

Mr. Editor,

Will you please allow me, though your columns, to acknowledge the great kindness of my friends who made me their annual Donation visit on the 22 ult., leaving with me \$144.50 of which \$104, were in cash.

May the giver of every good and perfect gift abundantly reward the donors.

D. M. WELTON.

Windsor, March 21, 1865.

CARD.—The undersigned beg to return thanks to the members of the Church and Congregation who on a late visit to the Parsonage left as a freewill offering cheering words and seventy dollars.

SAMUEL RICHARDSON.  
FLORENCE RICHARDSON.

Parsonage, Westport, March 18, 1865.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 28th.

Mr. Bourinot presented a petition from Cow Bay praying that no licenses be granted in that locality. The hon. gentleman stated that this petition had been presented to the Sessions, and altho' signed by the majority of the inhabitants, it had been disregarded.

The Estimates.—In committee of supply.

Mr. Archibald said that the motions which had been made on the previous day by the hon. members for Yarmouth and Shelburne in reference to the estimates, were not such as to commend themselves to his judgment. The first one was to refer the estimates back to the government, so as to have a further provision made for the county of Annapolis. He did not think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Killam) who made that motion had shown sufficient grounds to the House to interfere in the matter, and therefore he did not feel justified in voting for it. Then, again, the hon. member for Shelburne had moved that the whole of the special grants be struck out, and that the sum provided for that service be divided between the different counties upon the same principle as the ordinary road grant was apportioned. He could not approve of this, because he always felt that there were certain special services in every county which required special aid, and if they were not provided for specifically, they would never be accomplished. And, therefore, while he had no doubt that those hon. gentlemen had sufficient reason to justify them in the course they took, he did not feel that sufficient grounds had been shewn to induce him to support their views. He thought that it was high time, however, that some change should be made. He would like to see the road grant distributed upon a fair and equitable basis, with a due regard to the special wants of each county.

The proper system, no doubt, was that suggested by the member for Halifax, that before the House was called upon to vote any money for special objects, there should be a report made by a competent officer, showing the advisability of the work and the reasons which rendered a special grant necessary—and then if the House was convinced that the service was outside, and beyond the power of the members to provide for it out of the ordinary grant, it was right and proper that special aid should be given.

Every body remembered how three years ago the country was electrified by the celebrated retrenchment resolutions of the hon. Provincial Secretary, and with what warmth and fervor that hon. gentleman had pressed upon the House the necessity for economising the public resources. He had almost forgotten the state of affairs at the time, but having refreshed his memory, he found that these gentlemen who were so afraid of increased taxation, and who were so convinced that the country was going to ruin, had in the short space of time they had been in power, increased the expenditure 60 per cent. over what they considered was sufficient in 1862.

The Financial Secretary had stated that he had no reason to anticipate any decrease in the revenues during the ensuing year. He had only to ask those engaged in trade, and he would be told that their anticipations for the coming year were most gloomy—and that there was every prospect of the revenue falling far short of that of last year.

In view of all the circumstances he would ask, whether there was not cause for alarm and necessity to check the enormous expenditure the Government proposed.

If it was true, as stated by the hon. Provincial Secretary in 1862, that the utmost limit of taxation which the country could bear had been reached, and if the present tariff produced more than the wants of the country required, let the rate of duties be reduced. But even without reducing the tariff, there were other objects to which any surplus revenue might well be applied. Instead of incurring a debt for the construction of certain public works which would be a burden upon the revenues of the country for all time to come, the entire amount might have been borne by the ordinary income of the province.

He made these observations without any wish unnecessarily to find fault, but because he felt it his duty to call the attention of the House and the government to the way in which the expenses of the country were being increased year by year.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said that he was sorry that the hon. leader of the opposition had been obliged to ignore the existence of every fact bearing upon the observations which he had delivered to the House, and to present a statement which he knew to be entirely fallacious.

Whilst he had recognized the propriety of a large grant being given to the road and bridge service, in order to assist the various counties in meeting their local wants, he had taken exception to the fact that there was no evidence given that these grants were required. In reply to the hon. gentleman, he would say that the Government had in their possession at the present moment applications from all those counties, requiring large sums of money for important public services—more applications than could be provided for; but a difficulty arose in specifying how these additional grants were to be expended. He would ask any gentleman on either side, who had the slightest information with reference to the condition of the road and bridge service of the province, to say whether the Government could not with advantage have doubled the appropriation that it is proposed to give in connection with the special grants to these counties.

The hon. gentleman had contended himself with general animadversion on the amount expended by the Province, and then fell back to the thrice-told tale of retrenchment—to that speech which, as long as he (Dr. T.) had a seat in the House, he must expect to have annually brought up by gentlemen opposite. He had only ventured to go over statements which would be refuted as long as we had the public records of the country to refer to. Would they deny that the columns of the Morning Chronicle, their own organ—in his speech as reported by their own reporter—they found the statement made fully and explicitly that there was not a single one of these services that he proposed to retrench that it would not afford him the greatest pleasure to sustain if the financial condition of Province warranted it. And further, did it not stand cut on that indelible record that he, in the House, in the face of the country, declared that if, in that hour of the country's necessity, the Legislature would consent to the reduction, he would be ready to restore the salaries as soon as the finances warranted it? When such statements appeared in the public records, what must be the assurance of the man, what must be his estimate of the sense and intelligence of the Legislature—who undertook to ignore such statements and challenge him with inconsistency because he did not now resort to a scheme of retrenchment which had been advocated at a time when the Government of the day had come forward and acknowledged that they had plunged the country into debt to the amount of £38,000—and that they must resort to extraordinary measures of taxation in order to enable the revenue to meet the expenditure of the country. Now when every public service was provided for as never before—to take such a position would be inconsistent with the very language which he had held when he propounded the reduction in question. But he felt he need hardly amplify the subject for it was an insult to the intelligence of the House to attempt to refute statements which were known to be devoid of anything like the shadow of a foundation.

That hon. gentleman knew that instead of being obliged to come to the House and admit that, without touching any public work—without maintaining anything except the ordinary services—they had plunged the country into debt to the extent of £38,000, the Government now came forward with the statement that we have a revenue of \$1,425,644.39—that instead of having an enormous falling off in the revenues of last year, the increase in this country from various public sources was no less than \$213,009. Instead of coming to the House and saying that we are indebted to the Bank of Nova Scotia at the close of the financial year—as these gentlemen were obliged to confess—the Government, after having provided for all the important services of the country more munificently than had ever been before, were enabled to close the year with a balance of \$225,000 in the treasury. And yet these gentlemen taunted him with retrenchment, because he would not, in this flourishing condition of things, do that which he pledged himself he never would have proposed except under circumstances of great depression.

Last year we had the same lachrymose appeals that had been made that day; we were told by gentleman, almost with tears in their eyes, of the sad financial condition in which this country would be this year, and that we should hold our hands. How had their predictions been realized? So far from their being realized, the Government met the House with a revenue such as the country never saw before. He did not wonder that hon. gentleman was unable to restrain such exhibitions of spleen at the fact that the country was showing such remarkable evidences of vigor and prosperity—evidences which any country might envy—in different hands than his own.

The hon. gentleman should know that the present government had raised the amount for education to \$100,000. The road and bridge service had been also raised a hundred per cent. And these were the two services which he wished to increase when he moved his resolution in 1863.

Yet when these important services were dealt with as never before—when the revenue had increased half a million—he was taunted with a scheme of retrenchment which, if he had endeavored to carry out under such circumstances, would have left him open to the charge of having falsified the pledge he had made on the floors of parliament.

The hon. gentleman had referred to the expenses attendant upon the collection of the revenue; but would not every one see that the collection would cost somewhat more when the revenue was large as it is now than when it was nothing like it.

Mr. Archibald in reply, said that the government ought to have brought up the estimates

before if they wished to give the house sufficient time wherein to consider them. Here was a paper which called upon them to vote away \$300,000, and yet it had only been laid on the table a day or two previously.

He (Mr. A.) had listened to the letter of Mr. Howe of 1862, with an earnest desire to draw from it the deductions which had been drawn, but in vain. He was far from deriving the inference that it was the opinion of Mr. Howe or his supporters that the salary was too high. The letter stated rather that there was a large expression of opinion in the House that the salaries were too high. Respecting the St. Peter's Canal he would like to know what it was intended to do with the \$30,000. There was now a report on the table stating that it would cost at least \$125,000 to finish the work, and yet these gentlemen in the estimate say "\$30,000 to complete the St. Peter's Canal."

Hon. Prov. Sec.—Towards its completion is meant.

Mr. Archibald—Well, then, they put on the estimate a statement that is incorrect. In order to complete the work at the present rate it would require four years at least. But even this amount of \$125,000 was much below that made by a gentleman (Mr. Laurie) in whom the gentlemen opposite certainly must have confidence. He considered the money for the canal as so much thrown away, and the work, when finished, would be found perfectly useless. He called upon the House to consider well the present condition of things and the signs of the times, before they scattered the public funds recklessly over the face of this country. It was contemplated to extend our railways, and in that case a very large amount of revenue would be required to meet these public works.

Mr. Le Vesconte said he could not allow the observations that had been made by the leader of the opposition to pass without some remark. It would be recollected that last session that hon. gentleman had made a speech somewhat similar to the one he had made that day, and that he (Mr. Le V.) had got up and joined issue with him as to the probable amount of revenue that might be expected this year. He now found by the Estimate that the balance of assets was \$148,072.80 in hand instead of the state of bankruptcy which the hon. gentleman imagined. He had reviewed the grants given by the government to the various public services in the different counties, and challenged the hon. member to point out a single one that he was ready to contest with him before the people of the country. Notwithstanding the prognostications of the hon. gentleman, he was inclined to think that in three years they would be able to exhibit a balance largely increased. The increase in the price of cotton and woollen goods had not increased our revenue, for there had not been one-third part of such goods sold in the country. As respects the expenses attendant upon the collection of the revenue it was only necessary to refer to the results that had been received. The St. Peter's Canal question had been brought up for years, and government after government had deluded the people of Cape Breton in respect to it. At last, however, a government had been found to do them justice. When the work was finished and the hon. gentleman saw the beneficial results that accrued from it, he would have to acknowledge that his course throughout in respect to this important undertaking had been all wrong.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said that a bill in relation to the canal would be brought up shortly, and then gentlemen would have an opportunity of discussing the whole question.

Mr. Miller thought it best to defer any discussion on the subject until the bill was brought up.

Hon. Fin. Sec. said he took issue with the hon. leader of the opposition as to the soundness of our financial condition. He did not go as far as his hon. friend (Mr. Le Vesconte) as to calculate the probable character of our finances so far forward as three years hence, but he thought he had under his hand the facts and figures which must even convince the hon. member for Colchester that his doubts as to the revenue for the estimated expenditure were without foundation. On the first page of the estimate we saw the most important item that could be materially influenced by the chances of deterioration in our business—that is, the Customs and Excise, which he put at \$920,000, or a margin of \$79,000 below the previous year. Now he had the evidence to satisfy the House as to the correctness of his estimate. Six months of the estimated year have already gone by, and the hon. member knew that in the first quarter, ending on the 31st Dec., the actual receipts of revenue now in the treasury and available was \$413,116, or very nearly one-half of the estimated revenue for Excise and Customs for the whole year. The increase in the revenue for the second quarter was also largely in excess of that of last year. When, therefore, the hon. gentleman learned these facts, and in addition looked at the probable importations for the coming Spring, which were already completed, he must see that as far as this year was concerned, the estimates rested upon a secure and trustworthy basis. As respects cotton goods, it would be remembered that they had been driven out of the market to a large extent by the excessive price, but they would be largely purchased in the country when the cost went down. The hon. leader of the Opposition, in referring to the estimates, had characterized them as most extravagant, and declared that the Government had increased the public expenses to the amount of \$438,000 over 1862. He would now call upon that hon. gentleman to point to one single service that could be diminished, and show a single dollar that was extravagant. If he wished to found a charge against the estimate upon a substantial basis, he should point out those items which he considered too large, instead of dealing in mere generalities.

Mr. Annand charged the hon. Financial Secretary with being largely inaccurate in some of his observations. He referred to the Civil List, the office of Equity Judge, the Crown Land Office, and Legislative expenses. In the Revenue Department, there were six new appointments, besides six salaries increased, which including the amount for the Trade Returns, made an increased expenditure of \$1414. He did not so much complain of the increase in the country, but on looking at the Halifax Department he found that in 1862 the expenses were \$26,000; and for 1865 \$31,000 were asked. The Board of Works, he found which in 1862 cost, \$3580, in 1865 was set down at \$4400, an increase of \$700 between 1862 and 1865, and no reason given for it.

On motion of the Fin. Secretary, the House then went into committee of Ways and Means. The Revenue Bills were read a second time and referred to Committee.

Mr. Annand presented two petitions from Cumberland and five from East Halifax against Confederation.

Mr. Longley introduced a bill to amend Chap. 19, Rev. Statutes, of the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Kaulback presented a petition from the School Commissioners of New Dublin in favor of retaining County Inspectors.

WEDNESDAY, March 29th.

The House in committee took up the revenue bills.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the calendar of King's College and the returns of Acadia College.

Mr. Campbell presented a petition from a number of miners in the district of Goldenville, Guysboro county, respecting abandoned pits.

Mr. Jost presented the report of the Committee on public accounts.

Debit:—

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Province notes, old and new, issue \$487,458 10; Borrowed from Savings' Bank, 578,000 00; Undrawn Monies, 218,700 10; Board of Statistics, 586 36; Indian Reserves, 922 40; Militia Arms, 4000 90; Railway Damages to counties, dne, 557 35; Provincial Bonds sold, 4,000,000 00; Total 5,290,225 38.

Credit:—

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Due from Collectors of Excise, 53,538 34; Casual Revenue, 44,760 90; Canada, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, 7,300 25; Dalhousie College, 20,000 00; Counties Road Advances, 11,969 65; Counties due Hospital for the insane, 30,392 06; Railway department, 40,665 88; Post Office Dept., 3,833 03; Old Copper Coin, 2,464 50; Brewers of Ale and Manufacturers of Tobacco, 4003 76; Balance in Bank of Nova Scotia, 225,150 96; Total 444,079 35.

Balance of indebtedness of the Province 4,846,145 95

Mr. Annand introduced a bill relating to county assessment.

Mr. Archibald, from the committee on the amendment of the law, reported against a bill to amend the law relating to pilots, harbors, and harbor masters.

On motion to defer the bill for three months, the House divided as follows:—

Yeas—Killam, Parker, McLellan, Locke, Archibald, S. Campbell, Annand, P. Smyth, Caldwell, Allison, Hill, Chas. Campbell, Joss, Kay, Lawrence, Hamilton, Miller, Le Vesconte, MacDonnell, Donkin, Bourinot, Blanchard, Longley, Shannon, McKinnon, Robertson, Ross, Pryor, Balcan, Blackwood, E. L. Brown, Prov. Secretary, Attorney General.

Nays—McKay, Hefnerman, D. Fraser, Bill, Kaulback, Tobin, McFarlane, Colin Campbell, John Campbell, Financial Secretary, J. Farser.

The bill was deferred. Mr. Pryor reported unfavorably upon a bill to authorize the City Council to purchase the property now occupied by the Water Commissioners, and moved that the same be deferred three months. Passed unanimously.

Evening Session.—Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the report of the engineer of Bear River bridge. The debate on the Government school bill was then resumed.

Mr. Archibald, Hon. Att. Gen. Messrs. Miller, Tobin, Archibald, Le Vesconte, and the hon. Provincial Secretary spoke. The house adjourned about midnight.

THURSDAY, March 30th.

The house met at 3 o'clock, and after the routine business resumed the debate on the Education Bill.

Hon. Prov. Sec. thought it would be better to go into committee without division, as time would be thus saved, and discussion could be had in committee on the several objectionable clauses.

Mr. Archibald thought it would be best to have the discussion in committee.

Mr. Miller objected to several features of the bill, and thought there should be a division.

Mr. Le Vesconte urged his request made on the previous evening for Separate Schools, and wished to divide the House on that question.

Mr. Miller objected to the Assessment clause of the Bill, and introduced a resolution to that effect. Several members on both sides offered objections. On division there appeared for Mr. Miller's motion, 12; against 38 for going into Committee.

For—Messrs. G. Brown, Miller, Le Vesconte, Smith, McDonnell, Bourinot, S. Campbell, Robertson, Caldwell, Robicheau, Balcan, Ray,