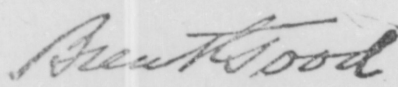


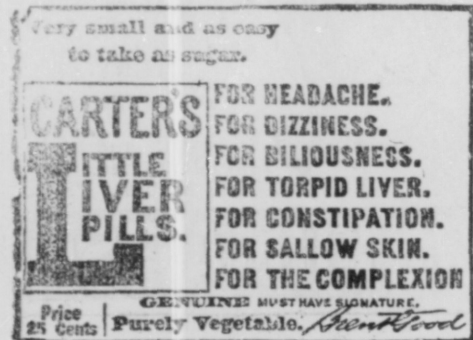
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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Able Speech by Mr. A. Prowse and Mr. A. A. McLean.

WEDNESDAY, May 16.

The debate on the draft address was continued by Mr. McKinnon. In opening he referred to the unfavourable time at which the House was called and to the fact that Fort Augustus and West River districts are without proper representation. He pointed out that the Government had lost the confidence of the people. They could not fill all the seats in the Council. They had no Attorney General on the floor of the House and could not elect one. In regard to the prosperity we enjoy it is not due to the passing of the reciprocity resolutions moved so often by the Liberals while in opposition, neither is it due to the passing of commercial union which these gentlemen said was to bring peace and happiness and prosperity to our people; but it took place under the policy adopted by their predecessors and continued by them. When the Liberals want to point to the chicken-fattening stations started by themselves, but to the butter and cheese industry started by their predecessors. He agreed with the sentiments expressed on both sides of the House in reference to the war. While we deplore the loss of life and join in the sincere hope that the war will come to a speedy and successful termination, we must feel proud of the loyalty, unity and strength of the Empire to which we belong as well as of the bravery and ability of her soldiers. This war is caused by the refusal of President Kruger to give the franchise to strangers who come into his territory, and while Britain is spending treasure and precious lives to remedy these grievances it is humiliating to know that we have the same grievances in this province where not strangers but people who always enjoyed these rights are denied representation in this House. The only difference is that our grievances are not of as long standing. He denied the charge that every member on this side of the House voted against the bridge bill, and said that no one was better pleased at the prospect of getting these works than the Conservatives who were the first to press for them and to whose efforts they were largely due. It is true the Liberals deserve some credit, but they would receive more had they not tried to make political capital out of it. It cannot be denied that they told the people of Belfast and Murray Harbor that the agreement was signed last November when it was not. Not only that, but Sir Louis Davies and Hon. D. A. McKinnon went through these districts exhibiting a bogus plan gotten up for election purposes. We do not appreciate the fact that a central exhibition is to be held in Charlottetown costing one-fifth of the land tax of this province, while King's and Prince counties get nothing. It seems now that we are on the eve of getting another million dollars from Ottawa. This is the old election cry of 1897 with slight changes; instead of getting it for non-fulfilment of terms of union we are going to get it for fisheries; instead of arbitration this time the case is in the Supreme Court. The scheme worked well in 1897, but the people found it out and showed their want of confidence every opportunity they got since. The bait will not take this time. The organ of the Liberal party led the temperance people of this province to believe that some temperance legislation would be passed this session. But instead of that the hon. member from St. Peter's launched out on the floor of this House as the champion of the license iniquity and the Leader of the Government wronged and insulted the temperance people by saying they did not know what they wanted that they disagreed among themselves. He did not know what they wanted and had no means of finding out. Instead of this being the case the temperance people made their wants known in an address to the members of this House in which they said: "We have unanimously decided that we cannot countenance any measure which, either directly or indirectly, derives revenue from the liquor traffic." In the face of this the Premier passed the License Law. The temperance people put a Liquor Regulation Bill in his hands which he promised to pass for them and which clearly stated their wants, but in obedience to Mr. Peters and the liquor interests of this city he struck out its most important clauses. He defied the Premier to point to one clause of any temperance legislation passed by him without consulting the liquor interests of the city.

Mr. A. P. Prowse spoke next. He thought we should be thankful for the prosperity of the province, but claimed that inasmuch as this prosperity was universal no credit should be given to the Liberal party for it. He is common with all our people, was gratified to know that success was coming to British arms in South Africa. He was also gratified to find that at last action has been taken in the matter of constructing the Belfast-Murray Harbor Railway, and he hoped that the building of the entire road would proceed without delay. He then pointed to the course of the Liberals in building the railway in Saskatchewan and hoped that such a course would not be pursued here. Mr. Prowse then pointed out that the success in dairying here was due to the fostering care of the Conservatives. He thought there was valuable information in the report of Mr. Joseph Wise, who was last year sent to the Old Country by the Government. Mr. Prowse was not opposed to exhibitions. But he was opposed to Charlottetown asking for \$6,000 for one central exhibition. He thought \$3,000 would be sufficient for such an

exhibition. It was as necessary that an experimental farm should be established here as it was that one should be instituted in Nova Scotia. The roads and bridges throughout the province are in a disgraceful state, and it is high time some improvement were made. Fence battens had actually been used to mend a bridge in his district. He was surprised at Mr. Peters' statement that thirty-seven or forty schools would be enough for this Island—that would be about two for each district. The result of the late by-elections indicate that the Government has lost the confidence of the people. It is a recognised fact that the Attorney-General should have a seat on the floor of the House. After weeks of consideration Mr. McKinnon was chosen Attorney-General. Then came the Murray Harbor election which was run in a most disgraceful manner. Road orders and a carload of whiskey were sent down—not by the speaker. Then Sir Louis Davies came down and threatened that if the people did not vote for Mr. McKinnon the railway would not be proceeded with. Mr. Prowse then dealt with the disgraceful election of Mr. Wise. Proceeding he said he did not think that Mr. Pineau's position was one that any hon. member should be proud of. The circumstances connected with that gentleman's change of political faith were certainly suspicious. He deprecated the raising of the race cry. He said he did not think it made any difference what a man's nationality was when he did wrong he should be condemned. He deprecated taking from the soldiers the right to vote and hoped that the measure to that effect would not carry. He strongly condemned the manner in which the people had been deceived with regard to the plebiscite, and thought that the House law which now obtained in Charlottetown should be wiped off the statute books. He believed that the people who voted for prohibition would not hesitate to see that the law was enforced.

Mr. McLaughlin who followed spoke of the aspirant for the Attorney Generalship, and expressed his regret at the outcome of the election in the Murray Harbor district. He thought that Mr. Wise acted unwisely in attempting to hold a seat in the House which he had resigned. The appointment of extra door keepers he held to be necessary to prevent further disturbance in the House. He claimed that the present government had done much to improve the roads, and had purchased road machines. The expenditure on roads was now no greater than it was ten or fifteen years ago when the Conservatives were in power. He was proud of the Murray Harbor-Belfast railway, the first sod of which had been turned today. He denied that the government had given the liquor sellers privileges by the act of last session that they did not previously enjoy.

Mr. A. A. McLean, in reply to Mr. McLaughlin, pointed out that the Belfast-Murray Harbor railway was the outcome of the efforts of the people of both political parties and the efforts of the politicians representing both sides. There was not a man on either side of politics who was opposed to this important public work. But it was not until the eleventh hour that Sir Louis Davies said anything in favor of this railway, and then it was only done with a view to saving the Liberal candidate, Mr. Welsh. Mr. Martin, the Conservative candidate, had been long an advocate of this railway and bridge and Sir Louis had at last to do something by way of supporting the scheme. The Liberals used the railway as a lever to promote the success of their candidates. Wherever it was thought votes could be obtained by promising a railway such promise was made. He looked upon the building of the bridge at Shipyard Point as a mistake. It should be built at the foot of Cumberland Street. But no matter where it is built he was glad that it and the railway were forthcoming. The speakers on the Government side boasted of the Federal surplus of \$7,000,000. But he did not think this was anything to be proud of in view of the fact that the Liberals had gone back shamefully on their pre-election promises to relieve the people by reducing the duties. It is a well-known fact that instead of articles of common use being reduced the duties upon them have been increased. The price of oil, for instance, has been materially increased since the Liberals came in. In 1896 oil sold for 22¢ per gallon, now it is 25¢ per gallon. The present Liberal party are firm friends of the Standard Oil monopoly. There is also a great increase in the price of binder twine, barb wire and agricultural machinery and implements and everything else required by the farmer, taking up the matter of the fisheries award and the hopes that were being held out to the people in regard to it. Mr. McLean reviewed the correspondence bearing upon the subject and claimed that there was absolutely no warrant for what was said by the government and its supporters regarding the share this province was to obtain from that source. The Government had deceived the people with regard to the arbitration of our claims and were now attempting to repeat the deception in the matter of our fisheries. There was nothing to be hoped for from the fisheries award. The reference to the matter in the Governor's speech was misleading. It is said that we are to get a million from this source. But so far as he could see if anything was obtained it would not exceed \$315,000, not half enough to pay the debt that the present government has piled up. The Dominion has funded the award and the interest of the fund is devoted to paying fishermen's bounties and to fishery protection. If anything should be obtained from this source the Island province might be asked to take up the protection of its fisheries and would surely surrender the right to fishery bounties. The decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case to be submitted may not be



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favorable, and there is positively no warrant for saying that this province has as good as got its share of the fisheries award. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his answer to the Warburton memorial intimates that even if the Privy Council should ascertain the amount of the award to which this province is entitled it would still require the consent of the Dominion Parliament to pay it over to the province, and he would not say whether he would consent to pay it over and thus deprive the fishermen of their bounties. The whole thing is simply an election dodge, similar to the arbitration cry of 1897. Referring to roads and bridges Mr. McLean took exception to the statement that these branches of the public service were never in a better condition than they are at present. He also condemned the deficits of the Government notwithstanding their boasted economy in the way of reducing the expenses of legislation. It was stated by Mr. Peters that Mr. Pineau had left the Conservatives because they had charged his compatriots with disloyalty. This was a flimsy excuse. Furthermore it was not true. Mr. Pineau was elected as a Conservative. He was a Conservative when he attended the Liberal Conservative convention in Charlottetown last January. Mr. Pineau spoke at this convention in the interest of the Conservative party and was actually appointed convener for his district. This was long after the contingent had gone to Africa and long after the alleged disloyalty cry was raised, and Mr. Pineau never even hinted that he was dissatisfied with his party or offended at the actions of any of its members. He never said anything at the convention that was

(Continued on page 3.)

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