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A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

**BAXTER AND FAWCETT FLAY
FOSTER PARTY WHICH HAS
HALF HOUSE IN OPPOSITION**

Leaders of the Opposition and the Farmers in the Legislature Tell Government That Public Debt Has Been Greatly Increased and Express Little Faith in Promises for Development.

Special to The Standard
Fredericton, N. B., March 18.—Hon. J. B. Baxter, leader of the Opposition, and A. Chase Fawcett, leader of the Farmers' party, spoke in the debate on the address in the Legislature today.

Hon. Mr. Baxter has long been recognized as an exceptionally able parliamentary debater, but seldom has he been more effective than today. He charged the Government with giving itself fulsome adulation in the speech from the throne when the results of the elections showed that the people had not approved of the acts of the Government.

Restigouche Election
He dealt with the situation created by Restigouche being deprived of representation, charging the Chief Law Officer of the Government with putting political advantage before the law of the land and the rights of the people.

The House and the country, he declared, demanded a frank statement by the Government. He pointed to the Government's failure in performance in spite of the contents of the speech from the throne, said that if Dr. Curran, the mover of the address, had been looking for a rest "monday born in blunder," he would have looked towards the Transcontinental Railway built by a Liberal Government through the centre of New Brunswick, while the St. John Valley was neglected, and gave some startling facts showing that the Public Works Department last year had spent \$250,000 over its appropriation, which, he said, led to the belief that "elections are expensive."

No Majority
Both speakers pointed out that the business of the province is being carried on by a Government which had come back from an election with its strength reduced and which had lost its majority. In fact, Mr. Fawcett went so far as to say that the Government should not have gone on with the awarding of extensive contracts for highways, construction and hydro-electric development after the election without first of all waiting to see whether the Government had sufficient support in the House to enable them to carry on. He condemned the road policy of the Government and the agricultural policy as well.

The adjournment of the debate was moved by Premier Foster, who will speak on Tuesday.

When the House met, Hon. Mr. Foster from the committee appointed to nominate all standing and general committees submitted their report.

Amend Motor Act.
Hon. Mr. Veniot introduced a bill to amend the act respecting motor vehicles. He explained that under the measure it was proposed to increase the fees for motor vehicles and motor trucks, and that the same would be retroactive to January 1st of this year. The fee on automobiles was now eighty cents per cwt., and it would be increased to \$1 per cwt. in future. A truck weighing two tons and not more than three, would be charged \$25 with 50 cents additional for carrying capacity. Motor trucks having a carrying capacity of more than three tons will not be permitted to use the highways of the province unless the owner shall have first obtained a special permit from the Minister of Public Works. In case such permit is issued the fee for a truck weighing three tons, and not less than four tons shall be \$40, with 70 cents per hundred pounds for carrying capacity. Under the bill the minister explained, it was proposed in the future to license garages. The fee in cities would be \$20, in incorporated towns \$10, and in villages, \$5.

The bill will provide for a fee of 40 cents per hundred pounds weight on tractors or tractor engines. In the case of tractors in use on farms the fee will be \$1.

Annuit Act.
Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to

Childhood Constipation

Constipation is one of the most common ailments of childhood and the child suffering from it cannot thrive. To keep the children well the bowels must be kept regular and the stomach sweet. To do this nothing can equal Baby's Own Tablets. They are a mild but thorough laxative; are absolutely safe and never fail to relieve constipation and indigestion; colds and simple fever. Concerning them Mrs. Jules Faugereau, Nottmington, Que., writes: "My baby was terribly constipated and suffered day and night; I was advised to give him Baby's Own Tablets and from the first they helped him and now at the age of thirteen months he is a big, healthy, happy boy." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.



Comment on a recent news item out in the Fresh Air districts

instance of the Government, yet the statement was made that there was no return from the Sheriff. The case had been decided adversely by the court, not because of any wrong on the part of the successful candidate, but because of the mistakes of the Sheriff the matter was not under appeal and it was a matter of regret that a frank statement had not been made to the House.

Made Crops Good

He noticed in the speech from the throne that the crops were abundant and prices were satisfactory, except in the case of several commodities. Having claimed the credit for making the crops good, the Government might have been expected to show some interest in public health. His objection was to mean going about the province chiefly interested in doing things and accomplishing no useful purpose from year's end to year's end. The Public Health Act was in some parts good, in some parts efficient, but in most parts a sham. He could not agree with the reference of his friend to the necessity for remuneration for services connected with the public health act. Some of the most valuable services rendered to the public were without remuneration, and he would not like to think the medical profession would render services less freely than any other persons.

Lime Crushing Work

The speech had set forth that the lime-crushing industry established by the Government had been successful and successful in the past. He would advise the Minister of Agriculture to devote a little more attention to the much lauded enterprise in which the Government was engaged. The farmers had been told that while potatoes had dropped in price, fluctuations in other commodities had brought about a readjustment, but he thought that would be poor consolation to the farmers who had lost their money in potatoes.

Restigouche Case

The Opposition in the House was short of two members, Stewart and Doherty, who were chosen by a majority of the votes of the people with the election Act. The only one to whom they could go was an official of the Government, the High Sheriff of the county. He had made a number of unfortunate mistakes. If the wishes of the people as expressed by the polls had been carried out, the Opposition would be stronger by two men.

He regretted the unfortunate incident in the Assembly Chamber yesterday morning. The statement was then made that no return had been received from the Sheriff of Restigouche. He would quote the Provincial Secretary of any wrong intention, as he had made the statement on the advice of lawyers of the Government.

Party Before People

It was a matter of regret that the chief legal officer for the Government put party consideration before the rights of the people, and allowed a false declaration to be made before the House. As a matter of fact, the Sheriff of Restigouche did make a return. He had seen it himself, and it was today in the hands of the election judge. When a Sheriff makes a return, be it true or false, it should be the last word in the matter, and only the court could decide after that. A return had been sent in by the Sheriff and by the corruption of a right which no Government has ever possessed was returned to him with the request that something else be done. The Sheriff had then consulted with a lawyer in the person of Arthur T. Lobban, who had been a candidate and wanted to see the election set aside. That gentleman prepared for the Sheriff a second document which was not even a scrap of paper, and which said that the Sheriff could not make a return. Two returns had been made and the second one was invalid, having been procured by the direct

Education

Education also had been referred to. The proposals seemed to be that the government will introduce an act to make loans to students to attend the normal school who may be in need of financial assistance. He hoped that no girl or boy whose parents had voted for the administration would be overlooked. Those whose parents support

Ship's Officers Are Not To Blame

Captain Did Not Know That Forchu Head Light Had Been Extinguished.

Halifax, N. S., March 18.—Captain Robert Owens and the officers of the steamer Kaduna, which stranded on Pot Rock off Forchu Head on Feb. 23, are exonerated from blame in the matter by the report of the official board of inquiry which was made public this morning. Capt. George Lindsay, commissioner, and Captain C. L. Wilson and Neil Hall, who composed the board, expressed their opinion, however, that the risk undertaken by Capt. Owens in navigating so close to land under existing conditions was not justifiable under the circumstances, and cautioned him against being influenced by ice reports (some what belated) which are liable to continual and rapid changes. The court also is of the opinion that had Capt. Owens been aware of non-existence of the light on Forchu Head, the accident would not have occurred, and recommends listing of lights extinguished in winter as such in the "light lists."

Roads Useless.

The Premier had given out in his manifesto that the government should be returned because of the intended expenditure on hydro-electric development, and the extension trunk highways. The election had been held and the premier had secured half the representation. He (Fawcett) claimed that he did not receive the approval of the country. A short time after the election contracts were awarded for work in connection with the hydro-electric development and the Minister of Public Works had come to Fredericton and given contracts extending over a period of two or three years. He did not see why they could not have waited and secured the approval of the legislature.

Making a Deficit.

The road policy under which improved trunk roads were established, had caused a huge expenditure with large bonded indebtedness. The trunk roads to a great extent paralleled existing railways. The avowed purpose was to develop tourist business with other Canadian Provinces and United States. This belated development of motoring was responsible to a great extent for the deficit of the Canadian National Railways. The encouragement of agriculture was avowed, but this road policy had encouraged the farmers of the back district to remove to the towns or to districts along the trunk roads. He wanted to see good roads in the rural districts and from town to town, but the wrong principle had been adopted.

Back Roads Needed.

If large expenditures on highway construction were to continue he would suggest that they be made on the roads of the back districts. Farmers did not expect thousands of dollars per mile to be spent upon such roads. The farmer was entitled to good educational facilities. There were some rural districts in which the population had decreased, concerning which it was doubtful if they were worth saving as farm lands, or if they should be allowed to grow up in lumber. If they were not worth saving as farm lands, let the government wove the people out. If they remain-

Financial Problems.

On October 31, 1917, after being in power several months, the total indebtedness of the province, omitting sinking funds, was \$16,797,050.50. In that amount some expenditures of the present government were included. On October 31 last, exclusive of sinking funds and housing act expenditure, the total indebtedness was \$22,063,894.41, an increase of \$5,266,843.91 in three years. The actual increase had been \$6,416,522.98. For the past year the estimated expenditure, \$2,497,722.64, making an estimated surplus of \$31,771.53, the Valley Railway \$252,351.02, leaving about \$79,000, which would have been a surplus clear of everything. In only three minor items did receipts fall below estimates. The total revenue was \$2,100,548.53, some \$270,000 in excess of the amount estimated. If the government had followed the thrifty policy of spending no more than income, they could have provided for the Valley Railway expenditure and had a surplus. There was one particular member of the government, the Minister of Public Works, who with an estimated expenditure of \$483,000 had actually expended \$811,410.67, making an over-expenditure of \$328,410.67. He had swallowed up the entire surplus.

Valley Railroad.

There was the announcement of the intention to fund the Valley Railway interest. "A monster born of blunder," was the term used toward that railroad. What did the representatives from Carleton and Victoria think of the expression? If his friends opposite wished to see a blunder let them observe the sinuous trail of the Trans-Continental Railway, of benefit to no one, except possibly, Nova Scotia. The Premier and himself had attended meeting after meeting for the purpose of

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