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PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DAILY EDITION



Tuesday, May 31, 1932

MAKING AN ESTIMATE

Most people at some time or other make an estimate of the affairs of their neighbors. It may be a stated estimate or simply a mental estimate but in any event it is made.

Many people judge of a person's affairs by the amount of money he spends. This naturally is a fallacy. One of Dickens' characters judged by the amount saved and considered a person rich as long as he balanced his budget and had some little left over.

It will often be found that the best spenders are the poorest people. They have no reserve for a rainy day. On the other hand the man who is shabby and whose wife and children are not always going out clad in the latest hats and gowns often has money in the bank and a dollar to help a poorer neighbor over a difficult time. The credit man does not look at the outward appearance.

And yet it is not always wise to go shabby, giving the impression of poverty. The medium course is usually the best. The well dressed person is the least conspicuous, always seeming to fit in with his or her surroundings. Good quality clothes always look well.

ELECTORS QUESTIONING

In Manitoba they are having a provincial election and the Free Press asks the following questions:

"Has the government been equal to its responsibilities in these difficult times, or has it not? Has it made all the economies that could be expected in order to keep down taxation? Has it managed efficiently the various government enterprises, whether initiated by the present government or its predecessors? All governments are imperfect. Has the Bracken government seriously failed? Are the statements of the opposition convincing as to their ability to give better government?"

Presumably we shall be asking similar questions pretty soon on behalf of the electors of British Columbia and they will answer with their votes.

A Week's Doings at Parliament

By Tom Reid, M.P.

Port Churchill Again Under Fire—Radio Report Highly Commended—Experimental Farms Discussed

Friday, May 13:—As is frequently the case on Fridays there was a slim attendance in the House and practically the whole of the day was taken up with agricultural matters. The minister having his estimates for agriculture before the House, many members took advantage of the occasion to say something on this very important industry, the discussions being carried on right up to 11 o'clock with not an item passed. The principal subjects for discussion and which were elaborated on were butter, wool, eggs and hides and it was evident, from the speeches made, that agriculture generally throughout Canada was in pretty bad shape indeed. The matter of an export market board was mentioned and advocated by most of the speakers. It would seem to me that nearly every member was willing that a board of this kind should at least be given a fair trial.

The weather has turned fairly warm which has the effect of making many of the members more eager now for the close of the session.

Monday, May 16:—The question of grain being routed through Port Churchill was brought up at the beginning of the day, Dr. Manion, minister of railways, having a prepared statement ready for the House in connection with the development of this port. Considerable feeling is usually engendered when this port is brought up for discussion, many members taking the stand that the building of the railway to Churchill and placing the port on the Hudson Bay was not entirely warranted but, as some \$56,000,000 has already been spent on it, something has to be done to encourage its use. The information given in regard to this port is that it is open on an average only three months a year.

Some estimates were also gone into, the minister of national defence coming in for a good deal of questioning regarding expenditures—both military and naval.

After recess the House was still sitting as a committee, estimates in connection with the finance department being discussed.

The question of the expenditures on the Montreal bridge was under fire, many members declaring they would like to have this matter investigated as, when the bridge was first mooted, it was estimated at the time to cost some \$10,000,000 which has been increased to \$19,000,000 on the completion thereof.

The Prime Minister intimated that, on the following day, he would introduce a bill in regard to radio broadcasting. Up to 11 o'clock the House was still discussing estimates in connection with the department of national defence.

Gasoline Report

Tuesday, May 17:—The committee that had been sitting inquiring into the matter of gasoline brought in its report. It had held some 22 meetings in all and some very interesting figures were brought out in connection with gasoline and gas prices throughout Canada.

The Prime Minister brought in a resolution for the House to sit at 11 a.m. on Thursday next which portends the dying days of the session.

When the ten percent cut of the civil servants' salaries was brought down, judges and those connected with the navy and military forces of Canada were exempt. This has caused a great deal of opposition and the government, to meet the opposition, now introduced a bill to take ten percent of the income tax off judges and naval and military forces. As one member had said, during the said discussion, in his opinion the best way to foment trouble was to start exempting any one class. The Prime Minister, however, declared that the judges were in a class by themselves. It was easy to distinguish the lawyer members by their speeches in the House. It being evident that a strong bond of unanimity existed among the members of the fraternity and I suppose it is correct to say every lawyer is a potential judge at least it has been the usual custom to give defeated candidates a position on the bench.

A great deal of the time of the House was taken up over changes in the budget which were being made at the request of New Zealand which had asked that the tariff on certain articles be raised against other countries, one of these ar-

icles being hides. This subject created a great deal of discussion, two members of the government rising to condemn Mr. Stevens. They also claimed, like the members of the opposition, that the effect of duty on hides would simply mean that the people of this country would pay more for their boots and shoes and that the farmers would also pay more for their harness. An interesting fact was given to the House that the cattle in Canada at present were not suitable to produce the best hides and that the best hides in the world came from the Argentine where no barbed wire is allowed and where there is no warble fly as we have here in Canada and which punctures holes in the hides or skins of all animals.

The six percent sales tax also came in for a great deal of comment, and the Hon. E. N. Rhodes, minister of finance, was subjected to a great deal of questioning in connection with this matter.

The matter of the tax on telephone calls and telegrams brought many members to their feet. They were desirous not only of criticizing it but wished definite information as to the effect of this tax. A tax is now to be made on those insurance policies taken out in companies which are not listed in Canada. The day ended with only half of the customs tariff having been passed. Considerable discussion will yet take place before it is finally put through the House.

Radio Bill In

Wednesday, May 18:—After prayers the Prime Minister introduced the radio bill as promised the day before and I am frank to state that no bill has met with such universal approval from all sides of the House as the bill which was introduced in regard to public ownership and control of radio. It is the intention of Parliament to appoint a commission clothed with very wide powers and also to have nine deputy commissioners, one for each province. It was interesting to learn that the air lines were very limited and that, as radio was only in its infancy, it was very proper that Canada should obtain control for the people of Canada of so important a natural resource. It is a pity that most of our natural resources have been given over to private interests and many of the natural resources of Canada are now gone. There may be difficulties and criticisms arise in the future but I believe it was a wise step and one taken in the interests of the Canadian people to take over radio now before it was too late. Any oppositor that has been heard in the matter has come from private interests entirely. All the money derived from licenses, etc. is to be placed with the department of radio and advertising matter is to be limited to five percent of the radio programs.

The rest of the day was taken up by the department of agriculture supply and, as it was a short day, not much progress was made. Agricultural estimates generally, come in for a great deal of criticism and comment and it usually takes some days before the minister can get the various items through the committee. Last year it was not until the very last day of the session that the minister of agriculture introduced his expenditures and anything introduced in the dying hours of the session is usually gone through very quickly. Once the date and the hour for prorogation is set the House is not in a good mood to entertain long and protracted discussions. It is during closing hours of the session that a member, if he has anything to say, has to be very alert and ready to jump to his feet immediately the item is called. Woe betide him if he hesitates.

Thursday, May 19:—Although the House met at 11 o'clock it was surprising to see the great number of members who were in their places at this hour.

After prayers, a message was read by the Speaker from the Governor General intimating to the House that he had given Royal Assent to many measures that had been passed by both Houses. All the

members stand up when a message from His Excellency the Governor General is being read.

The Prime Minister would have liked if the House would sit on Saturday but, as unanimous consent was not given to this, it could not be put into effect.

The new Act in connection with bankruptcy was introduced into the House; the discussion on this lasting until the hour of six. It is interesting to watch the attention the lawyers give to all bills affecting their trade of the nation. The object of the bill in brief is to set up a central control body in charge of insolvency. No doubt the lawyers understood what it was all about but, to many of the lay members, it was just another bill.

When the House met at 8 o'clock agricultural estimates started in again, and a great deal of discussion ensued regarding the item of expenditures for experimental farms. The chairman had some difficulty keeping many of the speakers to the subject under discussion as many of them endeavored to take advantage and speak of everything else but experimental farms. However, as the feeling of the House is getting towards the close, no such latitude is now being allowed. At 9:35 this gave place to the Post Office estimates and matters affecting the dismissal of postmasters was discussed right up to the hour of 12 without any items having been passed. It was really a Quebec night and, believe me, they take politics seriously in that province.

For years before coming to Ottawa I oftentimes wondered why a French-Canadian was generally

picked as Postmaster-General but, after listening to the discussions from the Quebec members, this is easily understood.

The Hansard reporters have a busy time during discussions like

these, as sometimes the member speaking will suddenly break from French into English or from English into French. The House adjourned without much progress having been made.

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