

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Fourth Session --Tenth Legislature
32nd Day

March 14, 1947

The Assembly met at 3:00 o'clock p.m.
On the Orders of the Day.

STATEMENT

RE ARTICLE IN LEADER-POST

Mr. D.S. Valleau (ASVR): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House, an article in the Leader-Post, referring to a Legion meeting which took place in this city on Wednesday night.

The article refers to all three of the Service Members and I think the impression left by the article is misleading to say the least. I would just like to make one or two comments, it refers to an incident which took place Wednesday night at the monthly meeting of the Regina Branch of the Canadian Legion.

All the veterans had been invited to the meeting whether members of the Regina Branch or not. The headline in the Leader-Post states: "Embury is Criticized" and the article beings:

Criticism of Allen W. Embury, active service representative in the Provincial Legislature was ... by a member of the Canadian Legion Wednesday. While the other two active service Members of the Legislature rose to defend Mr. Embury for failure to attend the three meetings of the Legislature, the Veterans' Affairs Committee also ... this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that this article gives the impression that charges were made and accusations followed and the heat of debate arose and the Member for the Canadian Area and myself were forced to take the defensive and defend our comrade and I feel that that is a misleading confession to get abroad. The members of the Legion, who referred to the Veterans' Affairs debate was quite mild and gentle in tone of our affairs. I distinctly recall hearing the Legion member, who introduced the matter, make the following statement. He said this:

I was glad to see Mr. Embury elected because he possesses ability, vigor and leadership.

He went on to state further as I recall the rest of it:

I regret very much that Brother Embury's ability, experience and insight have not been put into use in the Committee activities.

That is, there was no suggestion of criticism or of accusations but rather merely that expression of regret, at the same time they did appreciate our comrade's high abilities and when I rose to speak, following the Hon. Member for the Canadian Area, I did not consider that there had been criticism, I did not

March 14, 1947

consider I was rising to defend because defence is only necessary where there has been an attack and certainly as I recall there was no attack. What I was trying to do was to give an answer to what were expressions of opinions which were being held. I, therefore, stated that our committee of this House, that is, do not try to tell Members that they should be pressed in any particular area, that is entirely up to the Members themselves and I did not feel that we should discuss the matter at the particular meeting because the Hon. Member of the Mediterranean Area was not present and not able to answer any suggestions that were made. I was glad, on the other hand, to taking an active and healthy interest in our work here and in the work of our Committee and I felt that all three of us would probably work a little harder as a result of that particular discretion.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

BUDGET DEBATE

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Fines (Provincial Treasurer) that this Assembly do now resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Hon. C.C. Williams (Minister of Labour): — Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the Budget, I intend to give as detailed a report as possible, in the limited time at my disposal, of the workings of the two Departments I have the honor to head – the Labour Department and the Department of Telephones. I cannot promise definitely that I may not digress from time to time; however, I will stick to departmental affairs as much as possible. This, I believe, in line with the suggestion made by the Hon. Member for Last Mountain and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

When the latter was speaking, several days ago, he made a remark to the effect that farmers cannot have the 40-hour week, a one day of rest in seven, time-and-a-half overtime and so forth. The farming population, of course, does not now, due to modern methods and machinery, put in the long hours they did many years ago. I think the farmers on this side of the House will agree that the hours are not so long. Thousands of our young men and women from the farms, now working in urban centres, are enjoying the benefits of these particular Acts and I doubt very much if they would wish to enter employment in the urban centres without the benefits contained therein.

A suggestion was thrown out that, due to the advanced labour legislation brought in by this Government, we would not elect another member in a rural seat at the next election. That is possibly more wishful thinking than anything else.

I am going to touch on the Civil Service for just a moment. It has been shown that there has been a considerable increase, as mentioned in this House from time to time during the debate on the Budget. Certainly there has been an increase in the number of employees and I believe I might use my own Departments as an example to show why we think that increase is logical.

When we assumed office on July 10, 1944, we found the Bureau of Labour, which came under the Minister of Municipal

March 14, 1947

Affairs, had eleven employees; at the present time we have 33 employees, the increase being due, of course, to the beneficial legislation brought in for the wage-earners and the people in urban centres. Just for an example, I might say that we have brought all towns of over 500 population under The Minimum Wage Act and, of course, we have The Holidays with Pay Act. The administration has been greatly increased and in order to do that we must have a larger staff. The Apprenticeship Act is something else again which has come into effect since we assumed office and greatly increased the work of the Department. There is nobody loafing over there; I doubt if there is in any of the Departments. So it will be readily seen that large Departments, such as the Department of Public Health, Social Welfare, Public Works and so forth, which give the people of Saskatchewan the greater services, have had a corresponding increase and have had to provide many more employees in order to keep up with the extra work.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Government owns and operates the Telephone Department in the towns and cities of this province and the interprovincial communications. Alberta and Manitoba also own their systems, while in the other six provinces they are privately owned. Just before I proceed with my talk on the Telephone Department, I would like to extend to the Leader of the Opposition my regrets in knowing that he is going to leave the leadership of the Opposition. He was an employee of the Telephone Department before the First World War, I believe, being the first rural Superintendent the Department ever had. There was an inspector before him, I believe, but he was the first one with the title, 'Rural Superintendent.' He left in the latter part of 1914 or the early part of 1915, went into the Army and when he came back, I believe, got into politics not long afterwards. Son of a railway employee as I am myself, he might have gone far in the labour field had he followed along different lines; however, he chose to go into business and did not do too badly either. He became the Leader of the Government in this province for a good many years. I know that everyone on this side of the House joins me in wishing him the very best for the future; and, in fact, he has gained a wealth of experience and knowledge during his 25 years of public service.

So that I might not appear to have created a wrong impression, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the Government does not own the rural telephone systems. I find that that fact is not so very well known in many parts of the province and people are continually writing in, who think we have control of the rural systems. We have 1,120 in operation at the present time and these rural companies have a total of approximately 52,000 subscribers. The Department itself has a total of 55,000 subscribers in the towns, villages and cities of this province. At the present time there is an acute shortage of material and it is going to be months, or perhaps two or three years, before we are back to normal and everyone in this province who wants one has a telephone. In Regina alone we have over 2,200 applicants; in Saskatoon, 1,640; in Moose Jaw 864; in Prince Albert 423 and so on. For the whole of Saskatchewan there are over 6,000 people waiting for telephones; in the whole of Canada, 125,000 and in the United States well over 2,000,00. For the city of Regina there are orders placed with the manufacturers for a total of 2,200 exchange lines and we expect 1,200 this summer and the other 1,000 to be installed in 1948, which should pretty well clear up the situation here.

March 14, 1947

From time to time, Mr. Speaker, I receive requests from people who know me quite well, or people who don't know me very well, perhaps asking on behalf of a friend to see what can be done towards getting them a telephone. If there is any reason such as sickness in the family or anything like that and priority can be shown, I am glad to do it. But, if I may illustrate, Mr. Speaker: You have been in the line-up, perhaps, in front of a theatre – or you know of the lines, we hear about, that they have had in Britain, during the War, for food and one thing and another – somebody else comes along and slips into the line-up ahead of you – you don't like it very well. So, when people ask for telephones out of turn, in effect that is exactly what they are doing. As far as Regina is concerned, they are slipping in ahead of 2,200 people who have had these applications in some as long as 1942. At the present time we are concentrating on trying to get these people who have had applications in since 1942 and 1943 fixed up and we are giving them the preference.

The Rural Branch of the Telephone Department is under the supervision of Mr. Cavanagh, recently appointed from Province of Saskatchewan and one of his main duties, I would say, is to encourage the amalgamation of the rural telephone companies. We find that they seem to function a great deal better when they are amalgamated, rather than having four or five in one town all with separate offices. We find quite a number are willing to amalgamate and the services of his department are available at any time for any assistance he or his staff can provide. There are, however, some obstacles and it is usually in connection with differences of opinion between the directors of the companies. It is a fact that lower administration costs and better service can be provided when the people have these amalgamated rural companies.

As to the capital of the Telephone Department – it was capitalized at, I think, approximately \$15,000,000. That amount was received from the Treasury, of course, many years ago, not all at the same time. A little over \$5,000,000 has been paid back and there is still an amount of \$10,000,000 which has been received from the Treasury and never repaid. That is the capital of the Telephone Department. I think a statement was made here, the other evening, that amounts of this kind have been repaid, although no particular Dominion was mentioned; but it is a fact that that \$10,000,000 is still to the credit of the Treasury as far as the Department of Telephones is concerned.

I am going to mention, just for a moment, the increase in wages paid to the employees. I am mentioning that for the reason that I want to show this House that this is a fair wage Government. When we assumed office in July 1944, we found that quote a number of the employees, mostly the young women who worked on the switchboards, were receiving a very small rate of pay. In October, we put in an increase and in February another increase and brought their wages up considerably. It was also found that there were certain inconsistencies as far as holidays were concerned. For some reason or other, the head office staff was securing three weeks holidays and had for years while the plant and the operators and so on were receiving just the two weeks. We made that three weeks as soon as it was brought to our attention. I want to point out that this was before any union was formed. Since the union was formed, there has been another increase and we are anxious and willing at all times to pay fair wages to our employees. At the present time the increase in wages plus the increase in the number of persons we

March 14, 1947

have had to take on since July, 1944, is costing the Department \$335,000 a year. That is all to the good as far as I can see. That \$335,000 is taken out of the must archives – if I might use that term – of the Telephone Department, paid to the employees through their wage envelopes, out into the stores and into the stream of commerce. I think it is an excellent thing to get that amount of money into circulation and the Civil Service is doing something along the same lines.

These raises are justified. The cost of living has gone up terrifically in the past two or three years, even in the past year. As far as labour unrest is concerned – I'll just digress for a moment – the reasons for labour unrest can be found in the price tags in the stores. Just go down town to any of the large departmental stores here in Regina; go through the furniture department, or the drygoods and so forth and you will see exactly what I mean.

Now, last October we did, in signing a union agreement with the telephone employees, bring in the 40-hour week and the five day week. The modern trend is in that direction and we are only too anxious to keep up, in fact keep ahead a little, if we can. Other companies in the provinces east and west of us have that in. They either had it then, or have put it in since and we are right in line with them. I am glad to see the Civil Service following the lead. There is some doubt as to whether or not they are going to like the five-day week, but as far as we are concerned – and we have between 1,100 and 1,200 employees in the Department – the only complaint I have had is that one or two of the married employees have found that their wives have set washday from Monday ahead to Saturday.

Mr. Brockelbank: — There should be a law against that.

Mr. Williams: — Someone says there should be a law against that. There has been a terrific increase in long distance service in the past few years. I have a list here, somewhere – I won't look for it just now; but it goes back for a good many years. During the 12-month period previous to that date, there were completed a total of 4,439,000 calls – an increase of 1,100,000 calls, or approximately 33 per cent. That is, of course, a tremendous increase and shows us what the Department has been up against in the War years and during those years it was practically impossible to get very much equipment, certainly not all that they wanted to have.

I might say, just before I go on to say something of our suggested program for next year, something about what we have done and the places we have put in full line facilities in the past two and one-half years. The following points are now being served that previously had no communication at all: Barnes' Crossing, Beaubier, Compass, Dorintosh, Four Corners, Gladmar, Onion Lake, Compeer, Lake Alma, Rapid View, Reserve, Radcliffe and Archerwill. In addition to that, the following points, which have been operated as toll offices, were provided with Department-owned local exchange service: Arborfield, Bethune, Carrot River, Wood Mountain, Highland Park – there are 10 or 12 of them; I shall not red them all. Toll line facilities were extended to the village of Kayville.

March 14, 1947

For the coming year, we have six projects in mind and we hope we will be able to go through with all of them. There is one from Loon Lake to Pierceland and it may be extended into Cherry Grove on the Alberta side. That particular locality, Mr. Speaker, is away up in the northwestern part of the province, or I should say, of the habituated part of the province. Another is a line from Minton to Gladmar; a line from Carrot River 12 or 14 miles northeast; one from Cabri to Verlo taking in the hamlets of Roseray and Hazlet; the fifth from Rockglen to Kildeer, which will take in three smaller places in between: Strathallen, Canopus and Quantock; and another from Consul to Govenlock. We have in mind putting in automatic service in the town of Melville just as quickly as we can; in fact the equipment is on order now. If we can do it, this year we will; if we can't do it this year, it will be done the early part of 1948. We have property at Assiniboia, Watrous and Biggar; the property has been bought and the equipment will be ordered. We want to put automatic exchanges in those three places. It is going to be 1948, or perhaps 1949, before we get around to that, however.

I have given a very brief outline as to the Department of Telephones. I will now go on into the Department of Labour which interests, of course, a good many people in this province. Whether or not, Mr. Speaker, residents in the various villages, hamlets and that, come under any of our Act, they do indirectly receive the benefit from them. It stands to reason that if in the towns of over 500 and the cities certain rates of wages are being paid, people are going to go into those places if they find they can get better wages. That has a tendency to increase wages in all the other towns and villages surrounding which, of course, we think is only sufficient.

I am first going to mention The Workmen's Compensation Act. In industry, it is unfortunate that, no matter how careful we are, employees suffer injury from time to time and for this reason we have The Workmen's Compensation (Accident Fund) Act administered by the Workmen's Compensation Board, which has its headquarters in Regina. Some comparative figures will be interesting to the House – I'll just go back two years: In 1945 the total number of accidents reported to the Board was 8,415, 19 of which were fatal; in 1946 the number was 10,787, 26 of which were fatal. Both the Board and this Department are concerned over the increase, which amounts to approximately 28 per cent. The explanation is, of course, that a large number of men are entering industry for the first time and we have a greater coverage than ever before. Last year, there were 8,900 employers reporting to the Board compared with 4,900 in 1945, an increase of approximately 80 per cent. The amount of payrolls reported by these employers amounted to \$72,388,000 in 1946, compared with \$58,000,000 in 1945, an increase of approximately 24 per cent.

As indicated, these increases were caused by an increased coverage and an additional industrial activity. The House will recall that, last year, we brought under the Act a great many more wage-earners, such as employees in stores, shops of various kinds, janitors and so forth. That accounts for the increase, generally speaking.

To reduce the number of accidents, the Department has appointed a full-time factory inspector, whose duty it is to go around to the various factories of this province periodically,

March 14, 1947

check on any existing hazards and recommend the installation of necessary safety devices. This is bound to have a beneficial effect and in the long run will reduce the number of accidents. Previously, this was done by the boiler inspectors, who did the best they could, having no particular training along these lines. We find that having a man with specialized qualifications is much more satisfactory.

The Compensation Board also realized the importance of preventive work and has set up a Prevention Department of preventive work and has set up a Prevention Department which investigates accidents, checks files, gets out circulars and posters and so on. I might say, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of this House or anyone who may be listening, that suggestions to either the Department of Labour or the Workmen's Compensation Board are invited.

This Board was set up under the Act that was passed by the Anderson Government back in 1930 and it is an excellent piece of legislation. This Government, however, has made improvements for the benefit of the injured workman and I will just enumerate two or three of them.

Up until July 1, 1945, all persons coming under the Act were forced to lose the first three days of their pay, regardless of how long they were away. We have changed that and now a person who is away more than three days gets paid right back to and including the first day. I think the closest province to that is British Columbia, which says if a man is off six days then he will get paid right back to the first day.

Another great improvement has been the raising of the workmen's compensation from 66 2/3 of his salary to 75 per cent, which is the highest rate paid anywhere on this Continent or in the British Empire. the closest we know of, Mr. Speaker, is the State of Wisconsin, which pays up to 70 per cent. Most provinces and states pay the 66 2/3. Labour has asked from time to time to have this increased to 100 per cent and this ideally would be quite in order; we are sympathetic toward it. However, it would create a tremendous increase in the amount of money necessary to be raised from or assessed against industry and for the time being, at least, we have not proceeded beyond the 75 per cent.

I should say, also, that up to July 1, 1945, compensation could only be paid on a salary amount up to \$2,000; we have increased that to \$2,500, so those whose earnings are greater than approximately \$36 per week.

Back in the 'thirties, when wages were extremely low, injured persons were paid on the basis of what they earned the year round, or for the 12 months previous to injury. Many of them, of course, earned little or nothing and as a result quite a number of pensions based on that small amount are very small. We have changed the principle and now an injured workman receives a compensation on the basis of what he was earning at the time of the accident. "We think that is a great improvement.

Occasionally the question of compensation for farmers and farm workers comes up. I have had some correspondence with the UFC in this regard. As far as we know, the State of Arizona is the only one to the south of us which has any plan which covers agricultural workers. They are divided into two classes: first,

March 14, 1947

any agriculturalist or farmer who employs three or more workmen engaged in the use of machinery must insure such employees against a penalty of a misdemeanour; the rate of this classification is \$3.60 per \$100 of payroll premium; second, where the employer elects to exclude agricultural workers not employed in the use of machinery, he pays the rate of \$6.55 per \$100 of payroll. As far as we know, as I just said, the State of Arizona is the only state that has such a plan and the figures show it is a fairly expensive plan in comparison with the industrial rate in this province, which averages \$1.65 per \$100 of payroll.

The railway employees come under another Act altogether, I'll but mention them. There are six quite large groups: Conductors, trainmen, maintenance men, telegraphers, engineers, firemen and enginemen. They chose to stay under the old Saskatchewan Workmen's Compensation Act, which was brought in here about 1911, although there is a provision in the new Act whereby they can elect to leave the old Act and come under the new any time they care to.

I am going to mention, briefly, The Apprenticeship Act, which became effective in April, 1945. Fourteen designated trades are now being handled by this Branch as follows: motor vehicle repairs; carpentry; bricklaying; masonry; painting and decorating; plastering; plumbing; steam-fitting; sheet and metal work; printing; barbering, beauty culture and electrical.

Up to the present time, the number of indentured apprentices totals 337, of whom 249 are veterans. Schools for these apprentices have been operated both last winter and this winter for a three-month period and last year we found that only 55 took advantage of the training. This year, there are 215 attending the various schools at Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina. The principle under which these men take their training is that they receive a living allowance of \$12 a week for a single person living at home; \$15 a week, if they are away from home and \$18 per week for heads of families. That is not a wage, by the way; just a living allowance paid while they are learning and the cost is divided equally between the Provincial and Federal Governments.

It might be of interest to this House to know that this province has the highest apprenticeship wages of any in the Dominion and also pays the highest amounts to apprentices attending this school training. Using carpentry as an example, the apprentice starts in at 50 per cent of the journeyman's wage, goes up 5 per cent each six months, so that in five years he is up to the full journeyman's rate. all trades do not handle it exactly the same way; but this is just an example.

We have had requests for information regarding our apprenticeship scheme from distant points such as Australia, Great Britain and a number of the States to the south. I might just mention that the gentleman in charge of this is Mr. J.S. Dornan, and he has as his assistant a Mr. William Rogers. Any Member of the House who may have been interested in hard-ball around this part of the province, 15 or 20 years ago, may remember 'Wild Bill' Rogers – quite a pitcher; he is doing an excellent job for us in the Apprenticeship Branch.

Rev. Mr. Vaughan, Administrator and Censor is in charge of theatres. We have 516 licensed theatres in the province together with 544 halls which come under his jurisdiction. From 1913

March 14, 1947

until 1945, the different censors were located at Winnipeg, but we thought it was more satisfactory to bring him up here and he has been here since the fall of 1945, has his office and censor room over in the Normal School building and the pictures are reviewed throughout the week. This work is most difficult. It is impossible to satisfy everyone – we all know that; but I feel he is doing as good a job as is possible. He eliminates a large number of suggestive scenes and dialogues from various pictures. In the United States, they have what is known as the ‘League of Decency’ – I believe it is a Catholic organization – and they review all pictures before they are sent out. They haven’t any power, of course, to order any cuts or anything like that; but the pictures that are sent out, they have seen them and sometimes they write their various Branches suggesting that such and such a picture not be seen and so forth; but we do find that from time to time our Censor will eliminate scenes or dialogues that have been passed by this League of Decency. Of course, the League considers that they won’t harm an adult mind; that’s why they pass them.

I might say, at this point – and I wish the House would pay particular attention to this – that there are two classifications to these pictures: adult and general. We run into criticism from time to time about the class of pictures that go around through the province, but it is against the law to advertise these pictures without stating that they are Adult or General; that must appear in the advertisement. I have noticed that, in the Leader-Post that word appears in pretty small type most of the time. I intend to take that up with them, to make it a little clearer. But the reason that is done is to act as a guide to parents to determine whether or not they should permit their children to see the pictures. Obviously, the classification Adult means that there are certain parts in the picture considered not suitable for children to see and we feel that parents should accept some responsibility in keeping their children away from pictures marked Adult. Pictures marked General, of course, are considered suitable for either adults or children.

Now pictures are not the only offender; we have these Detective Stories; sex magazines, True Confessions and so forth. We see them in the bookstores in various parts of the cities and towns and they are anything but what children should get a hold of. I can recall that, in my day, it was The Chicago Blade and Ledger, I think. That is still in existence, I believe, though I wouldn’t be sure; perhaps someone in this House can say for certain. But that is what it was then. They have become more streamlined now and, I think, not anything to be desired; and if there is anything that can be done to keep those out of the province, I think it should be done. I shall have to hurry along, Mr. Speaker.

The Steam Boilers Branch was set up in 1944 and when the Act was set up, it was largely based on the requirements for tractor boilers, threshing machines, of which they had approximately 3,000 in the province at that time. With more modern methods of farming – combines – of course it has gone down and there were only 12, I think, in operation last year. However, there are now many new types of boilers and pressure vessels in existence, such as those used in factories, for the heating of buildings, oil stills, air tanks and garages, packing plants, creosoting plants and so forth. Mr. Mayhew, who had been Chief Boiler Inspector for many years, retired last year and his place has been taken by Mr. Joseph Taylor, who has had extensive

March 14, 1947

experience with various types of boilers, large and small. We have inspectors located in Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon and last year they made, I think it was up to 600 inspections.

The Trade Union Act, which has been in effect a little over two years now, gives employees the right to bargain collectively with their employers through the union of their choice and we now have in this province 283 unions with a membership of approximately 24,000. It is obviously greatly to the advantage of the employees to be able to bargain through their representatives, rather than going hat in hand to the boss and making the best bargain they could with him, as has been the case for many years in this province in many businesses.

I might say there has been, in this province, comparatively a period of industrial peace and during the past year, only four strikes involving 108 persons took place, which resulted in the loss of slightly more than 909 days. That is all we had, last year, which is very small in comparison with a total of over 4,500,000 man-days lost in the whole of Canada.

I shall pass on now to The Holidays with Pay Act, which became effective July 1st last year and which is fairly well known over the entire province. It entitles all wage earners to two weeks' vacation with pay. I might add that the railways have challenged the validity of our Act, claiming that they come under Federal jurisdiction. The matter is now before the Courts. It has had certain delays and it is going to be some time in May before it is finally settled. In the meantime, of course, these employees, mostly those of the running trades and the maintenance of way men, are not receiving the benefit of the Act. We understand that Ontario and British Columbia have Acts giving one week's holiday and Manitoba is bringing in an Act, we believe, to provide one week. Saskatchewan is the only province that has the two weeks.

I have mentioned The Minimum Wage Act from time to time in this House and I don't intend to go into it very much now except to say that we have the excellent rate of \$18.50 established for both men and women in this province.

I might, just for a moment, Mr. Speaker, give you some figures on the amounts that have been collected for and paid to the employees. You will recall that, a year ago, we brought in an amendment and the money now is sent into the Deputy Minister, who in turn sends it direct to the individual concerned. Now the arrears collected by the Department, in 1945, amounted to \$8,634; in 1946, it was a little less than \$7,800, which shows that the employees were getting more used to the Act; and plus the amount of \$6,500 collected in the towns and villages. The total amount collected under this Act, The One Day's Rest in Seven Act and The Annual Holidays Act, for 1946, amounted to \$14,393.99. I can assure you that our inspectors – and we only have four of them – are right on the job and they will see that the employee gets anything that is coming to him.

Then we have The Factories Act. I will not mention that, except to say that we raised the limit for young men and women to sixteen; it used to be fourteen, I believe. Now they must be sixteen before they can enter factories and we feel that that is quite proper; they should be in school up to sixteen.

The One Day's Rest in Seven Act gives the employees a day

March 14, 1947

per week off; we have very few complaints about that.

We have done quite a bit for the student nurses, as far as legislation is concerned. We have done away with the tuition fees; they can't be charged for breakages; the hospital has to supply their uniforms; they have to be paid in cash and so forth.

I have here – I hope I have time to read one or two items – the newspaper called “Labor”: the railwaymen in this House and any who happen to be listening in, probably take it. I think there are several thousand copies come into this pr. It is printed in Washington, D.C. and it is an entirely independent newspaper; I think perhaps one of the very few I know of in the United States or Canada. There is not one word or line of paid advertising in here and it devotes one of its four pages entirely to Canadian news. There is something here in connection with my own union, right on the front page. I can't take time to read it all. It says:

“Telegraphers crush CIO in Election on Lackawanna”

By a landslide majority of almost three to one, the agents, telegraphers and towermen of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, this week snowed under an attempted raid by the so-called United Railroad Workers of the CIO.

Now I am not going to read it all. In fact, I do not want to create any indirect dissension between the CIO and the AF of L. or their counterparts in this country. But the Canadian page has quite a number of interesting items on it. They have their staff correspondent in Ottawa and the first thing that strikes the eye is a picture here entitled: “The Little Flower is Cold.” It is a picture of General A.G.L. McNaughton and Fiorello H. LaGuardia, former Mayor of New York. The picture was taken up at Churchill and they are here with their parkas, long coats and so forth. They actually were at Churchill and General McNaughton says: “We certainly have nothing to hide at Churchill.” The only comment the ‘Little Flower’, New York's fiery ex-mayor had to make was that he found it extremely cold at Churchill. He could have said the same thing if he had been in Regina, last month. There is another item: “Chubby Powers is called for Biggest Headache of Parliament,” and that is quite a long article and it refers to any headache they had down in Ottawa. Now there is something here about our own city. Yes, here is a short article headed: “From Regina:

Is training for future war more important than the veterans of past wars? Over 500 ex-servicemen are asking. They are attending the University of Saskatchewan and are living at the former RCAF School at Saskatoon. Now they hear that they must move out and try to find other dwellings, because the Saskatoon buildings will be used to house new RCAF squadrons.

Before I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I am just going to mention one article here – a paragraph or two attributed to Arthur MacNamara, Federal Deputy Minister of Labour. He says:

Too old at 40 was the popular slogan with many employers in the depressed 1930s when the supply of workers greatly exceeded the demand and the prejudice it aroused has not been entirely removed.

March 14, 1947

He goes on and makes quite a pleas for the worker who is up in his 50s perhaps or even in his 60s and it is something that, I think, this House might advantageously think something about. However, I haven't the time to go into that now; but it does show that industry has proven, during the War, that piece workers reached their peak at the age group from 50 to 55 years and that the highest incidence of accidents came in the age group from 20 to 24. However, as I said, I won't go into that.

In closing, I would like to say that I have been pleased to have shared this time with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. We might consider it as a sort of hands-across-the-wheatfields, as it were, with a background of factory chimneys. We – and I include the wage earners of this province – expect the farmers to get a fair price for their products and in return we find that most farmers expect labour to receive a fair wage. The Members of this House predominately represent rural constituencies and it is of considerable credit to them that they have come along and passed what is considered to be some of the most progressive labour legislation in this continent. Labour members in return are 100 per cent behind the farmers in their request for better and stabilized prices for what they produce.

Sometimes I think, Mr. Speaker, we work with the 'golden calf' in this province, too much. We talk about money, money; there's been more publicity about money in the last three or four years in this province than I have ever heard before. That was understandable back in the '30s; we had so little of it. But now that the revenues are buoyant, we do quite a bit of talking about it. It has even got to the extent where the cartoonish of the Leader-Post, depicting someone to represent the Province of Saskatchewan, draws quite a likeness of the Provincial Treasurer.

I would just like to make one more observation before I take my seat. Quite a bit has been said against the large increase in the Budget – not 40 per cent by any means. But I think everything has gone up in the past year or two or three years. In fact the Leader-Post itself, when you buy it at your door, has gone up 40 per cent. It used to be 15 cents a week, now it is 25 cents. The Budget of \$45,000,000 possibly a few years ago would not have been any more than \$37,000,000 or \$38,000,000.

In closing, I am just going to say that the Department of Labour primarily exists to improve the lot of the wage earner in this province, consistent with general conditions. Mr. Speaker, I intend to support the Budget.

Hon. I.C. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to share the radio time with the Hon. Minister of Labour, if for no other reason than to prove that the farmer and laborer have everything in common, although I know that labor did gain ten minutes on my radio time. We shall have to endeavor to make that up some other day.

In giving my presentations and contributions to the Budget, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that the criticism levelled at the -administration and at the Budget falls primarily into two categories; one is criticism of the increased burden of taxation and the other one generally criticism of the expanding social services that we are providing for the people of Saskatchewan.

March 14, 1947

In the first case, I do not think that the criticism is altogether legitimate. With the exception of a few added taxes on gasoline, generally speaking, considering the reduction that has been made, too, in the Education Tax, the increase in revenue are largely due to the buoyant conditions of revenues at the present time. Perhaps that give the Members of the Opposition occasion to be envious and perhaps the increased social services that we are providing also cause them to have a degree of jealousy in that regard. We know that we are living in good times at the moment, although we are also very conscious of the fact that these good times will probably not be with us too long. However, when one views the tremendous backlog of disrepair in our province, not only to municipal roads, but to provincial roads and to services generally, I think that the increases in the Budget are not only called for, but I do believe that they are very necessary. We must remember that we are trying in this province to catch up on the backlog of disrepair which extended over the depression years, the years of the hungry '30s and then the War years, of course, when expansion of public services was not possible.

I think, too, that all the advances and the trail-blazing that we have done in the fields of additional social services, aid to incapacitated persons, increases to the old age pensioners with medical aid for them, the medical assistance to the blind pensioners and the recipients of mothers' allowances – all of that is wider. The hospital scheme, too, I think is about 20 years overdue. It seems to me that the people have a right to these services. They not only have a right to demand them, but they have a right to have them; and it appears to me that our agricultural economy must be such that it will sustain the services that are required in this modern age of ours – and that is all within the realm of possibility provided that the fiscal policy affecting agriculture, which is largely a Federal matter, is such that we will have an income in these agricultural provinces that will sustain these services on a proper basis.

It appears to me that in the depression years when, relatively-speaking, revenue and taxation, so to speak were somewhat lower than now, we were harder set to pay taxes by far in those days than we are at the present time. Why, Mr. Speaker, today paying my taxes I can do so with a smile, without any difficulty at all, as compared to all those years, even previous to 1930, when it was very difficult to pay taxes and even pay ordinary farm expenses. Conditions are favourable and I think that the criticism levelled particularly by the Hon. Member for Arm River is entirely out of place, that these 'poor' farmers cannot bear the terrific burden of taxation that this terrible Provincial Government has placed on their shoulders.

He refers to the Dominion Government as the good benevolent 'Santa Claus' that is providing family allowances to the province, that is providing PFA payments to the province; and he infers that if it were not for this Federal help we would be very seriously handicapped in getting the taxation we are at the present time. Let us take a look at this 'benevolent Santa Claus' that we have at Ottawa in the form of the present Liberal administration there! What do they take out of Saskatchewan? Oh, it is pretty easy to give – if you take plenty away! Let us take a look at the figures.

There has been a whole lot said particularly by the Hon. new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tucker) who is presently at

March 14, 1947

Ottawa – and I hope he will carry on his fight there to remove the burden of taxation off the Saskatchewan farmers. After all, as the Hon. Member for Arm River has stated, most of tax falls on the land. Truly it does in Saskatchewan where 82 per cent of our production is derived from the soil. Let's take a look at it.

Federal Income Tax: in 1944 there was collected in Saskatchewan \$22,500,000 of income tax alone; \$3,800,000 corporation tax and excess profits tax; \$226,000 succession duties; \$582,000 amusement tax; \$2,150,000 gasoline tax; \$3,600,000 liquor tax; \$8,257,000 tobacco tax – the Attorney General together with the rest of the smokers pays a good part of this tax – and then \$16,500,000 sales tax – that painless indirect taxation that the man on the street doesn't know much about. Compare that with your Education Tax! Compare that with some of these gas taxes that we are levied to provide services for this province!

And this money that leaves the province, what do we get for it? True enough, the Hon. Member says that we get some PFA payments. Look what the farmer contributes into that fund! We get, to be sure, some assistance with the old age pensions. But then there is another tax, a \$6,125,000 luxury tax, making a total of \$64,000,000 that the Federal Government takes out of the Province of Saskatchewan.

We can add to that another vicious form of taxation under which the farmers of Western Canada have suffered for many, many years – tariff duties. It was estimated, on top of this, that in 1931 the Federal Government collected \$29,000,000 of tariff duties from Saskatchewan. I would imagine – for lack of the figures – that the tariff duties might range up to \$40,000,000 today; we'll say \$30,000,000. That would mean that there is \$94,000,000 going out of Saskatchewan to the Federal Treasury. I think it is high time that the Federal Government realizes its commitments and responsibilities for social services, for health services, for taking over the burden of old age pensions and all of the other services that were provided for originally in the Dominion-Provincial proposals. With that done, no doubt we will be in pretty good shape in this province to discharge the responsibilities which are our jurisdiction and also to assist to a large extent the poor rural municipalities over whose welfare the Hon. Member seems to be so greatly concerned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I noticed that in the course of the debate, the Hon. Members of the Opposition have been posing first as the champion and friend of the farmers, then as the champion and friend of the poor struggling municipalities and then they are greatly concerned, as I mentioned, about the 'poor' taxpayer years when they were in power here – that as far as the farmer is concerned and the municipalities, they are fair-weather friends, political friends. I have experienced it for years. They come to us at election time and give us glowing promises. Just as soon as they got back into power, they reverted right back into their old selves again. They feel a great concern for the municipalities at the present time. I am going to refer them back to their debt – protective legislation of 1938.

That was the year, as we all can recall, when the tremendous burden of seed debt was placed on the farmers of this province. In the fall of that year, when economic conditions were very bad,

March 14, 1947

when the price of wheat had slipped from the high to an extreme low again, here was the statement they put out in connection with the collection of indebtedness. They put it out in priorities. They said, here is the way the farmer should pay his bills; first, he should pay his harvesting and threshing expenses; second, he should retain sufficient to maintain the farm and his family until the fall of 1939; third, he should keep enough feed for his livestock and for 1939 seeding operations; then he was to pay one year's taxes and after that, 1938 seed grain indebtedness – and so on down the line.

But there was a nigger in the woodpile. This brief statement of priorities looked pretty good on the surface; but when they sent out the letters of instructions to the various representatives scattered throughout the province, the instructions were something different entirely. Before one cent of taxes were paid, before any provision was ever made to sustain and maintain the farm family for the year, they permitted the implement companies to come in and collect not only on binders, threshing machines and engines, but in addition to that on other farm machinery necessary for harvesting the crop.

My friends are beginning to take notes. Take note of this! I have it right here, Mr. Speaker, their very statement.

I made the statement that the implement companies got theirs before the municipalities did. Here is a letter to an individual from an implement company, dated February 3, 1939. It says:

I can really find no grounds upon which you are entitled to protection from the Debt Adjustment Board. I feel that you should have deducted \$50 from the payment which you made on account of taxes to apply on this binder account.

I have several of them here – they make nice reading; they sound very good to our farmer friends in the country. It will remind them of your record when you were the Government of this province – a record that we will not forget very quickly.

Here is another one from a different company:

Replying to your letter of the 28th, re the above (in this case it was an engine) I have to advise that settlement will have to be made on the date set out in my letter of November 23rd. I wish, therefore, that you would make application to the municipality for a rebate of the money which you paid to them and as soon as possible thereafter make settlement with us.

Friends of the municipalities! Friends of the farmers! Crocodile tears at election time! Promises unfulfilled! It is pretty plain, Mr. Speaker, these people cannot serve two masters. They can't serve the interests of the common people and at the same time uphold that wonderful free enterprise system of theirs. In this case they would let taxes go by the boards so that the free enterpriser would get his pound of flesh.

Mr. Procter: — May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. Nollet: — When I am off the air, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can

March 14, 1947

ask all the questions he wants; but the Minister of Labour has already taken some of my radio time and he is not going to get the rest of it.

Now that is pretty well their record provincially and I could go on, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure the House that I lived under the circumstances prevailing in those days and under those Liberal policies and believe me, I can say to this House that I worked mighty hard to rout this Government out of power, and I can say to them they don't need to sit there and say to us that we are losing support in the country. They are out! The people have turned their backs on them and they will stay out.

Let us take a scrutiny of the Liberal record, Federally. First of all, it is to be recalled that, for three years, the farmers produced farm commodities far below the cost of production. The argument then was, "We daren't let prices rise; we've got to keep on controls." They did a pretty good job of controlling until finally a Wheat Pool delegation had to go to Ottawa and lay their case with the Federal authorities there. I could say to my farmer friends, "Just as quick as you get a Liberal or Tory Government in power, you no sooner do that than you have to start sending delegations to get redress for your freedom".

The result of that was that reluctantly, the price of wheat was raised to \$1.25 per bushel – but after two by-elections; it took two by-elections to do it. We discover this. Now that farm incomes are a little better, we find that the restraints, the regulations of the income tax applying to farmers, are such that if they want any individual enterprise there they very successfully curb it. I don't believe there is any nation either on this continent or even including Great Britain that is as stringent in its income tax regulations affecting the farmers as they are right here in the Dominion of Canada. The biggest deterrent that we have to encouraging our farmers to go into mixed farming and to increase production is this vicious income tax that makes no recognition whatever of basic herds, that makes no recognition of the fact that our farmers in the West here have a terrific backlog of disrepair to their buildings, which they have every right to rebuild while revenues and incomes are good as they are at the present time. In addition to that, I think that many of the obligations the farmers are discharging to our free enterprise concerns should be given some consideration in being exempted from income tax.

Now we move along, Mr. Speaker. When the War was over, what happened? When the War is over decontrol sets in. "We've got to get back to normal," they say. So the first thing that the benevolent Federal Government does is remove the subsidy on crude oil, which had the effect, last spring of raising the price of gasoline by two cents. I want to say to my hon. friend from Arm River that the Federal Government did not take off the gasoline tax when they did that neither. They kept it on. But now the suggestion is that the subsidy on crude oil will be removed entirely and the sky is the ceiling for gasoline prices ... and my hon. friend, the Member for Arm River, said that, because of that, we should not have put on the gasoline tax at all. He would rather again see it paid to the oil companies rather than to the Provincial Treasury here to go for the building and the rebuilding of highways that fell into disrepair under this administration.

March 14, 1947

Then the farm machinery prices – a 12½ per cent increase last year. It is needless for me to comment on that; a good many farmer organizations have already done that. I would like to move on to last spring, when we all recall the packing house people, the packing interests above all else, went on strike. They said they were not going to pay these ungodly prices for cattle and the farmers retaliated. They refused to deliver cattle and the result was that the packer was compelled to pay the price; but then the benevolent free enterprise Federal Government rushed to their rescue in July by permitting a raise in the wholesale prices and the retail prices of beef.

Now we move on to January of this year. Cattle prices, due to the scarcity, the hard winter and the rest of it, have gone up again; but the Federal Government doesn't wait for a protest or a strike from the packers or anyone else. They have raised the prices of beef to the consumer again by another three cents, which will not be reflected in the income received by the farmer, because as everyone knows, particularly my farmer friends, these cattle are paid for at so much a hundredweight on the hoof and they have no relationship whatever to the price that the consumer must pay.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, if anything else this should indicate to everyone the necessity and the affinity of the farmer and the worker. Here we have an example of these tremendous giant processing organizations standing between the worker and the farmer and the consumer, preventing them from making a price arrangement that would be fair to both of them. I notice that our packer friends in one instance blamed the packing plant worker for the raise in their prices and last fall, when the farmers went on strike, then it was a horse of a different color, with a different story to go with it.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, in the face of rising costs generally and where incomes generally had every inclination to go down, the milk subsidy was removed – a subsidy that, I believe, should have been retained. And then, my hon. friends opposite, when the Federal Government removed this subsidy, had the audacity to suggest that a Provincial Government should put such a subsidy on. Absolutely ridiculous! It seems to me that the Members of the Opposition are absolutely hysterical in trying to devise and concoct schemes to deter this Government from achieving the objective and purpose towards which it is directing its efforts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this spring it has been intimated that the wool bonus will be removed, according to a letter received from the Federal Minister of Agriculture. We have not yet had any indication that the wool bonus would be continued, but we, as a provincial government, intend to pay our share of that wool bonus whether the Federal Government comes into the scheme or not and the Hon. Member for Arm River can put that down as one direct benefit, so to speak, for agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say something about the hog situation as it has prevailed over the years and as it exists at the present time. As we all know, it makes pretty sorry reading to the farmer. First we were told to produce more hogs and help win the War. The next thing we knew we were liquidated completely out of hogs, but we should not have been liquidated out of hogs. It might come as a surprise to the farmers of Saskatchewan to know that with the prices prevailing, last summer, we

March 14, 1947

could have made lots of money raising hogs, according to the Hon. J.G. Gardiner. You see, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa claims to be a farmer. He stated out as a school teacher, wound up to be a professional politician and thought it would be a pretty good idea to have a farm too. I think Mr. Tucker will be looking around for some land. If he is, I've got a place that I can sell him pretty reasonably.

Mr. Danielson: —Of course, you haven't got eleven sections!

Mr. Nollet: — Here is the advice that Hon. J.G. Gardiner was giving, last year when we were making, and justifiably so, for increases in hog prices. He said, "Well, I can raise hogs on my farm much cheaper and more profitably in Saskatchewan than I can on my farm at Guelph, Ontario." Apparently he has a farm in Ontario, too, now; maybe he is a little bit afraid that we might confiscate this farm on him here in Saskatchewan ...

Mr. Procter: — I wouldn't put it past you.

Mr. Nollet: — ... so he decided to play safe and have one in Ontario, too, so that he could say to the farmers: "I am just like you. I was raised between two rows of corn."

But that was a ridiculous statement to make when every farmer in Saskatchewan knows that it was more profitable to raise hogs in Ontario than it was in Saskatchewan. The proof of that lies in the fact that, when we wound up this year, we were not only short of hogs, but we were short of feed as well in the Dominion of Canada. It must have been a pretty big pill for the Hon. J.G. to swallow to increase those hogs. And I might say, Mr. Speaker, that I suggested to the Hon. J.G. Gardiner that, since the British Food Ministry was very willing to pay increased prices for our hogs, knowing that they would not get them otherwise – and they were interested in getting our bacon – an increase might be allowed. As a matter of fact, I suggested to Sir Andrew Jones, in Ottawa, that now that we were paying a subsidy on barley to get the barley, the only way we were going to get the hogs was to pay a little more for the hogs, and Sir Andrew absolutely agreed with that. I mentioned it to the Federal Minister and I am very glad that he has taken my advice in that regard. Perhaps if he kept on doing so, who knows, we might make a pretty good Minister of Agriculture out of him yet. At least he would not be getting it from a university expert, he would be getting it right from the horse's mouth.

An Hon. Member: — Or from the other end.

Mr. Procter: — You picked the wrong animal!

Mr. Nollet: — There are a few things more that I would like to speak about in connection with the Federal handling of the agricultural situation and this doesn't come out of the other end, I would like to say to the Hon. Member for Moosomin. I am going to talk about the fertilizer plants that the Federal Government very obligingly gave back to private enterprise – one in the East and one in the West; enterprises which, publicly owned, would have

March 14, 1947

meant a whole lot not only to western agriculture but to eastern agriculture as well.

I should like to read some excerpts from “The Western Farm Leader”, in which the Canadian Federation of Agriculture stress the stabilization of agriculture generally and particularly has severe criticism of the sale of the nitrate plant. Here is what they say: they charge that it was a breach of faith when the Federal Government sold the Welland plant. The item goes on:

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture delegation makes protest to the Government on the basis of their convention resolution.

And they say this:

The sale of the Welland Nitrate Plant to private interests was vigorously protested by the delegation representing the Canadian Federation of Agriculture when its general submission on behalf of the organized farmers of the Dominion was made to the Cabinet, charging positive breach of faith on the part of some Government officials at Ottawa, in that the nitrate plant at Welland Ontario was sold to private interests after the Canadian Federation of Agriculture had been given to understand that this plant was to be kept in operation by the Government. The annual convention of the Federation had directed that such protest be made to the Government ...

Now, Mr. Speaker, the CCF is not the only organization that believes in the socialization of certain industries. Here is the Federation of Agriculture, speaking for the farmers of Canada, demanding exactly that – and these are types of industries that should be taken over. Mr. Speaker, I will welcome the day when the Federal Government at Ottawa takes over completely these huge processing plants that process farm commodities. It is probably not generally known that prices are not set by the farmer; they are not set by the Government either. These huge monopolies set the price to the farmer and they also set the price to the consumer. And I think that that is a power too great for any disinterested, unsocial-minded, exploiting enterprise to possess.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I must be moving along. It is to be noted, too, that generally speaking there has been a general raise in price levels throughout, on necessary commodities including food and other items, particularly those items which the farmer will buy, all of which means an added burden and rising cost of production on the farm.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I might say something with regard to my own estimates, the estimates for the Department of Agriculture. It was intimated by the Leader of the Opposition that these increased estimates for Agriculture were not real after all, because most of the increase was accounted for – half of it, I think the Hon. Member said – by the fact that the Lands Branch was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. I wish the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would scrutinize the figures a little bit more closely before he makes these charges. The truth of the matter is that, last year the Lands Branch, when it was attached to the Department of Natural Resources, had an appropriation of \$135,000; that has been raised this year to \$418,000, a difference of \$283,000. This, added to the amount

March 14, 1947

that will be available in the Feed and Fodder Branch, will give us a sum of \$464,000, which will largely be used, or entirely used, for the development and conservation of feed and fodder supplies.

I should like to mention some other items of expenditures that are to be made and which, I should say, will be made on behalf of agriculture and will directly benefit agriculture. For instance, we are planning a new building at the University of Saskatchewan to provide dormitory rooms for students attending these schools of Agriculture, at a cost of some \$500,000, half of which, I understand, the Provincial Government will bear. That most assuredly is some assistance to agriculture, in spite of the fact that apparently, according to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, we should not have any more of these experts running around. I shall refer to that a little more later on.

In addition to that, in the Department of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, in connection with land clearing in the north, the Carrot River Valley, it is expected that \$250,000 will be spent there to clear land and make it available to veterans. In addition to that again, the Department of Municipal Affairs estimates an expenditure of \$200,000 in land clearance in connection with and in continuance of, the northern settlement rehabilitation scheme. This makes a grand total, outside the Department of Agriculture, of \$700,000 that will absolutely benefit agriculture just as much as though the estimate were right in the Department of Agriculture itself. As a matter of fact, I would far rather see that expenditure made in that way, under the Municipal Department and under the Department of Reconstruction, because they are very closely related to the specific problems involved – one in connection with the re-establishment of veterans, the other with the re-establishment of the northern settlers in the province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to devote some time to explaining briefly the emergency feed situation that has developed, this year. I want to assure the House at once that it is the policy of the Department to move away, definitely move away, from the old system of handling feed and fodder. To be sure we had to have recourse to it again, this year, as an emergency, but the \$460,000 which I just mentioned will be spent to get away from the necessity of shipping feed and fodder constantly into those dried-out areas. We have been doing that for years and the one thing that impressed me was this: here the old Liberal administration had been doing this for years and years; as a matter of fact some \$183,000,000 was spent in pumping relief, feed and fodder into those dried-out areas, but they never learned the lesson. We learned that lesson that you provided for and we intend to move away from your system. The Hon. Member is smiling. Well, I came in here last year, but I can assure the Hon. Member for Arm River that we will be moving away from it very rapidly, another year.

Mr. Danielson: — It is taking you a long time.

Mr. Nollet: — We'll get there. But speaking of the emergency feed situation, this year, we partially put into practice the policy which we decided. Before we ever have a satisfactory arrangement whereby we can adequately, under emergent conditions, supply farmers in dried-out areas, we as a province are going to have to control that feed and fodder. The old system of making

March 14, 1947

contracts is pretty much a thing of the past and has proved a headache both to the Government, to the shippers and also to the recipients of the feed itself. Why, up in our country, in spite of the fact that the problem was larger, we are still waiting for hay up there. Of course, we don't ever expect to get it. Those were the conditions and those will always be the conditions where you begin to scout around, late in the winter, to make contracts with private individuals for feed: the weather is bad and there is some that don't want to pay particularly now when incomes are up and the people are reluctant to go out and bale hay. The feed supply that we had available, under the provincial control, at Kisbey, moved very rapidly into needy areas and I might say that our surveys up to then indicated that that supply would be quite sufficient.

One remarkable thing about this whole feed situation, this year, is simply that the actual requests for feed have not been extensive when you consider the hard winter we have gone through and that is largely due to the fact that our program and campaign for the conservation and utilization of every bit of feed that the Department could find available had good results. I am informed by the agricultural representative from the southwest that never before had there been so much feed put up in that country. Now those were good precautionary measures; the feed was there, for a winter that was the worst winter we had experienced, and I don't think the Hon. Member for Arm River, in his long years of residence in this province, has ever seen a winter to equal this one, when railways were tied up for three and four weeks and not even street cars in the city of Regina could move.

I am not using that at all as any reason why supplies should not have arrived. Here is what I say: the responsibility for indicating to us the amount of supplies required is on the LIDs and the rural municipalities and as I say, up to the end of November, the number of orders received was not great. But right along, as I saw this winter develop and snow come – being a stockman, I am most assuredly aware and was every time these early snows come, of what might happen – we immediately, before ever any additional orders came to us, began to make a survey of the entire province to see if there were feed supplies available in Saskatchewan. I want to remind the Hon. Members that, in this province today, we have nearly 2,000,000 head of cattle, 125 per cent more than there were in this province in 1939. Therefore, with this early start, we found that much of the feed in the north and northeast was required for livestock there, although we had indications earlier on that some would be available. We discovered that out of 69 people that shipped hay to us, last year, only three could supply us with hay, this year; then we went to Manitoba to get hay, established contacts there and I might say by January 10th we had far more hay contracted for than we had orders for and we tried our best to make deliveries just as rapidly as we could. We encountered a shortage of balers for many weeks; baling was help up, entirely due to the shortage of baler parts. We contacted every commercial firm that we knew of and finally we were able to locate 500 bales of hay.

There is another great detriment to that old system of supplying feed. It is the fact that once the Government makes a contract with a shipper, private individuals go around the Government and order individual shipments at a higher price. We found that to be the case repeatedly and that is why, generally

March 14, 1947

speaking, an individual could get hay quicker than the Government can, but he pays the price. Generally speaking, we have to boost our prices accordingly and, of course, the recipient of the hay pays the price.

I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that I want to make any reference at all to the particular herd of cattle referred to by Hon. Members opposite. I think that everyone pretty well understands the condition there and I can say to them that they took the wrong case if they want to make political capital – and I think it was pretty cheap politics, in view of the situation – and they must know what it is where a group of people ordered a measly three carloads of hay to sustain 600 head of cattle; it isn't a drop in the bucket. Any livestock man knows that and he knows this too: this isn't like the days of 1936 when we didn't have sufficient income from cattle, when prices of cattle were so low that you couldn't ship cattle any place economically. Today, prices of livestock are good. If I had a herd of 600 cattle any place in this province and get feed put up where there was feed and move the cattle to it and I could do so economically, today, without any great loss.

Mr. Procter: — You sure can't move the feed to the cattle.

Mr. Nollet: — All I have to say to the Hon. Member is, if that is all I've got to move to cattle to keep them alive it wouldn't be worthwhile moving it or moving the hay to them at all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to turn to the Agricultural Representative Service. I have noticed that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, while he said that this service might serve a useful purpose, nevertheless it was another case of experts telling people what to do. Well, we have had these experts around in this province for quite a number of years. The only trouble was that under the previous administration there were not enough of them scattered throughout the province. The few that we had were concentrated mostly in the large cities and they would take a sojourn out occasionally and see the best farmers in the country all the way from Saskatoon to the Alberta border and then they would come back home and call it a day. That was the kind of service agriculture was getting under the setup at that time.

Now, I don't see why the Leader of the Opposition should take exception to these experts, these so-called experts. Do I derive from that that we should stop educating these agriculturists at the university, that we should discontinue the building of a medical college at the university because experts are going to be telling us what to do? Sometimes, I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should take some expert advice from his doctor: I think he has got a very bad case of political neurosis.

We have expanded our Agricultural Representative Service from a vote of \$64,000 for 1944-45 to \$524,000 today. But the Hon. Member for Arm River says that that is not going to be any direct benefit to agriculture anyway. Well, I just cannot understand these two gentlemen's reasons. One of them said to me, some time ago, to get busy and get my share of this Budget. Well, not because he encouraged me at all, we did get a very good budget for agriculture. Now he says, "It's no good anyway; it

March 14, 1947

isn't going to help agriculture very much." Let us take a look at that and see if it is going to do agriculture any good.

I would like to take a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to try to outline briefly to you the Agricultural Representative Service and also outline to you the purpose for which it has come into existence. We want the Agricultural Representative Service in the Province of Saskatchewan to pay dividends and I know it will pay dividends. I know that when these young men – who are not going to be experts telling people what to do, but young men and some older men who, when working through local committees and advising local committees, 325 of which are set up in municipalities and LIDs of the province; when you get the technical and research knowledge that is available funnelled out to the people in the country, where you have a group of people studying a problem together, you are definitely going to better agricultural conditions. Instead of going and seeing the best farmers in a district, we have got to go and see the poorest farmers in the district. My friends know, they have seen many cases where one farmer will consistently raise, on the average, a 20-bushel crop of wheat and the farmer right next to him will probably get a 10 or a five-bushel crop; improper farm practice. Now, if we can bring the poor farmer up to a level and on a par with our better farmers believe me, the Agricultural Representative Service will far more than pay for itself.

We have got to remember, too, that in Saskatchewan we have a tremendous productive potential. It might be astonishing for many to know that we have some 35,000,000 acres, under cultivation in Saskatchewan and that that represents 40 per cent, of the Dominion's total cultivated acreage. As has been proved in the War years, we doubled and trebled and, in some cases, upped our production in some lines five times, when manpower was at a minimum, when just the old people were left on the farms. I am convinced that we can increase the volume of our agricultural production tremendously and thereby bring greater wealth into the Province of Saskatchewan. And, provided the Federal Government sees fit to adopt a fiscal policy that will pay production costs plus an income that will equal what is termed 'parity', we need have no fear of even a \$70,000,000 Budget in the =co-op.

Those things are all within the realm of possibility and it is just towards that end that we are going to direct the major efforts of the Agricultural Representative Service. We intend to start right with the source which is basic. There are a lot of areas in our province where, through proper land utilization, we cannot only stabilize farm conditions but we can infinitely increase farm production. The great problem, however, is to give a stability in that southwestern corner of the province where, in the dry years, as Hon. Members know, it extends outwards and grows larger. I am very conscious of the fact. The lesson has been amply driven home to me in those bad years that we experienced and that I experienced as a municipal reeve. That has been a lesson and, believe me, we should learn that lesson.

Therefore our first effort will be directed towards bringing stability in the southwest part of the province by building up reserves of feed there closest to the point of need; by encouragement of the individual to do that; by direct assistance to him; by assistance to the municipality, acquiring blocks of land and where, under dry farm conditions, we can set that land

March 14, 1947

aside to provide reserves of feed which the municipalities will put into their banks. We are prepared as a provincial government, too, to develop irrigation projects for the municipality and acquire land for them, get it blocked up and use it as a feed reserve. In addition to that, too, there are areas such as Rush Lake where, under two arrangements with the Dominion Government, we are preparing to build up provincial feed reserves. I think that on that basis we can lick this whole problem of drought. We must do it. Then, of course, there is the matter of increasing the quantity and quality of our farm products.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that this working through the local committee is somewhat of a departure in the technique of bringing science and research to the farmer. It makes people realize that they have a common interest with the scientists who are bringing the scientific knowledge to them; at the same time it provides for group action. It encourages people to think in terms of the community and not as an individual.

Perhaps some extracts taken from a recent district board meeting will be very interesting to the Hon. Members and I hope convince them that we are not wasting this money that we are spending in the expansion of our Agricultural Representative Service. You hear a lot of talk about agriculture being big; it is big and we are going to make it more big and give it a more solid foundation and, I hope, a more lasting one.

Here is the observation of one representative from one municipal committee, who was in attendance at the first district board meeting of District No. 27. Here is what he says, making his observation:

First, you will agree with me that the men in research laboratories of our universities and the experimental farms have been and are doing wonderful work, but where we have failed is in getting the results of their research incorporated into the everyday lives of the farmers of this province. Every little while you see couples, who are getting up in years, selling out and moving to town because their children do not care to carry on with the farm and who in the majority of cases can blame them, when you go out and see what the living conditions are in most of these places as compared to what they could be with modernization?

One man's observation. I am going to go on and give you an indication of the various projects that these committees are suggesting. We are asking them:

You take a look at your municipality; see what you can do. If you are in the southwest, if there's an irrigation project, what can you do about it? Or are there other lands available that could be used, put into a community pasture and various projects of that kind?

Here is a good example coming from the local committee. He said:

When we get to forage crops our whole committee seem to agree exactly the policy that we are trying to carry on, of the provision for feed, the proper rotation of crops and mixed farming generally.

March 14, 1947

I want to say this, too, before I go on: one thing that has accentuated the feed situation, in addition to the 2,000,000 head of cattle that we are using, is the combines; people are not saving straw any more. Therefore we have to get them conscious of the rotation of crops and going into forage crop production. Well he goes on:

When we get to forage crops, our whole committee seem to agree, everyone present felt that more forage crops should be seeded, especially for feed. Most agreed that the present rotation of summerfallow the first year, wheat, the second, barley or oats the third, would work out fine. Around Lake Lenore, some claimed that the cereal crops are much shorter than a few years ago and the soil seems to have broken down to a fine dust. Erosion is a definite menace both by water and by wind. The people seem to be very little aware of the dangers of erosion as in the fall almost all combine stubbles are burned.

Now you can notice, right through that whole observation, as this committee is studying this problem, it is fitting right into the policy that the Agricultural Department would have liked to have seen put into practice for years. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that all the legislation in the world that you could pass with authority will never bring the same results as this type of work will bring.

Here is another:

Farm accounting was discussed at length and very few farmers follow the habit of daily recording of their transactions.

Now that would be very welcome news to Mr. Abbott, I am sure. I do think that there is such variety of subjects and so many projects that committees of this kind can get into.

Another one:

There has also been considerable discussion at our meeting over a matter of the full drainage of the district known as the Ranch Slough. It was found that 2,100 acres would be more or less affected. The council of the municipality was asked to again present this project to the proper authorities, asking them for an investigation by the engineers of Highways and the department of Natural Resources' engineers.

Here they have found a spot whereby, with some drainage, they could build up feed reserves. I think this is a grand idea and I think, when we get these people working right into a general over-all plan, that in the final analysis we are not only going to lick this problem of drought, but we are going definitely to increase our agricultural production in Saskatchewan as a whole.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to sum up as briefly as I can though I would have liked to have gone more into detail of my Departmental work. Perhaps I should make some reference to the veterinary situation in the province.

As all members know, we are very short on veterinarians in Saskatchewan. The Dominion Services alone, I understand, are

March 14, 1947

short – the shortage is not confined to Saskatchewan, but affects the Dominion as a whole – some 95 veterinarians. As Hon. Members also know we have been paying scholarships to Saskatchewan boys and girls who attend the Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario. We have some 31 students in attendance there, but it will be some time before we have sufficient graduates coming back to Saskatchewan to adequately assist us in the establishment of Veterinary Service Districts. We expect a few graduates within the next year and a few more the following year. Some 12 will probably be graduating in 1949. That's far away before we begin to replenish the loss sustained in veterinary personnel in Saskatchewan. But after that date, we should be able to expand very rapidly with the development of Veterinary Service Districts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in closing my remarks: it has always impressed me, in the past, as when we were struggling as an infant movement to acquire political power not only in this province but in the Dominion, that the old parties had no definite solution to our economic ills. History has definitely proven – the Hon. Member for Arm River smiles, but I have tried to cast back over the years to give some indication as to what happened under their administration and the upholding of their so-called free enterprise system. What were the results? They brought the nation to the abyss of ruin; they have created a load of indebtedness on our farm population that they have not yet discharged and I might say that, when we hear this talk about farm prosperity, I wonder sometimes whose prosperity it really was. It seems to me that the creditors got the biggest chunk and now Ilesley or Abbott is bound to get the rest. That being so, I think that our farm people, who have selected this particular group to represent them in the Legislature realize that they cannot go back again to the old parties and the fact that they had no solution in the past is every guide and indication that they still have no solution for the future and when one takes note of the trend that is already developing and setting in, we appear to be heading, very rapidly, back to the same condition that prevailed at the close of the last War. There are, to be sure, some brighter spots. We welcome and give credit for, the contracts that have been made with Britain, although we reserve the right to criticize prices when they have no relationship to actual farm costs. We also welcome the fact that the Wheat Board is going to continue to function, though we regret that the Wheat Board's activities will not be extended to coarse grain. All of those things we welcome; however, there is the gradual rise in farm production costs that cannot be ignored and if I know my economics, I know that this present economy is made to do one thing: It is made to draw back all the purchasing power that was created during the War years.

It is about the best blotter that I know to gather up the people's savings and once again concentrate them in the hands of a few people and then, when purchasing power runs out, again, loan it to people who wish to purchase goods or what not. So I can see again that even though the obligations have been discharged, this old debt creating system of ours has been stepped up to accelerated speed and will create debts again more rapidly than it ever did before. The people who sent it here know that and rather than losing support in the country, this particular group on this side of the House is gaining support; I think the people appreciate what this administration has done not only for the farmers of Saskatchewan, but for the people of

March 14, 1947

Saskatchewan generally. I think on the other hand that many of the people of this province wish, on more than one occasion, that this administration was in power at Ottawa. I note, with regret, that now in the postwar years, after all the glowing promises of the Prime Minister of Canada during the course of the War, when he had great visions of a new earth and a new heaven, he has apparently gone blind and lost all his vision since.

Today, it is retrench; today, it is cut prices, cut your wool bonus, cut your milk subsidy; cuts all the way down the line, every one of which affects the little man and all of which the farmer and the consumer and the working man is compelled to carry the burden of, in the final analysis.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that this group, rather than losing strength, must be gaining strength in the country and I do know this: it was the workers, the farming people and the businessmen of this province who realized that, due to changed economic conditions due to the tremendous advances of the machine Age and the technical skill of the people, being able to produce tremendous quantities of goods, a different type of economy was necessary. We were elected by a group of people who realized that this was a changing world and that our economy must change with it. Nothing has happened that might change these people's minds and I am quite sure that nothing is going to happen, when one recognizes the tendencies that are already developing, that will ever change their minds until we have reached the goal toward which we have directed our sights.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one more reference before sitting down. I don't like to raise this matter again, but in my previous address in this House, I levelled a criticism at certain tendencies that I felt would, if continued, involve us in another titanic struggle. Everyone, I think, pretty well understands – I am sure that my good American friends understand that my criticism was not directed at the American people, was not calculated to be unfriendly to anyone. It was rather given in the spirit of wanting to live in a friendly, neighbourly world. It has always been one of the tenets of this political group here that we should have absolute free exchange of goods between all nations, and it has been our belief that that could never be accomplished as long as nations and national economies were on a competitive basis. We realize that it is vital that the internal economies of a nation be co-operative before you can have a free exchange of goods between nations. We want to see that and we don't want just American dollars; we would like their goods; we would like British goods. We should like to see goods flow from one country to another undisturbed, to the end that all the people in the world would share in the good things of the world.

I am going to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do believe there are occasions when a man must say the things that he conscientiously believes to be true. I want to say that I have seen – so have other Members – the result of the policies adopted, not by the people of any particular country, but by the privileged groups in particular countries, who, after all, pretty well decide and direct foreign policy. I should very much like to see a change back to the foreign policy as laid down by the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to the end that we can effectively have a United Nations in this world, regardless of differences in ideologies or thought. I cannot think, for the life of me,

March 14, 1947

that there is any good justification for bringing up the terrible holocaust in this world that we are bound to have if another war should come. It seems to me that it is quite apparent to every thinking man and woman that, should it occur again, we could easily blot out civilization. That must not happen. That is my great concern and I would feel, Mr. Speaker, that I would not be true to my own conscience if I did not raise these objections. I must do so.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that after all we are only on this earth a very short while, you and I. We have a very important part to play. When I think of the little short time that we are here and the entire insignificance of ourselves as human beings. I think that we should do what we can conscientiously and contribute to the general betterment, not only of living conditions, but of conditions generally throughout the world. I am very conscious of the affinity between common people, not only in Canada but in all parts of the world. I cannot help but think and must believe, due to my deep religious convictions, that these people have all been created in the image and likeness of one Creator, who has the sole prerogative to not only give life but to take life; that that life and that prerogative rest alone with that one Creator. To deny that would be tantamount to giving up our entire Christian philosophy.

That being so, Mr. Speaker, the whole purpose of my remarks, as certain people of the press know and certain politicians know, was directed to that end and not to create any antagonisms between any peoples anywhere. I think that the people who are creating the antagonisms in the world, today, are those kind that enjoy special privileges and special power. They are the ones that would have us flung into another War from which humanity probably would never recover. I do hope that, by being a little bit more fair and pen about these things and a little bit more outspoken, speaking out for the things that we believe in and our convictions, probably another War could be prevented, and the advances made by a civilized world retained. I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that more people, not only in this Dominion, not only in the United States, Great Britain and elsewhere, will take that same attitude in regard to international relations. We must have a United Nations that will work. We must have world government.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion.

Mr. P.J. Hooge (Rosthern): — Mr. Speaker, hearing these millions of words, many of them futile that have been uttered, I am inexpressibly weary and I don't intend to take up as much time as some of the Members have, but I would like to get on with the job and wish that many others would feel the same as I do, that there is some possibility of getting through with this before Easter.

Now in regard to the Budget Speech; I have read this booklet, I have heard the Provincial Treasurer and I have read this booklet several times and in my words, I don't claim to be any master, but in my opinion, if I were asked to mark this document on a rhetorical basis, I think I would be liable to give the Provincial Treasurer full marks. Now there are some real beautiful voluptuous passages in here. I would just like to think they are worthwhile bringing them to the attention of the House again. One of them is this:

March 14, 1947

I gain a sense of Saskatchewan searching toward a new day, wider horizons, greater opportunities for the energies and initiative of its people.

Now, I read that sentence several times and I thought at first it must be some typographical error, but I prepared several copies and they all seemed to be the same. Now this seems a peculiar statement to make by somebody that is a socialist, when it says horizons and great opportunities for the energies of the people. I think that sentence should really be corrected to read this way: "I gain a sense of Saskatchewan marching toward a new day, wider horizons, greater opportunities for the energies and initiative of its government." Certainly the ideology of the government is to have control of the means of production and distribution and consequently I can see no reason for suggesting that there is, as long as this Government remains in office, any opportunity for the initiative of its people.

Another of these passages occurs at the end of the address:

New occasions teach new duties.

I am glad to learn that the Provincial Treasurer is learning that it is not so easy to carry out the duties of government as possibly he thought at first. Another passage: "Time makes the ancient work uncouth." That is another true statement. This philosophy that the Government is correlating, of course, is nothing new. It is quite ancient and has been discarded many times and I think he should take this to heart himself that time makes the ancient work uncouth and not follow this ideology any longer. They must upward still and onward who would keep abreast of truth. I was also glad to note that the Provincial Treasurer has learned that it's quite a struggle to keep abreast of truth. During the election prior to 1944 a great number of promises were made. Certainly at the time this party was not abreast of truth and he is apparently now realizing that in order to keep abreast of truth they are having quite a struggle.

After reading this, one is involuntarily reminded of the words of Shakespeare when he says: "On what meat does this our Caesar feed that he has grown so great." If I were called upon to prepare a Budget which is not at all likely, I would consider several matters.

First of all I would consider the source from which the finances were to be obtained. Now, in this province, I think, about 90 per cent of the revenue is probably derived from agriculture. For that matter I would consider the hazards of the experience in this province. The income fluctuates from about \$70,000,000 in some of the '30s to about \$400,000,000 now and that the employment in this province and the income revenue is seasonal. We have a long winter during which we haven't the revenue we have in summer and fall. Then I think I would take account of the fact that our population is not decreasing but diminishing. I think I would take notice of the rising cost of living. Also whether we have markets for our products. Another matter that I would take into consideration is the need and first of all, I would consider the need of the people, secondly, the need of the Government, but certainly I think the population of this province, particularly that of the farmer should come first. They should be entitled to life,

liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Now a third point to consider would be the amount. It has been pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, when added together with the hospitalization expenses and automobile insurance, the approximate amount required to pay to the Government is around \$65,000,000. That would be about twice the Budget in 1944. In the same province we have less people now to pay it. I added the gross income of this province, not only pertaining to agriculture as my figures are and I have interpreted this Budget correctly, I think the gross income from all sources, agriculture, mining, forestry and game and so on is approximately \$429,000,000. Now this Budget then would represent approximately 15 per cent of this amount, that is the gross amount, but we must remember that this income of \$429,000,000 or nearly \$430,000,000 is not the net amount of the income. That amount must be very, very much smaller so that this Budget actually is, I don't know what the percentage would be, but it would be a very much larger percentage of the net income of the people. And, I think it must be generally admitted that the income I am speaking about is very high indeed and that it does not represent by any means the average income in this province. As I pointed out a little while ago, the income has varied from about \$70,000,000 to around \$400,000,000, so the average income is very much lower than that. And then as to the allocation of the amount.

If I were preparing the Budget I would never, never fix it at \$65,000,000, taking those facts into consideration. In allocating it I think I would first consider that the farmers of this country, who produce the largest revenue, should have first consideration and secondly the Government. I should also endeavor to make some provision for a surplus. Now it seems to me that in the preparation of this Budget practically all these factors have been disregarded. It seems to me that the first consideration in the preparation of this Budget was that the Government should be considered first and foremost above everything. The Government of this province we all know, has increased its Cabinet very materially, it has increased its staff, it has a number of planning boards for various purposes. Now I don't say that these planning boards are not required, I think it is, but the Cabinet should be able to get along without these planning boards and without incurring this expense.

Now then, the Government has certainly made every provision to take care of itself but what has it done for the people? In spite of what the Minister of Agriculture said the gain for agriculture is not impressive when it is considered that the largest amount of the income of this province is derived from agriculture and the amount which agriculture obtained from this Government is quite insignificant, but not only does the farm industry get very little relief from this Government, but actually it is being taxed more heavily than ever, in spite of the fact that we have the largest Budget that was ever presented to any Government in this province, in spite of the fact that an additional \$9 million or so will be obtained from the Dominion Government. We farmers naturally expected that we should be entitled to some share of it representing as we do the largest portion of the population and representing as we do the largest producers of revenue, but there seems to be no release in sight at all.

When the -Dominion Government announced that they were cancelling the two-cent gasoline tax, at least the people in my

March 14, 1947

constituency certainly hoped and fully expected and thought they were entitled to the dropping of this tax entirely and I am sure that they will be very much concerned and very much disappointed that this tax is being re-enacted and not only that, but it was actually the intention of the Government to add another two cents tax. Of course, they didn't feel very sure that was very effectively turned down. Then, again, we have the Education Tax.

This tax, of course, was first of all introduced by the Liberal party as an emergency measure and one of the things that this – at least in the Rosthern constituency, I can't say what was said in the other constituencies, but certainly in the Rosthern constituency – every speaker that was there, at least those that I heard, they definitely promised that this tax would definitely be eliminated just as soon as the CCF Party was elected. It was absolutely an unconditional statement, it wasn't equalized in any way by saying as soon as we can find some other means of taxation in fact, these promises were so definite, that a number of people coming to the stores the day following the election were very much surprised and chagrined to find that this Education Tax was still being collected.

Well now this is over two years since that and the Education Tax, at least a portion of it is still being collected. In view of the fact that the revenue of the Government has materially increased and in view of the fact that it has been explained by the Cabinet, that they never said it would be abolished but they only did promise that it would be abolished if other taxes were found in its place and other taxes having been found to replace it, certainly that promise should now be redeemed. Since the Education Tax has been removed from food, it seems to me that the Education Tax now hits the farming community probably harder than the rest of us. They have to buy a great many things at the stores on which the Education Tax is still payable. The Education Tax did not hit them quite so heavily while the Education Tax was also being collected on food because a great many farmers produced their own food on the farm, but now that that has been eliminated, I think it really bears more heavily on the farming portion of the community than on anybody else. For instance, many of these farmers will buy very expensive machinery on which Education Tax was to be paid and I think they therefore have a very just reason to demand that this promise of the Government should now be implemented by the entire removal of this tax. Now the Government states and Mr. Nollet, the Minister of Agriculture dwelt at some length on the fact that agriculture was being helped by the agricultural representatives. Well, now I have been in Rosthern for nearly 14 years now and although I am closely identified with the farming community there, I have yet to see one of these agricultural representatives in Rosthern. It is possible that they may come there, but certainly I have never seen any of them. It may be that Rosthern like many other activities of the Government, is that Rosthern in this respect is overlooked like it is in a matter of highways and various other things, but on one occasion in any event when I wrote to the Government in connection with a certain matter pertaining to livestock, I was definitely told that a certain agricultural representative would call on me, but at least a year has elapsed and he has never called at my office yet. I have no doubt that these men have a knowledge of agricultural problems and they may be of some assistance, but I think that the majority of our farmers are not asking for

March 14, 1947

assistance. I think they can handle their problems very well.

My father came to this country in 1875, he simply settled on the bald prairie, there was no railroad there, there was no school, there was no houses, nothing of any kind and he helped himself and many thousands of people have done the same thing.

You are all very well acquainted with the expositions of the Hon. Member for Arm River, I think apart from any political views he may entertain. I think you must certainly be impressed with his knowledge regarding agricultural problems. Now, he may be exceptional, but I am sure there are very many farmers in this country that also have a very intimate knowledge of agricultural problems and I think that as long as we have men of that type these agricultural representatives are not absolutely essential. Of course, it may be that they do some help, but to say that just because a number of agricultural representatives have been appointed, I don't think that it means that agriculture has been assisted to a great extent. I am just wondering to what extent the Hon. Member for Arm River, for instance, has been assisted by these representatives. I think that possibly if they came around, he could tell them a thing or two about the matter in question.

And then we are told, of course, that apart from agriculture that there has been other help extended. We are, for instance, told that there is a wide scope for private enterprise. Now that seems very singular, indeed, in view of the ideologies of this Government and particularly in view of the fact that certain enterprise, at least in the constituency of Rosthern, has not had any wide scope.

The Hon. Members will remember that when the Insurance Bill was being discussed, I pointed out that in the constituency of Rosthern, that the company, carrying on insurance in a small way, at extremely low rates and on a mutual co-operative basis, and I tried very hard to have the company accepted under the provisions of the Act, but it was absolutely of no avail. Now, we are told by the Provincial Treasurer that there is wide scope for private enterprise, as long as it apparently doesn't interfere with them then there is no scope at all. He also tells us in this Budget that they are going to aid industries. Now that is surely a complete reversal of the policies which they have been following so far. They have been starting their own enterprises and doing everything possible to discourage other enterprises and now they are actually going to aid industries.

One of the things that is going to help this province is the Crown corporations. I think the statement which the Member for Last Mountain made concerning this is very much in point. These Crown corporations, I can't see that they are serving any useful purpose, at least the majority of them. We have 13 of them and I think the most of them serve no useful purpose. The field of endeavor in which they are engaged is fully covered by others who are not exploiting the people of this province. Quite a few of them only give seasonal employment.

The Clay Factory, for instance, I believe is shut now and there is one man on guard simply watching the plant and I think the same must hold true of others as well. There seems to be no great increase in employment as less than 1,000 people have employment in all these Crown corporations and that has no appreciable effect on the employment situation in this province.

March 14, 1947

then, again, there seems to be no tenure of office. Every once in a while we read in the paper that this manager and that manager has been fired and somebody else appointed and, of course, it is an unfair competition for those businesses that have been established here for a number of years. Established businesses contribute business taxes, municipal taxes, income taxes and so on, all of which are not contributed by these private corporations. I think the Government, if it wants to be fair, should compete on an even basis with these others.

I was rather interested to note in the Budget Speech that the advances to these Crown corporations had been fully approved by the Legislature. Well, I don't know, I knew, of course, that some advances were being made, but whenever we tried to find out what they were being made for, we were never told so that I can't agree with that statement that we were fully apprised of what these advances were for.

We are also told in the public speech that the people are shareholders in these Crown corporations. Well, I found one of these wool patches the other day on my desk and I suppose this is one of the dividends that we are paying now by the Woollen Mills at Moose Jaw. I expect that likely that is the only dividend that that Mill will ever pay. I am rather inclined to doubt the statement about being shareholders because when the matter was raised here just recently about giving back the public revenue back to the farmers, that it belonged to the farmers, well there was a great howl from the Government offices and we were made to withdraw this. Apparently now this is a tax that is definitely paid by the farmers, it should be their property, but still when we were certain it belonged to the farmers, well then we were made to withdraw that statement, the farmers apparently have no share in it at all, it is the Government who owns it. So when you talk about shareholders in Crown corporations, I can put very little faith in that.

We are also told how the Civil Servants have been treated so very well. Well, it is true they have received some increase in wages but I understand their time of service, their length of service per week, is also extended and that the extra hours that they have to work practically takes up the amount of increase in wages.

Now, in regard to the education grants, the Government seems to take a great deal of credit for the educational grants. I don't think there is any credit due to the Government at all, in connection with the education grants, in fact, I don't consider it to be a credit at all. According to the public accounts the total amount collected, total amount of Education Tax collected, was \$5,900,000 and some dollars, close to \$6 million and apparently according to the Budget there is an increase, so it must be over \$6 million. Now the total amount not taking on the grants, but the total amount spent on education in this province in the fiscal year that will be ending shortly, is less paid by all of us, is more than enough to pay the entire outlay that is spent by this Government Branch. When we are paying it directly for a specific purpose we should, certainly the Government should not say they are making a grant ... and we are not getting all of it by any means, we are getting just that portion of it which is paid out in these so-called grants. Now, just in this connection, nothing in the way of criticism at all, but I, in talking about the Education Tax, I say this as a suggestion to the Provincial Treasurer, in talking to a local

March 14, 1947

druggist in Rosthern not long ago, he mentioned that he thought that the collection of the Education Tax could be considerably simplified, the Provincial Treasurer has admitted that the tax is somewhat of a nuisance, but he stated that though some of the nuisance could be taken out of it by following this method, that the Government could compare stamps in the various denominations counting, say, with one cent and then going up and then they could supply the dealer with the stamps and he could keep record of the amount of which he had been supplied. He would not be immediately paid for, but a record would be there. Then when articles were sold ... education tax, the dealer would, of course, from time to time ask the Government to replace these stamps and these replacements that were attained after the ... would be paid periodically as it is now, but in this way the dealer would not have to keep any record of stamps at all. He would merely be paying for these replacements and then in case he sold his business or there was a sale of bulk or anything of that kind, where he discontinued business, the matter could be checked up very readily. The Government would have a record of the amount that was originally sent to the dealer, they would have a record of the amount which he had paid and the difference would represent the amount for which the dealer was liable. In this way the dealer wouldn't have to keep any books in connection with it. His stamps would at all times show how much he owed the Government and it would, I think, simplify the matter very greatly, also the collector.

I think that is a matter that could very well be taken into consideration by the Provincial Treasurer and to try and make the collection of this tax as easy as possible for the dealer's concern. With regard to the Social Welfare, although the Budget is about down where it used to be in 1944, there is not nearly a corresponding increase in the social Welfare. If I remember the Budget correctly we cannot expect any further increase in this regard unless further revenues of taxation can be found and I think it is very doubtful that they will be found because the Government seems to have explored every possibility of changing revenue.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs, in speaking to this Motion the other day, ridiculed the Leader of the Opposition in connection with a point that we had made about giving some aid to crippled people for which no provision is made at the present time. He said that, when he was in power nothing had been done about it and he couldn't give them anything but love, he ridiculed, rather said that he also believed in a Santa Claus. While I am very glad that not only the Leader of the Opposition, but the Liberal Party believes in a Santa Claus, a Santa Claus in my opinion is a person who is supposed to be generous, the Liberal Party has always been that, and to ridicule the matter of love, I think, is certainly something that is very strange for a person who advocates socialism and co-operation and all that sort of thing. The frame of mind of the Minister of Agriculture, however, I think shows the general frame of mind of most of the Members of this Cabinet. They have, in my opinion, very little sympathy for anybody outside of the Cabinet.

I am very glad to hear that you have at least some of them, those of you who were ... I was thinking from the remarks that he made particularly when he referred to Mr. McNab and said that he had had some labor trouble and when he had eventually died he thought that all laborers would be very glad to hear it, or something to that effect. Now, I think that statement was

March 14, 1947

rather careless and that he had absolutely no kindness whatsoever in his system and that should a mosquito light on him, it is altogether likely that that mosquito would probably die from pneumonia.

Now, in talking about this matter of, I was just referring to, the Hon. Premier during the election in 1944 – I don't know whether he made the statement but, however, it was made with his permission and authority and knowledge, that there should be no blackout on health and that health services would be furnished free, but now we find that health services have to be paid in advance. Sometimes, at least, all we do get is possibly reservation and if we want it, it is sometimes not available.

Then again, we have another Member of the Cabinet, the Attorney General. He talks about a Bill of rights here in the House, but I understand over the radio when he talks, he mentions that people who believe in a different ideology other than the CCF, why, he said, that they should be tried by our courts and punished. Then we have the Minister of Highways. He, according to answers given in this House, spends a great deal of money in his constituency of Rosetown. He spends very little in the constituency of Rosthern. Now, if there is any cons where money should be spent, it is certainly there.

We have, I think it is hardly unique in this respect, we have about nine ferries in that constituency and we haven't a single bridge there. We should have two bridges, but we haven't one.

Then we have the Minister of Education, another Member of the Cabinet. Without consulting the people and against their will, he established a number of larger school units and he is permitting and certainly hasn't got his attention, permitting the use of a text book in the school which glorifies Russia and indoctrinates the pr with the ideology that is being practiced in Russia.

Now then, we have another Member of the Cabinet, the Minister of Labour. He spoke this afternoon. He, apparently, is very proud of the -legislation he has enacted regarding labour, but the fact is that practically all, a good many of the decisions of the Labour Board have been challenged by the reports and not upheld. The result has been that there has been some dissension between employers and employees and altogether, I think, that he has rendered a disservice to labour in this province. One of his Bills was instrumental in having the box factory at Prince Albert seized.

Then we have the Minister of Co-operative. We have been told different times that there is no government that interferes in connection with his co-operatives. I don't know if he knows anything about this incident, but I was told on fairly good authority, that recently Mr. Cadbury at the last director's meeting, was appointed a member of, appointed director of that company and that Mr. Schumiatcher was quite active in the director's meeting. Now, since Mr. Cadbury himself is one of the members of the Planning Board here, there seems to be pretty close connection between the Government and the co-operatives in that case.

We have the Minister of Agriculture, who spoke this

March 14, 1947

afternoon at some length. Now, he really wound himself up and got so excited that I thought he might burst a blood vessel and that would have been a great loss. Of course, Mr. Gardiner would undoubtedly have regretted that very much because he no doubt has been getting his advice right along from the Minister of Agriculture in this province. I don't know how that loss could have been rectified had he actually, had that actually happened. So I would suggest that in the future he should be more moderate in his speech and not endanger his health, because we could not spare his valuable advice. His advice, not only covers the immediate field of agriculture, he seems to have knowledge of provincial affairs, Dominion affairs, international affairs. Not so long ago, he himself admitted it, he advised President Truman how to run the United States. He apparently is advising Mr. Gardiner how to run Federal affairs and he is advising us here how we should run our affairs. He certainly has a very nimble mind, indeed. He talks about this Government – that people would like to see this Government in Ottawa and apparently he entertains some hope of being the next Minister of Agriculture. The Minister spoke quite compassionately and tried to explain just why he had to refer to the United States of America here some time ago. But, I don't know why it was necessary that he should compare that gallant, famous gentleman MacArthur with Hiro Hito. Certainly that doesn't at all coincide with what he said here today. The Minister has attacked the Dominion Government very severely about, apparently gets such large amounts of money out of this province and pays back very little. He didn't mention anything about the very large relief payments which the Dominion Government made and which has been cancelled. He didn't mention anything about the generous family allowances that we get here. He also forgets that there was a War here not so long ago and that this War has to be paid for. Of course, he belongs to a party that until not so long ago wasn't at all in favor of sending any soldiers out of the country and he apparently now refuses to, he doesn't want to pay for the War.

In the constituency of Rosthern people don't object to paying reasonable taxes to pay for this War, which won us, or preserved our democracy, but apparently the -Minister of Agriculture thinks that's just simply stealing from this province when these taxes are being collected. He mentioned about the increase in implements, 12½ per cent, but possibly he has overlooked the fact that the J.R. Chase Company here a few days ago voluntarily and without compulsion from anybody agreed to reduce, announced that they had reduced the price of its implements by 20 per cent.

You are talking about this advice coming from the horse's mouth, well now, I think that it would have been more appropriate if he had referred to an animal that resembles a horse, but has longer ears. I think the most effective reply to the Minister of Agriculture's criticism of the Dominion Government is the fact that we had a better election in 1945 than the majority of people at that time have ever had. It didn't agree with his views and endorsed the work of the Dominion Government and returned it to power. and that was particularly so in the constituency of Rosthern, where Mr. tucker was elected with a very substantial majority.

Now, we also have the Minister, another Member of the Cabinet, the Minister of Natural Resources. He, by enactments which he puts through, the minerals are being lost by those who

March 14, 1947

do not pay the taxes he imposes. The fish now have to be sold to the Minister and he apparently has dominion over everything in sight.

We have, also, the Minister of Social Welfare. Now, he was talking about exploitation when he was putting through the Insurance Bill and still when it comes to the constituency of Rosthern, confiscates the business of provincial company. He talks about social welfare and you would really think that he was very much enthused with this subject, but when some time ago, I brought to his attention that there was a ferry man that had been working on one of those ferries in the constituency of Rosthern for a matter of 15 years and that was in the course of his duty he had been hurt and that he was now partially disabled – I brought that to his attention personally, through letters and then had also the Leader of the Opposition bring this to his attention. but any assistance in that connection was absolutely denied although it has, I think, been the policy in previous years to pay a gratuity in matters of this kind. So you see from this that we have a Cabinet here, just like the Minister of Agriculture, that doesn't seem to have an abundance of sympathy with anything. I claim it has no heat at all. It has, however, a soul, a boot sole and it effectively uses this sole to crush, to oppress. It wouldn't matter so much if it had a head, but it doesn't have a head either.

We heard some other Members, we heard the Member for Wilkie and he also saw fit to emulate one of the Members of the Cabinet in criticizing the President of the United States in regard to his administration of that country. I am sure that any remarks made by the Member for Wilkie will not be taken seriously by the United States of America. It is just like a mosquito bite on an elephant, it doesn't make an impression, but it is a nuisance just the same.

We have heard the Member for Humboldt. He deplored, he mentioned the fact that a great deal of money was being spent for liquor and tobacco. Well, that is true and particularly so since this Government took office. The fact is that most of us are so disillusioned, we have been so frustrated, that we have such a sense of futility that unless we can have recourse to some of these pacifying agencies that we simply could not exist under this administration. In other words, this Government has a great responsibility in regards to drink and smoking.

We heard the Member for Elrose tell us a story about a washing machine. He said that some woman had given birth to a couple of children, but her desire was for a washing machine. Well, now I am quite sure that if this woman had waited to have an electric washing machine, that with the electricity supplied by this Government, she would have waited a long time until her wish was fulfilled and she could give birth to a number of children before that washing machine ever arrived. He also told us about the veterans in the Eston district, not being afraid to take up leases instead of buying it from the Government. Well, I think that is quite natural, Mr. Speaker. I think these veterans, they are astute men, they have seen a good deal of the world and they know that this Government just hasn't a long existence, that they will only be here for a few years and in the meantime these leases are quite attractive. I think they pay about a fifth or sixth share. Well, that is a very attractive rental with the expectation that as soon as the Liberal Government is elected they will buy this land. There is one

March 14, 1947

thing that struck me about the Member for Elrose. He spoke very moderately, but at the same time there is one thing that struck me as rather singular, I think, he congratulated every Cabinet Minister in the Government for something or other. Now this absolute supine subservience seems to be most remarkable. I can't understand how a man and particularly the Member for Elrose, he was a high school teacher and has a mind of his own, how he could possibly agree, if he had an analytical mind, how he could possibly agree with all the policies that are being hoisted on us by this administration.

The Member for Last Mountain displayed a good deal of courage and he was a notable exception in being able to state at least some of his views and not being dictated to by or overwhelmed by this Government and I was very glad that he disassociated himself from the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture and from the remarks of the Member for Wilkie in connection with this criticism of the United States.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, this Government has amply demonstrated that although it is making every provision for its own perpetuation by increasing its ... by increasing its staff, by exploring every possibility for everything, in that way it is perpetuating its own existence. It has also shown that it cares nothing for anybody else and it has no sympathy for the people of this province. It loves nobody but itself and it does not co-operate with the entities in this province, it even competes with them and if necessary will confiscate the business. This Cabinet here, is entirely self-centered and selfish and I am quite sure that we can expect no relief from them whatsoever. If any relief could have been expected from this administration it would have been this year; our finances are buoyant; our revenue has been very high. It is not at all likely that it will ever be higher; it is not at all likely that our finances will be more buoyant than before. We know that we can't get anything more now from the Dominion Government than we have this year. There have been no other debt reduction by the Dominion. Apparently this has all been fixed. So that under these circumstances no relief can be granted by the Government this year, I am sure that we can't expect any at any time.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the motion.

Mr. Procter: — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 11:00 o'clock p.m.