

## TOBACCO QUESTION IN THE ASSEMBLY; DEBATE ON BUDGET

Mr. Hallyard (continued)—

An individual who overdraws his account and cannot meet his obligations when called upon, what is the result? A receiver is called in and takes control of his affairs, and he will have to compromise in some way or get someone to back a note for him, or he may summon his creditors and show that he has an asset whereby he can pay his creditors in time.

All we can show to our creditors now is that we are taxing the people more. I do not believe that this country can bear increased taxation at the present time.

Another thing was said before Sir Edward Morris assumed control, was that the country was struggling under the burden of taxation put on by Sir Robert Bond.

Well what is the condition of things at the present time? Have we not to find two million dollars to pay for branch railways; and I understand that there are overdrawn accounts of almost a million dollars awaiting adjustment.

This condition has been brought about by the Prime Minister and those associated with him. Of course he may be able to give an apparently satisfactory explanation of the financial condition of this country and make it appear all right; but viewing it from the standpoint of local men we do not think it is all right when we are brought to this condition of affairs.

Our public debt has been increased by \$10,000,000. That is not a condition of things we can accept silently

and without criticism. We would not be true to our principles or the men who sent us here if we allowed this vote for increased taxation to go silently.

We protest against it because it has been brought about in this way and the people have been deluded and deceived into thinking that we were living in security and prosperity and that taxation was being lightened instead of the imposition of this additional burden we are now brought face to face with.

### Nothing To Boast Of

Can any party or government take pride in this achievement. I look to see nothing but resentment from men of intelligence against the Government that brought about this condition of affairs. We may go further and say what was predicted when this Government assumed power; but it is unnecessary for me to do so. It is known generally to almost every man in the Colony.

They know now the truth of these things, but they will realize them more fully when they suffer the loss of certain necessities they would enjoy but for conditions that will be brought about by these increases.

These things have been brought out by Mr. Jennings, the member for Twillingate, who spoke from the practical standpoint. He has shown us the conditions under which the working man in this country has to live. He can appreciate the condition of things great deal more than many who have not had to economize in any way.

any way.

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We know that extravagance in Government as well as in individuals will bring its own retribution, but we never thought it would bring about such a condition of things as exists now.

Everybody last year and the year before wondered where the money was coming from. Even their strongest supporters often wondered where all the money was coming from that was being scattered broadcast.

### The Game Is Up

Well now they know where it came from. They went into the money markets of the world, obtained these large loans and scattered the money broadcast. That is a condition of things that could not last long. Now we find that we must increase taxation to meet this condition of things.

This was prophesied by Sir Robert Bond. Imagine if he were here on the floors of this House what a scathing arraignment of the Government he would give us in his eloquent language. I am sorry he is not here.

Sir Edward Morris also regretted it on the opening day. I do not know whether he regards it at the present time or not.

Be that as it may; if we cannot express our views on this matter in such eloquent and telling language as Sir Robert Bond and others, yet we can in our own plain way bring to the knowledge of this House what we think on this matter.

### A Terrible State of Affairs

We want to show our disapproval and we want to protest against the condition of affairs brought about by the Government. We have been told that the country is prosperous. Is the laboring man prosperous when he has to send his son and daughter out to work to help earn something to keep the family when the son and daughter should be at school.

You say that we are prosperous, but in my opinion we should never consider ourselves prosperous until the head of a family can earn enough to support and educate those depend-

ent upon him. Then we are prosperous, but not till then.

Prosperous indeed! Maybe some of the members of the Government are prosperous, but the same does not apply to the producing classes—those who produce the wealth of the country.

### Truth Apparent

The truth of the present condition of things has now been brought to bear on almost everybody, and it will be difficult to get them to trust you in the future.

What has the Prime Minister said in connection with building the branch railways? The Minister of Finance said last night that they had a mandate from the people. They had a mandate to spend four millions but not a mandate to spend eight. That is where the great difference is.

If you had told them the true condition of things or that you were going to increase taxation to finish these railways, perhaps there would be a different party ruling this country.

Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs—We told them last fall we would need more money.

### Kept It Quiet

Mr. Hallyard—Were you true in your statements then? Did you tell them you were going to increase taxation? Half the truth is worse than a lie. You will find, however, that you cannot deceive the electorate any longer.

The statements made by the Prime Minister in this matter remind me of a story I heard of a half witted fellow who used to go every day behind a turf heap to say his prayers. Some boys one day got behind the turf heap and heard him praying, and he was praying away at a great rate, saying what a miserable sinner he was, and that if the turf heap fell down on him he would be only getting what he deserved. The boys behind the heap turned it over on him and

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he jumped up in a rage and said that it was frightful that a fellow could not say a thing in fun without Providence taking it in earnest.

### Took Him In Earnest

Now that is the trouble with the Prime Minister. He may have spoken in fun, but the electorate took him in earnest. When he said the railways would cost \$4,000,000 and the annual interest charge would be \$140,000, the people believed him. Well, they know now how true this was, and it will not be easy to fool them again.

When the Committee rose I was referring to the apparent insincerity of pre-election promises. Statements made by politicians, which the electors looked upon as being made with sincerity, were found soon after the

election to have been savoured with insincerity. This is a fault common to all politicians and it has been brought to our notice very fully of late years.

The country has been asked to assume very heavy obligations, and here will be increased taxation, whereas the general impression conveyed to the people of the Colony was that vast improvements would be made without increased taxation, but here have been no improvements whereby the fishermen will benefit.

### How He Regards It

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in discussing railway extension was fond of asking the question: "Does a dose of medicine pay?" I presume that he looks upon a branch railway as a dose of medicine to the Colony. All will certainly say that a dose of medicine taken in proper quantity and by the order of a doctor who has made a thorough diagnosis of the patient's case is a good thing for a man's illness, and results in much good to him.

However, if the doctor does not understand the patient's case the medicine may do the man a great deal of harm, as in the case quoted by my hon. friend, Mr. Jennings, in a former debate, where a man was given carbolic acid by mistake.

### Too Much Of It

We have had our dose of branch railways, but in our case I do not think the doctor who prescribed the dose made a proper diagnosis of the case, otherwise the bad effect would not have been so apparent as it is at the present time.

A mistake was made first in the mileage and then in the cost. That 'dose' will entail upon this Colony eight millions of dollars that we know of, and a further amount that we have yet to be told about, and this has happened in the face of the fact that the Colony was led to believe that the cost would be only four million dollars.

Any doctor who muddles the case of his patient in that way certainly does not understand his business and shows plainly that he is only a quack doctor.

### Almost Poisoned

As a matter of fact the Colony has been almost poisoned by an overdose of branch railways and it will take years before the country recovers from the shock of this tremendous over-expenditure of money. It will mean that additional burdens must be heaped upon the people of the island, and not only upon those who are now living, but upon future generations.

Political expediency has brought about this state of financial affairs. We all believe in branch railways to a certain extent, and we should like every hamlet in the island to have the advantages of the 'iron horse' if that were practicable and the country could afford it.

### Improper Proceeding

However, it is not proper for a party to try to gain political power and the control of the affairs of the country by involving the country in a policy that will cost us more than we can afford. The trouble was that when there was a line suggested by Bonavista, which is represented by three members of this House, it was also suggested that it would be advisable to have the line built to Trepassy, so that the party could count on three men for Placentia Bay. And so on until finally it was decided to build a branch line to Fortune Bay, Bay de Verde and to Bonne Bay.

These five branch lines constitute the over-dose of medicine from which the Colony is suffering to-day. It has been argued by members opposite that they had a mandate from the people to build these branch railways, but I make the statement now, and I know it cannot be successfully contradicted that the Colony would never have sanctioned the building of these branches if the whole matter was put before the people as it has been revealed in this House during the present session.

(To be continued)

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