# POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1918

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# Hon. Mr. Veniot On Budget

Fredericton, N. B., April 19—Hon. P. J. Veniot, minister of public works, held the close attention of the legislature for four hours today while he delivered a masterly speech on matters arising from the budget debate. It was an address of the highest order, dealing in striking fashion with matters of deepest interest in a clear and intelligible manner, and at times rising to heights of eloquence seldom surpassed on the floors of the house. The speech was marked at times by expressions of the deepest emotion as he dealt with such grave matters as the war crisis, and the part that the men of Canada of both races are taking in it. It was marked by flashes of keen wit as he crossed swords with opposition members, and there were times when its subject matter was of a startling character as he revealed matters which previous governments had striven to keep concealed.

But the body of his speech was a straight-forward review of the work of his department and an answer to criticisms which had been directed at its



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cturers of the EVERLASTING VALVE for boiler blow-off service and 1000 other uses-IT NEVER LEAKS-240,000 IN USE. Write for catalogue.

since the present government entered office, the province has enjoyed one of the most business-like administrations which has marked its history. The opposition criticisms had been left without a leg to stand on, and the administrations which exists the critical properties of the standard of the stand tion's critics were left in the painful position of those who make criticisms which are not founded on fact and which have been disproved by convincing eviduring the evening and the impression he made was unmistakable. On the floors of the house the applause from the government benches was enthusiastic as he scored point after point, and at times,

with care and detail, supported by facts,

figures and corroborating documents,

with every charge which had been made.

At times his defence took the form of a

counter offensive which carried him into

the opposition trenches, with serious results for the opposition.

At the conclusion of his speech there

was left no room for the shadow of a doubt in the minds of his hearers that,

on non-partisan matters, the opposition joined in the applause. Standing out prominently in the speech was a question which Hon. Mr. Veniot asked, a question which he left to the leader of the opposition to answer and the answer will be awaited with keenest interest by Mr. Murray's followers and onents alike The question was: "Where did th

money come from?"

The minister of public works had reviewed the history of the patriotic potato deal already famous in the annals of the province. Then he told the sequel. the province. Then he told the sequel.
When the potatoes which were the gift of the province to the motherland, had been shipped, there was a large surplus left in the hands of the government, and this stock was disposed by Mr. A. C. Smith & Co., agents for the government, by shipments to the West Indies. The last of the potatoes were shipped in February and March of 1915, but when the books of the province should have been closed on November 10, the proceeds, a matter of \$32,860 had not been accounted for. The books were kept open until December 22, and on that date the province received a promissory note signed by A. C. Smith & Co., for the amount, which was entered as cash

has failed. The note was met, in March 1916, by a check forwarded from Monc-When these statements were made the opposition leader was not in the cham-ber, and Mr. Veniot remarked: "If the leader of the opposition was present he might be able to tell who forwarded that check and who furnished the money to

the amount, which was entered as cash received. The note was discounted and by the time it was due Smith & Co.

Waits for Answer. In Mr. Murray's absence he was forced to wait for a public answer, but he assured his hearers that the transaction was a disgraceful and dishonest one, and one which, when fully revealed would show how hollow was the claim that the former government had left office without a stain on the hands of the

There was another transaction reason to be proud and which will require some explaining from the former minister of public works. This is the contract made by Hon. B. F. Smith with the Smith Foundry Co. of Fredericton for the White trucks on the basis of ton for the White trucks on the basis of twenty per cent profit, at a time when another concern was prepared to sell them to the government on a ten per cent profit, a contract made only a few days before the general elections. When Hon. Mr. Venlot entered office he took steps which resulted in cutting down the price and effected a saving to the province of \$7,200 on the transaction.

B. F. Smith followed Hon. Mr. Veniot, but made no mention of this matter. He talked for half an hour, quite ter. He talked for half an hour, quite evidently sparring for time and laboring heavily in the process. The blow apparently has nearly been a knockout. At 11 o'clock Mr. Smith moved the adjournment of the debate. If he has an answer prepared by the morning the province will be glad to hear what it is. The first morning session will be held tomorrow when the house will convene at 11 o'clock a.m., sessions will be continued in the afternoon and evening and tinued in the afternoon and evening and the members will be at work again early

on Monday morning.

A bill to amend the schools act was read a third time and passed.

Mr. LeBlanc presented the report of the committee of municipalities.

Mr. Smith (Albert) gave notice of inquiry as to the duties and remuneration of Silas Cassidy, employed on the Marsh

road near Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Veniot laid on the table of the house the correspondence in connec-tion with the rebuilding of the Florence

ville bridge.

Hon. Mr. Veniot moved that the order for the third reading of the bill to vest the title of certain wharves in the gov-ernment of Canada be rescinded and the bill referred back to the committee of the whole house for further considera-

suspension of the rule to permit the in-troduction of a bill to vest the title of certain real estate at East Florenceville in the trustees of the United Baptist

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presented a petition for the passage of the bill. Hon Mr. Smith introduced a bill to

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through with a number of items of supthat in future the shooting season for such birds would be regulated by the federal authorities and the object of the The house adjourned at 11 p.m. oill was to eliminate any reference to JUSTICE CHISHOLM TO BE the same from the provincial game laws.

Hon. Mr. Smith introduced bills respecting the manufacture of spruce and CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION IN CASE OF LABOR UNREST.

Halifax, April 19-Mr. Justice Chis-holm, of Halifax, has been appointed ame act.

Hon. Mr. Murray introduced a bill to quire into and report on the labor unrest cuthorize the funding of the floating indebtedness of the province.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the house would sit tomorrow morning, afternoon the strike at New Glasgow was called and evening. It was hoped to get off.

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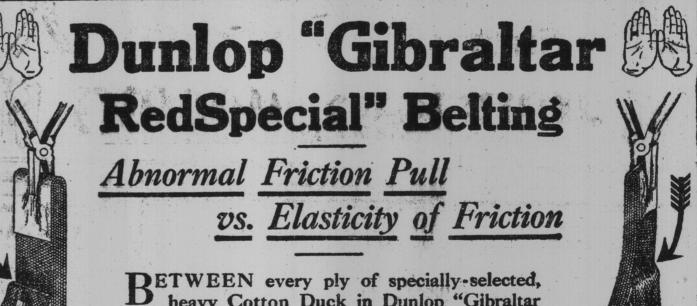


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