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Continuation Of Mr. Saunders' Speech

The Following is a Continuation of Thursday's Address in the Legislative Assembly

"And yet," he interjected, "some of our teachers will compare us with these other provinces." So we find it very hard to get the other Provinces to listen to our arguments," he went on.

Mr. Stewart—"They are opposed to it from motives of self interest." The Premier expressed his agreement with Mr. Stewart in this, and said that while our claim was just and had been strongly pressed, there was very little effect. They had done all that they possibly could.

While the speaker had been addressing the Ladies Club he had had conferences on the subject with ministers of the Federal Government. It was suggested that our claims be presented during the summer and autumn. As to the \$125,000 subsidy, it was only a temporary arrangement, and it might possibly be reduced—though he had every hope that it would continue. He said that since he was Premier, all our claims at Ottawa had been vigorously pressed.

THE TECHNICAL GRANT Passing to a consideration of the technical grant, he claimed that this had expired, and that it was only through pressure brought by this government that provision was made by the Federal Parliament, and an extension was provided for provinces which had not taken up their allotment. He believed that it was through the efforts of himself in that connection that legislation was put through, and we are getting the benefit. We are getting concessions under the technical grant that no other province is getting.

He then went on to castigate the Liberal Government credit for anything they ever did for the province. They ask what we have done for the fishermen. He believed that the course in up-to-date methods at Halifax was quite well known among the fishermen, and did not need to be advertised by the Provincial Government as suggested by Mr. Stewart. He declared the course was a great thing for the fishermen.

Hitherto high freight and express rates have prohibited the shipment of fish to the central provinces; but Mr. Saunders was in hopes that the new system of refrigeration would permit of their being held until the markets were so high that they might be shipped with profit. Both the Federal and Local Governments were doing all they could for the fishermen.

Dealing with the road policy, the Premier claimed that the roads had never been as good as they were last year. The work done at Hunter River alone, he claimed, was sufficient to pay the cost of the new road machinery. He was content to leave the matter to the verdict of the people. Best of all, the work was being done at a minimum cost. At least 1500 miles had been improved; and now that the operators had become adept, he felt that by the end of next year all the roads would be completed, and by the end of the year 1931 we would have such roads as were never thought of and never expected.

Mr. Saunders maintained that there was no gravel well suited to road building in the province. Graveling was expensive. It cost perhaps \$3.00 to \$3.50 per ton to apply. This being the case it could only be applied in low and boggy places. Wherever it was placed, it effected a great improvement.

PROHIBITION With regard to the Prohibition Act, the Premier dubbed the statements of the Leader of the Opposition as incorrect. As far as prisoners in the jail were concerned, they were not being released after serving perhaps two weeks, as they used to be. There have been no releases since the present government came into power, except two, which were given under doctors' certificates, and with the approval of the Temperance Alliance. It appeared that when the present government came into office, the prisoners were not getting jail fare, and they were getting jail fare, and were not particularly anxious to get back. He claimed that the gentleman who put the article in the Temperance Alliance bulletin referred to by the Leader of the Opposition had been very close to the Conservatives before the last election, and because he could not dominate this government, he went back to the old fold. Dr. MacMillan—"His name?" The Premier—"You can guess it." The speaker went on to say that he no longer thought three magistrates were necessary; but any day the Temperance Alliance asked the Government to appoint three magistrates they would do it, and the Temperance

caucus, and the conclusion announced had been arrived at in connection with the caucus. Letters had been sent out to the Women's Institutes by Mr. Morrisey, the organizer of the Teachers' Federation, asking them to send in resolutions for the increase to the Premier. He had only received 18 or 20 such, and they differ in their terms. (The Premier read one from Mount Pleasant Institute, the tenor of which was that the matter be left in the hands of the Premier.)

The Premier then gave some details as to the increases asked for teachers, according to their years of service. For those having over 10 years of service 100 per cent increase was asked for.

He went on to claim that some teachers were not good teachers, and he did not feel that the raise in salary would increase their efficiency. Granting this, why should we increase their salaries? He said he had always been an advocate of improved methods in education—particularly consolidation, so as to do away with schools with only six or eight pupils in them. He said they were prepared to appoint a committee to confer with the teachers in regard to general conditions, and improvement in education, but he did not think, and the members, he felt, agreed with him, that it would be any use to accede to their demands. The government was now paying 85 per cent of the teachers' salaries—far more than any government in Canada. Let the districts rectify the matter by increasing the supplement. The conditions as regards agriculture in the province were never worse. Potatoes are selling at 15c per bushel, and the cost of producing them is 50c per bushel. There is no means of meeting their demand but by raising \$87,000 more by taxation, and the government is not in a position to do it. He thought the teachers should be reasonable to see this.

THE TEACHERS' SALARIES 'As to school teachers' salaries—the Premier said that he regretted we were not able to balance our budget. He believed the school teachers who proposed to make it their life work were not paid enough. But those who only intended to remain in the profession a short time, three or four years were, in his opinion, receiving enough. The standard of living here is not the same as in other provinces. He, as Premier, got only \$2000, while no other Premier in Canada got less than \$6,000. The same was true of Ministers and Government officials all down the line—the salaries were too low. This he put down to party politics. They did not change things because they regarded themselves as the peoples' trustees—and such small things would injure them in the country.

Had taxation remained as it was in 1920 the Government could doubtless accede to the teachers' demands. But the late government reduced taxation. Then, too, he had been in hopes of an increase in the subsidy from the Federal Government and in this he was disappointed.

DR. MACMILLAN'S ADDRESS Dr. MacMillan, congratulating the mover and seconder of the address, computed some of the points that they had raised, alluded to the election campaign which had resulted in the election of Mr. Calum Luce, saying that it took the whole brigade of tanks at the disposal of the Minister of Public Works, not to mention speakers enough to ensure that no opposition speaker would close the discussion at a meeting.

As to the Speech, Dr. MacMillan criticized certain points of diction in it. The Speech from the Throne referred, for instance to the session, in one place as the second session of the 41st assembly, and in another place as the second session of the 42nd General Assembly. There were a couple of non-contentious paragraphs in it, however. The speaker went on to associate himself with the sentiments of thankfulness expressed at the recovery of His Majesty, King George the fifth, also with the tributes paid to the late Hon. Judge Warburton, ex-Premier Bell, making particular allusion to his request whereby the rich and poor of Prince County would benefit. Dr. MacMillan also recalled the faithful work of the late Mr. John Agnew, Laughlin MacDonald and R. H. Montgomery, and praised the efficient services of Mr. Ben. H. Rogers, late Clerk of the House, having no doubt that his successor, Mr. Trainor would continue his good record.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION Mr. Saunders (continuing), said, with relation to the matter of a sanatorium that the committee appointed by the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, which had interviewed the Government had estimated that it might cost \$50,000 to build a 33 bed sanatorium, which might be operated at a cost of \$32,000 to \$35,000 per year, and they believed that municipalities should contribute to the upkeep. Assuming fifty per cent to be paying and 50 per cent non-paying patients, the cost to the Government should be \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year. The government said they would pay half the first cost, (\$30,000.00) and also contribute to the maintenance to the extent of \$12,000 per year. The trustees see to raise \$30,000 of first cost by public subscription. This is the position the government is now in. He felt satisfied that the Women's Institutes now that their wishes were being met, would work hand in hand with the trustees to be appointed.

Experts who were consulted, considered that, while the number of beds was generally estimated as equal to the number of patients dying per year in the locality covered by the institution, still valuable training to patients in their own care might be given. TEACHERS' SALARIES As to the question of teachers' salaries the government had been waited on by a delegation of six teachers. In view of the difficult situation of the government as regards funds, said that it would require \$85,000 per year to meet their requests, the Premier had sent out a letter to the members of the House, asking them to submit the question to the electors in their districts. The matter was under consideration since in

people of the Province—out to the coast, and then, later on, to Ottawa. He then congratulated Hon. Dr. Grant on his accession to cabinet rank. SUBSIDIES It was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition that there was only one way in which an increase in subsidy might have been obtained. The only way was that of the Duncan Commission—a general and final re-adjustment, and, as Prince Edward Island was the one most interested, it was up to it to take the initiative and get the Premiers together for a conference to this end. He wondered if the Premier had done anything in this regard. Or did he, when in Ottawa to address the Canadian Women's Club interview members of the government, and those Premiers who expressed such sympathy for Prince Edward Island, the little sister of Confederation? How about the statement of the Prime Minister of Canada, when asked about the settlement, that the matter had not been pressed or presented. When we have men strong enough to force this meeting of the Provincial Premiers and so get satisfaction.

COOURSE FOR FISHERMEN With regard to the course at Halifax for fishermen, the thing seems to be practical, and should be advertised among our fishermen. Dr. MacMillan went on to express his hope that the oyster industry would be revived. It had declined year by year for a great many years; and it had been supposed that, when the small oysters from the Southern States were planted a disease was introduced which had destroyed our oysters. It seems hard to believe that anyone can be sure that the disease is eradicated over all those acres, but time will tell. The speaker next dealt with education. If it is desired to increase the efficiency of education there are better ways of doing it than by the appointment of inspectors—and especially persons not competent to act as such. The Premier says the teachers are asking for an increase of salaries as follows: 1 to 2 years service 10 per cent increase. 2 to 5 years service, 25 per cent increase. 5 to 10 years service 50 per cent increase. Over 10 years service 100 per cent increase. amounting in all to about \$87,000, and of this 40 per cent he states will go to 15 per cent of the teachers, employed mainly in Summerside and Charlottetown. Dr. MacMillan went on to state that the best paid teacher in the province got \$1800. He cited specific cases showing how teachers found it hard to live on their salaries. When he (the speaker) was a teacher he got \$240 per year. And when he asked the district for an increase he got \$15.00 per year added to his supplement. And in the meantime teachers in other provinces are having increases to their salaries of \$2000 and \$3000 per year. Dr. MacMillan ridiculed the claim that the Liberal Government had always been the best friends of the teachers, pointing out that Premier Matheson had given an increase in salaries of \$50,000. The Premier was right about abolishing small schools, and while the Stewart Government was in power they had tried to amalgamate them. And the present government had had no better success. It was one of the things that would not go down with the people. He went on to criticize the Bell administration for having given its increase of \$100,000 in flat increases all round—irrespective of length of service. It is regrettable that the government have to turn down this request. It would be better if they used the \$87,000 available at the vendor's offices for this purpose, rather than pursue the myth of prohibition. The speaker then criticized the expensive change in the school text books. "Let them look at the poor misguided Government of New Brunswick which did away with prohibition, and gave books to the school children free. Which do you think is better," he asked "free school books or prohibition?"

AGRICULTURE Taking up the question of agriculture, Dr. MacMillan wanted to know if the statement in the Speech from the Throne was fact, or fiction. If the statements were true, then the certified seed business was not a benefit, but a curse to the province. The industry must be over developed, when the production can be so increased and yet only a loss accrue to the growers. He was beginning to be very sceptical as to what the government had done for the growers—as also for the egg and poultry and other agricultural industries. The speaker considered it a serious thing, if the farmers of the province had been led away from mixed farming into specialization in potatoes.

The wonderful things in agriculture mentioned by the Premier took place, many of them, under the Stewart Government. And the man who was most responsible is the Dairy Superintendent Mr. John A. MacDonald, who was appointed under the Stewart Government. We would be very much disappointed if our butter and cheese had not graded so high, for that was their proper place. The Premier certainly gave us a lecture on agriculture. But he might have said that the Egg and Poultry Association was the most successful co-operative association in Canada, and it was too bad that it was organized under a Conservative Government. And when the Premier was through we knew beyond a doubt that the Minister of Agriculture had improved the flavor of the lambs of the province most wonderfully. Yes, the year 1928 has been a year of agricultural improvement and expansion—as summed up by the Premier in his statement to the teachers that agriculture in the province had never been worse off! Put the two statements side by side. As to the fox industry, the only thing that any government has done for that was when the Stewart Government gave \$5000 to help erect an experimental fox station in Prince County.

PUBLIC HEALTH Reverting to public health, Dr. MacMillan took occasion heartily to congratulate the Premier and his government on making a start in the matter of a sanatorium. They were doing the right thing. This work is the culmination of the work of the Red Cross Society, which has been of great help in this province. He went into their work in some detail, praising, in particular, the work of the crippled children's clinic. The appointment of a full time health officer by the government also was a move in the right direction. As to road construction, it is no doubt true that a great mileage of road was covered by the machines. But everyone knows what the roads were like in 1928—they were particularly bad in the Fort Augustus district. Many automobiles were ditched last year by reason of their badness. The speaker then quoted from a Patriot editorial which quoted from The Guardian as to the hump backed condition of the roads, also another article, dated May 31st condemning the condition of the roads, and the system of work on them, and, in particular the approaches to the Hillsborough bridge. This, said Dr. MacMillan, only went to show the truth of the Stewart Government's contention with regard to the necessity for road drains, which were now being advertised for by the government. Gravel was certainly useful in the bad places, the speaker went on. So much so, in fact, that some persons by some influence or other seem to be able to get it put on their own private lanes. The merit of the work can perhaps be best judged when we

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his speeches re prohibition he the Women's Club in Ottawa. For last year in the city police of 346 persons under the influence of liquor—an increase of 80 per cent over the figures for the year before. And yet they say the Prohibition Act is being rigorously enforced. wonder a minister from the Premier's own town gets up and says the temperance people are tools the hands of politicians! He a how many of these 346 drunks prosecuted under the provisions of the Prohibition Act passed last session, which would entail a \$200 or two months in jail. At 6 o'clock Dr. MacMillan made the adjournment of the debate, the House adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

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