Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 10, 1886.

Confidence in the Future.

The Parliamentary correspondent of the Montreal *Star* in writing to his paper from Ottawa, says he finds that in conversation with the Government's supportors, a remarkable feeling of confidence as to the result of the next appeal to the country. They say the party has never been so strong, so active and so full of faith as at the present moment and they await with calmness the battle of words during the next few weeks. An incident in the proceedings in the Commons is probably without a parallel in the history of Parliamentary government. It is the fact that every one of the six new members introduced, is a supporter of the Ministry, which has held office for nearly eight years, and finds itself at the close of that long term, numerically as strong as when it succeeded to power. The members introduced were Hon. Messrs. White, Thompson and Foster and Messrs. Everett and Barker of St. John, and Ward of East Durham. It is needless to say that they were enthusiastically greeted. The bye-elections of the recess resulted in a gain of two seats to the Government, Antigonish and St. John city and county, the former represented by Hon. Mr. Thompson and the latter by Mr. Everett.

A Clever Minister.

The new Minister of Justice in the Dominion Government, Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, seems already to have made a most favorable impression in the House of Commons, and those best able to judge, assert that he will be a tower of strength to the Government Mr. Thompson has not yet made a set speech in Parliament, but the other day in the introduction of two bills, he left the conviction on the minds of his fellow members, that he will take front rank in Parliament. He spoke with judicial deliberation and clearness, and when interrogated by Mr. Blake on certain points responded in a way which showed that he knew exactly what he was about. The other ministers listened to him with much attention while he was speaking, and were looking quite complacent when he got through. Mr. Thompson has little mannerism while addressing the House. His chief one is swaying his head and shoulders from one side to the other with almost mathematical regularity as he speaks, and his favorite attitude is, with his left hand in his trousers' pocket, and his right hand resting on the desk. Mr. Thompson is of medium height, stout, dark complexioned, with small, keen, restless eyes, and rather severe cast of face. He has been Premier and Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, and a Judge of the Supreme Court, but is yet only forty-one years old. There is a bright future for Mr. Thompson.

The Government Arraigned.

A Clever and Exhaustive Speech in the Assembly by Mr. Wetmore.

Gross, Extravagance and Corruption Exposed.

How Messrs. Blair & Co. dispose of the Public Funds.

Their False Professions of Economy ably Reviewed.

(Stenographed for the Farmer by Mr. F. H. Ritcey.)

Mr. Wetmore, M. P. P. for York and leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, in replying to the Budget speech of Hon. Mr. McLellan said:—

Mr. Speaker; I think the Provincial Secretary may congratulate himself on one fact, that is he has not given so far as his remarks concerned gentlemen on this side of the House, very many more points than are to be found in the printed statements laid before the House. As he did last year, he has gone over the estimates, added and subtracted here and there and told the House what the expenditures have been, when hon. gentlemen could have arrived at the same results if he had not spoken at all. I do not desire to make remarks tending to the idea of "blue ruin," and that the statement of the Government is not satisfactory. I would much rather, if I could, endorse the Government and point out to the country that we have reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the public affairs are being conducted. Could I consistently do so, I would be pleased to state to this House that the financial condition of the country is satisfactory, but, Sir, I feel if I did so I would be false to my trust and state that which was not true. The fact is, Sir, that we will have to hold our hand in the manner in which we are expending the public moneys in the country or in a short time the Province will be plunged into hopeless bankruptcy. Retrenchment in our expenditures will have to be made or this country will soon be unable to meet the enormously increased demands upon it, unless we resort to direct taxation. I would be sorry to see the day come when we would be obliged to do so, because I believe the people of this country would look upon it with great disatisfaction. But the manner in which the present Government have been administering the finances of this Province, leads me to the unavoidable conclusion, that eventually that will, of necessity, be the result. The Provincial Secretary's statement that the public money should be expended in such a manner and in such services as would do the most good, commends itself to the minds of every member who heard it. But, Sir, I regret to say the Government have not expended the money in the way that it would do most good, nor in which the best services would be met. Before taking up the Public Accounts to point out

THE DEPLORABLE POSITION THE COUNTRY OCCUPIES,

I desire to make a few comments upon some of the observations which have dropped from my hon. friend the Provincial Secretary. He has alluded to the large amount this country is called upon to pay for interest upon its funded debt, and in special terms to the fact that a large proportion of it was not to the creditors of this Government. The hon. gentleman is correct. No doubt, Mr. Speaker, a large amount of the indebtedness of this country is due to the Lobster Act passed by the late Government, but, Sir, it is a matter I think this House will not question, that the works provided for in that Act are works called for by the country, and I will venture to say that there is no man on the floors of this House who will rise and say that the money has been improperly expended. As far as that Act has been acted upon it has given general satisfaction. It is worthy of notice, that with the exception of the hon. Provincial Secretary and possibly the Solicitor-General, every member of the present Government who occupied a seat on the floor of the House at the time that Act was passed voted for it. And I will venture to say, sir, though these gentlemen may have opposed it, that not one of them will stand up on the floors of this House and say that that expenditure was not in the interests of the country. They cannot say therefore that it was the work of the late Government. They cannot say that the late Government put upon this country an expenditure which they ought not to have put upon it, because if they thought the expenditure was improper they should have risen in their places and voted against it. The Provincial Secretary has referred to the position in which our stumpage and funds received from territorial revenue is placed. He has admitted, and necessarily so, that there has been a large falling off in that sourse of revenue. It is a matter for the consideration of this House whether that particular department which has the command and management of the resources of revenue from which this money is derived, has managed the affairs of the country properly. It has been stated during this session and during another session as well, that the Government in the management of the Crown lands have not been succesful, and it might be a matter for the consideration of hon. members whether the falling off in revenue in this department has not been largely due to the

MISMANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The hon. gentleman who introduced the budget speech here, has stated that the falling off in revenue in that respect, has been largely due with fact that not so much bark has been produced as heretofore. With the experience, limited though it is, that I have had in the lumber business and timber transactions, it is surprising to me that it has not fallen off more, considering the large amount of duties put upon the making of bark; it is surprising to me that persons can go upon the Crown Lands at all and derive a margin of profit from the operation. I am not surprised that the falling off is admitted, and I think it ought to be a warning to the Government. I think the time has come when, if the Government have any vestige of regard for the interests of the people, they should listen to the voice of the Opposition members. A few days ago, we placed a resolution before the House asking for a reduction of the stumpage duty and different management, in respect to the licenses issued. And what did we find? We saw gentlemen rise in their places, express themselves in favor of our contention, state that they believed in a reduction of the stumpage, that they believed the system of granting licenses was incorrect, but these consistent, independent gentlemen at the same time stated virtually in the House, that they would rather see the lumber interest suffer, the great staple trade of this country brought down to the lowest depths, than to see the Government defeated. While they stood here and endorsed every rhyme and every word in the resolution, they voted it down because they were prepared to stand by the Government and what the Government could give them, rather than vote in the true interest of the people of this country. (Applause.) My hon. friend has also alluded to the Deaf and Dumb Institutions in the country. Now, sir, as a matter of course the money appropriated heretofore by the Province, and which the Government propose to appropriate this year in support of these institutions, no doubt will meet with the approval of every hon. member. It certainly will with mine. But, sir, by way of suggestion and not of finding fault, at all, it seems to me that if we can, in this Province, get an institution which is provincial, that it would be better for us to expend our money in building up and adding to that institution rather than

SENDING IT OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

It may be that the Halifax Institution has advantages over any of ours here, and in view too of its situation with respect to certain parts of the Province, that for the present, some aid should be given to that Institution, but it would be advisable that the Government should, if possible, try to build up the Institutions we have in the country, so as to enable us to vote our money for their aid. Again, there have been some papers laid on the tables of hon. members with regard to the Institution at Fredericton. Let me say here, that as far as those papers are concerned, I look upon them with very great suspicion, and that I do not believe a word of them. But at the same time what do we find? We find statements made in those affidavits of certainly a most revolting character. They must strike the minds of hon. members as something horrible, Whether there has been a forgery or not I do not know, but we find these statements profess to be sworn to before gentlemen of standing and character, such as Mr. I Allen Jack and Mr. George McSorley. I do not think these gentlemen would take the oath of any person without explaining to them exactly, what they were swearing to. And it seems to me that while charges of this kind are made against an Institution which is receiving public money, that in the interest of the Institution and of the city generally, the Government should investigate and ascertain whether these charges are true or not. I believe it will turn out that they are not true and sincerely hope so. The country would certainly look upon an investigation with satisfaction.

Again, sir, the hon. gentleman has referred to the unexpected over expenditure for election purposes. He says when the Government made their estimates last session, they did not anticipate elections in the counties of York, Sunbury and Restigouche. I must confess

I WAS STARTLED TO HEAR THAT REMARK

made by the hon. member. I did not anticipate it. Two of the vacancies created were not the result of death I am glad to say. The Government themselves during the progress of the House, saw fit to fill up the vacancies which were in existence at the time the House opened. These vacancies, sir, did not occur during the progress of the session. Two days after the House opened, vacancies existed, occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Randolph and Mr. Beveridge, and the death of Mr. Flewelling. Two of them existed before the House opened. Did not the Government intend to fill the seats? They filled them up, I presume, because they thought in the interests of the Government, in accordance with the policy they had been professing when in Opposition, that no time should be lost when a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Council, that they should withhold these offices, simply to secure the votes of hon. members of this House, as the last government had done, and hence they saw the necessity of filling these vacancies up immediately. Had the Government, when the House met, any doubts as to who they were going to send up there? Didn't they believe the vacancy created by Mr. Randolph's resignation would be filled by Mr. Thompson? Did it occur to them like a dream during the session that Mr. Barbarie of Restigouche, was a fit and proper person to fill another vacancy in the Council? Did it happen to occur to them that the Hon. Dr. Vail, whom they almost forced into the Upper House, was the most fitting person to take the place of Mr. Flewelling? Surely this must have all been under their consideration. Surely when they brought down their estimates and asked us to vote supply, they knew these vacancies had to be filled, and yet they have the supreme effrontery to come before this House and say that it was a matter of surprise, an unforseen event, that they never anticipated that there should be elections held in the Counties of York, Sunbury and Restigouche! (Applause.) If their action does not mean that, what does it mean? Does it indicate an emergency? Does it mean that the Government felt themselves so secure that to

BULLDOZE THE UPPER HOUSE

they had to send three gentlemen from the floors of this House, leaving their counties, as far as they were concerned, unrepresented, in order that they might wipe out the sentiment in the Upper House, in respect to the absurd measures they were introducing? Well, sir, while I recognize the policy that any Government may be expected to fill up such vacancies, by appointing its supporters, it seems to me that that policy is rather peculiar, rather objectionable, when we find that for the purpose of forcing through measures not well received in the Upper House, they will deprive several counties of their representation in the Lower House. Let me say also, sir, that the Government at the time they met the House, professed a policy which they called a platform, that there should only be 16 members upstairs, and yet when they found themselves in a corner, for the purpose of escaping from the position in which their own highhanded acts had brought them, they depart from that policy and send a representative upstairs, which they never intended originally. All I desire to say is, that the admission made by the Provincial Secretary, satisfies my mind in the same direction in which I expressed myself when speaking upon the Address, and that is that the Government have in one session, deliberately gone back upon the policy they expressed when the House opened.

Now, sir while the Government have come down with the Public Accounts and shown a deficit of $17,000, upon the face of the accounts, you must bear in mind that the Provincial Secretary has shown that there is between $8,000, and $9,000, of interest due on the 31st day of December, which their policy was liable for, that does not appear there. I am satisfied that this does not stand alone. I am satisfied if we get before us the information some of our resolutions have moved for not only this sum of $8,000 or $9,000 is due, but that the Province on the 31st December owed other large sums which the Government have tided over, simply that they might come before the House and make the statement they have made, bad as it is Heaven knows. I will ask the House, however, to bear in mind, that according to the Provincial Secretary's admission, the accounts show a deficit of about $26,000.

MR. ADAMS—More than that.

MR. WETMORE—Yes, I am satisfied, more than that, and that before this debate is through, you will find that the indebtedness of this Province, is something which

WILL STARTLE THE HON. MEMBERS.

MR. ADAMS—The bonded indebtedness.

MR. WETMORE—Yes. Another matter was referred to by the Provincial Secretary, fishery protection, etc. Now, sir, on referring to page 106 of the Public Accounts, I find that a very nice, agreeable gentleman, Mr. J. Henry Phair, went on a little fishing excursion which cost the Province $800, and that Mr. C. W. Beckwith, another pleasant gentleman, received $200. I have turned to the report of the Surveyor-General, and endeavored to find what the services were, for which these gentlemen received $1,000 of the public money. Well, sir, I am prepared to say, that if the Government next session, will give my hon. friend, the ex-Surveyor-General and myself about $40 or $50 a day for expenses, we will go all over the Fishery grounds, and come back and not charge anything more. I find from the report that Mr. Phair goes to Jacquet River, and some other streams, the Renous, he casts a line, but the water was not right, and he could not get a rise. He goes on another stream casts a line, gets four bites and hauls in four fish, and he says the water was first-rate for fishing. I would like to have been with him. I would advise the Government, as far as the fisheries are concerned, if they cannot get better satisfaction than this, to send my hon. friend, (the Provincial Secretary) and myself on a fishing excursion next summer, and if the Atorney-General is a good boy he can come too, though perhaps he had better go with somebody else.

Then there is this handbook affair. When is this hand-book question going to drop out of sight? My spectacles may have enlarged lenses, but it seems to me ever since I have had the honor of occupying a seat on the floors of this Legislature, at any rate ever since the Government's defeat, I have heard something about this ancient volume. Where is the handbook? What is it for? Let us have it, let us read it. Has anybody seen it or perused it? I find that members are growing grey-headed, and then bald-headed, and still that venerable hand-book looms up in the Public Accounts. Every year there is something in the Public Accounts about this precious volume. Where does the money go, and what for and what does it all mean? Perhaps it is something like the publication of the debates of last session. Rumor says that the gentleman who got paid for preparing this invisible hand-book, is the same gentleman who reported the debates here last session, and who agreed to have the debates here in seasonable time. The session is now well advanced, and they are not here. I understood an hon. gentleman the other day to say that a sufficient amount of money to defray the expense of publishing the debates had been retained.

Hon. Mr. BLAIR—That's so.

MR. WETMORE—I take up the Report of the Auditor General and what do I find! I find warrant 1272 reads "C. H. Lugrin, for Reporting and Publishing the Debates of the House of Assembly, session of 1885, $850!" Well, Mr. Speaker, as I understood the contract, and in fact that is the amount agreed upon this year and the Governmeut stated the sum was the same as last, Mr. Lugrin was to be paid $850, and how you can pay him $850, the sum he was to get and keep out of it the expenses of printing, is an arithmatical problem that

RATHER STARTLES ME.

And yet on the floors of this House the other day the Hon. Attorney General stated that that was the amount agreed to be paid Mr. Lugrin and that the expenses of printing had not been paid out and yet the public accounts show Mr. Lugrin recieved the full amount!

My hon. friend has alluded to the question of Public Health and the Bill now before the Legislature amending the law in regard to that subject. I will have occasion to make some remarks on that bill when it comes before the House. Just now I will simply say that it points out more expense to be heaped upon the country. If the expense is necessary, if it is called for, all well and good, but it is a rather remarkable thing to see this economical, reform government introducing such measures; to see them cutting down a salary here and a salary there, $200 or $300, while at the same time they are continually bringing in measures by which they can create expensive offices to distribute among their friends. (Applause.)

The hon. gentleman has also referred to action taken by the government in respect to Dominion elections. Sir, he could never have understood me to say, that I blamed any gentleman in this House, whether a member of the Government or not, of exercising his individual influence, his personal influence, in favor of the party or candidate in Dominion politics which he favors. Nobody will deny that right. If anybody attempted to choke down my views on Dominion politics, I should not submit to it. I am not finding fault with the Provincial Secretary or the Attorney General, because they used their personal influence in Dominion elections, but what we, on this side of the House, do find fault with is, that members of the Government allow government patronage to be used and stake the existence, and policy, and support and influence of the Government for the purpose of defeating candidates running in the interest of the Dominion Government. I am asked to produce proofs, proofs? Why, sir, we have heard enough of this absurdity. The proof of these of these charges is the undeniable opinion of the country. I have said before that this is not the place where we can have witnesses sworn to prove this fact or that fact, but if you go through the country where these influences have been at work there will not be much doubt about the verdict. I can hardly believe that there is a gentleman on the floors of this House, who has witnessed what has taken place in the County of York, and in the City and County of St. John during the elections the past two or three years for the Dominion Parliament, but what have felt that this influence has been used, not as the Hon. Provincial Secretary has said, not simply the influence of Hon. Mr. McLellan or Hon. Mr. Blair personally, but that they have called upon the electors to support their candidate, because in supporting him they would be

ADDING STRENGTH TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I have had it stated to me so often by truthful gentlemen, whether the Hon. Attorney General knew the force of his language or not I do not know, that at the City Hall on the occasion I have spoken of, he called upon the electors of the county to vote for his partner and save the Local Government.

MR. BLAIR—I never did. There were hundreds there who did not hear me say that.

MR. WETMORE—Well, perhaps not. It is just like the question of Mr. Needham's pig before Chief Justice Carter. One man who saw it, is better than two hundred that did not.

MR. BLAIR—Did you hear it?

MR. WETMOME—No, but although I did not hear it, there are scores of gentlemen in this town who did hear it, and will swear to it, and I will venture to say, there are very few who will swear you did.

MR. BLAIR—There are hundreds who can prove I didn't.

MR. WETMORE—Then if this is the place for such proof, bring on you affidavits and file them here. The people of this city heard it.

MR. BLAIR—Hearsay.

MR. WETMORE—Not a bit more heresay than that the Hon. Mr. Stockton was running around the town of Portland and city of St. John canvassing all the votes he could get in favor of Mr. Skinner, because if they voted in favor of him it would support the Local Government.

MR. STOCKTON—I never said anything of the kind.

MR. ADAMS—Vote for Barker and down goes the Local.

MR. WETMORE—The Hon. Secretary says that they have spent no more money than usual; that it is usual to expend money one year on the strength of the coming year. Quite true. Who has charged this Government with spending more of this money than they were authorized to? No doubt they have done so in many particulars, but as far as this election is concerned I have heard no person charge then with expending more money than usual. For instance in a local election, bye or general election, the Local Government will use their patronage in its own interests and they have a right to do it, but I venture to say if you will find that no more money was expended than in other years. Money can be spent in such a way that it will serve the purpose.

MR. RITCHIE—Out of our own pockets.

MR. WETMORE—My hon. friend is a little trifle insincere. That is not what I mean and he knows it. I mean that where you have a certain amount of money to expend you can place it so as to influence a vote here and there and still not expend a dollar more than is authorized. The hon. gentleman need not entertain this House with such cheap talk as that. When we wish to charge him with taking more money out of the public treasury than he is authorized to take, we will

FORMULATE THE CHARGE.

We simply say that, having so much patronage to expend, it was so managed as to work it in favor of the candidate running against the Dominion Government. I do not charge that you put your hands into the treasury and took out money which you had no right to touch, but I say you controlled it so as to operate against the Dominion Government candidate.

MR. STOCKTON—That is not corrrect.

MR. ADAMS—How do you know?

Mr. WETMORE—It will take more than my hon. friend's denial to convince my mind that this improper influence was not used. I will venture to say that my statements now will meet with the accord of the people of this Province. On whatever side of politics they may be, the people must to-day look with amazement on the effrontery of the Government in denying this charge. The voice and judgment of the people in those counties where the policy was pursued will bear me out. Are not victories for the Local Government claimed by these journals as Grit victories? The victory in York was hounded throughout the Dominion as a Grit victory.

A VOICE—You brought Mr. Hazen out as a Conservative.

MR. WETMORE—I deny anything of the sort. I will defy the hon. gentleman to put his hand on a single word uttered by the candidate or myself whereby it could be inferred that the gentleman was brought out as a Conservative candidate. And while the Government are using this influence, Conservative members on the floors of this House stand idly by and allow them to do it. That policy must be put an end to. If you run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, the country will look to you for a justification. You have invited the issue and as one member of the House I am prepared to accept it and try the question out on these lines. I regret that Dominion politics and local politics should be mixed together, but when it is thus forced upon us, we are prepared to accept the issue.

MR. STOCKTON—You are trying to force it!

MR. WETMORE—I trying to force it! Why you are practising it every day of your life whenever you open your mouth with respect to politics. The hon. gentleman who is a Grit in and out, cannot see any political party unless he is looking through those spectacles. He is one of the politicians who persistently pursue the policy I have referred to. He can well afford to sit by and laugh at my hon. friend from the county of Westmoreland (Mr. Killam), the Surveyor-General and the gentleman from Albert, who do not belong to the party in Dominion politics that he does, because they are simply playing into his hands. But, sir, if matters continue to shape as they have, we will probably have a Conservative vote sooner than the hon. gentleman thinks.

MR. RITCHIE—You had one the other day—28 to 8.

MR. WETMORE—I respect the gentlemen on the floors of this House, but when I see that this Government can hood-wink them as they do and can command their votes by the exercise of a little patronage, can make them stand up

LIKE AUTOMATIC MACHINES,

and vote yea or nay without opening their lips, I am rather disposed to look elsewhere than upon the floors of this Legislature, for an honest judgment upon my views.

Again my friend has referred to the fact that when the election was being held in the county of Victoria, the Government, while they might have thrown their influence in favor of Mr. Porter, who was Liberal in his politics, did not do so, that they left the matter open because they were both supporters of the Government. The Government would have been very green, had they done so. They knew that the personal popularity of my hon. friend, (Mr. Baird) would elect him, and they would not commit the blunder of putting their foot into the hole. All the Government wanted was a supporter, and moreover if they can get Liberal Conservative to support them, if they can undermine him and turn him away bit by bit, from his allegiance, so that they can send him to another county to work for their party, they will do it. That is the policy they have been inaugurating.

MR BLAIR—Clever fellows!

MR. WETMORE—Yes, they have been—they euchred us. It is surprising to me that they ever did it. At the time the old Government was defeated I happened to be a very young member of the House. In looking back at that time I am simply amazed that the Government should have been so far asleep, as to allow the march to be stolen upon them as it was.

A VOICE—You are quite hopeless now.

MR. WETMORE—I am very hopeful. The people have got to speak on this question in a short time, and not this House. I venture to say that probably a verdict will be given on the floors of this Legislature next session, that will surprise our boastful opponents.

Now, sir, in opening my remarks I said that although I did not desire to preach blue ruin, although I would rather if I could point out to this House that the financial position of this country was a good position, yet sir when we examine the public accounts, when we see the expenditures that have been made, when we see what the policy of this Government has been, I regret sir, to say, that the financial position of this country is not in a fair condition. I regret to say that the final position of this country is such that it appears to me that we are approaching as fast as we can a state of things productive of bankruptcy. If they are dead issues, as the Attorney-General says, let me go back to those dead issues, those broken promises that he says are not to be remembered any longer. The other day when he was replying to some remarks of mine, he stated that the resolutions he had formulated on the tables of this House, which he had laid down as the policy of his party were dead issues. The members of this House will recollect that if there was any one thing which that gentleman when in opposition, spoke with earnestness upon, not only on the floors of this House, but on the public stump, it was this, that the Governmenment should so manage affairs of this country as to

KEEP THE EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE INCOME.

He said there should be no floating debt, that there should be every year an amount on hand when the balance was struck, or at any rate no deficit. Now, sir, how have the present Government acted in that respect. What have they done? Why, sir, in 1883 and 1884 they came before this House and asked the Legislature to give them authority to bond $250,000 of the public debt. They issued this $250,000, bondeded the debt, and where are they to-day.

MR. MCLELLAN—Whose debt was it? We had to pay off your liabilities.

MR. WETMORE—Well, if you came to the House and got authority from the House to pay up that liability and you got a clean sheet, what then?

SEVERAL—No!

MR. WETMORE — No! You said that amount would be sufficient to wipe off the indebtedness of the country. You bonded the $250,000 and where do yon stand now? In the four years of your administration, I will venture to say, you have put a larger floating debt on this country, than the other Government did during their four years.

MR. BLAIR—We have only drawn salaries for three years.

MR. ADAMS—That is enough for you to draw.

MR. WETMORE—If you have only drawn salaries for three years you have put this country further in debt, than the old Government did in four. Last session when the Government brought down the financial statement they placed the floating debt at $53,000. The Opposition on that occasion pointed out that the floating debt was larger, because they stated that to that should be added the indebtedness on the Fredericton Bridge, which was some $36,000 at that time. In the meanwhile, what was transpired? By a bill introduced last session, the Government got authority to bond that indebtedness too, because they got authority to bond $50,000, and have done it, because they have bonded our debt from the Dominion Government from capital account to the sum of $50,000, and paid to bridge account. Taking their own figures there was on the 31st December, 1884, a floating indebtedness of $53,501.21. What is it to-day? Why on the face of their own account it appears there is a deficit of $17,641. Year after year they have come down with a statement to the House, and during the three or four years, I have been here leaving the financial statement brought down, there has always been a balance in favor of the Government, although it may have been made up of borrowed money. But this year they come down with a neat little deficit of $17,641.1. So far as the ordinary revenue is concerned the amount is much larger than that amount. Take up the account and what do you find, leaving out the $75,000 that was paid from the Dominion Government, because that does not belong to the ordinary expenditure? You find that the total expenditure for ordinary purposes was $584,472 66. To that we will add $92.15, law-stamps transferred to the Supreme Court fund; to that add $1398.25, the amount which was paid in connection with the Lunatic Asylum over and above the $25,000, which the Government had authority to bond, and which they drew from the Dominion Government; to that add paid banks $50,000 and over checked by the Board of Works, $3410.12;—and you have a total of $639,373.18. Against that we have general revenue $617,194 07, law-stamps, as per contra $92.15, making a total of $617,286 22, which deduct from the payments of $629,317.18 for ordinary purposes, leaves a balance of $22,086 96, representing as far as the face of the accounts show the floating debt due by this Province on 31st December. If you refer to parrgraph 2 of the Public Accounts, and other places on page 201, we will find that the amount due on account of the Fredericton bridge, borrowed from the bank of New Brunswick, and paid on the service was $23,666.83 which added to the amount I have just stated to be the amount of the floating debt, makes an actual floating debt of $45,753.69. The

FAIR WAY OF TESTING IT OUT

is not simply what the floating debt is, but to compare what their position would have been, had they simply had the revenues the old government had. This looks like keeping the expenditure within the revenue! The government last year got over and above what the old government got the interest of the debt, and you understand what I mean by that. I mean the sum that was appropriated and capitalized for the benefit of the Province by the legislation of the Dominion Parliament in 1883. From that source, the government this year got $28,172.46, a source of revenue the old government never had. Of course the Provincial Secretary may say the revenue has fallen off as far as Territorial revenue is concerned. All I have to say, sir, is that that is due to the mismanagement of the Government. We find that they secured $28,172.46 as I have said. Then they received interest on the eastern extension claims of $7,500, or a total this year of $35,672 46 more than the old government received less $89 04 being fifteen days' interest on $50,000 withdrawn, making $35,583.42. Last year they got from the same source only $15,112 98, or $20,470.44 less than this year. If they had not got this amount, their floating debt would have been, (adding this amount to the $45,753.79,) $66,224.23, which this government would have left the country in debt only for a source of revenue we never had before. Giving them the same source of revenue that their predecessors had, that is taking away $35,583.42, the revenue which they, their predecessors never had, and adding it to the $45,753.79, to-day the Province would have a floating indebtedness of $81,337.21.

And now with the permission of the House, I propose taking a few minutes while I discuss some items, especially that appear in the public reports. And again at the risk of being charged with raking up dead issues, I shall take the opportunity of pointing out to this House and this country, the promises which the government made when they abolished the office of Clerk of the Crown. We understood then, sir, while discussing that question in connection with the restoration of the office of Solicitor General, that the expenses of the prosecution of criminals in this country, should be reduced to a minimum, if they were not entirely abolished, by the two Crown officers. Now, sir, I am here to express my opinion as to what ought to be done in this country, and, sir, with the large stock of prosecutors the government have in the clerks of county courts in prosecuting criminals there, seeing that these courts have co-ordinate jurisdiction with that of the supreme court of this Province, (with the exception of cases where the crime is capital, all matters of crime can be investigated by these county courts, and the clerks are by law obliged to attend to that peculiar business, and I must say the amaunt allowed them for so doing is reasonable,) with all that machinery provided by law. It strikes me the Attorney General and Solicitor General, ought to attend to the criminal business. What do we pay them their salaries for? Do we pay my hon. colleague his salary of $2,400 simply to lead the Government?

MR. BLAIR—I don't get $2400.

MR. WETMORE—I am stating it accurately. You get $2400.

MR. BLAIR—You are mistaken.

MR. WETMORE—I say you do. This little corner business of taking $300 out of the sessional allowance wont go down. You get that amount as the salary of your office.

MR. ADAMS—$2,496 last year.

MR. WETMORE—Well, that salary is not paid to the hon. gentleman, because he is premier of the Government or leader of the administration, but because he is the officer to attend to the Crown business, and to advise the Lieut. Governor in all matters of law, and when we pay the Solicitor General $1000 or $1200 a year, we do not pay it to him, because he is a member of the Government. We might as well pay the hon. gentleman from the County of Albert because he is in the Government, or the hon. gentleman from the County of Northumberland, who occupies the

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of the Council $1,000 or so. We pay the hon. gentleman who occupies the position of Solicitor General his salary of $1,200, because he is expected to lend his aid in attending to the prosecution of criminal business in this country, and now, sir, if there was one charge above another formulated against the old Government, it was, the Crown officers did not attend to their particlar business. For a long time during the existence of that Government, you are aware there was no Solicitor General, and in view of that, it possibly became necessary for the Government to call on parties other than the Crown officer, because there was only man to attend to the criminal business, but as I understood it at the time, Mr. Speaker, and as I understand it now, when this office of Solicitor General was restored the mantle of which has fallen upon my hon. friend from the City and County of St. John, it was restored with the understanding, and this Government in opposition preached that he should be restored with the understanding, that the Crown Officers should attend to criminal business throughout the Province. Now, sir, have they done so? Have they fulfilled those pledges to the country? Have they done while in the Government what they said ought to have been done by the old Government, whom they impeached when they were in opposition? I will turn to the Auditor General's Report, page 60, and what do I find? I find that Mr. Geo. F. Gregory, partner of the hon. leader of the Government, has obtained during the past year for conducting criminal prosecutions, the sum of $440.50. Now, sir, this was a complaint that the gentlemen on this side of the House had to make at the Session of 1885, and it was a complaint that they made loudly, and a complaint that they made with force. It appears, sir, that it has had no effect whatever upon the Government. And we find, and this is a suspicious circumstance, that the gentleman to whom these payments were made happens to be the partner of the Attorney General. What are his services? In the first place I find he charges for services in connection with the Madawaska Court, $16. Now, what were the nature of those services?

MR. ADAMS—Why that was cheap.

MR. WETMORE—My hon. friend many say it is cheap; possibly it would be cheap if we had not upon the statute book legislation which would make it cheaper. I happen to know in this instance, in the County of Madawaska, there was no prosecution that went before a jury; an indictment was framed, but there was no trial. What is the provision of the law with respect to that? The provisions of the law in respect to prosecutions in the County Court, are that in case there is no trial, the utmost amount to be charged, providing the prosecution is left in the hands of the Clerk of the Court, is $8.00. Of course the difference is trifling.

MR. BLAIR—There were two cases.

MR. WETMORE—I am open to conviction upon the subject.

MR. BLAIR—I happen to know that there were two cases.

MR. WETMORE—Well, if there were two cases, it appears to me that it is a most paltry business for the Government to send a gentleman up there especially to draw an indictment, which I venture to state any student of a years standing would draw, and to deprive the Clerk of the County of the fees which the law contemplates he should have.

MR. BLAIR—You used to do it.

MR. WETMORE—We never did. I tell my hon. friend it is not so. Whenever I prosecuted in the County of Madawaska, I do not do it as the retainer of the Government, but as the retainer of the Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the County Court of Madawaska, at any rate, is able to retain whom he pleases. It seems to me a rather paltry business for the Government of this country to send the partner of its leader to interfere with the Clerk of the Court and deprive him of his perquisites. In any prosecutions I conducted in that County, I was paid by warrant, issued by order of the Clerk. By the laws of this country it is provided that the Clerks of County Courts shall conduct the criminal prosecutions, unless the Attorney General, and possibly the Solicitor General, as he is a Crown officer, sees fit to interfere. The intention of that provision is that the Attorney General may interfere in cases of special importance which he thinks demands his special attention. But I say that the attending of some other person, a supporter of the Government, not in its ranks nor even on the floors of the House, for the purpose of taking away these little paltry fees from the Clerk, who, I do not care what his knowledge of law may be, is as perfectly competent to draw up an indictment and get the prisoner to plead upon it as the

ABLEST LAWYER IN THE COUNTRY,

is a miserable price of meanness. At least let these persons have the option of saying who may act in their stead. We find paid this same gentleman the sum of $125 for attending a criminal prosecution in the County of Madawaska. I happen to know the circumstances of that case. I dare say it is fresh in the minds of Hon. gentlemen that sometimes in the early part of last year a man, named Theriault, killed his child and was indicted for murder, and the simple question that arose was whether the man was crazy or not. That question was tried out and took about a day, the proceedings may possibly have gone into the next morning, but what do we find? We find that for the purpose of trying out this case, where the whole country knew pretty well that the man was insane although the jury found that the man was not insane, and where the Governor General, in the exercise of his perogative afterwards reprieved the prisoner and committed him to Dorchester for life, I say, although the fact was well-known over the country that the man was insane and that it was a case which could not possibly take over a day to try, the Attorney-General of this Province, right in his own district too, where he should have attended all criminal prosecutions, did not put in an appearance at all and sent his partner up and for simply one day's service the Province is charged $125! Now, sir, in regard to prosecutions in the upper part of the river counties, I would like to know one occasion on which, since the mantle has fallen upon his shoulders, the Attorney-General has been on hand to attend to his business. In the County of York, where he can walk across the street in five minutes, and where in view of the promises he made to this House when he came into power, and when we were asked to abolish the Clerk of the Crown he could not well do otherwise, he does find time enough to walk across the street and into the County Court House in the city of Fredericton to attend to criminal prosecutions. But in the counties of Carleton, Madawaska and Victoria where crimes are committed and persons committed for trial in the Supreme Court, where has the Attorney-General been? Has he been there once? If he has been the time has escaped my memory. From 1883 to 1886—three years—during which that gentleman has been in power, and when it was his duty to attend to criminal prosecutions in this country, right up to his own door I may say, right in these very counties around him, Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska, during that whole time, although there has been persecution after persecution, the hon. Attorney-General has not once put in an appearance. Who has gone there? His partner! His partner has gone there and obtained from the revenues of this Province an extra allowance for attending to business which I say the Attorney-General ought to have attended to and could attend to. What do we find in the county of Carleton?—and I happen to speak with respect to these several counties, because my business carries me there. We find for attending the Circuit Court of the county of Carleton, Mr. Gregory has charged $223. For what? I venture to say that the time occupied by that gentleman attending to criminal business in the county of Carleton at the Circuit I refer to would not take over three or four days. Then we find he has another small charge of $27.50 for doing what? Right in the city of Fredericton, right where the Attorney-General lives, right where the opportunity to attend to criminal business was easy, there Mr. Gregory ropes in $27.50 for attending an assault case before Judge Fraser! What was the nature of the assault case I do not know. The first notice I got of it is in the Public Accounts. Hon. gentlemen may explain it, but it does seem a very peculiar thing to me and I would make the same remarks with regard to the amount paid to Mr. I. Allen Jack in attending before the Chief Justice in *ex parte* Collins. I presume that service was performed in St. John.

HON. MR. RITCHIE—Yes.

MR. WETMORE—Then in view of what this gouernment charged against the old government, in view of the large promises made when they abolished the Clerk of the Crown, it is a strange thing to me that right in the very places where these very gentlemen live, right in the city of Fredericton, it should be necessary to employ some other person than the Attorney General at extra expense to the Province to attend upon the Judges here, and that in the city of St. John, it should be necessary to employ some other person outside of the Solicitor General.

MR. RITCHIE—I was here in session at the time.

MR. WETMORE—Well, all I will say is, whether you were attending the session here or not, the Province pays you for your services, and if you are elsewhere and cannot attend to it, you

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and pay him for it. Don't take a salary for attending public duties and then say I have something else to attend, and the Province must pay me all the same. If a person engaged me to do certain work, would I have a right to receive, say $200, the amount agreed upon from him, and then claim $200 more because I was not able to attend the work all the time, and had to employ another man. If you, by reason of your public or private business cannot do what you agreed to do, do not ask us to pay another man for what you are receiving pay for.

MR. RITCHIE—Do you make no distinction between public and private business.

MR. WETMORE—Not a bit. Now, sir, having had occasion to refer to the fact, that a gentleman had been employed for the purpose of reporting the debates of this House, and being told that sufficient had been retained to pay the expenses of publication, contrary to which the report shows that the whold amount has been paid, it might be a matter of interest to show what this gentleman has been obtaining from the treasury. He is a warm supporter of the present administration. For a number of years he has edited a paper published in the city of Fredericton, in the interests of the government, which paper as well as himself, has been well paid for its work. In addition of being to-day, it is said, editor of that paper, this gentlemon is secretary for agriculture. He draws his salary for that, he gets $850 for reporting the debates of this House, somewhat one-sided they were to, and sir, in addition to that, we find here and there a morsel of pap is dropped to him to encourage him along. At page 72 of the reports, we find Mr. Lugrin paid expenses, $203.44, ditto $175 70, ditto $208 58. Here is a gentleman getting $587.72 to pay expenses! What for? I ask the Attorney General now what for? Will he tell me that this office of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, which could to my mind be managed with a large decrease of expenditure, requires out of the revenues of this Province for expenses over and above the salary, a sum of $500? What for? For the purpose of purchasing stock or anything of that kind? Do I understand that it is simply for the purpose of stationery and paying this gent