Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 20, 1889

The Jesuit Matter.

It is not so much Unrestricted Reciprocity, Commercial Union or any other question of the kind that is making a stir at Ottawa and in the Upper Provinces generally, at present, but the Jesuit matter, which Col. O'Brien of Muskoka proposes to bring before Parliament. The facts of the case are as follows: The Jesuits, a Roman Catholic society, which from the earliest history of Canada, labored in a missionary way among the Indians and settlers, became possessed of certain lands in Quebec, valued in recent years at $2,000,000, and which the Jesuits passed out of their hands without their securing recompense therefor. Their claims have always been recognized, but no understanding as to the amount they should receive as compensation, was reached until last session of the Quebec Legislature, when it was agreed that the sum of $400,000 should be paid them from the Quebec treasury in full satisfaction of their demands. The proposition passed the Quebec local legislature without a dissenting voice, Protestant and Catholic members alike supporting it. This settlement of a vexed and long standing question, apparently had been reached to the satisfaction of all parties in Quebec. It was the business of the people of that Province alone; the money comes out of the treasury of that Province only, but the Toronto *Mail*, a most mischievous and unprincipled newspaper, which has been read out of the Conservative party, and which seems to exist but for the purpose of exciting religious and sectional quarrels, saw an opportunity of making war upon the Dominion Goverment which it hates, by demanding that the Quebec bill, granting compensation to the Jesuits, be vetoed at Ottawa. This, briefly stated, has been the cause of arousing excitement at Ottawa on the Jesuit question, and setting the country in a religious blaze.

The Dominion Government take the position, and in this, they are supported by the best elements of both the Conservative and Liberal parties, that the question of the settlement of the Jesuit claims, is one to be dealt with entirely at Quebec, and does not come within the pale of Dominion interference. The Federal Government has no more authority to attempt the control of Quebec's expenditures—how that Province disposes of its revenues—than it has to come down to New Brunswick and dictate to Mr. Blair's Government how they shall expend the revenues of this Province. But the question is raised for political purposes. The same motive that prompted the Riel agitation, is behind the Jesuit row. In the former, the Dominion Government stood firm against the introduction of race and religious prejudices, in the latter, they will resist the vain attempt that is being made to stir up similar feelings among the people of Canada. Col. O'Brien is being pushed to his work by enthusiasts and bigots, who are the tools of designing politicians, but the result will be the same as in the Riel matter. Canada is too small a country to harbor race and religious war; too liberal and progressive to countenance internal feuds to bolster up a failing political cause.

The Toronto *Globe* has performed another political somersault. All along it has supported the Dominion Government's view, that they have no right to veto the Jesuit bill, but Saturday the *Globe* announced that it parts company with all who oppose the veto. The organ's sudden change of base has brought consternation into the Grit party in Parliament, very many of whom, believing strongly in provincial rights, support Sir John's position on the question, which, raised by the Grit party in Ontario to embarass the Goverment, is proving a complete boomerang to its orginators.

The Franchise Bill.

The Franchise Bill introduced by the Attorney General in the Assembly Saturday, is the most important measure presented there for some time, and will no doubt demand a large amount of attention from members. The object of the bill is to extend the franchise, and its effect is to grant substantially, residental manhood suffrage. The bill provides that (1) no property qualification will be demanded of persons who shall have been residents of any district for one year; (2) that non-residents, or persons who have not resided for the required time in the district to otherwise qualify them, may vote upon real estate of $100 value, or upon an income of $400. (3) ministers and teachers will have the right to vote on registering. The persons excluded from voting, are women, lunatics, paupers, criminals, Indians on reserves, and minors.

Under the present law, a candidate for election to the Assembly, must own real estate worth $1200, but the new measure sweeps this qualification away, the only demand made being that candidates must be British subjects and 21 years of age. Candidates on being nominated, will be required to put up a deposit of $100 with the returing officer, and the same will be forfeited if the candidate fails to poll one half the number of votes polled by any successful candidate. Clergymen of all denominations will not be eligible for nomination.

Such are the leading provisions of the new measure submitted by Mr. Blair. The details we shall refer to again. The Government are to be congratulated upon the important and liberal movement, and we believe they will be accorded a most hearty support, both in the Legislature and in the country.

An express and freight train collided on the Intercolonial near Rimouski, yesterday, killing the engineer, Whitney, and the fireman, Throy, of the former, and conductor Michaud and fireman Levesque of the latter. The accident resulted from disobedience to orders by the freight train officials. John P. Till of St. John, express messenger, and baggage master Mason were slightly injured, but all the passengers escaped without hurt.

Public Works Department.

We have recived the report of the Public Works Department for 1888, giving in detail the expenditure of the department for the year. The different services drew on the exchequer as follows:—

Great Roads and Bridges,	$102,475 53
Legislative and other Public Buildings,	10,386 72
Lunatic Asylum,	793 37
Steam Navigation,	9,502 51
Department Expenses,	1,215 58
Miscellaneous Account,	1,343 65
Annex Lunatic Asylum,	1,530 03
New Departmental Building,	20,656 00
	$147,903 39

The expenditure on Legislative buildings and public offices amounted to $5,725.05 divided as follows:—Normal School, including grounds, $2,861.38; Lunatic Asylum, $793,37; Government House, $1,773.29.

For a more detailed account of the expenditure, our readers are referred to the very candid and well conceived statement of Hon. Mr. Ryan made in the Assembly when the item for public works came up for discussion in Supply.

The country is to be congratulated on the possession of so careful and efficient an administrator of the Public Works Department as Hon. Mr. Ryan, who, during his term of office, has won golden opinions from the people of New Brunswick Personally courteous and gentlemanly always in his relations, whether in private or public, honest and honorable, he has been a source of great strength and popularity to the Government. No job or scandal has attached itself to his administration of the important department under his care, and although his position often calls for the most delicate balancing, he has giyen general satisfaction. Mr. Ryan is a modest man, and doubtless will blush should this small tribute to his popularity meet his eye, but we have only done scant justice to the hon. gentleman who has made for himself a large place in the regard of the people of New Brunswick.

The responsible departmental officials, Mr. T. B. Winslow and Mr. A. G. Beckwith, should also be awarded their meed of praise for the successful discharge of their duties. Both gentlemen are most courteous in their dealings with the public and efficient in their work.

The Short Line.

The question of constructing the Harvey-Moncton link of the Short Line Railway, received some attention at Ottawa last week. It would appear that the C. P. R. Company have no intention of constructing the road, unless compelled to by some superior power. The company have before Parliament a bill to consolidate their indebtness, and to authorize them to issue more bonds. This has been under the consideration of the Railway Committee of which Sir Hector Langevin is chairman, and it is in consequence of discussions there, that the present position of the Company towards the road, has become manifest. The Government, it is asserted, threaten to defeat the bill, unless provision is made therein for the construction of the road within a reasonable time, and against this the Company kick. If the Government haye the power to compel the Company to carry out its contract, and do not exercise that power, they can expect very little sympathy from Maritime Province constituencies.

The vote of the citizens of St. John and Portland on the union of the two cities was in favor of union by a majority of 1096, Carleton only casting an adverse vote. The necessary legislation to complete the union will be sought immediately. The result is the source of general congratulation.

The Government have so far resisted the pressure of the North Shore lumbermen and politicians for a reduction of the stumpage, but it is stated that the that may take into consideration athe matter of extending the leases, as kind of compromise.

In Parliament, last night, the opposition want of confidence resolution was voted down by a majority of 43. Mr. Skinner of St. John again voting with the Government.

The Attorney General, in the pursuance of his policy of reform, proposes to abolish Government House as an official residence.

Our Milville correspondent writing on Monday, says:—Very fine March weather is upon us. The heavy rain and the warm sun has done much to make roads bare and to make sleighing somewhat tedious. The lumbermen of our village are dropping home. Messrs. Hallett & Dunn got home with their crew from the lumber woods of the Tobique on Saturday. Messrs. Robert and Josiah Hallett, lumbermen of the Nashwaak, also got home on Saturday. Mr. Robert Hallett has been doing some horse trading and now boasts of as fine a team as any in the near neighborhood. Mr. T. L. Earle, the village station agent, with Mrs. Earle, are spending a few days on a visit to their friends in St. John. Mrs. J. L. Hawkins entertains as guests, Mr. and Miss Atherton from Carleton County. Miss McGuire of Queensbury, has been spending a few days at the Milville House. She has been attended by Dr. Owens who has successfully removed a tumor from her face, very near her eye. She left for her home on Friday recovering from the operation. Mr. John Murphy, who has been in poor health for some time, is now confined to the house with a severe sickness.

Special religious services have been held, continuously, in Upper Kingsclear and Ptince William Baptist churches since New Years, conducted by Rev. Calvin Currie, pastor, Rev. Saunders Young, evangelist, Rev. James A. Porter, county missionary, and Rev. A. H. Hayward, general home missionary. The results of these efforts are very satisfactory; up to date, 47 have been baptised, and a good degree of religious activity is manifested. The spiritual benefits are not the only ones enjoyed, far while the churches have been religiously quickened, the temporal needs of the preachers have not been overlooked. Before the Rev. Mr. Young left us, the good people of Prince William put him on the sunny side with a donation of over fifty dollars, and on Monday evening the 11th of March, the church and congregation in Kingsclear gladened their pastor with a donation of sixty dollars. These donations were held in the meeting houses, the usual tea being dispensed with, to the great relief of the ladies. The people connected with the two congregations mentioned in these notes are kind and generous, and in proportion to their numbers and wealth, do more, financially, for their minister than is done in mavy other places.—*Com.*

If the Sufferers from Consumption, Scrofula and General Debility will try Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil, with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief and a permanent benefit. Dr. H. V. Mott, Brentwood, Cal., writes: "I have used Scott's Emulsion with great advantage in cases of Pthsis, Scrofula and Wasting Diseases. It is very palatable." Sold by Druggist, at 50c. and $1.00

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Dr. Atkinson's Criticisms of the Government, and

The Attorney General's reply thereto

Government House to be Abolished as an Official Residence.

Chief Commissioner Ryan's Speech on Public Works Expenditure.

General Legislative Notes.

Dr. Atkinson, M. P. P. for Carleton, made the principal speech in criticism of the budget in the Assembly last week. He said no more important subject than the finances of the country could engage the attention of the house. He could not, after a careful study of the financial history of the province for the past 10 or 12 years, contemplate our financial position with any degree of satisfaction. He did not mean to say that the province was unable to meet its liabilities.

THE WEALTH OF THE PROVINCE

puts that question beyond the possibiiity of a doubt. In 1881 a certain hon, gentleman, then the leader of the opposition, stood in dread of direct taxation and was alarmed at the nearness of its approach. He read from the official reports of 1881 the speech of that hon. gentleman on the subject. At that time the public debt was only $900,000, and the annual interest charges were only $30,000. Last year when the budget was being considered, when the bonded debt was $2,000,000 in round numbers and the province pledged to probably half a million more, the same hon. gentleman, now the leader of the government, talked of the improved condition of the province. It is true that a readjustment of the financial basis of the confederation was made in 1884 by which large amounts were placed on deposit at Ottawa to the credit of the several provinces and upon which they were to receive five per cent. payable half yearly. The amount placed to the credit of New Brunswick is being rapidly reduced. The money may be regarded as the capital of the province. The house will remember that if any feature of the old government's policy provoked the opposition of the present attorney general it was their practice of

EXPENDING THE CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE

in the construction of public works. He read from the official reports of 1881 in support of this statement. That hon. gentleman denounced the sale of the wild lands then and the expenditure of the money thus obtained in the construction of public works, holding that the money thus obtained should be invested and the interest only expended. That was sound logic, but how has the government, the policy of which he directs, followed it? They have since 1884 withdrawn from our deposits at Ottawa to the tune of $162,000. Another matter for which the old government were denounced was paying a greater rate of interest than it was necessary to give. As already stated, we receive 5 per cent., payable semi-annually, on our deposits at Ottawa. To withdraw the money so on deposit is equivalent to borrowing it at 5 per cent., therefore, it would be seen, that although it is possible to borrow money at 4 or 4½ per cent., this government continues year after year to borrow money at a greater rate of interest than it is necessary to give—to be guilty of the same sin which its leader denounced in the old government. In making a review of the financial position of this province from year to year, it is necessary to examine the system of keeping accounts which from 1867 down to 1883 obtained, and in order to get a general view of

THE DRIFT OF EVENTS

it is necessary to divide the years examined into two periods—one under the old government, the other under the new government. From confederation down to 1884 the fiscal year of the province closed Oct. 31st, and not Dec. 31st, as at present and the house will perceive that so long as this arrangement existed the cost of the public services and the administration of legislation of November and December of one year was paid out of the revenue of the next. That, for example, the revenue deprived from the federal government from January 1st, 1882, to December 31st, 1882, was to be applied the public services of the province for the fiscal year which began November 1st, 1881, and ended October 31st, 1882. Hence it would be seen that November and December of 1881 was paid out of the revenue of 1882; that November and December of 1880 were paid out of the revenue of 1881; that November and December of 1879 were paid of the the revenue of 1880. But when we come down to 1883, that was the year this government came in power, and they caused the date of the close of the fiscal year to be made December 31st, thus throwing the cost of administration and the public service of November and December of that year, and which,

UNEER THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS,

belonged to 1884 into the fiscal year 1883, and for which, of course, there was no provision, producing thereby a deficit of about $131,000. I say a deficit of $131,000, because the late Dr. Elder left on record an estimate of that amount for the two months named. This deficit artificially produced, together with a floating debt actually existing for the parliament buildings, etc., made on the 31st Dec., 1883, a total floating debt of $292,202. I am not finding fault with the change of the date of the close of the fiscal year, but I do say that the responsibility of increasing the floating debt thereby produced rests with the present government. To make the case still clearer, as the house is aware the school terms formerly terminated Oct 31st and April 30th in each year, and the October term of one year was paid out of the revenues of the next year. For example, the teachers' salaries for the school term ending October 31st, 1882, were paid out of revenue of 1883, as the teachers' salaries for the October term of 1881 had been paid out of the revenue of 1882. But not only was the October term of 1882 paid in 1883, but also the April term of that year and the October term as well. Here you will see that 18 months of teacher's salaries was paid out of the revenue of 1883; at least money was borrowed to do it.

COMPARE THE ACTUAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

of the old government with that of the new, and what do we find? Under the old government the average actual receipts from '77 to '82 were $570,000; average expenditure $610,000; making an over expenditure of $40,000.

Take from '84 to '88 the actual average receips under this government were $630,000; average expenditures $684,000; making an average deficit of $44,000.

During the latter period, 1884–1888 inclusive, the withdrawals from our deposits at Ottawa were $162,000, horse importation $30,000, unpaid expenditure on education $66,000, unpaid interest on bonded debt $23,000—total, $281,000, from which take the balance of the floating debt left after the funding of a portion of the same in 1884, $41,000, together with the surplus of this year, $13,000, in all $54,000, and we have $227,000. A careful examination of the public accounts will show that outside of all subsidies to railways, there has been an increase of the public debt of fully half a million dollars. The whole tendency has been in the direction of direct taxation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BLAIR

in reply said he would refer briefly to the statements of the hon. member. Perhaps he owed an apology to the house for doing so. The conduct of that hon. member, his past conduct in the house, his declarations to the people, his promises to support the government, his defense of the government's policy, his votes in this house up to the close of last session, were all in marked contrast with his speech of to-day. The hon. gentleman had done him the credit of showing that he had been reading his (Blair's) speeches of some years ago. Notwithstanding that the honorable member seems to have paid the closest attention to those speeches he seemed to have studied them with little effect. The hon. member had presented figures purporting to give a correct idea of the finances of the country. He (Blair) had known from certain newspaper letters the course the hon. member intended taking in this house. He was glad of this opportunity of

MEETING THE INCORRECT STATEMENTS

in reference to the finances of the country and was quite willing that his statement should go to the country side by side with the utterly incorrect figures of the hon. gentleman. The latter did not seem to be able to realize the difference between current and capital accounts. Any one understood that there must be calls upon a government that cannot be met out of the current account. No government could live without drawing on capital account. We could not build railways without doing so. The suggestion of the hon. gentleman was a heresy in politics, and an absurdity in every respect. In 1882 the legislature provided for the erection of the Fredericton bridge, also for the building of a large number of railways in different parts of the province, and for the erection of a dock at St, John. The hon. member for Carleton went to the country as a defender of that policy and came to this legislature as an exponent of that policy. Last year at the close of the session he

SUDDENLY CHANGED HIS VIEWS.

Why? Because the govarnment were not prepared to saddle on the country an enormous debt so as to build more railways in every county in the province.

Mr. Atkinson—I didn't contemplate the building of railways in every county in the province

Hon. Mr. Blair—You didn't? Let us see what was the resolution that you wanted carried. Here it is:—

Resolved, That any action of the government, or measure for enabling contracts for any provincial aid to railways, should be general and not sectional, and should include all, or at least the most important of said lines of railway in each of the counties of the province.

Continuing, Mr. Blair said, because the government was not prepared to saddle upon the country such a debt as contemplated by this resolution, the hon. gentlemen then, and not till then withdrew his support from the government. Since then he has condemned every act of the government which for years he had approved. He (Blair) could only pity him from the bottom of his heart because of the position in which he has placed himself. The position of the hon. gentleman is a reflection upon the county he is supposed to represent. The hon. gentleman in his figures had charged the expenditure on account of the Fredericton bridge, the Asylum annex and the importation of stock to current account. He thought the public would prefer that these expenditures be made out of capital account rather than not be made at all.

THE ACTUAL RECEIPTS OF THE OLD GOVERNMENT

were in 1882, $579,710; in 1881 they were $533,584; in 1880 they were $607,389; in 1879 they were $516,449: in 1878 they were $566, 929, or an average of $566,000. The actual expenditures of the old government during the same years were in 1882, $610,236; in '81, $590,768; in '80, $601,000; in '79, $602,654; in '78, 622,767, or an average of $605,000. Here we find under the old government an average deficit of 40,000 a year as compared with a surplus of $12,000 a year by this government. An examination of the public accounts will show how this government has saved 12,000 a year or in all $60,000 of a saving since they came in power. The actual receipts were as follows: 1884, $650,466; 1885, $617,194; 1886, $634,523; 1887, $635,500; in 1888, 644,879, or an average of $636,000. The actaal expenditure under this government and for the the same years were: 1884, $633,658; '85, $584,472; '86, $623,592; '87, $637,300; '88, $640,806, making an average expenditure of $624,000, which clearly shows that our average receipts were $12,000 a year more than our average expenditures. There are some items of expenditure that are controllable. Such an item to some extent is that of public printing, the average cost of which under the old government was $10,000 a year, and under this government $12,500, but the increase could be very

EASILY AND SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED.

During this government's term of office the Consolidated Statutes have been re-printed at a cost of upwards of $4,000. Under the old government such an expenditure would not be classed under the heading of public printing. Besides there are many reports which this government have printed which the old government did not print at all. This government has the bills for the house of assembly printed, which involves a large additional item. The printing of the educational report is not included in the public printing account of former years down to 1883, but is included since that date. The lunatic asylum report, the board of works report, the board of health report, are now chargeable to the item of public printing, and the government also had printed the liquor license act. Under the old government the average for contingencies was $15,200 a year. Under this government the average is $12,300 a year. The expenditure for the executive govergment averaged $33,000 a year, while under this government it has been reduced to an average of $26,300. Under this latter item we never expended as much as $28,000 a year, while the late government expended during the last three years $48,000, $38,000 and $36,000, respectively. The cost of legislature under the old averaged $28,000 a year, while the average under this government is $25,000. The average of the old for the administration of justice was $12,300, while under this government it was $14,400. In reference to this item he might say that a large increase in it last year over the previous year was due to the fact that for jury fees alone it cost 3,000 more in '88 than in '87. There was a deficiency in supreme court fees; this the government could not control. The government besides carrying on all the different services of the country, paid $50,000 in interest charges more than the old government, and this increase in the interest charges has arisen almost wholly out of railway legislation passed before we took office. He quoted these figures from the official records to show that the government had nothing to fear from a comparison with its predecessor, and in order that the honorable gentleman from Carleton might have an opportunity of justifying his course if he could do so for condemning the government whose policy and conduct he had until now approved.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE MUST GO.

In supply when the item for the deaf and dumb institution, Fredericton, $2,500 was under consideration, Hon. Mr. Blair explained that the legislature had for several years past made a grant to this institution. The premises, however, had been detroyed by fire and the present accomodations were insufficient, and negotiations were entered into and agreement reached between the government body and the government for a grant of $1,000 per year for 12 years, in aid of the erection of a building in addition to the usual grant for maintenance. The building has not yet been constructed. An arrangement was also proposed by which the title of the property would practically remain in the government. In this connection he desired to say that the government had a somewhat important announcement to make, namely, that the abolition of government house as an official residence would soon be an accomplished fact. The appropriation which will be asked for the maintenance of government house as an official residence would be the last appropriation that would be asked for that purpose. It was the hope of the government that the building could be utilized for the location of the deaf and dumb institution, in which case the grant now asked for might be applied towards making repairs on that building. Item passed.

THE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.

On the item for school houses in poor districts, Dr. Stockton referred to the amount given to the New Brunswick University, and said $1,000 of that grant was given to the first teacher in the collegiate school. It seemed to him that the people of Fredericton should pay for the support of there superior schools the same as all other places had to do. and that the whole grant should be appropriated to the strict purposes of the University or else the extra thousand dollars might well be applied to school houses in poor districts.

The Attorney General said that the difficulty spoken of involved the question as of whether the sum granted the University to New Brunswick should not be reduced. A preliminary consideration would be whether the Senate of the university were expending the grant in the best manner possible. The education obtained at the collegiate school was particularly of a character fitting its pupils for university matriculation. He was not prepared to say that the grant given the university should be reduced or that the grant should be employed in a different manner from the present.

Dr. Stockton said if the money given to the university was absolutely under the control of the senate and the university was cramped for means, this $1,000 now applied to the collegiate school should be applied to the special work of the university itself. There were other high schools in the province just as capable as the Fredericton collegiate school to prepare students for matriculation.

Hon. Mr. Blair—A great many students from outside are attending the collegiate school.

Dr. Stockton said that that applied to the other grammar schools as well, and the practice should be uniform.

Mr. Wilson, speaking as a member of the senate of the university, said tne hon. member's inference was that the senate was expending the money improperly. The question had been several times under the consideration of the senate, and the chief justice had expressed the opinion that by law the amount had to be appropriated in this way.

Mr. Phinney thought the appropriation wa a very proper one. Young men desiring to matriculate attended that school from all parts of the province.

Speaker Pugsley said that as a member of the senate of the university it might not be out of place for him to mention to the committee, the fact that some members of the senate had given the matter of the appropriation of a portion of the university grant to the collegiate school their serious consideration, and at a meeting of the senate questioned the desirability of continuing the appropriation. It was, however, only fair to state that the president of the university, whose opportunity of forming a correct judgment on the question was better than that of most members, was strongly of the opinion that it was to the interest of the university to continue to assist the collegiate school, which it was claimed was the most important feeder of the institution. In view, however, of the urgent need of the university for additional funds he had not been convinced that it would not be better to throw the burden of supporting the collegiate school entirely upon the citizens of Fredericton and use the money which would thus be saved for the establishment of a chair of applied science. The great educational want of our province at the present time lay in the direction of a practical training. The establishment of such a chair in the university would in part supply this want. He would suggest to the government the desirability of devoting a portion of the educational grant to the establishment in the most populous centres of the province of one or more schools where manual training could be carried on side by side with mental work.

Hon. Mr. Blair said he was prepared at any time to deal with the question on its merits. He believed furthermore that if this expenditure upon the collegiate school was not a proper one, the citizens of Fredericton would be disposed to freely recognize the fact. If the university senate wished to have their hands left free in the matter they were at liberty to apply for a change in the law, but they had not as yet done so.

Hon. Mr. Ryan's Speech.

When in Supply, the Assembly reached the item for great roads, Hon. Mr. Ryan, Chief Commissioner of Public Works who was received with applause, said:—Another year in the political history of our Province and in the administration of ite affairs has passed away, and I presume at least a brief account of my stewardship respecting the affairs of the Department of Public Works will be expected from me. I do not wish, nor do I intend to weary the House with a detailed statement of every day events; of the hopes and fears, of the entreaties and solicitations brought to bear upon us, nor of the constant vigilance exercised on our part, coupled as all these experiences were in our mind's eye with the long list of expenditures necessary to be made and the amounts standing out prominently opposite to each of those items. Nor need I allude to the fear ever present with us least when we added all those amounts up together the total reached at the end of the year would far exceed the limited amount which could be spared out of the fixed revenues of the Province for the maintenance of the different services which the Department is expected to provide for. When I say that the amount at our command is limited, I mean that it is limited compared with what is expected of me, with what always has been expected, and with what I presume always will be expected of any person so unfortunate, in some respects at least, to hold the position which I have the honor now to hold. The brief reference which I have made to the cares, the burdens and the anxieties of the office, and the labors connected with it, may be viewed by some as an overdrawn picture—may be viewed, as possibly some will view it, as an overdrawn picture of the state of affairs, or as a plaintive and mournful presentation of the case. But I want it to be understood that I neither object to the labor involved in the position nor complain that it has to be performed. I think I could get through, without permanent injury, perhaps with very much more than I do, but when I look for an explanation of the anxiety to which I have just referred I find it centering in one particular phase of the whole question, and that is the limited amount of money at my disposal. As I was going on to say, I mean limited when compared with what I am expected to do. Without doubt the amount appropriated by this Province for the roads and bridges service in comparison with the population and settled area of the Province will compare favorably with that appropriated by other Provincial Legislatures. And when we compare our position in this respect with that of the different States of the neighboring republic, who tax themselves voluntarily and directly for this and a host of other services which we provide for out of the Provincial exchequer of this Province, then I think our people have every reason to be satisfiod. While I hope and trust that the Government of this Province will always continue to deal as liberally with the people in this respect as the resources and revenues of the Province will permit of, and while I would like to have a very much larger amount at my disposal than I now have, still the comparison which I have just made respecting the situation in the various States of the neighboring republic, would seem to strengthen the doctrine laid down by some writers on political economy; that the lavish expenditure of public money does not tend as much as some believe, to advance the material prosperity and happiness of any country, because it tends to retard the education of the people up to a full appreciation of the great principles of industry, self-reliance and perseverance, which it is claimed, if not wholly the cause, has been a powerful influence in producing the onward march of progress and advancement to which this and some other countries have attained.

Passing from this, there is one matter to which I wish to draw particular attention, as I think it is my duty to do, to a matter of very great importance, and that is in connection with the use of, or rather abuse of, the bridges which have been built by the Government, at a very great expense to this Province throughont the country, over our broad and rapid streams. Wherever it is possible to do so—wherever the nature of the rivers will admit of it, we are constructing solid, block-work bridges which would not be damaged by the heavy traffic over them, but those bridges to which I have just referred must necessarily be built with very long spans, and it is painful to see in all sections of this Province how the people deliberately trot their horses over these bridges, which in a very short time are by that means destroyed. It has been ascertained by careful calculation that a locomotive weighing from 40 to 60 tons passing over a bridge at the rate of fifteen miles an hour will not damage that bridge to the extent that it would be damaged by a horse trotting over it. It is true that our highway bridges are not built to carry locomotives, but I would say that some of our highway bridges are sufficiently strong to carry a locomotive over them, and if they had to stand that pressure I am satisfied the damage would be less than that resulting from the carelessness to which they are now subjected. It may be said why do you not enforce the law and prevent it? Well, it seems to me it is rather too much of a burden to place upon the Department, after having constructed those bridges in the substantial manner I have indicated, that we should be expected to hire men at the expense of the Province, and keep them stationed constantly on those bridges to prevent the people for whom they are built from destroying them, Those bridges when constructed become the property of the public, and it does seem absurd thet the Province should have to pay a large amount of money out for the purpose of preventing the people from destroying their own property. Still, as a matter of economy we are sometimes obliged to resort to that means and keep those guardians there, and even when they are placed there it is a very difficult task for them to prevent such damage being done. These remarks I make here in the hope that they may reach the country, and that the people through the Legislature may hear them, in order that more care may be taken in future by the people in reference to those bridges when they are once constructed. We are trying to make them as strong as we can, but it is impossible to make wooden structures, yes I will say even iron structures, strong enough to resist the pressure and wear and tear caused by parties trotting their horses over them. So I trust that my words will reach the peeple, and that we will not be so much annoyed hereafter by cases of this kind.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will say that owing to the disastrous spring and winter freshets, and the last autumn freshet, all of which destroyed public property to the extent of between $60.000 and $70,000, I must frankly admit that I was obliged, notwithstanding the too small special warrant issued for this purpose to carry over a large amount of the cost of replacing and repairing these bridges, and the Department is not now in as good a position financially as I would like. Hence I trust that honorable gentleman will be as moderate as possible in their demands upon the Province, and confine themselves to cases of absolute, urgent necessity during the present year.

As I stated last year, a great many bridges which were built ten, fifteen and twenty years ago in this Province have become decayed, worn out and are falling down. Several have fallen down, and others are in a state of decay and we are endeavoring to rebuild those bridges as rapidly as possible, and we are also endeavoring—and I think we have succeeded and I think every one will give us the credit of having succeeded—in putting up more substantial structures in the place of those which were carried away or which were worn out in various sections of the province. We are using the very best material we can get and exercising all possible care to have the workmanship also of the very best character, and I think we have to a very large extent at all events succeeded in doing so. That material we have taken from the railway bridges which we purchased from the New Brunswick Railway Company a few years ago, and which purchase I think was criticised by some pretty severely at that time as a useless expenditure. It was said that we would never be able to get those bridges put together; that it represented nothing but a pile of old iron, but sir, we have put up in this Province eight iron bridges constructed from that iron, and those who have seen them I think will feel—will know—that they are pretty substantial structures. There is one especially, on the Meduxnakeag River, just in the town of Woodstock, and I think although that bridge was constructed out of what was called old iron, any person looking at it would think it had just come out of the foundry. I think that bridge is a very substantial piece of work and does credit to the gentleman who put it together. And I might say here, Mr. Chairman, that I feel myself very fortunate to have been able to secure the services of the gentleman (Mr. Alfred Haines) who put up those iron bridges all over the Province. He is a natural genius and a valuable man indeed to this Province. I know a little about the work myself; I have watched him putting those bridges together and talked with him about the work, and certainly he is a rare and natural genius and a very valuable man. Whatever money is paid to that gentleman out of the public revenue, or out of the Department, I think is money well spent.

Hon. Mr. Blair.—He is moderate in his charges too.

Hon. Mr. Ryan.—Yes, his charges are very moderate. I sometimes have felt like giving him a good deal more than he wanted or asked for, and probably would have done so if I would not be charged with extravagance, but of course I have to run the business of the Department very closely, and therefore I did not suggest to him the advisability of making his bills higher. (Laughter.) I did not do that although I have felt like doing it, and if I had, still I think his services would have been well worth the additional amount and he would not have been overpaid.

Mr. Tweedie.—Probably he will see what you have said to-day.

Hon. Mr. Ryan.—Well, that might be some consolation to him in lieu of the more substantial reward he deserves. The whole amount, Mr. Chairman, paid out by the Department last year was, I think, $128,000; of this amount $32,622, was paid for roads, that is for the repair of roads. In this amount, of course, would be included some small bridges, which, however, owing to their limited size, we do not class as bridges. They are not included in that part of the Report in which the cost of bridges is put down. The cost of the bridges constructed throughout the Province was $6,073.22. The special expenditures—hon. members all know what this means—and a full statement of it will be found in the Report of the Board of Works, amounted to $9,121—that makes a total of $102,475.53 for roads and bridges only. For Legislative buildings the amount paid out was $5,752.05—this includes the cost of fuel, the salaries of the janitor and the engineer, and all the repairs on this building and the public offices here, and I might say that we have made a considerable saving on the amount that was appropriated by the Legislature last year for that purpose. Probably I cannot claim very much credit for it, because what I saved in that direction I expended in another direction, and necessarily so. The amount paid out for Normal School was $2,861.38; that also includes the salaries, the cost of fuel and all the expenses incurred in connection with putting the building in repair. The amount paid out on account of the Lubatic Asylum proper—that is the main building—last year was very small, $793,37. Nearly all this amount was paid for insurance alone; I think as nearly as I have been able to figure it, that about $110 of that amount was paid for repairs of the building. I must say though that this does not cover the cost of repairing; it covers the cost of repairing as far as the revenue of this Province is considered, but the gentleman who has charge of that Institution makes use of the labor under his control; there are many of those unfortunate people who though unable to make their own way in the world are able to work and he gets a good deal of work out of them, so that the expense of repairs to the building, which is chiefly on account of the lumber purchased last year, amounted only to the small sum of $110, all the balance of the $793 going to pay insurance.

The expenses on Government House last year were a little larger than the grant but it could not possibly be avoided. The fences around the grounds there were in a very bad state, and we had to expend quite a considerable amount to have those fences replaced and repaired. The roof of the main building as well of those of all the other buildings on the property, were in a very bad condition, and would have had to be reshingled very soon unless something was done. I got an inexpensive composition of paint and put two coats over the roofs of all the buildings, which I think preserves the shingles so that it will not be necessary to re-shingle the roofs for some years to come. Perhaps if I had known of the arrangement that has been made since I undertook this work I might not have done quite as much, but at all events the property belongs to the Province and though the Governor of this Province may not reside there, still whatever have been expended on the buildings towards making them last longer I think is not at all lost.

As was stated by the Provincial Secretary in his Budget Speech there was an over-expenditure all through of $7,416.00 last year, chiefly on roads and bridges. There was though an expenditure on the Asylum—on the annex and the main building also—that was outside of the usual amount expended for repairs or in any way connected with the building. One of the items was to provide a fire escape. It was felt that if a fire should take place and those poor, unfortunate people should lose their lives the Government of the Province would be very severely censured for it. Those fire escapes are now employed in all asylums and hospitals of that character throughout the world, and wherever the authorities fail to have them supplied, and fires take place and the inmates are burned, of course they are very severely and justly censured for it. We though it proper and necessary to expend a small amount this year for that purpose, amounting to $325 30. It was found also that the heating apparatus of the main building was not sufficient to convey the heat to all parts of the building and we had to put in to assist the boiler now there a duplex heater which is answering the purpose admirably. This cost $891.15. So that on the whole operation, taking these items into consideration, there is a small over-expenditure. But I think it is an over-expenditure made for a very good purpose.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the amount asked for this year, as you will see, is about the same as last year. As I said before I would like to have the amount larger. Notwithstanding my statement or my quotations from those who pretend to say that public money does not do as much good as some people think it does, when you take into consideration the general advancement and welfare of the people, still for my own ease and comfort, I would like to have the amount a little larger, and if the finances will permit of it probably I may be able to have a supplementary estimate brought in to increase that amount If not I will have to do the best I can with what is placed there. I forgot to refer to the fact that a portion of the grant is for steam subsidies which are paid to different services throughout the Province. These services the Secretary will no doubt state to the House about what they are. They are pretty generally known and the amount appropriated comes to about $9500. I have endeavoured during the past year to make the very best possible use I could of the money placed at my disposal, and to expend it in the interests of the people, and of the Province generally. And I shall continue to use all care possible during the year that is now commencing, if I am spared, to discharge my duties faithfully, and to see that the money this Legislature places at my disposal is honestly and fairly and equitably expended. (Applause.)

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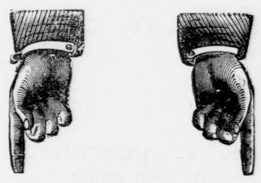

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