

HON. JAMES A. MURRAY REPLIES TO SOME GOV'T MISTATEMENTS

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Points Out Where Foster Government Adds \$224,000 to the Debt—Poor Road Building Under the Hon. Peter Veniot—Opposition Leader Deplores Hetherington's Bad Break on Wednesday—Hon. Mr. Tweeddale Tells House what Great Man He is and How his Throbbing Heart Beats for Farmers—Reminder of Days of Old Plunderbund Prior to 1908.

(From Official Report.)

Fredericton, April 18.—The House met at 8 o'clock.

Bills relating to the Bartfogle Boom company; the Richibucto and Reston electric light districts; the Fort Canada Docks Railway; Short-hand reporting in academic courts to exempt certain bonds of the Dominion government from taxation; and to amend an act authorizing the municipality of Albert to effect temporary loans were read a third time and passed.

Mr. Burchill presented the report of the committee on standing rules. Hon. Mr. Veniot introduced a bill to enable the Roman Catholic bishop of Chatham to sell certain lands in the city of Fredericton.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to extend the time for the construction of a line of railway by the Tobique Valley railway extension company.

Hon. Mr. Roberts, on the order of the day being called, rose to conclude his remarks on the budget. He said he fully concurred in the report brought down by the commission, which had been making an inquiry with reference to the subject of technical education. The proposals of the commission would be advanced legislation, which would undoubtedly be of great service to the province.

With medical inspection, the school system would be well nigh complete, and it would not be complete until proposed additions were made.

The Social Evil.

Referring to the social evil, he said that the problem was engaging the attention of provincial and state governments. He revisited their laws and making them more drastic. The bill which he had lately introduced in the house would deal with the problem in what he considered a moderate way. He quoted the archbishop of Canterbury as saying in the house of Lords that the disease was prevalent among the soldiers at the front, and the reply of Lord Derby, who had expressed the hope that an understanding would be arrived at by the government of Great Britain and America to work together for the common good and with the object of stamping out the evil.

He (the speaker) thought that the province should be organized to fight the evil and that the organization should be made as effective as possible. The bill which he had placed before the house he believed would meet the case, and he trusted that it would be enacted into law.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said he had listened with great interest to the discussion on the budget carried on by hon. members on both sides, and it called to his mind many recollections of former days. His hon. friends opposite had climbed the hill and were down again; while hon. members on his own side of the house had been down the hill, but had climbed up again. He remembered an instance of the debate last session, when an hon. member from St. John had referred to the space separating the two sides of the house as "no man's land." It seemed cruel for his hon. colleague (Dugal) whose son had died in the great war, to have to listen to insinuating talk of that kind from the other side of the house. His hon. friend (C. N. Madawaska, when he sat in opposition in the house had fought the government for years; but when he had handed and he stood as high in the esteem of hon. members as did Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Ottawa.

Going back to earlier days, when sitting in the public gallery, the committee he (Tweeddale) had heard an hon. member from Kings declare that "we are going to beat you" that hon. member when he made that boast probably knew the size of the campaign fund that would be available and it had since been recorded that he had carried about a large package and no doubt had a dim recollection of having deposited it in safe. He also recalled a boast made by Mr. Fleming that he had the two opposition members in the last house surrounded and they would have to surrender. It was soon after that that his hon. friend from Madawaska began rocking the boat and the captain was the first one to go overboard. The electors of the province had since placed a new crew in command of the ship of state and the rascals had been discarded but they still had some of the old crew around and were trying to make trouble, because they could not get back.

The old government had gone into power, pledged to a policy of retrenchment economy and reform. They were going to pay off the bonded debt of the service and do many other wonderful things.

They had charged that the members of the then government were extravagant and corrupt and had been justified in increasing the public debt. He wished to point out that the public debt in 1908 amounted to some

five millions of dollars. It had been created by all the governments that had held office since Confederation and the service had as an asset a number of public buildings and steel bridges, while a large proportion of the debt was represented by advances granted to railways under what was known as the Lobster Act.

If the old government had been deserving of condemnation, for increasing the public debt to \$5,000,000 what would he say of a government which had increased it by \$3,000,000 in a period of nine years?

His hon. friends opposite when in power had never put forward any business proposition for the benefit of the country and they now found fault because the department of agriculture had placed stamps on notes taken for seed grain. They had promised to administer the affairs of the province on an economical manner, but had let behind them a debt of \$15,000,000. Had it not been for their extravagance the present administration would be able to make a substantial increase in the salaries of school teachers. The old government had placed a heavy burden upon the province in connection with the Valley Railway and had left the road uncompleted at both ends and without connections. They had a strong hold on the country and had gone ahead in a reckless manner, despite the warnings uttered by members of the other opposition. The result of their mismanagement was that the Valley railway was now a great burden upon the province and would continue to be, unless the dominion government could be prevailed upon to take it over.

In connection with the Valley Railway the old government had promised to complete the road to finish. Hon. members would recall the reciprocity election of 1911 when the slogan was "No truck or trade with the Yankees." His honorable friends opposite had subscribed to that policy, but when it came to building a railway involving the expenditure of \$8,000,000 Canadian contractors were not good enough for them so they went over the line and brought in Mr. Gould, a man who had had no previous experience with the province and would continue to be, unless the dominion government could be prevailed upon to take it over.

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More Troubles. In addition to the troubles connected with an election and an approach session he had found a general demand throughout the province for credit and advances. He had no objection to the French party now in opposition had been only too glad to be treated as a political party and had no objection to the French party now in opposition had been only too glad to be treated as a political party.

A Brave Man. Venon seemed to be displayed against him by the ex-attorney general. He did not know why as he always had been on good terms with the hon. gentleman. However he could say that he had no fear of him or anyone else. He had always found it did not care about winning the confidence of the farmers of New Brunswick. The hon. member for St. John county had come to the house and offered his great abilities for the benefit of the public on any questions which might arise, but when he learned that he could not have his own way the hon. gentleman had practically said that he would do nothing. In his remarks the ex-attorney general had extended reference to the patriotic fund and had excused his taking of fees from succession duties by his contributions to the patriotic fund. The speaker said he never had believed in taking fees from dead men. Even when his own party was in power, although he had not made a public utterance upon the matter, he always had been opposed to the collection of the succession duty fees.

Mr. Tilley—"It was a dead issue." Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"It is now. It wasn't when your party was in power."

Mr. Tilley—"You will see the point tomorrow." Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said it might be interesting to make a comparison between the lives of the ex-attorney general and himself to see which had done the most for the country. For his own part he could say that he had been a successful farmer and the father of four children. He had raised butter and other dairy produce by the ton and hay and heavier agricultural products by the train load. As far as he knew the ex-attorney general had never raised anything but a disturbance.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said he had a few remarks to make upon the budget but that it would be better for him to start at the evening session and suggested that it be called at six o'clock. The Speaker left the chair to resume at eight o'clock.

Hon. J. A. Murray. On resuming at 8 o'clock Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said before commencing to discuss the budget speech he desired to congratulate the members who had previously addressed the house, and more particularly the younger ones, upon the admirable manner in which they had discussed the subject. Last session he took occasion to compliment the Acadia members upon the very excellent manner in which they had discussed public questions and he predicted for them a much greater success in the future. He was glad to note that the confidence that he then expressed had been well founded and congratulated them upon the very clear way in which they had expressed their views in a language not to be discussed under any circumstances. He thought there was a fair degree of prosperity in this country. He (Murray) thought there was more prosperity in this country than was properly realized. Europe is growing in intensity, and had already reached a pitch never known before. It was difficult to avoid thinking about these things, but public matters had to be discussed under any circumstances and he thought that most members of the house would be glad to get the session over. Reference had been made to the greater production of wheat which was so necessary if the people in Europe were to be kept from starvation. He felt sure that it would be the desire of every man, woman and child in this country to help on this good work as much as possible. He had been said to point out the urgent need there was for it, and it was not necessary to take up the time of the house in repeating it. He regretted to note a tendency on the part of some members to refer in their remarks to disloyalty. He wished to say, speaking for himself, in the plainest and most emphatic manner that whatever differences of opinion there might be between himself and the hon. gentlemen opposite and however much it might appeal to him that they were mistaken in their views, he did not for one moment entertain the idea of them in any degree of disloyalty.

The Creed Boy. There might be differences of opinion between them and different ideas as to the manner of expressing their views but he was quite prepared to admit that they were all equal. He would not make any imputation that at the late election there was an attempt made to influence the electors by raising the creed cry in an attempt to set Protestants and Catholics at variance. He would not make any imputation that at the late election there was an attempt made to influence the electors by raising the creed cry in an attempt to set Protestants and Catholics at variance.

He had also made some criticisms regarding the receipt by the late attorney general of commissions on collecting succession duties. That act was passed by the Government of which the hon. gentleman was a supporter and he never found \$5,000,000 until the late Government came into power. Whatever the ex-attorney general received for this work he was legally entitled, and criticism of that nature did not do him any credit. The late Government had no right to say that he had not done it. Coming now to matters dealt with by the provincial secretary-treasurer in his budget speech, the speaker said that the groups of bills now so well covered by the hon. friend from the county of St. John (Baxter) that there was not much else left for him to say.

Permanent Bridges. His hon. friend the provincial secretary, had declared there was nothing to show for the two and a half millions had been spent on permanent bridges; \$212,000 had been absorbed by the New Brunswick Coal and Railway; \$175,000 by the C. C. C. Co.; \$150,000 by the wharves and grain elevator of St. John; \$31,000 by the Jordan Memorial Sanitarium; \$12,000 for the present agricultural experiment station; \$100,000 for the Normal School; \$150,000 for the Farm Settlement Board, which was represented by the farms the board owned and other counties were full of them. No matter what his hon. friend might say about them, they were very ordinary roads—some of them impassable—built as permanent roads. His hon. friend might say that it would take a microscope to

find an employee of the opposite political faith in the old administration. He said they had liberals as road makers; liberals, but good road makers. He spoke of matters whereof he knew in his own country of Kings. Former administration had been criticised for adding to the public debt, but since the present government took office they had added \$224,000 more.

A Healthy Position. He must refer to the hon. gentleman from St. John, who had introduced a public health act, and he must correct the statement that the members of the opposition were opposed to an act to improve the public health of the Province. They would approve a measure for such a purpose but they did object to an additional portfolio and a proposed machinery which would be expensive and cumbersome. His hon. friend from the city of Moncton had advised the house to pay more attention to reading the bible; it was good advice, he would follow it by quoting from the 2nd Chronicles, chapter 16, verses 12, and 13: "As in the 20th year of his reign was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great; yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians."

Even the paper which so enthusiastically supports him said that that portion which he did publish could not be published with propriety, deceiving the people. His hon. friend's government when they over-expanded their revenue and set into roll such an enormous debt that it was impossible for the present government to stop it.

The hon. gentleman was not so scared of running up debts a few years ago when he held the position of provincial secretary he had got a firm of auditors to go through his accounts, and their report showed that he was in a very bad way. He was not so afraid of running up debts a few years ago when he held the position of provincial secretary he had got a firm of auditors to go through his accounts, and their report showed that he was in a very bad way.

Secretary Mistaken. Another statement made by the provincial secretary-treasurer was that the present government had secured for the Province no less than \$5,710,78 interest on current account at the bank, and he took great credit for having accomplished this. At the same time he pointed out that the late government in 1916 had received nothing whatever from this source. He (Murray) had pointed out to the hon. gentleman at the time that he had been mistaken, but he repeated by his books did not show it. As a matter of fact the late government received in the six years down to 1916, from the Murray Government, and placed them in the hands of a Government who would govern wisely. He quoted a verse from proverbs and asked if it applied to the present situation.

The Valley Railway. He had been glad to hear his hon. friend from Moncton express optimism regarding the Valley railway and to say that he had faith in the speaker. The Valley road had been a big undertaking—perhaps bigger than had been expected—but if it extends only from Centreville to Gasquetown, it would not be regarded as such a heavy onerous by his hon. friends when they were in opposition. In 1907 a gentleman who now occupies the hon. position of Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, opposed the construction of a road from Woodstock to a point at or near Westfield on the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was approved by the hon. gentleman who is not a through road. He quoted from the journals of 1907.

Board of Works. He desired to make a few references to the board of works, and he felt that his hon. friend opposite that he had credit for wishing to do the best he could in his department, but he would tell him that there was a situation that would tax all his energies. A good deal of criticism had been levelled at the late administration which could not be described as reckless, but however, conditions might have been, when the present minister took charge they had become infinitely worse. He had already borrowed over \$400,000 to spend on the roads, though first he had boasted that they could get along with an expenditure of \$124,000 less than the late government did. He had borrowed money to spend on the roads to do the same work that the late government paid out of ordinary revenue, and said that he was building permanent roads.

The course the hon. minister was adopting in this respect was disgraceful, imprudent and extravagant. The province could not do so on borrowing money to build roads in the way it was being done at the present time. Economy was said to be the watchword of the present government, but the board of works at the present time had a larger staff than was ever known before.

There were lots of men all over the province who were perfectly competent to build roads in the way they had always been built in this province equally as well as these high priced men in the Board of Works office and never before had road work been done on such extravagant lines.

Since the present government had entered office the sum of \$66,000 had been received for that money?

Bad Penobscuis Road. In the Parish of Cardwell on a road, which for the last five or six years had been in the best of condition, a huge sum of money had been spent last fall making it impassable, much had been hauled and piled on this road and the work charged to permanent account.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—"Will the hon. gentleman give us the name of that road?"

Mr. Murray—"It is opposite the Baptist Church in Penobscuis. I know it well; I have travelled over it often. Continuing Mr. Murray said that on another road work had been done while the snow was a foot deep on the road and this work was charged as work on permanent roads. The county was full of similar instances and other counties were full of them. No matter what his hon. friend might say about them, they were very ordinary roads—some of them impassable—built as permanent roads. His hon. friend might say that it would take a microscope to

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Hon. Mr. Veniot—"Will the hon. gentleman give us the name of that road?"

Mr. Murray—"It is opposite the Baptist Church in Penobscuis. I know it well; I have travelled over it often. Continuing Mr. Murray said that on another road work had been done while the snow was a foot deep on the road and this work was charged as work on permanent roads. The county was full of similar instances and other counties were full of them. No matter what his hon. friend might say about them, they were very ordinary roads—some of them impassable—built as permanent roads. His hon. friend might say that it would take a microscope to

find an employee of the opposite political faith in the old administration. He said they had liberals as road makers; liberals, but good road makers. He spoke of matters whereof he knew in his own country of Kings. Former administration had been criticised for adding to the public debt, but since the present government took office they had added \$224,000 more.

A Healthy Position. He must refer to the hon. gentleman from St. John, who had introduced a public health act, and he must correct the statement that the members of the opposition were opposed to an act to improve the public health of the Province. They would approve a measure for such a purpose but they did object to an additional portfolio and a proposed machinery which would be expensive and cumbersome. His hon. friend from the city of Moncton had advised the house to pay more attention to reading the bible; it was good advice, he would follow it by quoting from the 2nd Chronicles, chapter 16, verses 12, and 13: "As in the 20th year of his reign was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great; yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians."

Even the paper which so enthusiastically supports him said that that portion which he did publish could not be published with propriety, deceiving the people. His hon. friend's government when they over-expanded their revenue and set into roll such an enormous debt that it was impossible for the present government to stop it.

The hon. gentleman was not so scared of running up debts a few years ago when he held the position of provincial secretary he had got a firm of auditors to go through his accounts, and their report showed that he was in a very bad way. He was not so afraid of running up debts a few years ago when he held the position of provincial secretary he had got a firm of auditors to go through his accounts, and their report showed that he was in a very bad way.

Secretary Mistaken. Another statement made by the provincial secretary-treasurer was that the present government had secured for the Province no less than \$5,710,78 interest on current account at the bank, and he took great credit for having accomplished this. At the same time he pointed out that the late government in 1916 had received nothing whatever from this source. He (Murray) had pointed out to the hon. gentleman at the time that he had been mistaken, but he repeated by his books did not show it. As a matter of fact the late government received in the six years down to 1916, from the Murray Government, and placed them in the hands of a Government who would govern wisely. He quoted a verse from proverbs and asked if it applied to the present situation.

The Valley Railway. He had been glad to hear his hon. friend from Moncton express optimism regarding the Valley railway and to say that he had faith in the speaker. The Valley road had been a big undertaking—perhaps bigger than had been expected—but if it extends only from Centreville to Gasquetown, it would not be regarded as such a heavy onerous by his hon. friends when they were in opposition. In 1907 a gentleman who now occupies the hon. position of Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, opposed the construction of a road from Woodstock to a point at or near Westfield on the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was approved by the hon. gentleman who is not a through road. He quoted from the journals of 1907.

Board of Works. He desired to make a few references to the board of works, and he felt that his hon. friend opposite that he had credit for wishing to do the best he could in his department, but he would tell him that there was a situation that would tax all his energies. A good deal of criticism had been levelled at the late administration which could not be described as reckless, but however, conditions might have been, when the present minister took charge they had become infinitely worse. He had already borrowed over \$400,000 to spend on the roads, though first he had boasted that they could get along with an expenditure of \$124,000 less than the late government did. He had borrowed money to spend on the roads to do the same work that the late government paid out of ordinary revenue, and said that he was building permanent roads.

The course the hon. minister was adopting in this respect was disgraceful, imprudent and extravagant. The province could not do so on borrowing money to build roads in the way it was being done at the present time. Economy