

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

We do not want Doctor Coffyn elected in Gloucester because we need his vote to maintain the government in power. We want him elected so that he will have reason to do something big for Gloucester county along the lines of the unemployment relief aid to be given by the federal government and the province of New Brunswick.

There was a bribe held out to the electors of that county; they were told that unless Doctor Coffyn was elected, unless they returned a man who was favourable to the government, the government would measure the relief to be doled out in Gloucester county by the actions of the electors on polling day.

Now, to go a little further:

Mr. Price: I don't believe the premier ever made such a statement.

Now the hon. member for Gloucester:

Mr. Veniot: And I know you would say, if he did make it, that he had no right to make it, wouldn't you?

Mr. Price: I would simply say just now that he didn't make it.

Mr. Veniot: He did make it. The hon. gentleman has no right under the rules of the house to question my veracity.

Now, then, Mr. Chairman, we will just get after his veracity. It has been the privilege in days gone by for the hon. member for Gloucester to make statements in the provincial house, and as he waved papers to declare "I hold the records right here in my hand." But the records did not amount to anything. And he did not have anything of record when he made that statement on the floor of this house. I wish to tell the hon. member for Gloucester that I have communicated with the hon. Premier of New Brunswick. I want it to be clearly and distinctly understood by this house that for future reference—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. PRICE: All right. I want it to be clearly and distinctly understood that for future reference this is going on Hansard right now. At page 944 of Hansard the member for Gloucester is reported as follows:

There was a by-election in that county; the Premier of New Brunswick addressed a public meeting in the town of Bathurst on the Friday night before the election, and said:—

An hon. MEMBER: What about the letter?

Some hon. MEMBERS: What did he say?

Mr. PRICE: I do not wish to discuss what was done in the county of Gloucester, but if at any time a man ever had occasion to keep quiet it was the member for Gloucester in consideration of what had been done for his county by the present administration; the expenditures not only by this government

[Mr. Price.]

but by the previous administration have been enormous. We on this side of the house supporting the present government have never criticized those expenditures because of the fact that the little province of New Brunswick was being benefited. I wish also to say to him at this time that so far as the expenditures at Aboujagan and Barachois are concerned, we are willing that they should be investigated, when we shall be able to show that Liberals as well as Conservatives have been given every consideration with respect to unemployment, and that the relief was distributed in a fair and well-measured way.

Mr. VENIOT: What are you kicking about, then?

An hon. MEMBER: What about the letter?

Mr. PRICE: Here is what the hon. Premier of New Brunswick, Mr. Richards, was supposed to have said. I am so delighted to see the hon. minister for Gloucester county in his seat—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. PRICE: —for this is really funny. This is what was purported to have been said by the Premier of New Brunswick:

We do not want Doctor Coffyn elected in Gloucester because we need his vote to maintain the government in power.

Quite true; there is no doubt he made that statement, for he did not require Doctor Coffyn, having already a real working majority. But, according to the hon. member for Gloucester, this is what the premier said:

We want him elected so that we will have reason to do something big for Gloucester county along the lines of the unemployment relief aid to be given by the federal government and the province of New Brunswick.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. PRICE: That is what the hon. member for Gloucester quoted, but let me tell him, he laughs best who laughs last. After quoting that statement the hon. member added:

There was a bribe held out to the electors of that county;—

And so forth. The Premier of New Brunswick has the confidence of the province from one end to the other, and I presume he will continue to have that confidence for some years to come. He is a very capable administrator and is conducting the affairs of the province in a business-like way. He writes to me:

The first sentence of the remarks which Mr. Veniot imputes to me is substantially correct;