# POOR DOCUMENT

SECOND SECTION

# The Evening Times-Star

SECOND SECTION

PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1924

SIXTEEN PAGES

## Premier In Able Speech Desends Provincial Government

## GRAND FALLS POWER TO Answers Criticism BE DEVELOPED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SAYS VENIOT

Answers Forcefully Accusations Made Against Administration—Defends Addition to Public Debt—Political Situation in New Brunswick Is Reviewed During Premier's Speech on

Fredericton, April 9—Hon. Premier Veniot in one of the closing speeches of the budget debate gave a very able review of the provincial political situation. He is never at a loss for words, and this afternoon was even readier than usual in his examination of the arguments of his opponents and his criticism of the accusations levelled at the administration.

When in Opposition, though not in the house, P. J. Veniot was able to investigate financial figures very closely. Experience since that time has made him even more skilful in this respect. This was proved this afternoon when he challenged the Oppositions' statement with regard to the responsibility for the additions to the provincial debt and showed unerringly just what it was in 1917 when this Government came into power how many millions in addition they had to shoulder responsibility for because of obligations already entered into and how it had been decreased by payments by buying in of the Valley Railway bonds and other payments, by buying in of the Valley Railway bonds and other securities during war time, and by additions to the sinking fund.

Previous And BRIDGES FUNDS.

Deducting the obligations entered into by the old government, amounting to over four million dollars and considering the hydro expenditure as an interest bearing obligation without taking into account the amount expended upon the Valley Railway, the only large increases to our public debt have been about \$1,800,000, expended for federal roads and some three and a half millions for permanent bridges. The Premier pointed out that we had borrowed three million dollars provided for out of the auto fund, and that the interest and sinking funds for the redemption of this debt were very generous. In addition to federal roads and permanent bridges out debt had been added to by over a million and a half for floating obligations of the old Government as well as of this, and by the bonding of three quarters of a million additional of Valley Railway deficit.

The speaker was emphatic in his reference to the Dominion Government taking over this railway, and felt that if the branch line connecting with the Maine Central at Vanceboro is built there would be no difficulty, in his opinion, in the road being taken over.

DEVELOPMENT AT GRAND FALLS.

In spite of his attention to detail the Premier did not lose sight of the statement of the Opposition leader, that he personally preferred private development of Grand Falls, and that Government operation as a rule was not carried out as efficiently as private enterprise, and that before action was taken he (Mr. Richards) believed that consideration/should be given to both sides of the question.

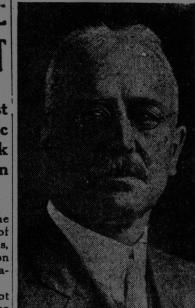
The leader of the Government was, perhaps, never so emphatic as today in his declaration in favor of public ownership.

"I wish to say to this House and country," he declared, "that the Government of the day will not give any consideration whatever to either private development or private ownership. It is our policy to develop Grand Falls and no amount of pressure on the part of the Opposition will induce us to change our policy."

Again in a later part of his speech he used these words "as leader of the Government I have made the Government position absolutely fair, and I repeat that the Government will dvelop Grand Falls and no private company will have a look in while this Government is in power."

Smallpox
Floating debt old government,
Floating debt present Government,
Buildings, limestone quarry, etc,

## Of His Government



# DIXIE QUESTION

Passing of Southern Bank Revives Tale of Ten-Dollar Bills.

New Orleans, April 10-The passing lived in New York seems to be set at rest by the records of this institution, the Citizens' Bank and Trust Company, which has been merged, after 91 years of continuous operation, with the Canal-Commercial Trust and Savings Bank. Some authorities have attributed "Dixie" to the name of one Dixie, a large landholder and kind-hearted slave owner who resided on Manhattan Island during the latter part of the eighteenth century, but in New Orleans they take no stock in such a story and point to old chronicles of the Mississippi Valley, and to the records of the bank, to dis-

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\*\*ACCUSATIONS\*\* AGAINST ADMINISTRATION.\*\*

The speaker's further references to accusations made against the administration of his Department of Public Works by Messrs. Stewart and Diote, of Restigouche, and Flewelling, of Charlotte, were very full of detail and departmental records were brought into play to show he considered their unreasonable and misleading contentions. It will be recalled that Mr. Stewart and the leader of the Government had a sharp clash when the former was speaking some days ago, and since then it is very evident that the minister has been busy in his department looking up certain matters of patronage in Restigouche county during the regime of the old Government from the years 1918 to 1916 inclusive.

He also commented upon the contention that the roads will not last out the life of the bonds which furnished the money for their construction and showed that New Brunswick highways were of a standard similar to those of other provinces and that those built under Federal aid were cheaper here. After passing over with much attention to detail the charges against the administration of his department, the Premier gave an interesting statement showing that the proportion which the rural population bore to the city and town population had not altered more than 2 per cent.

Premier Veniot has made many able speeches in the House and in the country. In many respects this was more complete and convincing than any he has yet delivered.

The Mississippi River then was headed down south into Louislana on a trading expedition he was going to "come back with a process trading expedition he was going to "come back with a process trading expedition he was going to "come back with proportion more than 2 per cent.

Premier Veniot has made m In the thirties America was flooded Incidentally the song first was published in New Orleans, and by a music house which still is in business in Canal

## Public Debt Has Increased TO SPEND MILLIONS The public debt has been increased since 1916, October 31st, as FOR BETTER ROADS

New York Public Works Department Plans 300 Miles at \$15,000,000.

Albany, N. Y., April 10—In the present year the State Department of Public Works, of which Colonel Frederick Stuart Greene is superintendent, will construct 300 miles of new roads at an approximate cost of \$15,000,000. Of almost equal importance will be the department's reconstruction programme, which will result before the end of 1924 in the rebuilding of from 225 to 250 miles of public highways, at an estimated cost to the state of \$12,000,000. This work will be largely under the supervision of Captain A. W. Brandt, the new Commissioner of Highways.

## Insinuations

Premier Veniot in his speech in the House yesterday said:

I now come to a matter, Mr. Speaker, which I feel should be dealt with in no uncertain or haphazard way. It is somewhat personal, but at the same time it is of great public interest because it affects the integrity of the Premier of this Province. While those who have been instrumental in putting into circulation certain rumors affecting the standing of the Minister of Public Works with certain contractors have not displayed sufficient courage to come straight out and say just what they mean, they have gone just far enough to leave in the minds of their followers a suspicion that there exists a state of affairs between the Minister of Public Works and certain contractors, notably the Concrete Builders, Limited, of Fredericton, which does not inure to the credit of the Government.

Two years ago when the Opposition asked "if the Government knew who were the shareholders and directors of the Concrete Builders, Limited," and the answer was given in the negative, I little thought that there were men in public life who would stoop so low as to make use of that answer to insinuate that notwithstanding the reply given that I, as Minister of Public Works, had a financial interest in that Company, either directly by myself or had a financial interest in that Company, either directly by myself or indirectly by some member of my family. While I was aware, Mr. Speaker, that such an insinuation was being circulated, I gave very little heed to it because I knew within myself that there was absolutely no truth in such a charge or insinuation. But, sir, when I discovered that the same dirty work was being carried on in the Kent election and that a former member of this House, once the Leader of the Opposition, made references to this matter in a public meeting, in such a way as to leave the impression that there was some truth in it, I decided that I would not allow this session of the Legislature go by without calling his bluff and that of his friends.

Admires a Fighter.

Admires a Fighter.

I have said it before, and I wish to repeat it, I admire the open and honest fighter, but I despise the one who in an insidious way tries to villify the character of his political opponent. It is the last dregs of despicable political warfare. I have always been a hard political fighter. I have on no occasion spared my political opponents, but I have always come out in the open when I had anything to say against an opponent. I never gave quarter and I never looked for any in a fair fight. I intend to continue that course, and today I want to give an opportunity to those who have been circulating that I am in any way interested in the Concrete Builders, Limited, either directly or any member of my family; that myself or any member of my family; that myself or any member of my family have in any way, shape or form benefited through any work that that company may have carried on for the Government since they have been organized, to prove their case.

I have been approached on several occasions by both Liberals and Conservatives to inform me that this rumor is being circulated. Under the powers given the Public Accounts' Committee of the Legislature the chairman of that committee can summon the directors of the Concrete Builders, Limited to produce their books of accounts and stockholders, as well as the minutes of their directors and by this means the whole thing can be cleared up once for all. I now, Mr Speaker, in the presence of all the Admires a Fighter.

this means the whole thing can be cleared up once for all. I now, Mr. Speaker, in the presence of all the members of this House, request that the chairman of the Public Accounts' Committee avail himself of the powers conferred upon him by this Legislature, and cause the officials of the company in question to appear before the committee with such books and papers as may be deemed necessary to prove that I have never had either through myself or any one else any interest financial or otherwise in this company; that I have never benefited in any shape or form through any work that they may have done for the province.

Integrity and Dignity.

Integrity and Dignity.

I request this in all earnestness, not only in my own interest, but for the protection of the integrity and dignity of this Legislature. To my friends I wish to say you can rest assured that in the discharge of my duty as Minister of Public Works I have done nothing for which I have any reason to be ashamed, and since I have endeavored to avoid any and all matters that might in any way reflect on the followers of the Government or on the dignity that attaches to that high position. I only ask for a fair deal. If my opponents have anything to the contrary I ask them to formulate their charges and not deal in low-down, despicable insinuation, not to resort to tactics that are unbecoming decent political opponents. Les relevand by present Generation, 1.69,711

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## MADE HYDRO PROBE



W. D. GREGORY W. D. GREGORY
Chairman of the Gregory Commission, appointed by the Farmers'
Government of Ontario to Investigate the Hydro Commission. Its report has just been tabled in the Legislature. It consists of twenty folios of typewritten material, and completely vindicates the Hydro-Electric Commission. The cost of the Gregory Commission was \$505,801. Of this \$104,680 went in salaries to the Commissioners. \$102,266 in to the Commissioners, \$102,266 in engineering fees, \$17,831 in photo-graphy, and \$935 for newspaper

## Premier Challenges Statement on Liquor

Fredericton, April 9-In the course of his speech in the Legislature here tonight, Hedley V. Dickson, M.L.A., of Kings county, made the statement that a letter had been sent by the Board of New Bruns-

sent by the Board of New Brunswick Liquor Commissioners to the licensed vendors stating that unless they sold more liquor their licenses would be cancelled.

This statement was challenged at once by Premier P. J. Veniot, who invited Mr. Dickson, if he believed that statement to be true, to lay a charge to that effect and he would have it investigated at once by a judge of the Supreme Court.

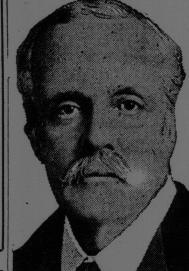
Mr. Dickson did not take up the challenge and said nothing further about the matter but proceeded to talk about the South Bay bridge contract.

Murdered Zoe Wilkins Wrote Details of Many

Wilkins' own story of her mercurial career is revealed by a small brown notebook, written in her handwriting, found among the effects of the slain adventuress and osteopath. The notes were fragmentary and disconnected.

Athlete

## Wants Naval Base



LORD BALFOUR

Who is resisting the effort of the British Labor Government to reject the proposal to convert Singapore into a great naval base. He believes it would be a disaster to British naval power to reject the plan.

It is Another Case of a Revolver Believed to be Unloaded.

BULLET IN HEART

Magrauth and Danforth Lads Were Having Good Time Together.

New York, April 10—The result of a jest, which ended in tragedy, was cabled this week to Mrs. George H. Danforth of Summit, N. J., who had gone abroad with her daughter to travel in France, after the recent death of her husband. Death has again visited the family. Mrs. Danforth's son, Noel, fifteen years old, a promising student at Andover Academy, having been shot and fatally injured in a mock pistol duel with his best friend.

Kansas City, Mo., April 10.—Dr. Zoe
Wilkins' own story of her mercurial

FOR OLYMPIC TEAM

for spring, with his brother, George, engrossed in his studies at Yale, and his mother and sister in Nice. He took a day off to run home to Summit

BRAND IN FACES

Three Girls Badly Marked by Nitrate of Silver Solution.

Three Girls Badly Marked by Nitrate of Silver Solution.

Now York April Developed the Fragmentary and disconnected Appearably the Appearably th