

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Finance Minister Foster's Annual Statement.

OTTAWA, Jan. 31.—In the commons this afternoon after routine business had been disposed of, Hon. Mr. Foster rose to deliver his annual budget statement. He was loudly cheered from the government benches. At the outset he reminded the house that the speech last year was delivered on the 3rd day of May, consequently he was better enabled to speak with accuracy as to the financial results of the year than might be the case at this year. He had then estimated the revenue for the year 1894-5 at \$38,800,000, believing there would be a betterment between 20th April to which date he had the returns, and 30th June over the corresponding period of the preceding year of \$419,724. Sir Richard Cartwright had then taken exception to the reliability of this estimate but he was glad that the estimate was within the mark, the increase being \$597,851. (Cheers) The whole falling off in the revenue last year was \$2,396,563. But turning to the foreign trade of the country the exports had excelled the imports by \$2,857,121, such an occurrence having taken place only once before since confederation. Whatever there might be in the balance of trade theory, the fact that the exports exceeded the imports was so much gain to the business interests of the country. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Foster proceeded to read a table showing on what items the duty had fallen off, the principal ones being iron and steel, spirits and wines, wool and manufactures thereof, and wood and manufactures thereof. The articles from which an increased duty had been obtained were chiefly sugars, manufactures of cotton, arrowroot, etc., and grain of all kinds. The excise revenue showed a decrease in every item with the exception of cigarettes, the net decrease for the year being \$584,865. The total of the revenue was the smallest since 1885-86. The customs revenue was the smallest since 1879-80 and smaller by six and one third millions than it was in 1889-90, due to

LOW RATES OF DUTY

and smaller importation of dutiable goods. The average per capita rate of customs collection from 1874-75 to 1877-78, under the Cartwright revenue tariff was \$3.44 per head of the people. The customs collection in 1877-78 was \$3.95 per head and last year \$3.52 per head. (Hear, hear.) That is, it was only eight cents greater than the average in the period of 1874-78 and 43 cents less than in 1874-75. (Cheers.) The excise duty on home manufactured spirits was, however, nearly twice what it was in 1879-80, and the per capita rate last year 37 cents more than the average of period 1874-78. This tax was of course largely voluntary, as spirits and tobacco do not come within the range of the necessities of life.

COMING TO THE EXPENDITURE.

1894-95 was estimated at \$38,300,000 the actual expenditure being \$38,132,000 this being one of the largest the country ever had. The average expenditure for the last eight years was \$36,933,802, so that last year was considerably above the average. Charges on the debt had of course largely increased during the period and subsidies to provinces also increased by \$300,000. The deficit last year was \$4,163,895. Looking at the deficit it must be remembered that \$2,002,311 was accounted for by the amount laid in the sinking fund as an offset to the debt, so that the real result of last year's operations so far as the consolidated revenues and expenditures were concerned left a net deficit of \$2,161,584. The deficit was less by \$350,000 than he had anticipated. Adding to the deficit that of the previous year, the total was \$5,364,270. It should be remembered, however, that last year there was remitted to the people in taxation on sugar alone the amount of \$5,475,000 so that had this money been collected it would have wiped out the deficit of the past two years and have left slight surplus. In speaking of the deficits he said it is well to take into account the five years period when the hon. gentlemen opposite were in power. Possibly it

might be timely to REFRESH THE MINDS OF THE MEMBERS on that point. From 1890 to 1895, a period of hard times and depression, the net deficit was \$1,617,932. From 1874 to 1878, when the country was governed by gentlemen opposite, the net deficit was \$5,491,314. (Ministerial cheers.) The opposition might also be reminded that although their deficits amounted to five and a half million dollars they remitted no taxation, but on the contrary laid on extra taxation while by the present administration taxation had been remitted in sugar alone amounting in the aggregate for the five years to \$19,000,000. (Cheers.) He pointed out that the debt had increased last year by \$6,891,897 the average increase from 1890 to 1895 being \$2,590,214 per annum. During that period of five years there had been spent on capital account on canals, the Intercolonial Railway and Cape Breton Railway \$16,992,301 and adding to that the railway subsidies, amounting to \$5,865,748, he thought the addition to the debt was fully justified. (Cheers.) In 1894-95, the per capita amount of interest paid on the debt was \$1.83 per head and in 1887-88 \$1.90 per head, so that notwithstanding the increase in the debt the burden fell less heavily last year than it did seven years ago. (Cheers.) In dealing with financial outlook for the current fiscal year he estimated the revenue and expenditure at \$37,000,000, or that they would

ABOUT BALANCE EACH OTHER.

Taking into consideration the fact that the period of world wide depression was about over and counting upon a small increase in receipts for the balance of the present fiscal year over the same period last year to balance the revenue and expenditure for the current fiscal year, he estimated it at about \$4,100,000. Providing that this estimate is carried out and taking away the sinking fund of \$2,000,000 there will be an increase in the debt during the current year of \$2,000,000. After pointing out that the total expenditure for the present year as shown in the estimates brought down was \$33,750,000, he entered into an explanation of the increases over the preceding years. The increase of \$80,000 in the vote required by the Indians was in the establishment and maintenance of schools. The increase of \$30,000 in the vote for mounted police was to meet expenses incurred by the establishment of a post on the Yukon river, and to meet the added cost of placing there mounted police so as to bring the reign of law and order into force there. Referring to the increased vote for the post office department he said that the increasing demands upon the department and the facts that now there was a deficit of about \$800,000 between revenue and expenditure, made the time somewhat distant when a reduction might be expected on the present rates of postage. Speaking of the increase of \$247,270 in

THE VOTE FOR THE MILITIA.

Mr. Foster said for a number of years only a portion of the active militia has been drilled each year and this consequently left the whole force to be drilled only once in two years. There may have been the same necessity in preceding years for drilling the whole force as in this year, but recent events have brought the lesson a little nearer and closer home to us and the government has come to the conclusion that for the present and we hope for each year after this the rural militia will be called out for drill during each year. It is largely for this purpose that the increase of \$247,270 has been made in the estimates although the appropriation also stands for better equipment and accoutrements for the militia forces. No part of this sum will be devoted to supplying rifles or strengthening the military positions of the country. A special credit will be asked for these later on. He thought in view of the great growth of the country, the accumulation of wealth and many other reasons steps should be taken for protection in case of war and the people of this

country, whether French or English speaking, should take an active interest in the defenses of the country.

Sir Richard Cartwright asked if he could state how much would be granted to which Mr. Foster said not at present.

Mr. Foster proceeded to show how the Dominion had come

THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL DEPRESSION of 1890-91 up to the present time most satisfactorily, trade, traffic, shipping, savings, etc., all showing increases, while there was a deficit of only one million and a half net, in the full period, and during the same time debt increased but \$15,000,000 despite a reduction in the tariff on sugar alone of \$19,000,000. He also quoted statistics to show that during this period the industries of the country were not only maintained but made advancement, as was shown by the export returns. New industries had been established, such as iron smelting works, etc. Referring to the condition of the farmers during this period he showed that the exports of wheat and nearly all agricultural products had increased. Not only did the foreign trade in farm produce increase but the home market also. The farmer not only got the benefit of the market at home through the increase of population during the period but he also took away from the American farmer, Canadian trade that the American formerly had. In 1889-90 we imported 33,000,000 pounds of meats while in 1894-95 owing to protection given to farmers, we imported only 6,000,000 pounds, the difference being supplied by our own farmers. The same was true of flour and other products. Canada's credit was better than ever. There was

HOPE AT HOME AND PRESTIGE ABROAD.

He made a vigorous attack on the liberal charge that the conservative party had placed very high taxes on the people. He admitted that there was considerable increase in 1879 when the N. P. was inaugurated, such increase being at the dictation of the people. Ever since, however, the government had been sedulously careful of the interests of the people by making changes so that the protection should only be reasonable. Moreover the government had remitted the taxation of the people to a great extent. By the different duties which they removed on goods necessarily imported, which had been reduced, the goods have been procured by consumers much cheaper than formerly, thus giving them more for their money than ever before. Adding all this together the government had reduced the taxes in the aggregate by \$46,903,800. In 1895 the average of customs per head was \$3.52 and in 1875 under liberal rule it was \$3.95 per head. The item of free goods was constantly increasing. From 1874 to 1879 there was a decline of \$23,000,000 in free goods, but from 1890 to 1895 the free list showed an increase of \$26,500,000. (Cheers.) He proceeded to explain the effect of tariff reductions of two years ago and read a statement showing the percentage of reductions in different articles. These reductions were made at a time of greatest difficulty. The prices were low in every great manufacturing country in the world, and despite this fact the government gave to the great consuming class of the country the substantial advantages of remissions of taxation and consequent cheapening of goods which took place. He wished to call the attention to the past 17 years of the administration of the present government and wished the public

TO JUDGE THEM BY IT.

They desired to be judged by their whole policy and not on particular parts which the opposition might choose to pick out in order to suit their own convenience. (Hear, hear.) If the record of the government was fairly looked at the people of the country would come to the same conclusion at the next election as in 1878 and 1882, and 1887, and 1891, and indicate their preference for the continuation of a reasonable measure of protection. The policy of the past 17 years has been a vigorous one. Parliament has assented to propositions for extending internal communication. The record of liberal conservative party embraced the building and completing of the C. P. Railway and of many miles of railway in different parts of the country. The canal system has been extended and now the country was within two years of the completion of a fourteen foot system of navigation on the great lakes to the sea. And not only that but the government had taken measures for making this country independent of any foreign power by building the great Soo canal. (Cheers.) The liberals had opposed every measure of progress propounded by the government and had sneered at the efforts to extend communication with other parts of the world. Mr. Foster spoke at considerable length of the great benefits derived by grants made and arrangements which had been successfully completed for fast and direct steamship.

He showed how trade with the mother country and with sister countries was helped and also helped in such a manner as to make such trade a permanent thing.

After speaking for two hours and ten minutes, Mr. Foster resumed his seat amid prolonged cheers.

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NOTICE.

All persons indebted to the estate of the late J. W. Harnett, are hereby notified to call and settle the same immediately.

MRS. J. W. HARNETT.

Richibucto, Dec. 31, 1895.

Sunday School Notes.

Mrs. Wm. Sullivan, of Bass River, who is unable to attend church during the winter months owing to ill health, conducts a Home Study class in her house on Sunday afternoons. The Sunday School lessons are studied, hymns are sung and prayer is offered.

What is to hinder similar gatherings in many districts? There is scarcely a community where this cannot be done with very great benefit to all concerned. Teachers and Supts., where schools are closed, can easily provide for Home Study work. Some districts we hope to hear from soon. Supts. have promised to "think over" the matter and to "look into" it and to "examine" it. Some of them have been engaged in this process for over two months. We may hope soon to hear from these. When your class starts drop a card to County Secretary. An interesting report is expected from your school in June.

F. W. MURRAY.

REMARKABLE CASES

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Lucan—Wm. Branton, gardener, pin worms; all gone. Chase's Pills.

L'Amable—Peter Van Allan, eczema for three years. Cured. Chase's Ointment.

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February Eclectic.

The February Eclectic Magazine shows a table of contents of twenty-eight numbers. Among the serious articles may be mentioned "Oxford in Fact and Fiction," "The English Soldier, as he Was, and as he Is," by Col Henry Knollys—"University Settlements," by Canon Barnett—"The Ruling Races of Prehistoric Times," by D. F. Hannigan—"Common Sense and Venezuela," by Edward Dicey—and "Armenia: an Appeal," by E. J. Dillon. Among articles concerning literature are "Recollections of Thomas Carlyle" and "Matthew Arnold in his Letters," by Alfred Austin, England's new Laureate. There are several short stories and sketches and a pithy essay by Mrs. Francis Darwin on the question of British Housekeeping, in which she discusses the idea of cooperative kitchens.

Published by E. R. Pelton, 144 Eighth Street, New York. Terms, \$5 per year; single numbers, 45 cents; trial subscription for 3 months, \$1. Eclectic and any \$4 Magazine, \$8.

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Richibucto, Dec. 12, 1895.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Old Dr. Gordon's Remedy for Men

Sophia McLeod, about 30 years old, who kept a lodging house in Charlestown, Mass., was found lying dead in her kitchen Saturday night with three bullet wounds in her head and her head terribly bruised and cut as with an axe. Mrs. Ida Quinlan, aged 25, sister of the murdered woman, has been arrested on suspicion. Stains of a suspicious character were found on the dress she wore on Saturday night. The police claim they possess other facts that throw suspicion upon Mrs. Quinlan. Mrs. Quinlan and her husband separated about four months ago and it is said the murdered woman was partly the cause of the separation, owing to her attempt to convert Mrs. Quinlan to A. P. Aism. B. W. Grant says he met Sophia McLeod about five years ago on a boat going to Nova Scotia; that they were married soon after, and that they have never lived together.

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