

Parliament Only Costs Canada 18 Cents per Head

Mr. Jos. A. Bradette Gives Facts and Figures in Presenting a Case for Members of Parliament. Another Interesting and Informative Letter from Member for This Riding.

Ottawa, Tuesday, April 4, 1939
Dear Editor: Before I continue my letter writing, I want to thank most sincerely the newspapers that have published them. They are the Northern Tribune, of Kapuskasing, The Porcupine Advance, and the Timmins Daily Press. I must state that my letters are published with absolutely no cost to me and I want the readers of these papers to be fully aware of that situation. I greatly appreciate these favours, more particularly when I am in a position to know that these newspapers not only incur some additional costs in the publication of such letters, but they are also giving valuable space in their columns, which were previously filled; I certainly appreciate this fine hospitality.

In this instance, I also want to pay a tribute to the editors of these papers. I could state very sincerely that I always try to be unbiased in these letters, but even inadvertently, at times, I must bring some of my personal biases, which might occasionally be in conflict with the ideas of the editors, but they have always been most tolerant towards me, and such an action on their part is not only appreciated, but it is also a guidance and an incentive for me to try to the fullest extent to be very impartial in expressing my viewpoints of the activities of Parliament, and of our national problems.

These published letters, this year particularly, have already been the cause of complimentary editorial articles. I have also received several letters about them from the constituency. I want to make it clear here that when I mentioned the fact that I received an average of 50 letters per day, this was not done in any critical way and I want one and all to feel that their letters are always welcome. They only show some confidence in me and also keep me well posted in the questions and the problems of the riding. I make this statement for the reason that this morning I received a letter from a citizen of Kapuskasing, who thought that he was imposing on my time. I answered him not to worry about such a matter, and I want to state very sincerely that all correspondences and letters are and will always be most welcome, and will always receive my careful and immediate attention.

In the question of governmental and administrative economy raised by Mr. McCullagh, I am going to place it to the constituents of the riding of Oshana. It is certainly an axiom that we are all in favour, in the full sense of the word, of the strictest economy with public funds, with that one restriction, however, that such economy will always be compatible with good administration of such funds, and also proper maintenance of public and social services. No one could deny to any government the latter obligations.

As for expenditures occasioned for the administration of the Federal Parliament, consisting of the Senate and the House of Commons, the impression no doubt has been created that the Members and Senators are the cause of a lot of extraordinary and unwarranted expenditures. However, such an impression is absolutely false, and this for the following reasons: the deputation in the House of Commons consists of 245 members, and in the Senate of 96. The indemnity of the members for both Houses is \$4,000 per year, whether the session lasts 60 days or eight months. Of course, when Parliament is sitting there are necessarily additional expenses such as lighting, cleaning of offices, maintenance of the messengers' services, stenographic staffs for the Members of Parliament and the Senators, edition and publication of Hansard, and a few pages and extra guards in the Senate and the House of Commons. In discussing that expenditure, in which it was implied that the deputation, generally speaking, was a cause of a lot of extra governmental costs, it must be remembered that when a member has sat for 65 days during a session, he is then entitled to his full indemnity but in all my experience, I do not know of any one who has taken advantage of that regulation, and the attendance in the House and in the Senate is attended as regularly as is humanly possible. As my readers no doubt know, as soon as a session starts, and beginning at the official opening date, the members receive the amount of \$20 per day for each calendar day until the end of the session and then any balance left to make the full amount of \$4,000 is given in a lump sum. However, if Parliament sits for more than 200 successive calendar days, there is no added compensation. I believe that it was in the year 1931 Parliament was open for well over 200 days, and I can state with entire veracity that not one single member or senator went home; they all continued to attend to their duties. I don't mean by that that they had very much merit in doing such an action, but this example, I have no doubt, will destroy some arguments that long sessions mean large added expenditures to the country.

Now, if you turn to page 56, volume 1, of the 1938 Auditor General's report, you will find that the total cost of the House of Commons for that year was \$1,515,869.15 and for the Senate \$535,576.25, \$2,051,445.25 being the total for both houses. As the total population of Canada is 11,120,000, by a little mathematics you will find that the per capita cost of the House of Commons is 12 1/2 cents, and for the Senate .04 cents, a total for both Houses of 18 1/2 cents. When you compare that expenditure with, for instance, \$13.60

per head for liquor in Ontario per year, and over \$20 for tobacco, I feel that the people will soon realize that it is not an exorbitant cost to pay for the running of the Federal Government.

The leader of the League apparently seems to be under the impression that a lot of time is spent uselessly in the House. This may be true to some extent, but I presume that he would be the last man to stop or curtail discussion, that he would be the first man to severely criticize any government if through its majority it used forcible methods, and on this question it must be remembered that it is always the oppositions that take most of the time of Parliament during any session, and such tactics could only be tolerated in totalitarian states.

When I sat in the House of Commons for the first time, I must confess frankly that I was rather bewildered with what I thought was its unwieldiness. I could not see the necessity first of all of so many members, and then of so many speeches, but on closer analysis I suddenly found myself keenly interested. There, in these deliberations, I heard the problems of British Columbia, immediately after that of the Maritimes; the voices of Ontario and Quebec were being heard; the Western or Prairie provinces vocally expressed loudly and in no uncertain terms, questions like the wheat problems, the Alberta coal, etc. In a word, it was a forum where the whole of Canada could voice their sentiments and air their problems; it was the voices of the different sections of the country, which were speaking to the whole nation, and from that time on, there has not been for me a single debate in which I could not be highly interested. They have not only been very instructive to me, but have also been a great help to know my country better and to understand and feel its problems and aspirations.

I would be the last man to say that our present parliamentary system is perfect, but by the way, no human system will ever be perfect. There are times when discussions could be shortened, in other instances, political partisanship could be easily traced, but to my viewpoint, it is still infinitely preferable to dictatorship or totalitarianism where the people of the whole nations have no right of self expression; where one man only has all the power into his own hand; where the individual has not even the right to think for himself, where political theorists have the power of life or death on every individual who forms the nation, and in their social experiences human lives do not count. No doubt that our present social order should be more self-disciplined, and we are so sensitive on that subject that anything verging on near-regimentation is very repulsive to every one of us, and no doubt rightly so, but I again come back to my previous statement that if we want to forge ahead as we should we must be ready to do more in the lines of clear thinking and self-discipline for the common good.

I would also be the last person to state that parliamentarians are perfect; they are absolutely like all others with their human frailties and virtues; but I sincerely believe that as a class they thrive to their utmost to give the best that there is in them in fulfilling the duties of their office. One has to see a Prime Minister in action to realize how every moment of his time is taken up. The same principle also applies to the members of the cabinet. The Leader of the Opposition is also an extremely busy man who must always be on the qui-vive for everything that goes on. The members too have some obligations to perform and I could state here with all sincerity that the overwhelming majority of them perform these with diligence and loyalty. If he is not up to expectations, an alert electorate, at the first opportunity, applies censurative or corrective measures in no uncertain terms.

In my next letter, it is my intention to deal with the compensations that we experience in public life, and also of the lasting friendship one is bound to make in that position. I may even in this instance mention names of people with whom I came into contact so as to bring my points forward more clearly.

A very fine and elevated state of the external policy of our country in case of war has been going on in the House for the last two days. Some very fine speeches have been delivered on this subject of which all the citizens are now fully seized through the press.

It is my intention to leave Ottawa for the constituency on the 6th of this month, for a brief Easter holiday. I have been away from my people for the last three months so that I anticipate such a visit with great joy and, if time permits, I intend to pay brief calls to Kapuskasing and the Porcupine and Iroquois Falls districts.

I was very glad to obtain, and this is greatly due to the efforts of the citizens of South Porcupine, the amount of \$35,000 for the construction of a public building in that growing and progressive mining centre, and in terminating, I wish to one and all a very Joyous Easter.

Yours very truly,
Jos. A. Bradette.

Guelph Mercury—The English are the best after-dinner speakers in the world, according to a Paris paper. "Their speeches are brief and most tactful," it adds. The briefest and most tactful speech we ever heard was, "Look here, old man, I'll pay for this."

Hollinger Interests to Develop the Obalski Mine

At annual meeting of Obalski Mining Corporation held in Montreal yesterday, shareholders were informed by Captain J. R. Giroux, president of N. A. Timmins Corporation, which recently entered into a contract to finance development, that drilling outfit and crew would be sent into Chibougamau about April 12. An engineer representing the corporation has already visited the ground. Property of Obalski has been leased to Timmins Corporation for fifty years. If development justifies a mill, it will be provided and any profits later accruing will reimburse both companies on a pro rata basis. After that, profits will be equally divided. The property is at Cache Bay, Obalski Township, Chibougamau district.

Picton Gazette—It is more blessed to give than to receive, and also much easier to remember.

Says Paperhanging More Dangerous Than Mining

(From Toronto Star)
A paper hanger or a house decorator does more dangerous work than an Ontario miner.
This news was conveyed to last night's dinner of the Young Men's Canadian Club in the roof garden of the Royal York hotel.

The speaker was Dr. G. C. Bateman, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Mining Association. His address was on the subject of "Mining Today," and he assayed to explode certain popular myths about the dangers of mining.

Statistics showed, he said, that mining was only 40 per cent. as hazardous as construction industries, an only 30 per cent. as hazardous as lumbering. It was less hazardous than paper hanging and house decoration. He based these figures on statistics of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

With regard to silicosis, he stated

that only one miner in 75 could be expected to contract this disease over a ten-year period. Ontario mining industry, he said, was doing more to combat this disease of mine workers than any other centre in the world. He praised the work of physicians, scientists and mine executives in the development of the use of aluminum dust in checking silicosis.

The large contribution of the Ontario mining industry to taxation, the high average wage paid to workers, as well as mining humanitarian action in the direction of providing medical service and insurance for its workers was mentioned by the speaker. He also said that the mining industry was sponsoring a movement to interest youths in "depleted" areas in mining as a life career. By "depleted" areas, he explained, he meant those communities which had been built up on lumbering or mining or mining and with the passing of these natural resources had little reason for existence left.

Payore Weighs Two Plans for Expansion

Shareholders in Special Session Re-organize.

At a special meeting of shareholders of Payore Gold Mines, operating in Bourlamaque Township, Quebec, held in Toronto Tuesday, directors were empowered to accept any offer for the company's assets which will give present shareholders stock in a new company in the ratio of not less than one share for three old.

President John T. Tebbutt said that two offers are under consideration, and that either would provide immediate cash to meet liabilities and continue development, raise mill capacity to 75 tons and ultimately bring it up to 250 tons daily. Directors of any new company would consist of two representing Payore and three representing the new

interests. New shares would necessarily have to be pooled, but directors would do what they could to make the term short as possible.

J. M. Brewis, director, said that the company's mill had been shut down 10.5 per cent of maximum running time since installation in May, 1938, and had treated an average of 27 tons a day, grading \$3.50, which was not enough to meet development expense. Although some repairs had been made, it would require another \$2,000 for new equipment to raise the plant to capacity of 75 tons. By selective mining, aided by picking belt, which has been installed, limited development might be possible at the 75-ton daily rate.

Alton C. Bray, consulting geologist, estimated reserves at 130,000 tons, averaging \$11.60 per ton, on the three levels, although but 85 feet of work had yet been done upon No. 3. He believed that within four months 180,000 tons of positive ore could be developed, sufficient to justify a 250-ton mill.

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