

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Mr. Wetmore's able Arrangement of the Government's Financial Policy.

Blair's Record for One Year.

A Deficit of nearly Forty Thousand Dollars.

Mr. Wetmore, who on rising, was greeted with cheers, congratulated the Hon. Mr. Blair upon the position in which he had made his first Budget Speech, but hoped for the sake of the interests of the country that next year a better statement may be made. He believed the Hon. Provincial Secretary had endeavored to place members in a fool's paradise. If the accounts were carefully scrutinized it would be found that our position was not so good as in 1882. While Mr. Blair (Wetmore) supported the late Government from June until February, his friend the last speaker for four years before had given them support, and had endeavored during that time their views, and endeavored to be a wonder that he dealt gently with them. The debate was forced on in an unseemly haste, more thought from a desire on the part of the Government to shirk its responsibility than to do the business of the country promptly. Information was not furnished up to a late moment and a fair opportunity for examination had not been given. The Opposition, contrary to precedent, printed statements of estimated Revenue and Expenditure were placed on the members' desks only a moment before the House went into Committee. The report on Public Accounts and the Surveyor General's report were only tabulated on Saturday, that of the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works on Sunday, and unless the Government feared criticism he did not understand why papers, which it was almost necessary to have to discuss matters properly, should be sent back so late. While in opposition the Government made many promises of reform. He took up the estimates but failed to send any idea of reform in them. The same amount for educational purposes is estimated. In the famous resolution of 1881 the then Opposition alleged that there should be a substantial reduction in this department. No reduction in any direction is mentioned save those for completely trifling matters he pointed out when discussing the speech. Instead of finding the departmental machinery less expensive, he added to the estimates. He had not asked for explanation. Whether this would be a prudent expenditure or not he was not prepared to say, but used it as an argument against the general estimate. He pointed out as outlined when they were in Government. Last session their leader had promised to come back here and show a different state of affairs from those of the last session. He changed the promises and that the country was thousands of dollars worse off now than when they assumed power. Questions were asked against the administration was that the expenses of its members were excessive. We had the Provincial Secretary now accounting for that item of expenditure during the past year, and expending more than the other travelling expenses of the present members of the Government but more than the same proportion as that of the last. Will the Government shield itself behind the promises of their predecessors? The Provincial Secretary had stated that the actual expenditure for the year had exceeded the estimated expenditure by \$116,000. He asked the conclusion by deducting the estimated expenditure from the actual as they appeared in the printed estimates laid on members' desks last session. He asked (more) what the actual expenditure exceeded the estimated by over \$30,000. Upon reference to the Journals of last year, it would be found that the Government had estimated the expenditure at much less than it was. The Hon. Mr. Blair—Look at the supplementary estimates.

The Government last session, after they had held office for more than a month, and had opportunity for examining the state of affairs, laid before the House a statement by which they fixed the floating debt of the Province. They reached this debt in a peculiar way, and the amount reported was based on the estimated expenditure, and not on the balance of the floating debt. This method has the advantage of being either expensive or convenient, as may suit the convenience of the gentlemen opposed to it. In the opinion of the floating debt was what the country owed above and what it had paid and was preparing to pay. Taking their own method and giving them the benefit of their own figures, they fixed the floating debt last session at \$305,008.07. Leaving out all borrowed monies and repayments thereof the last Public Accounts show that the gross amount was as follows: For Ordinary Expenditures as before stated, \$810,574.82; for cost of Legislative Buildings \$119,537.24; suspense items \$12,222.22; and all \$942,334.28. From this deduct the amount of Ordinary Revenue received, \$652,221.75; and it leaves a balance of \$290,112.53 as the floating debt of the Province on Monday, the 1st of January, by themselves last session. In other words, this Government, in less than twelve months management, have, by their own showing, increased the debt of the country by \$290,112.53. As a matter of fact it is more. In fixing the floating debt last session, the Government estimated the expenditure at \$777,553.58, the receipts at \$851,045.10. The actual receipts, however, show an increase from Territorial Revenue and miscellaneous sources of \$7,805.25. If the method of fixing the debt is correct, the old Government would be sufficient to meet the increase. Add this amount to the estimated receipts, it will make \$859,850.41, and deduct this amount from the estimated expenditure, \$777,263.83, it would make the floating debt last session \$322,713.42; deduct this from the present floating debt, \$290,112.53, and it will make an increased indebtedness of \$32,600.89. In the famous resolution, the admitted deficiency on Exhibition accounts, the Government has increased the indebtedness through the management of this Government in less than one year \$32,600.89. The Government must come down and asked authority to Bond \$250,000 for the purpose of retiring the floating debt of the country. When they asked that they virtually undertook to cover everything up, that authority were given, and make Revenue and Expenditure balance at the least. When they concluded to retire the debt in this way, they should have explained to the House the House last session and under the Government to represent that \$300,000 would be sufficient, and that the Government how have they carried out their implied promise in this respect? Assuming they had the right to borrow \$250,000, and out of that amount they have taken out only the amount towards reducing the floating debt, they would run short \$143,200.00. They asked to establish a deputy clerk in Equity with John J. Allen as the person to whom some money had been paid professional men for their services at Crown proceedings, although the Attorney General and Solicitor General had been paid for their services. The Crown said they would attend to it, but in a better state, and resumed his seat amid applause.

Town and Country.

Mr. Temple, M. P., has our thanks for late Parliamentary reports.

A concert is to be given in St. Dunstan's Hall, Monday evening, St. Patrick's night.

Mr. H. T. Stevens, editor of the Times, was elected Mayor of Moncton on Monday.

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Woodstock re-elected by acclamation on Monday, its Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and Assessors.

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Mr. M. S. Ryan offers for sale a quantity of tiles and brick at his manufactory above the city. See adv.

Mr. Edward Jack expects to leave early in April for the old country, to attend the Forestry Exhibition.

Mr. John McKean, the well-known lumberman of Kewick Ridge, leaves shortly for a trip to Montreal and Ottawa.

A lot of handsome English Plate Glass Mirrors for sale at Woodcock's Auction Room. Can be seen at any time.

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The Paulsen brothers are to give an exhibition of figure skating at the Carling Rink, Friday evening. The rink will be open to skaters this evening also.

Mr. D. F. Merritt, Collector of Customs, at Woodstock, Grand Master of the Orange Order, at the City, will be in the City of the City, at the City.

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George Love, Alfred Russell and James Madden, have each been fined \$20 and costs under the new license law, for having liquor on their premises. Several other cases are before the Police Court.

Our marriage column contains a notice of the marriage of Mr. W. J. H. and Miss J. H. known Presbyterian clergyman of Willow Park, near Halifax, and Miss Jessie N. Blair, sister of the Hon. Attorney General.

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The heaviest snowfall of the season occurred between Saturday and Monday morning, and around this city the depth was fully fifteen inches and the roads on Monday were in an impassable condition. All day Monday, railway communication with St. John was completely cut off. The mails of Monday were not delivered here till Tuesday morning.

The Mayor on the requisition of a number of citizens has called a public meeting in the City Hall for Friday evening to consider matters relating to the proposed Merchants Valley Railway. There should be a full attendance. We understand the M. P. P., for Northumberland, as well as York's representatives will be invited to take part in the meeting.

Mr. John Woodward, who has in addition to his other duties the business of auctioneer, has taken out a license from the Government to act as an appraiser in the country as well as in the city. The fact that Mr. Woodward, in addition to local business has done such for outside persons in the auctioneer business, is an evidence that any matter entrusted in his care receives prompt and full attention.

Quarter Master Sgt. McManus of the Asst. Military Secretary's Company, Halifax, returned on Friday last, after spending two months in the city of Fredericton in the Department of the Infantry School in proper shape and in good working order. Sergeant McManus, by his gentlemanly conduct and pleasant disposition, made many friends in this city, who would like to see him back again and occupying a permanent position in the school. Last week mentioned the visit here of Mr. L. S. G. Yarnworth, and we did not expose our young friend's intentions which have since been made evident by the publication of his marriage with Miss Annie May, daughter of Messrs. Tibbitts, Esq., Fredericton, on Saturday morning. Immediately after the ceremony the young couple took the train for Mr. Yarnworth's western home to which and in which all good wishes attended them—Carleton Place, Ont.

The Orange Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, opened in Annual Session, in Orange Hall in this city, last night. Grand Master Merritt, in his opening address, referred to the loss of the order sustained by the death of the late Mr. Richard M. P., who was a Past Grand Master. The reports showed the order to be in a state of prosperity in this Province. Sessions of the Lodge are being held to-day and this evening, the delegates will be aided by the local brethren, at the Watery House.

The race between George Babbar, the well known English oarsman, and Wallace Ross, the equally famous sculler of New Brunswick, for \$1,000 a side, took place on the Thames on Monday. The distance was four miles and two furlongs over the regular Thames course, from Putney to Mortlake, Ross conceding Babbar ten seconds. Babbar got a lead at the start, but was overtaken at Hammersmith, the middle point of the course, this difference was overcome and the boats were nearly even. The race was won by Ross by lengths. Time, 20:10.

In the Supreme Court at Ottawa, judgment was delivered on Saturday in the case of Fisher vs. Vening, Phair vs. Vening, and Spurr vs. Vening, the appeals being allowed without cost, and new trials granted only on the ground that damages awarded by the court here, were not ascertained by the court. When they were argued at Fredericton by C. W. Weldon, Q. C., and E. L. Wetmore, Q. C., on behalf of the plaintiffs, and by J. R. Ballou of Moncton, for the defendant, Vening, and at Ottawa by E. L. Wetmore, Q. C., for plaintiff, and the Deputy Minister of Justice and L. R. Harrison, Esq., for the defendant.

On Friday morning last, Mr. Robert Rosborough, an old and respected resident of this city, died at his home, Shore Street, after an illness of only a few days. Mr. Rosborough, although suffering from the infirmities of old age, was able to attend the funeral, and on Saturday preceding his death, when he caught a heavy cold which developed into congestion and carried him off. The deceased was a native of Derry, Ireland, and was married to a lady who was many years his senior. He was nearly eighty years of age, and was very highly respected for his honesty, integrity and industry. The funeral of the deceased took place on Sunday last, and was very largely attended, leading citizens joining in the last tribute of respect to one who was so well and deservedly regarded.

We have been shown a photo of the Laciviale Council, taken while in session in 1876, and one is struck on looking at it, that the great change that has made in this body's personnel since that date. Of the nineteen persons in the group comprising the present members of the Laciviale Council, only ten are now dead, these including the late Hon. John S. Saunders, Hon. Messrs. Beckwith, Hibbard, Perlov, Bailey, Seely, Chandler, Rev. Dr. Ross, Hon. Charles B. R. Jones, the Black, Hon. Charles Brannen, Dor Kester, Hon. Mr. Lindsay is not now a member of the Council, and the remaining eight are Hon. Messrs. Hemington, Jones, Young, Hamilton, Messrs. Lewis, Lewis and the Clerk, Mr. George Batsford. Surely death has made great inroads on the Council in the last eight years.

Justices of the Peace.

THE ATTENTION OF Justices of the Peace for the County of York, is called to sections 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 of Chapter 62 of the Consolidated Statutes of this Province, which provide that unless they are hereby renewed by said Chapter, proceedings will be taken against them.

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