

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1926

HARRISON DEFENDS BUDGET, SEES DIRECT TAX SOLUTION TO N. B. FINANCIAL SITUATION

Saint John Member Declares Passing On of Deficits to Municipalities Will Serve As Check-Rein On Over-Expenditure

PEOPLE HOODWINKED LONG ENOUGH

Legislature Told If Monetary Problem Isn't Faced Sincerely, Public Revenue of Province Will All Be Used in Paying Interest; House Also Addressed By City Man in French

BY JOHN J. DUNLOP
Staff Correspondent of The Times-Star.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 29.—Terming the 1926 budget a fair, honest and courageous statement of the finances of New Brunswick and declaring that the proposals leading to direct taxation would commend themselves to every thoughtful taxpayer when the true state of affairs was made known, Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, M. L. A. for Saint John, in his maiden speech in the house this evening, expressed the opinion that the very fact that any deficit would be passed on to the municipalities would serve as a check-rein on over-expenditure by any government, in addition to avoiding financial disaster.

"Ontario," Col. Harrison said, "is grappling with this problem and, if we do not face it squarely, I say that in 20 years time it will require every dollar of the public revenue to pay interest charges alone."

Lieut.-Col. Harrison expressed his confidence in the good sense of the people of the province to give the present Government credit for its sincerity in its endeavor to lift the province out of the present financial slough.

GOING ON LIKE OSTRICH

The province, the Saint John member said, had been going on like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand and deluding itself in the prospect that the day of reckoning would never come. The people, he said, had been educated to a system of bond-fidelity, but he claimed they had been hoodwinked in this regard long enough.

Teaching on the amendment offered by the Opposition to increase the stampage rate to \$4 per 1,000 feet Col. Harrison declared it would be idle to set the rate for 1927 at this early date. The rate for 1926 had already been set and why set the 1927 rate at \$4 when conditions then might be better and a higher rate than \$4 might be in justice proposed? he asked.

DISAGREES WITH VENIOT

He said he noticed where former Premier Foster had seen fit to comment on the budget, but with his conditions respecting increased revenue from the Crown lands and Valley Railway deficits, he said he must disagree. The deficit was as much due to the increase of \$982,000 a year in interest charges incurred under the Foster-Veniot regime as to the two items mentioned.

Lieut.-Col. Harrison attacked the over-expenditure under the Veniot administration prior to the elections last August, mentioning bridge work at South Bay and the Reversing Falls bridge. He declared that in the former case the work had been estimated by competent engineers to cost \$28,000 and it actually cost \$48,000 after a call for tenders had been cancelled. On the bridge, he said, 103 men had been employed at a total cost of \$24,000, whereas in 1921 such work had cost \$8,000.

ANALYZES DEBT FIGURES

In his consideration of the budget speech, Lieut.-Col. Harrison said that since 1917 the indebtedness of the province had increased \$19,000,000. He analyzed the figures making up the debt and said that for deficits alone some \$9,000,000 was eaten up. Mr. Michaud, he said, had pointed with pride to the increase in revenue amounting to 12 per cent under the Foster-Veniot regime, but it was well to remember, he said, that the debt had increased 127 per cent.

At the outset Col. Harrison departed from the usual custom and treated the French-Canadian members of the House to a short speech, delivered in excellent French, his essay in their language being greeted with much applause by the French members present.

FOR MORE USE OF FRENCH

Lieut.-Col. Harrison, who is French consul at Saint John, expressed the hope, at the conclusion of his address, that the French language should be taught more freely in the schools of the province. He said this out of respect for the 85 per cent of the people of this

province who were French-Canadian. While touching on education, the Saint John member said he was in entire sympathy with the move on the part of the G. W. V. A. in protesting against the small portion devoted to the part played by Canada during the war as contained in Myers' history and said he was glad to hear that steps were being taken to remedy this condition. Lieut.-Col. Harrison made a strong plea for the development of the University of New Brunswick.

Col. Harrison's argument was forcefully presented and he was loudly applauded. He was warmly greeted by F. G. Richard, Kent, will continue the debate tomorrow afternoon.

OFFICIAL REPORT

FREDERICTON, March 29.—The House met at 8:30 p.m.

The following bills were read a second time: an act to incorporate the River Saint John Electric Development Company; an act to incorporate the Negapigee Power Company, Limited.

Inquiries made by Messrs. Veniot, Richard and Lordon were answered. Hon. Mr. Stewart requested that any inquiries be answered by the Public Works Department stand until tomorrow.

HARRISON SPEAKS

Mr. Harrison, in rising to resume the debate on the motion to go into supply and the amendment thereto, said in rising for the first time to address this Legislature he was somewhat emboldened because so many seats of honorable members, especially on the opposition side, were occupied by the French-Canadian members, and expressed his personal pleasure at being able to address them in their own language. He said he was glad to hear that the French-Canadian members of the House were so numerous and that they were so well represented in the Legislature.

REMARKS TO DEATHS

Lieut.-Col. Harrison referred feelingly to the deaths of the two members-elect and continuing, asked for the indulgence of the House while he offered a few remarks in the French language. When it was realized that 80 per cent of the people of New Brunswick were of the French race he thought it was due them that their language sometimes be used in the administrative halls. He thought that it would be well if all the boys and girls might be so instructed in school as to have working knowledge of the French language. Concluding his remarks in French, he said before leaving the matter of education he wished to speak of a resolution passed by the G. W. V. A. in regard to Myers' History in which there was no adequate reference to the part which Canada took in the Great War. He thought the point had been well taken, because while the history was being written, Canada was a half to Canada's efforts. He was glad to know that arrangements had been made by this government with the publishers to insert a description of Canada's part to be written by one of the professors at McGill College.

DOTED WITH MONUMENTS

"We have dotted here and there throughout the province constantly increasing monuments for those who went overseas and sacrificed their all for us. These should be a lesson to our rising generation, an inspiration to patriotism and a belief in the greatness of our country. Their value is beyond the value of money; we should take care of them and see that the books placed in our schools should do justice to Canadian effort," he said.

LAUDS UNIVERSITY

Lieut.-Col. Harrison said he was glad to know that the University of New Brunswick was to receive some increased support. It was an institution worthy of our pride. Its birth was coincident with the formation of the province. It received its provincial charter in 1800. Work was begun on the present building in 1828 and it was completed in 1828 when it received a Royal Charter establishing it as King's College, Fredericton. Sir Howard Douglas, the then Governor, was a firm friend and was installed as first chancellor.

INSPIRATION

One paragraph of his address should ever continue to be an inspiration to the people of this province. "From many, this institution ever stand and flourish—firm in the liberal constitution and royal foundation on which I have this day instituted it—enlarging and extending its material form and all its capacity to do good, to meet

Keep the Skin Clear

By the use of Dr. Chase's Ointment

CHARTERED IN 1859.

In 1859 the college received a charter under its present name, the men who had gone out from it were prepared to help it at all times, and he was glad to say that the senate and practically all the graduates were unanimous in not accepting the financially attractive offer made in 1923 to move the institution to Halifax. He believed in the university as a provincial institution and was glad to know that it was to receive an increased grant.

LOW COST OF EDUCATION

At present the cost of higher education in New Brunswick was the lowest of any province in Canada, amounting to only seven cents per head of population, and he thought we could well afford to increase the expenditure in that regard. The State of Maine had its state university \$200,000 annually.

REFERS TO ESTIMATES

Referring to the estimates before the House he said: "What is our situation as regards debt? As regards revenue, as regards necessary expenditures?" The total debt of the province was \$19,000,000. How was this increase of debt made up? One item was made up of deficits incurred by the late government, which was \$3,000,000. Permanent bridges for \$3,814,000, and highways for over \$7,000,000. The increase of debt while the late government was in power was 127 per cent. The member for Madawaska had taken great credit to the late government for increasing the revenue 125 per cent, but he omitted to give the debt increase per centage.

ALARMING SITUATION

The measure of the debt was the interest which was paid, and that brought the province to an alarming situation. In 1916 the interest payments amounted to \$351,000; in 1925 they had risen to \$1,214,000, an increase of nearly 300 per cent. The per capita interest liability had risen from 90 cents per head to \$8.38. Over forty per cent of the total revenue went last year to pay interest and sinking funds. If the provincial financing were continued as during the last few years, it would only take twenty-one years to bring the province to a point where the interest charges would equal the full amount of the present revenue. At present over 40 per cent of the revenue was required for interest. The people had been accustomed to hear about the alarming situation, but it had remained for this Government to put the matter in a concrete form.

FOSTER MENTIONED

Before the leader of the Opposition had time to speak in this debate, ex-Premier Foster had rushed into print to tell the public what a great financier he and his friends were. That the reduction in stampage and the Valley Railway were the only two reasons why the province had a deficit was not true. These two items alone only amounted to \$461,000, while the increase in interest charges amounted to \$922,000.

STAMPAGE REDUCTION

Referring to this matter of stampage he said: "My friends, the opposite side are responsible for twice as much of the reduction as were the Government. The late government had reduced the rate from four dollars to three, while the present Government had only made a reduction of fifty cents, which was in reality a temporary relief for three years. The transition period in which the lumber companies found themselves, and in no way bound the province to a rate for next year. His honorable friends had moved an amendment that the rate for next year should be \$4.00.

FAIR PRICE URGED

He (Harrison) saw no reason why it should be more than \$4. He claimed that the province should receive a fair price as they had had to reduce their estimate by the amount indicated.

STRAIGHTEN UP!

Nicest Laxative, "Cascarets" 10c

Don't stay head-ache, dizziness, sick-ness. Nothing else relieves that bilious, constipated feeling so nicely as Cascarets. Take one or two of these pleasant laxative tablets any time, to gently stimulate your liver and fortify your bowels. Then you will feel fine, your head becomes clear, stomach sweet, tongue pink, skin rosy.

"Cascarets" gently cleanse, sweeten and refresh the entire system. They never gripe, or sicken. Directions for men, women and children on each box, any drugstore.

SULPHUR CLEARS AN ECZEMA SKIN

Any breaking out of the skin, even the most itching eczema, can be quickly overcome by applying Sulphur. It is a natural skin cleanser. Because of its germ-destroying properties, this sulphur preparation instantly brings case from skin irritation, soothes and heals the eczema right up and leaves the skin clear and smooth.

It seldom fails to relieve the torment without delay. You can obtain a jar of Rowles' Sulphur from any good druggist.

NEW Year's letters from the old liquor commission to the vendors were enough properly to condemn the late government with right-thinking people.

If the budget before the House had been made up as last year's budget was, there would have been no trouble to show a surplus instead of a probable deficit. Last year the estimates for public works were \$651,000 and the actual expenditures were \$1,010,000. Although the government of that day knew that the Valley Railway interest had to be paid, no provision was made. While the estimates brought down showed a surplus of \$10,000, the actual deficit amounted to \$766,000. If this year's budget had been framed as last year's the public works expenditure would stand at \$440,000, instead of \$978,000, and the Valley Railway would not be budgeted at all. This would mean that on the same basis as last year this year's budget would show a substantial surplus. The present government, however, did not wish to receive the people. They had brought down an honest budget, a courageous budget, and they presented an honest deficit.

NOT SEEKING POPULARITY

The Government was certainly not seeking popularity by stating the position plainly to the people, but they did hope to put the financial affairs of the country upon such a basis as would enable the price for stampage to be determined each year. Mr. Foster

further said that the hydro debt was self-supporting and made no calls on the revenue. If that were so, how was it that the deficit charged against the Hydro Commission was last year \$85,000, that the Auditor-General's report showed the total deficit to be \$168,000, with a deficit for maintenance and renewals of \$116,000, an actual cash deficit for the year just closed of \$46,500, and today an actual cash deficit in the bank of \$96,000? It will be only a short time until bonds will have to be issued to take care of the hydro deficit unless the new commission makes radical changes.

WILD FINANCING

There had also been wild financing in connection with the auto fund, expenditure on roads, for it now required \$471,000 to pay the interest, and last year the ex-Premier had made an over-expenditure of \$1,600,000. It was something amazing how this had been accomplished. The Legislature in 1923 gave authority for the expenditure of \$800,000, half of it on Jan. 1, 1924, and the balance one year later. The expenditure on this account, however, was \$764,000 before Aug. 10 last. Under the automobile fund act there was provision for the issue of \$200,000 on Jan. 1 of each year if fees permitted. On this account the ex-Premier had spent \$800,000.

\$154,000 DECREASE

The estimated revenue showed a decrease of \$154,000 from the Liquor Commission. Dr. Foster, in his news article, claimed credit for increasing the revenue from this source, but this Government having decided to enforce the act and carry out their pledges, would eventually give the province a sound financial standing.

BRAKE ON CARELESS-OUTLAYS

The fact that it was proposed to take care of future deficits by making a warrant on the different counties for assessments to cover them would be a most effective brake on careless expenditure, for no Government would want annually to be calling on the people for a direct tax. Under this system he thought the Government could be depended upon not to go into such expenditures as had the old Government in connection with the Queen Hotel, which under present arrangements made by the late Government was costing this province \$2,200 a year.

SOUTH BAY BRIDGE

They would not be likely to throw their money away as did the late Government on the South Bay bridge, where to serve the purpose of a by-election they spent \$45,000 in a day's work, job that could have been built by tender for \$25,000. Neither would they be likely to put 103 men to work to paint the Reversing Falls bridge at a cost of \$24,000 immediately before Aug. 10 last, when the same amount of work had been done previously for \$8,000. It was robbery like these instances which was responsible for the

temerous deficits and the present unsatisfactory financial position.

He was glad to know that there was

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STORES OPEN 9 A.M. CLOSE 6 P.M. DAILY

TUESDAY, MARCH 30.

EASTER FASHION REVUE

Easter and the world stands on smart review, even though the day may dawn with leaden skies it will certainly seem bright and cheery for the fashions designed to be worn for the first time on that occasion may be truthfully described as sparkling.

As they pass proudly in review one notes with pleasure that many are the intriguing wraps and frocks which declare allegiance to the flattering cape; that coats of Kashia or Cord allied with simple crepe frocks make charming ensembles, and that the tailleur of this Spring is more buoyant and dashing in its novelty trends than were its predecessors. A slight suggestion of molding appears here and there in frocks and, of course, each mode is topped with either Reboux's creased felt or one of crocheted straw.

Coats Prove The Charm of Capelike Lines

One might easily imagine one's back in high school, so youthifying are these coats with the gay plaids and diamond-shaped motifs of their novelty woollen fabrics. Colours composed of a tinge of fur, lend a softening touch. Choice is offered of double-breasted models or surplice-closing styles in rose, green, navy, and tan.

The Mannish Tailleur May Be of Tweed or Twill

Unlike the tailored suits of other years, this Spring's models do not confine themselves to straight wrap-around skirts. Indeed, it is a rare presentation that does not conceal a bit of fullness with an inverted pleat or two.

The Newer Silk Frocks Mold Their Bodices

Truly it would be hard to conceive anything more typically feminine than the new Frocks with princess lines. Those intended for tea-ing hours are of silk softened with exactly matching lace in such springlike tints as bois de rose, almond green and Brittany blue. Of tweed and very business-like are the tailored princess frocks.

What a feeling of radiance a smart new costume gives one! And how easy it is to assemble such a costume when such interesting new modes are available as those described.

(Costume Dept.—Second Floor.)

New Black Coatings

New Coatings, in plain black crepe back satin, 36 in. wide, \$3.95 yd.

Decorated Tea Trays, \$2.50

Red Riding Hood Pencil Sets, 50c

Cuddie Dolls that win their way into the baby's heart, 50c up

Woody Cuddies with hand-painted ribbons, any time, to gently

stimulate your liver and fortify your bowels. Then you will feel fine, your head becomes clear, stomach sweet, tongue pink, skin rosy.

"Cascarets" gently cleanse, sweeten and refresh the entire system. They never gripe, or sicken. Directions for men, women and children on each box, any drugstore.

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Easter Fashions in Hats

You may choose your Spring Hat from our extensive special showing on Wednesday, March 31st, with the assurance that it is correct whatever the occasion—Tailored, Sport or Dress.

(Millinery Salon—Second Floor.)

New Silk Hose

For Easter, Rose Ball and other Social Functions, all the shades to match pumps and slippers.

Ladies' Pure Silk Hose, Pointed Heel in black, white, pounce, camel, bran, hoggar and peach, etc.

\$1.50 and \$1.75 per pr.

Ladies' Silk Hose—Black, white, airdale, beige, sunset, grey, tawny, gpn, peach, camel, harvest, gold, etc.

\$1.65

Ladies' Ribbed Top Silk Hose—Black, white, French nude, grain, peach, atmosphere, sunburn, blush, harvest, champagne, etc.

\$1.75

Ladies' Full Fashioned Silk Hose—Lisle top, in all new shades, \$2 per pr.

Ladies' Full Fashioned Hosieryproof Silk Hose—All shades, \$2.50 per pr.

Ladies' Chiffon Silk Hose—in all new shades, \$2.75 per pr.

Children's Socks in Silk and Lisle—Fancy tops, from 30c. to 50c. per pr.

Children's 3-4 Hose with fancy tops, from 65c. to 90c. per pr.

(Hosiery Dept.—Ground Floor.)

Easter Gift Suggestions

A Hand-made Night Dress, \$3.75

A Hand-made Envelope Chemise, \$2.75

A Hand-made Separate Slip, \$2.75

A Hand-made Princess Slip, \$2.75

Rayon Silk Bloomers—All colors at, \$1.75 to \$3.25

Dainty Colored Batiste Night Dresses, \$1.50 up

Cape of China Night Dress, 60c up

Envelope Chemises or Step-ins, 50c up

Boudoir Caps in great variety, \$1.25 to \$3.50

A Silk Vest—Colors white, flesh, orchid, \$1.25 to \$3.50

A Satin Princess Slip—Grey, brown, navy, sand, black, King's blue and other colors at, \$3.85

Satinette Bloomers, \$2.50 up

Rayon Silk Princess Slips, \$2 and Shadow-proof, \$3.50

(Wholesale Dept.—Second Floor.)

Easter Gifts In Toiletries

Bath Salts—Yardley's Freesia, Vanity Fair, Lavender, Verbena, \$1.25 bottle

Richard Hudnut's Narcissus, Rose of Omar and Vanity, \$1.25 a bottle

Morny's Rose Vervene, \$1 bottle

Bath Tablets—Yardley's, Lavender, Rose and Verbena, 6 cubes in box, 65c. box

Morny's assorted, 12 cubes to a box, \$1.50

Compacts—Richard Hudnut's Yardley's, Tre-Jur, only in single and double style, new designs in cases, 75c. to \$3 each

Face Powder—Lavender, Freesia, Milady, Three Flowers, Pompadour, Armand, Bouquet, Tre-Jur, Morny's, Coty's, Honigbaum's, etc., 50c. to \$1.50 box

Bath Dusting Powder—Yardley's, Lavender, Freesia, Rose, \$1.75 box

Richard Hudnut's, Three Flowers and Vanity, \$1.25 box

Brilliantine—Liquid, 75c. bottle

Solid, 50c. tin