

SECOND SECTION

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PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

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SIXTEEN PAGES

VENIO STRENUOUSLY DEFENDS REGIME

PREMIER SAYS HE IS FIGHTING MONEYED GROUP

Will Carry Grand Falls Project to Triumph, He Declares

MANY CLASHES BETWEEN LEADERS

Brings Budget Debate to End—Dickson Talks on Prohibition and Hydro.

By D. LEO DOLAN
Special Correspondent of The Times-Star
FREDERICTON, April 16.—Delivered with characteristic animation and force, Premier Veniot in the budget debate today made an elaborate and exhaustive defence of the Government, assailed in the strongest possible language the tactics of the Opposition in practically all of their criticism and, in a manner that bordered on the sensational, charged that monied interests of this country were using all their strength and power in an effort to frustrate the proposed Government ownership and operation of the Grand Falls hydro development.

The Premier drove home his point with all that energy and vigor which so often mark his public utterances. He was in a fighting mood, and his speech tonight was virtually the opening gun of the election campaign that will be fought in this province this year.

NUMEROUS CLASHES
He clashed on numerous occasions with various members of the Opposition and these verbal tiffs enlivened the proceedings of the House, both in the afternoon and evening. Tonight the Premier spoke to crowded galleries, the seating accommodation of the chamber being taxed to capacity. On one or two occasions the interchanges during the discussion brought some applause from the hundreds of spectators who jammed their way into the galleries.

In the afternoon Premier Veniot reiterated his charge that the Opposition workers had raised the religious cry in the hope of defeating Attorney General Rand, during the Gloucester by-election campaign. He made a vicious attack on H. Bouley, a prominent Opposition supporter, and also paid his respects to A. J. Doucet, M.P. for Kent.

SUBMITTS EVIDENCE
The Premier submitted documentary evidence to support his allegation against the Opposition, whom he charged had endeavored to rouse the demon of prejudice and bring about a breach between the two great races in New Brunswick. In this connection he made an eloquent and forceful plea for unity of our people, a plea that brought applause from both sides of the House.

The Premier was more specific in his charge that an agent of these interests had visited him in Bathurst during the Gloucester by-election and endeavored to obtain the right to develop Grand Falls under private ownership.

IN MAINE AND QUEBEC

The Premier refused point blank to consider such a proposal and then informed him of the fight which would be waged against the Government's

Nova Scotia M. P. Delivers Broadside Against Federal Opposition

'Lone Wolf' To Jail For Life

BOSTON, April 17.—J. E. Walter, of Richmond, Va., who assumed the title of "Lone Wolf" and for weeks terrorized the Back Bay apartment house section by raids on suites occupied by women, was sentenced to life imprisonment late yesterday by Judge Bishop, in Suffolk Superior Court.

project in the Maine and Quebec Legislature. That fight, said the Premier, had been carried out and had been supported by the Conservative opposition in Quebec. He charged further that the vicious attack made on the Government's bill, when being considered in Quebec House, was inspired by opponents of the Government in this province and he declared further that these interests had apparently succeeded in making some progress in their efforts to have Maine oppose the project, even though they had failed to do so in Quebec.

OTHER OFFERS

The Premier said that inducements had been held out for the Government to grant the right of development at Grand Falls to private companies and referred to a meeting of capitalists held in New York in 1923 for the purpose of considering pooling their resources and proceeding with that development. The Premier, although invited to this meeting, refused to go because he felt the interests of the province would be better served by Government development. British capitalists had also expressed a desire to go to Grand Falls, said Hon. Mr. Veniot.

It was while discussing the proposed Grand Falls development and the fight which he alleges is being waged against the project with such bitterness by the big interests that Premier Veniot made his sensational disclosure. He charged that an envoy in the person of a man once connected with Musquash development, but now no longer in that position, came to Fredericton carrying credentials of certain monied interests and requested an interview with the Premier. During the course of that interview the agent of the interests gave the opportunity to try over the Musquash development and proceed with the Grand Falls project.

TURNED DOWN.

He had a living witness seated in the next room during this conference, said the Premier, "because I was suspicious that some film game was being attempted. The proposal of this agent was turned down, of course."

During his discussion of the visit of another agent of certain big interests to Bathurst during the Gloucester election campaign, Premier Veniot and Mr. Richards had another tiff. The leader of the Opposition resented the intimation of the Premier that this agent refused to grant the request that Grand Falls be turned over to private enterprise for development. The Premier said the agent was not there in the interests of the Government candidate and had even threatened that refusal on the part of the Premier to accede to the request made on behalf of the monied interests would bring about a fight in the Quebec and Maine Legislatures.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

"I told this agent that, had he made that proposal to me in my own home, I would have ordered him out," remarked the Premier. "He had sent for me to go to his room in the hotel and

WAR DIARY OF MUSSOLINI IS WORTH WHILE

I left as soon as I became cognizant of reason for his visit to Bathurst." Premier Veniot tonight made a most important announcement with respect to the Grand Falls legislation which is to be brought down in the House next week.

REITERATING HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT

that every possible available data and information when this legislation is considered, the Premier made the further declaration that H. G. Acres, consulting engineer of the New Brunswick Power Commission, would be here next week and his complete report on the character of the construction, the estimated cost of land damages and the cost of the initial development would be ready for the members.

WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Further, the Premier asserted that S. R. Weston, chief engineer of the New Brunswick Power Commission, would also be in Fredericton and would go before the members of the House at an informal meeting during which any questions relevant to the Grand Falls project would be answered in detail. "Grand Falls will be developed and the work started just as soon as these complications are settled," declared Premier Veniot. "I am not going to force this legislation through in the dying hours of the session but am prepared to keep this House sitting as long as honorable members wish in order that every detail in connection with the project may be thoroughly discussed. And the Grand Falls development will be carried on in such a way that I am sure the people of this province will be perfectly satisfied with the development planned."

BACK TO THE WALL.

"My back has been to the wall fighting the big interests which for the last two years have been opposing the Grand Falls development. All sorts of offers and threats have been made, but this project will be carried through to a successful conclusion."

During the course of his defence of the policies of the Government Premier Veniot issued a defy to the Opposition to show where there had been any scandal in the time the Foster and Veniot Governments had control of the affairs of the province.

ANOTHER CLASH.

The Premier during one verbal tiff with Mr. Richards caused quite a furore. It occurred during the Premier's discussion of the Gloucester by-election campaign and Hon. Mr. Veniot, in a heated retort to the leader of the Opposition counselled him to "keep your tongue between your teeth."

"I want that remark withdrawn," came back Mr. Richards.

"I will not withdraw it," was the Premier's reply.

Continued on page 15.

WAR DIARY OF MUSSOLINI IS WORTH WHILE

Writer Describes What Italian Premier Expresses in His Book

TELLS OF HIS LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

See a United Nation as Result of the Efforts of Soldiers.

By ALICE ROHE
(Written for the United Press.)

NEW YORK, April 17.—Italian history has centered so completely around the personality of one man for the last three years that any thing he writes is of unusual interest. For this reason "My War Diary, 1915-17" by Benito Mussolini, is far more than the mere record of daily happenings in the trenches.

At no time since the founder of Fascism saved his country from disruption has the Italian Premier, as an individual human being, been so vividly before the public as now. This is because of the grave rumors which his illness has started among the ranks of the opposition.

Diary Tells.

What sort of a man is this Mussolini? The answer may be found by reading the lines of this newly published diary from the presses of Small, Maynard & Co. For those who still wonder about the political reign of Fascism and the making of a Fascist fighting beside him in the trenches

Supposed Fortune of Millions Fades Into Debt For Recluse

NEW YORK, April 17.—A fortune which its owner, the late Calvin Amory Stevens, recluses, believed to run into millions of dollars, faded to a minus quantity when the estate was appraised in Surrogate's Court. Stevens believed mining properties he held in Nova Scotia, New Mexico and Virginia were worth about \$5,000,000, and to hide his supposed wealth lived for years in poorly furnished quarters in a Manhattan office building. The appraisal today valued these properties at \$765,500

Budget Debate Brought to End

FREDERICTON, April 17.—The budget debate in the New Brunswick Legislature, which has been in progress for 10 days, came to a close last night, after which the main to go into supply was passed without division.

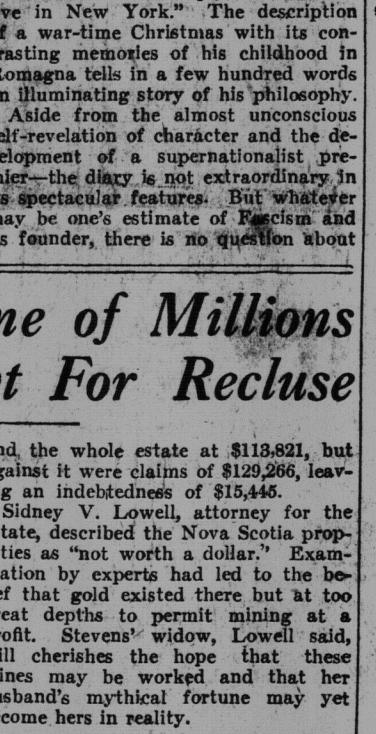
premier, the book reveals many things. The change from revolutionary Socialism to super-nationalism, completed by the alchemy of war's crucible, is found in the pages of this book. Here in those arduous days of mountain warfare we see reflected the sentiments of the man who I am sure, time will prove to be the greatest patriot of our age. Every little happening, big or little, in the trenches is interpreted by Mussolini only in its relation to the upholding of Italian unity. The sight of his former proletarian comrades gives him great comfort. The sound of soldiers, no longer saying they are going back to their home town but that they are going back to Italy, thrills him with his goal of a united nation.

Much Tenderness.

What will most surprise the reader who may have a preconceived idea of Italy's premier as a fiery, rolling-eyed dictator, is the tenderness, the super-sensitiveness, the great courage, with an overpowering responsibility to beauty which is the real Mussolini. He speaks of the fineness of the Italian-American soldiers—among the best at the front. He asks one of them why he calls himself a Republican and is amused at the reply: "Because I live in New York." The description of a war-time Christmas with its contrasting memories of his childhood in Romagna tells in a few hundred words an illuminating story of his philosophy. Aside from the almost unconscious self-revelation of character and the development of a supernaturalist premier—the diary is not extraordinary in its spectacular features. But whatever may be one's estimate of Fascism and its founder, there is no question about

the influence of both on post-war life has aroused such unbridled enthusiasm. For that reason every glimpse and such vituperative and vindictive into the heart and soul of the man who opposition is well worth while.

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