouchers and cheques tabled by the Commissioner of Public Works showed that Mr. McInnis had received considerable sums of money for goods supplied by him to the Hospital for the Insane. The cheques, he said, were made payable, generally to E. Wheatley & Co., or to J. D. McInnis. Mr. James D. McInnis, he said, made the explanation that Wheatley frequently owed him and he (McInnis) always wanted to get the money without delay. But the examination of the accounts and the cheques showed that, generally speaking, the cheques were not paid for two months after they were drawn. Mr. Wyatt said that unless a better explanation were given it could not be denied that the Hon. member had been trafficking with the Government of which he was a member.

The Leader of the Government undertook to clear up the matter.

Mr. Mathieson said that he would not have taken any part in this discussion were it not for several circumstances precedent. When he was discussing matters of this nature a few days ago, he thought he had accurate returns before him; but it afterwards turned out that these returns were not original. The same conditions might exist in the present instance. He pointed out that, at least the statement of the Premier that these supplies to the Asylum were under tender, was not true. The whole proceedings bristled with vicious elements. The transactions were open to the construction that the Hon. member was a collecting agent for the Government. After Mr. Mathieson had showed up in vigorous fashion an improper statement about a Government cheque received by the Leader of the Opposition and referred to by the Commissioner of Public Works the matter dropped and the House resolved itself into committee of supply.

House resumed after recess at 8.35. Committee of supply was at once resumed. On the item of expenditure for prosecutors under the Prohibition Act, the Leader of the Opposition pressed the Premier for information regarding the difference in the salary paid prosecutor Mosher and the two other prosecutors for King's County. Mosher receives \$300 a year, while the other two receive but \$100 each. The only explanation the Leader of the Government would give was that Mosher's appointment was asked for by the Temperance Alliance. Mr. McLean said he knew Mosher was not doing his duty. It was his opinion that better results would be obtained if the County Court Judges were given jurisdiction over prosecutions under the prohibition act. Mr. Mathieson resumed pointed out among other things that the other two prosecutors in King's County would surely feel they were discriminated against, when each of them was receiving only one third as much salary as the newly discovered prodigy from Mosher, Mr. Mosher. The item was further discussed by Mr. John A. McDon-

ald, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Wyatt, the Leader of the Government, Mr. Cumiskey, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Dobby, Mr. Dewar, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. Arsenault and others. The item then passed.

Much interest and considerable amusement was aroused by Mr. Mathieson's reading from Hansard the account of discussion in the House of Commons relative to the appointment of a Senator and a Judge for this Province. After the hilarity aroused in consequence of this, some progress was made in supply and the House adjourned at 11.10.

It was 11.55 when the House met on Thursday forenoon. After questions, several bills were read a third time and passed, and a short act respecting the Legislature was read a second time, passed through committee and reported. Some other bills were also advanced a stage, when the House adjourned to Tuesday 17th.

Ottawa advices say that one cent per name recorded will be schedule for census commissioners with additional amounts covering travelling expenses. The three County Commissioners for this Province will be \$125 each in expense money.

The solemn ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter were duly carried out in St. Donat's Cathedral. *Tenebrae* was sung by the clergy and choir, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. On Holy Thursday morning, the celebration of the Solemn Mass was R. V. Joseph Gallant; deacon Rev. Manrice McDonald, and sub-deacon Rev. Pius McDonald. On Good Friday Rev. Manrice McDonald was celebrant, Rev. Joseph Gallant deacon, Rev. Father Croken sub-deacon, and Rev. Pius McDonald master of ceremonies. Rev. Joseph Gallant was celebrant on Holy Saturday, with Rev. Manrice McDonald deacon and Rev. Pius McDonald sub-deacon. Father McLellan was master of ceremonies. Rev. Pius McDonald was celebrant of the Solemn Mass on Easter Sunday, assisted by Revs. Joseph Gallant, Manrice McDonald and Dr. McLellan as deacon, sub-deacon and master of ceremonies respectively. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. McLellan.

**Home-seekers' Excursions.**  
 The Grand Trunk Railway has issued a circular authorizing all Agents in Canada to sell Home-seekers' Excursion Tickets to points in Western Canada. This is interesting information for those desiring to take advantage of these excursions on certain dates from April to December 1910. The Grand Trunk route is the most interesting, taking a passenger through the populated centres of Canada, through Chicago, and thence via Duluth, or through Chicago and the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Ask Grand Trunk Agents for further particulars.

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