

"She Looketh Well to the ways of her household." Yes, Solomon is right; that's what the good housekeeper everywhere does, but particularly in Canada.

But her ways are not always old ways. In fact she has discarded many unsatisfactory old ways. For instance, to-day she is using

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CHATHAM, N. B. - MARCH 29, 1894.

Political Notes.

The Menoton Transcript says:—The Chatham, N. B. Advance, which espoused the Tory cause at the last general election received \$3,422, or \$1,422 more than the Transcript received.

As \$3,422 was the amount the Advance establishment received last year from the Dominion government for advertising and printing, we assume that it is what the Transcript means when it intimates that we received that sum in the last general election for not joining in the "unrestricted reciprocity" cry of the Liberal party.

It is, we fear, hoping for too much to contemplate a press which, as a whole, will eliminate the motive of gain, or "boodles," from its party leanings or affiliations. We have no hope of winning the Transcript to this view, but may say that the ADVANCE was an independent paper, with liberal preferences, a good while before the Transcript had a being. It is that yet.

Our independence prevented us from accepting the platform of unrestricted reciprocity in the last general election for reasons which we stated in plain and unequivocal terms at that time. A large number of the ablest men of the Liberal party in the Maritime Provinces, as well as in Ontario and Quebec, were forced out of accord with the party at the same time; and to-day there is not a Liberal of any prominence who makes even a pretence of believing that unrestricted reciprocity is a practicable policy for Canada.

The party has become ashamed of that policy and abandoned it and it is only the Transcript class of its organs that haven't yet learned to be ashamed of the party's big blunder of 1891 and be silent on the experiences of that year.

If there are a large number of liberals who can have confidence in leaders who make such a blunder as Messrs. Laurier, Cartwright, Mercier, Davies, and others did in the choice of a rallying cry at that time, they have the right to follow them, but they ought not to pretend to see only the promise of boodle, where clearer heads and men of more independent thought felt the impulse of higher motives and had the capacity and independence to break with and from leadership, which had ceased to be worthy of following.

The ADVANCE is not aware of being under obligations to any party to follow it when its policy is not a sound one. No party has ever done anything for the ADVANCE, but both the paper and its editor have done something for the Liberal party. If there is any obligation calling for support or fealty to the party, it is not from the ADVANCE to that party, at all events.

If the Liberal leaders return to their senses, cease preaching blue ruin and manifest the ability to propose a workable policy which may seem a better one for the country than that of the conservatives, we shall support them again. Party cries, however, and silly platforms and policies, devised and imposed on unthinking people, merely for the purpose of winning party success and promoting the personal fortunes of political leaders, have no attractions for the ADVANCE, which has no wish or taste for running with a crowd simply because some leader shouts to the crowd to run.

There is far too much of that kind of thing in Canada in both parties. Our local opposition friends appear to be very much exercised over the fact that provincial secretary Mitchell has estimated a deficit of about \$16,000 on the government's operations of the current year, although they say little or nothing about last year's surplus of more than that amount.

The deficit of this year will be altogether due to a falling-off in the Crown Land revenue. Owing to the expiry of the ten-year leases and the pending general lumber land sales last year, the preparations for log-getting were not on so large a scale as usual, which, together with the winter being unusually hard against the lumber operators, has resulted in our having less logs coming out of the woods this year than for many years past, consequently our revenue from stumpage will fall off. Those who think more of good government than party politics, will, thus, understand exactly why there will be a deficit, and commend the provincial secretary for honestly stating the matter, instead of concealing it, which a less honest man might have done.

We are not in the prophetic business, but it will, probably, afford little consolation to the calamity-howlers to assure them that although so little lumber is coming out this spring, there is every prospect of next winter's operations compensating for the deficiencies of this. The past year witnessed a kind of halt in the movements and undertakings of those who are carrying on the great lumbering industry of the country. They could not know, until after the general Crown Land sales, how they were to be situated for the future, and they trimmed their sails accordingly. They will go forward next year, however, with an exact knowledge of their ground, and with the advantage of the guarantees of stability in their operations which are given by the changed policy of the local government in respect to the Crown Lands. The men and newspapers whose politics and policy are shaped on the happenings, circumstances and conditions of any one year cannot, fortunately, do the country and those who are governing it wisely and well much injury, although they might be better employed than in concealing the encouraging things existing in the provincial situation and outlook, in order that they may magnify those of a discouraging

character. Our opposition friends, if they would even respect the respect of the country, should raise their politics to a higher plane and not direct all their arguments to the ignorant and prejudiced among the people, for those classes are constantly growing smaller.

K. F. Burns, Esq., M. P. for Gloucester has been called to the Senate. The appointment meets with the most hearty approval on both sides of politics.

It is amusing to read last Saturday's World on the subject of provincial finances. It gives the fact stated by the provincial secretary that he estimates a probable deficit of 16,125 on current revenue and expenditure account for the year and adds some "ifs of its own, winding up with the declaration: "Now here are the provincial finances in a nutshell, as revealed by Hon. James Mitchell in his budget speech." The World of course knows that its own pronouncement is not that of Mr. Mitchell, but evidently believes that its readers won't have sense enough to see the difference between what is put forward on good authority and what is boodle. There has been a good deal of childish brag and pretentious twaddle in the World of late, but last Saturday's issue "took the bun."

Mr. Powell, the opposition member for Westmorland in the local legislature, was permitted by Mr. Pitts to take a prominent place in the budget debate, and, according to the official report, he singled out, as an instance of government extravagance, the fact that Mr. Smith, of Chatham, was paid \$129 for printing the Mining Act. The work referred to made forty pages, and there were 1000 copies printed. The price was fixed according to the regular scale by the Auditor General of the province, and is the same as has been allowed for similar work for years. We can only understand Mr. Powell's addressing himself to this subject on the supposition that he was told to do by someone who was himself well-informed to attempt to discredit the hon. member on a matter, the correctness of which was self-evident. Mr. Powell ought to be capable of avoiding such blunders by confining his speeches to subjects with which he is acquainted. We could suggest several, but the game is hardly worth the candle. As he grows older and gains experience in the legislature, he will, probably, do better. Meantime, it must be rather amusing to the government to find that he is considered, by their opponents, their ablest financial critic. They must, we suppose, make the best of the materials they have, hence the occasional prominence of Mr. Powell of Westmorland.

One of the good things of the debate on the address at the opening of parliament at Ottawa was the reply of Sir John Thompson to Hon. David Mills' finding because the governor general was referred to as "viceroy" in the address. Mr. Mills is supposed to be not only a philosopher but the leading authority of the House on constitutional questions and parliamentary procedure and practice—just as the late Mr. Holt was. Sir John Thompson, after showing that Lord Dufferin had, in a speech at Quebec, referred to himself as viceroy, brought forward a speech from the throne put into Lord Dufferin's mouth by the government in which Mr. Mills was Secretary of State, and in which His Excellency was made to refer to himself as "viceroy."

It is needless to say that Mr. Mills hasn't mentioned the subject of late. "Election times" must be coming on, as "parliamentary supplement" is being furnished to small country papers from the party mills. These sheets are made up from the cartoons used in the bigger papers of Ontario and Quebec, with extremely partisan reports of parliamentary proceedings, colored according to the party preferences of the publishers of such sheets as follows in regular newspapers is poor journalism, and a violation of the postal regulations. Some of the purveyors of this kind of political literature offered it to the ADVANCE, but we carefully deposited their communications in the waste basket. Both liberals and conservatives are running mills which supply these sheets and the people should receive them for what they are worth—which is very little. When publishers cannot afford to give their readers the truth respecting the debates in parliament, they ought not to accept these questionable "favours" from the party mills, for the circulation of them is calculated to give young people especially false ideas of our public men and the conduct of public business. If the party backs resort to falsehood and trickery, the respectable press should not lend itself to the propagation of their methods.

On Tuesday forenoon, 28th, about two hundred prohibition delegates assembled in the Railway room of the parliament building Ottawa. They had come to ask the government to pass a prohibitory law and not to ratify the French treaty. After the delegates had organized, with Major Bond of Montreal as chairman, and formulated their requests, they appointed Walter Paul of Montreal, W. W. Buchanan of Hamilton, F. S. Spence of Toronto and Mrs. Alexander of Ottawa to speak for them.

Sir John Thompson arrived at the convention precisely at noon. He was accompanied by several other ministers. He regretted the absence of the minister of finance who was engaged in the arrangement of his budget speech. All the other ministers who possibly could do so were in attendance. He did not know how much he could be able to offer the delegates, but the government were glad to meet those who had taken such a deep interest in the matter.

Major Bond spoke first and introduced Mr. Spence who showed that since the appointment of the Royal commission matters had greatly changed. He went on to show the majorities which had been passed for prohibition. He said the Premier of Ontario had promised to give the temperance people such a law as the constitution would permit him to do. They wanted a similar promise from the Dominion government. Mrs. Alexander next presented her views clearly and strongly and was followed by Mr. Buchanan. The latter said that if the government refused to pass reform, then the temperance people would have to oppose the government.

Mr. Huestis of Halifax read a memorial from a people of Nova Scotia in favor of prohibition and against ratification of the French treaty. Sir John Thompson at the outset said that no prohibition act would be passed this session. To be frank he would have to say that much. It would be impossible for the government to decide between one and three years for the prohibition of the displacement of 90,000,000 in tariff. He would say that much for the present and as to the future he would frankly say he would give no pledge

at all. He then spoke of the work the Royal commission was doing and said that government would be bound to some extent by the information thus obtained. An interim report would be laid before parliament and a final report before the session closed.

Messrs. Borell and Tupper also addressed the meeting, expressing views similar to those of the premier.

Dr. Rev. Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, said he did not see a ray of hope in the reply given by the premier.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE. On Wednesday petitions signed by between two and three thousand women were presented by Dr. Stockton in favor of granting parliamentary franchise to women.

Dr. Stockton also presented the petition of the St. John Methodist preachers' meeting praying that legislation may be had at this session for the purpose of taking a plebiscite of the electors of the province on the question of prohibition.

Mr. Sivewright, in rising to a question of privilege, stated that it would be remembered that the surveyor general yesterday afternoon had facetiously referred to the certificates given by the member from the city of St. John praising the excellent qualities of Hawker's medicine.

He thought, however, that the government were not free from censure. In the educational report he found that the superintendent of an institution supported by the government makes special acknowledgment of Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic and Hawker's tona, we are not adverse to the government prescribing our medicine in a political sense, but we should utter a protest against their endorsed advocacy of a medicine for our bodily ailments. He understood, however, that two prominent members of the opposition and one member of the government held stock in the Hawker Medicine Co. and there was, therefore, evidently a deal between some members of the government and the opposition to advertise this company, which is confirmed by the fact that this afternoon every member has a package of this medicine on his desk, which has been gratuitously supplied.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell submitted the first report of the Boys' Industrial Home. The Budget. Hon. Mr. Mitchell then submitted the financial statement for the year 1893 with estimates for the year 1894.

OPPOSITION CHECKMATE. At the outset of his remarks Mr. Mitchell said that he wished to refer to a matter that took place in the house yesterday. He had announced then that, at the request of the leader of the opposition, who was indisposed, the government had decided to allow the consideration of supply to stand over till to-day. He had felt that this courtesy was fairly due to the hon. member, and that gentlemen had expressed his appreciation. He (Mitchell), however, regretted very much to observe in the leading opposition organ the statement that the government were very ready to accede to the request of the leader of the opposition, as they were anxious to have further time owing to troubles in the cabinet.

NEW BRUNSWICK A GOOD COUNTRY. Hon. Mr. Mitchell continuing said that he felt on the present occasion that he could congratulate the house and the country on the prosperous condition of affairs generally. The past year had been a fairly prosperous one. The farmers had good crops, and hundreds of people were returning to this province from countries where want and destitution prevailed, satisfied that after all there were many worse countries in the world than New Brunswick. (Applause.)

Of course, Canada had felt to some extent the effects of the depression, but the people of this province should be happy in the knowledge that hunger and famine were unknown here and that every man who desired work could secure it at good, fair wages. It was usual to accuse the government when times were hard. He hoped at the present time when our people were so comfortably and so favorably situated there would be a disposition to give due credit to the government. Turning to the matter more immediately before the house, he thought the hon. members should be very well satisfied with the manner in which the departmental reports had been brought down. At no time since he had been a member had they been brought down so promptly.

THE FINANCES. The financial state of the province was a matter upon which hon. gentlemen opposite had already delivered themselves. One hon. member thought the debt had increased during the year \$20,000; another \$15,000; and another had even figured it up to \$30,000. That the debt had increased was undoubtedly true. The bonded indebtedness at the close of 1892 was \$2,563,500; at the end of 1893 it was \$2,607,000, making an increase of \$43,500; this increase was made up of \$35,000 bonds issued on account of the Woodstock railway and \$8,000 on the Tobique valley railway bonds. The net indebtedness at the end of 1892 was \$2,168,228.76; at the end of 1893 it was \$2,183,563.42, an increase of \$15,334.66, which result was reached by charging to the account the bonds just referred to.

There had been placed in the sinking fund to the credit of the account for the redemption of bonds issued for the horse importation \$4,000; and there had been placed in the sinking fund for the redemption of bonds for construction of bridges under 54th Vic. chap. 3, the sum of \$12,399.14. This sinking fund did not merely have existence upon paper. The fund was represented by 4 per cent bonds of the province, which the government had purchased, and which they held for the redemption of these debentures when they fell due. It would be found that at the end of 1892 there was a total indebtedness other than bonded of \$146,016.79, while at the end of 1893 the same was \$125,296.58, showing a reduction in the year of \$20,720.21, or about 15 per cent, which was quite a contrast of the dismal forebodings of certain opposition members. Turning to the current revenue account, it would be seen that the total receipts for the year were \$7,870,479, while the estimated receipts was only \$693,769.68. This increase was chiefly owing to the estimate upon sales of timber berths being largely exceeded.

The receipts estimated from Territorial revenue were \$170,000, whereas the actual receipts were \$209,018.75. The government were certainly agreeably surprised at the result of the land sales which amounted to \$89,890, while the

receipts from stumpage came to \$105,739.50. The estimated expenditures last year were \$667,404.98. The actual expenditures were \$711,673; the surplus on current revenue account would be \$19,204.49. The hon. members would observe that in the public works department there was a large over expenditure, amounting to \$33,278.23. Had the outlay of that department been kept within the estimates there would have been a surplus on the year's operations of \$52,482.72. Many additional bridges would have been demanded, and the counties would have the benefit of them. Had they not been constructed last year they would have had to be constructed this year, and he thought there were very few members who would say that too much money had been expended in this regard.

Under the head of administration of justice the expenditures had exceeded the estimate by \$2,448.90. This had been caused by an increase in jury fees of \$1,500, and in court fees in important criminal cases in Westmorland and St. John.

The Weldon and Stevens cases were very important and very intricate, and the government had felt that counsel should be employed outside of the clerk of the court, who usually attended to the criminal business in the county courts. In the Stevens case a certain amount of political feeling had been raised, and the attorney general and solicitor general felt that in the public interest, and in the interest of justice and of good feeling it would be better for them to take no part.

There had been a large increase in jury fees in the "Buck" case and the expenses at the examination had been large. Such expenditures were not unprecedented. It is not a great many years ago that \$1,820 was paid for criminal fees in a case in Westmorland and in the following year in the same case \$2,207 was paid.

Under the head of agriculture the government had expended last year \$23,799.34. On this amount \$7,932.67 had been paid to agricultural societies, \$3,050 as bonuses to factories, and to local dairy associations and travelling dealers \$2,837.04. Mr. Mitchell then spoke at length in answer to the statement which he had made by members of the opposition that the government had done little for the cause of agriculture, and that all the credit was due the dominion government for the development of the dairy industry. He pointed out that over 20 years ago the province of Ontario had initiated the present policy of stimulating the dairy industry. The dominion government were now following the example of that great province. Their experimental farms were doing a grand work for the farmers. They had aided the farmers in this province somewhat, though not nearly to the extent that they had aided Prince Edward Island.

In the spring of 1892 the government had sent four lecturers to localities where there seemed to be a fair prospect of establishing creameries or cheese factories, instructing them at the same time to impress upon the people the necessity of raising proper food for their cattle during the winter months or during the seasons when the pasturage was affected by drought. The government had also employed three men to go through the province with portable dairies. Many meetings were held and great interest manifested, and the result was that 22 factories of 17 of which were cheese factories and the rest creameries, had been established. In these factories there were manufactured last year 71,541 pounds of butter and 599,889 pounds of cheese. If any further evidence were needed of the beneficial effects of the government's policy, it would be found in the recent meetings of the Provincial Dairy-men's Association. The growth of that institution in itself was an object lesson. At its first meeting a few years ago less than a score of members attended. At the last two meetings about 200 of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of the province had attended, and it was difficult to find a room large enough to hold them.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell then referred to the importation of horses in 1887 and of fillies in 1888 and sheep in 1889 and said the beneficial results of this policy could be seen throughout the province, and the result was that the pure bred cattle and another importation of sheep, which had been of vast benefit.

CONTINGENCIES, ETC. Taking up the item of contingencies Mr. Mitchell said the outlay last year was somewhat less than the year before. In respect to this item as the years rolled round an increase was to be expected. Telephones, typewriters, electric lights, etc., naturally added to the expense, while at the same time they added to the efficiency of the public service. For the Bathurst investigation of the item of contingencies Mr. Mitchell said the outlay last year was somewhat less than the year before. In respect to this item as the years rolled round an increase was to be expected. Telephones, typewriters, electric lights, etc., naturally added to the expense, while at the same time they added to the efficiency of the public service.

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over-expenditure of the board of works and partly owing to the fact that the government had held their bonds for a favorable time in which to sell. The expenditure upon legislation had been \$19,875.30, and was about the same from year to year.

THE SHOWING UPON THE ITEM OF LUNATIC ASYLUM was better than it had been in previous years. The government had commenced last year with a balance against the institution of \$3,304.12. The total number of patients during the year had been 591, as against 569 in 1892, and the daily average was 477 as compared with 458. The average cost per patient showed a steady decrease since 1890 and now amounted to only \$7.30. He was satisfied if the hon. members who were wont to criticize that institution would only visit it, they would form an entirely different opinion. He had visited it many times and had always found it in the best of order. If any leaks existed he had been entirely unable to find them. Vague rumors had reached his ears of jobbery in connection with the supplies, but he had looked into the matter and had found the parties referred to willing to make a satisfactory arrangement at any time. If there were any leaks there must be a great many in similar institutions elsewhere, for the fact could not be denied that the cost of maintaining our lunatic asylum was less than that of maintaining any first class institution of the kind in America.

Upon public health there had been expended last year only \$332.10 as compared with \$2,167.91 in 1892. The saving was due to the absence of smallpox or other contagious diseases. It was to be regretted that there was an increase in the public printing. His experience was that printers and publishers were the most troublesome class of people he had ever had to deal with. They were never satisfied that they were paid enough. As explaining the increase from \$12,492.09 to \$14,002.72 he would mention that the school manual had been reprinted and the Judiciary act had to be printed at a cost of upwards of \$500.

THE PUBLIC WORKS. Expenditure for last year had been \$225,428.23, while the estimate had been \$192,150; of this amount interest on bonds came to \$9,780, and sinking fund to \$4,500, making a total of \$14,280. Some of the newspapers had claimed that only \$52,000 had been expended on by-roads this year. While the government had been severely criticized for unloading various burdens on the municipalities, they could justly claim that the municipalities did some unloading of their own. They had all the means to enforce the statute law labor, and yet did not enforce it. It was almost a dead letter throughout the province. In his own county for instance, not a day's statute labor was done in the course of the year, not a cent of road tax paid. If the councillors attended to their own proper duties faithfully they would have less time and occasion to find fault with the government. If the law was attended to there would not be every year these expenditures of the board of works. Fessenden on Mr. Mitchell's motion the collection of stampage had cost \$9,650, instead of 9,000, which was owing to the lumber cut being larger than was expected.

The item of unforeseen expenses had exceeded the estimate owing to the lamented death of Governor Boyd. Turning to the estimate receipts for the current year, the amount receivable from the Dominion government was the same as usual, \$483,629.68; for territorial revenues \$125,000 was expected, a falling off was looked for owing to the unfavorable winter for lumber operations.

The other estimated receipts were:— Fees, provincial secretary's office, \$7,500; Agricultural department, 300; Education, 4,000; Public works, 2,000; Private and local bills, 4,000; Taxes, incorporated companies, 2,000; Miscellaneous, 5,000; Total, 15,000.

Dealing with the estimated expenditures for a year, Mr. Mitchell said that he estimated \$14,008 for administration of justice; for agriculture, \$17,650. This year there would not be placed in the sinking fund the \$4,000, which had been deposited from year to year, as there was still three years in which to bring the amount up to \$20,000. For the auditor general the amount would be, of course, as usual; for Boys' Industrial Home the estimate was \$1,500, and over and above the receipts from the different parishes; for contingencies \$12,000 was estimated; for deaf and dumb institution towards payment of erections, \$1,000; the amount for education was \$181,744.8, which had been carefully computed by the superintendent; for executive government \$27,500 was asked for, an increase of \$1,500, owing to a special engineer being required in the public works department for the construction of steel bridges. For fishery protection and for free grants the amount was the same as last year. For the protection of game \$750 would be asked. The estimate for the purchase of land was \$2,500, but otherwise provided for, was \$114,500. The total legislation the government placed at \$19,735, lunatic asylum, \$45,000; mining, \$1,000; natural history society, \$125; public health, \$2,100; public hospitals, \$4,400; for public printing, \$11,000, which he hoped would be kept within the estimate; for public works, \$192,150, the same as last year; refunds from crown lands, \$200; surveys and railway inspection, \$2,500. This last item was quite largely in excess of the estimate. The surveyor general would explain to the house the absolute necessity that existed of having extensive surveys made in parts of the province which had been taken up by purchasers at the recent sales. For stumpage collection \$3,000 was called for, somewhat less than for 1893. Unforeseen expenses were placed at \$2,000, the total estimated expenditures were thus \$666,222.48, and the total income was placed at \$650,039.08, making an estimated deficit of \$16,183.40.

The government looked forward with hope to the future. They felt confident that in the coming year there would be a largely increased lumber cut. If the American duty were taken off lumber a great impetus would certainly be given to the trade, and there were not wanting indications that an improvement was to be looked for in the European market. If these anticipations were realized the government would be able gradually to wipe out the deficit. The government had in their hands the power to increase the present rate of stumpage at a rate commensurate with the increased value of the lumber. There was in this province to-day a spirit of hopefulness manifested and the government shared in that spirit. They were not advocates of blue ruin. The people of this province are a self-reliant people. They have faith in their country and in themselves, and I feel confident they will have faith in their present government as long as we manage the affairs of the province as judiciously as we have done in the past. I move, Mr. Speaker, that you do now leave the chair.

Mr. Powell followed the provincial secretary, repeating his criticisms of last year and that great saving could be made in the expenditures, but he failed to point out an instance where reductions could be made, except in the matter of printing, and he particularly found fault, under this head with Mr.

Charter of St. John and Mr. Smith of Chatham and said that the sum of \$129 received by the latter for printing the Mining Act was excessive.

A number of other members made speeches and Dr. Stockton moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Shaw of St. John:—That all after the word resolved be omitted and the following words inserted in lieu thereof: "That in the opinion of this house it is desirable to amend 56 Victoria by substituting in the act the word 'relating to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum and its management, so that the municipalities of the province may be entirely relieved from the taxation thereby imposed.'"

Mr. Killam moved the adjournment of the debate, and further discussion was made the order of the day for 2.30 o'clock on Thursday.

An informal vote was taken on the question of how long the Easter recess should extend, resulting in an unanimous vote in favor of adjourning on Thursday night till Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Blair introduced a bill respecting liens to mechanics, laborers and others.—Adjourned.

Mr. Killam resumed the debate Thursday afternoon, speaking warmly and well in defence of the government and especially commending their development of the dairy industry.

Mr. Smith of St. John, followed, and amongst other things said that at the last session of the legislature he (Smith) had moved for returns showing particulars of the expenditure of \$16,000 upon the Suspension bridge. The chief commissioner had brought down part of the returns, pleading that he could not bring down the remainder, owing to the time and expense required. Those returns showed that the men employed on that work were paid at the rate of \$2.50 a day. He had since made enquire and ascertained that about one half of these men had received only \$2 a day, though they all appeared in the account as receiving two dollars and fifty cents. Probably if he had been able to receive returns of the materials that went into the bridge similar discrepancies would have been discovered.

Mr. Emmerson—Are you referring to the bill of Messrs. Redick & Stackhouse, who had charge of the work on the bridge? Mr. Smith—Yes; and they were warm supporters of the government, and this job was done in the summer of 1892, just before the general election.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—Do I understand you to say that these men were shown by the account to receive \$2.50 a day when in reality many of them only received \$2 per day? Mr. Smith—That is the statement I made; that a number carried one-half a penny, did. He thought it fair to say that the men who had carried on the work had the reputation of being competent men and good mechanics.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—Have they the reputation of being honest men? Mr. Smith—I have nothing to say about that. We have always called them good citizens. I really would hardly have charged them with wrong doing previous to this transaction, and perhaps they can place themselves right. He had no doubt that some of the \$1,500 or \$2,000 covered by this discrepancy had been used in that election to defeat himself and colleagues in the city as well as in the county. He mentioned this matter not as directly charging any wrong doing on the part of the government, but as showing that the business of the country was not carried on upon sound principles. The provincial secretary had predicted a deficit next year of \$16,000. He (Smith) predicted that it would be more like \$75,000.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said he was glad the hon. member had brought this matter to his attention. It was the first he had heard of it. What the hon. member had said about getting the returns last session was entirely correct. He would ask him in view of what he had stated to furnish him with the names of some of the men referred to, so that he could investigate the matter. The work was carried on previous to his acceptance of office, and he had no personal knowledge of it. Certainly if reputable men having charge of such a work, had falsified their accounts, the matter should have been thoroughly investigated. The statements made by the hon. member were very serious, and he trusted he would aid him in following up the matter.

Mr. Smith said that he had the returns at home, but on his return next week he would give the hon. member the list and show him a number of names and men who were paid \$2, while the account showed that they received \$2.50. After speeches by Messrs. Flewelling and McLeod Dr