

# HIGH COST OF EDUCATION SHOWN IN THE LEGISLATURE

## Thomas Marshall Submits Figures on Prices of School Books—Sam Car- ter Backs Premier on Prohibition

Another day was spent on the Budget debate in the Legislature yesterday, which was adjourned shortly after 6 o'clock until next Tuesday by Mr. A. F. Rykert (North Wentworth). The last speaker of the day was Mr. Thomas Marshall, Liberal member for Lincoln. Mr. Marshall threw some additional light on the cost of public school text books in Ontario. It had been repeatedly argued by the Government that the text books in the public schools were cheaper now than under the old Liberal Administration. This he declared was not the case.

In 1898, Mr. Marshall said, the total number of public school text books up to and including the fifth form was eighteen, and the total cost was \$5.27. In 1916 the total number of books authorized for the same classes was forty-four, and the cost was \$13.43. Even after deducting the optional books in each case, the cost in 1898 was \$4.22, as against \$10.86 in 1916. When the fifth form books were deducted, the cost was found to be \$2.97 in 1898 and \$3.72 in 1916. In addition to this higher cost on the books required for a public school education, Mr. Marshall stated that a Text Book Commission had been created in 1906 under the present Administration. The cost to date of this body was \$177,620.96.

### Lauds Compensation Act.

Mr. J. T. H. Regan (South Wentworth), who was speaking when the debate on the Budget adjourned on Tuesday, concluded his address yesterday. He declared that Capital, Labor and Agriculture should go hand in hand. The Government had given most careful consideration to all matters relating to Labor. The Workmen's Compensation Act had been enacted by the Government and it had been most profitable.

Sam Carter (South Wellington) justified his attitude at the last session of being in favor of the extension of the Legislature.

He had agreed to the extension because at that time he did not believe the Opposition could get a fair vote with the soldiers overseas, because it would have been under the charge of officers appointed by the Government. He felt that the fundamental of democracy, which was a straight, honest vote, would not be secured. "I stand by the extension of the House," he declared.

Dealing with the prohibition question, Mr. Carter said that he would continue to stand by that policy whenever the vote was taken. He was not surprised that some of the Conservative members had been "jumpy," but he assured the Prime Minister that he would support the prohibition policy. The speaker criticized the Government for the manner in which the O. T. A. had been enforced. Whenever there is any public inquiry some favoritism is shown, he said.

### Appointment of Inspectors.

Inspectors for the enforcement of the O. T. A. were selected by local committees of politicians. The qualifications of the officials were not properly considered. "You cannot enforce law with men who are appointed by any influence," said Mr. Carter.

"I would ask the member where he has been in the last few elections, when he had an opportunity to sur-

port the Government on its prohibition policy?" asked Lieut.-Col. W. H. Price (Parkdale).

"I was never asked to go, and I didn't interfere," retorted Mr. Carter. "That was my argument, and I maintain the electors were not bound by the decision of the House."

Mr. Carter chided the Government for being "jumpy" on the temperance question. He believed that had the railway and express companies been apprehended long ago there would not be as much liquor coming into the Province illegally. He read a long report generally condemning what he called the lax method of enforcing the O. T. A. Discussing nickel matters, Mr. Carter urged the necessity of all such ore being refined in Canada.

Mr. Carter protested against the Government relying on local members selecting the men to have charge of road construction work in the North. He said the grants should be made to the municipal Councils.

### Replies to Mr. Carter.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson interrupted to say that there were few municipal Councils in that part of the Province.

Mr. Charles McCrea (Sudbury), replying to Mr. Carter, said that no complaints had been made to the authorities that had not been rectified.

Mr. Carter interrupted to say that he had made complaints and had not received satisfaction. He also questioned as a point of order a statement made by Mr. McCrea. However, the matter was smoothed away without the Speaker giving a ruling.

Mr. McCrea declared that the war of killing was over and that an industrial war was at hand, and that instead of fighting with her allies Canada must fight alone. The business of the moment was to get ahead with the big things, as in the increased activity and the occupation of work discontent would disappear. Reverting to charges against the nickel corporations in the North, he pointed out that last year the nickel industries in the North, to which Mr. Carter referred, distributed over \$20,000,000 in wages and disbursements, entirely independent of the \$3,000,000 in dividends of which the previous speaker had complained. If we persecute and penalize the introduction of capital the potentialities of the North country must lie dormant for many years to come. The policy should be to encourage investments. If iron ore had been given fair attention it would build up communities just as would the development of nickel. He pleaded for sufficient assistance to the iron industries, so that Canadian steel products should be brought to the finished products in Canada. Mr. McCrea was satisfied a bonus of 50 cents a ton would be sufficient. There was at present in sight from 68,000,000 to 200,000,000 tons that had been proven up, and he urged that all true Canadians should give support to the securing of such assistance.

### Criticizes Education Policy.

Mr. Thomas Marshall (Lincoln) reminded the House that the Government's system of educa-