

## THE BUDGET SPEECH.

## AN ERA OF PROSPERITY, SURPLUSES AND DECREASING TAXATION.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 3.—The galleries of the house of commons were well filled yesterday to hear the minister of finance deliver his budget speech.

Mr. Fielding said he had the pleasure of dealing with the most prosperous period in Canada's history. The operations of the past year had surpassed his expectations as outlined in the budget speech of a year ago. While a marked business revival had contributed to this he was convinced that the policy of the government was an important contributory cause. The revenue last year was \$40,555,235 or \$1,255,000 more than his estimate and \$2,125,000 more than the revenue of the previous year. Customs revenue showed an increase of \$2,229,645. There was a decrease in inland revenue returns but the net increase in revenue was \$2,725,456. Proceeding Mr. Fielding gave the details of the various articles on which there had been increases. The minister of finance next took up expenditure on account of consolidated fund. Last year it was \$38,832,525. This was \$738,000 larger than his estimate, and \$482,785 more than the previous year. The principal increases were on account of sinking fund, public works, mounted police, railways and canals and immigration. There were decreases in legislation militia and post office department. Thanks to the business like management of the postmaster general the post office department increased \$324,871 and the expenditure decreased \$214,066, a betterment in the department of \$538,937. This improvement led to the reduction of the domestic postage rate and the introduction of the imperial penny postage. (Cheers.)

Taking up the consolidated fund figures the minister of finance said there was a surplus for year ending June 30 last of \$1,722,712 made up as follows: Revenue \$40,555,235; expenditures, \$38,832,526; surplus, \$1,722,712. Thus the minister's expectation that the \$519,000 deficit of the previous year would be made up by a surplus in 1897-98, was more than made good. (Cheers.) The actual capital expenditure of 1897-8 was \$4,156,696. To this \$1,414,924 for railway subsidies should be added, making a total capital expenditure of \$5,571,620. After paying for this outlay and making provision for \$930,482 representing discount and expenses of the loan of 1897, the net debt increase was \$2,318,802.

## THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR.

The minister of finance next dealt with the figures of the present financial year ending June 30th. Up to April 30th the receipts were \$37,222,700 which is \$5,067,160 more than for the same period last year. Mr. Fielding estimated the receipts for the full year would be \$46,632,398 and expenditures \$42,026,028, which will leave in round numbers a surplus of \$4,606,000. (Cheers.) He said however, in consequence of the buoyancy of trade and the uncertainty of the Yukon gold royalty the surplus may be larger even than this. The net addition to the national debt this year will be \$1,700,000. "I see the hon. gentleman smiling," said Mr. Fielding to some of the members of the opposition, "at the modesty of the addition. With this small addition we have carried on great public works and we place it against your advantage of six millions per year. (Liberal Cheers.)"

## THE CURRENT YEAR.

Coming down to the current year 1899-1900, Mr. Fielding said that he could not make an estimate with any degree of certainty. Circumstances were so exceptional that he could only deal in general terms, but he did not expect that it would be less favorable than the current year. There was a net increase in expenditure of \$563,484 caused principally by an increase in the debt, immigration, railways and canals and the opening of the Yukon. The increase in the debt was caused by the retention of 3 per cent. interest on the Savings Bank deposits instead of reducing the rate to 2½ as was provided. The increase for immigration spoke for itself and increase in item of railways and canals was for the deepening of canals. The expenditure for the Yukon also explained itself. There was also an increase for militia so as to place the force in a more efficient state. Mr. Fielding explained here reasons which have already been published, that caused him not to reduce interests on deposits. If a reduction was made in the future, consideration would be made for small depositors by paying them a higher rate of interest.

## RECENT LOANS.

Touching upon the borrowing powers of the government he said that in 1897 power was taken to borrow \$23,000,000. In the fall of 1897 a loan of £2,000,000 was made and on the 1st of January of the present year there was discounted £500,000 sterling. Owing to the buoyancy of the revenue, the government did not find it necessary to exercise all borrowing power which it took. It has been represented, said the finance minister, that we are not in so healthy condition financially as we would claim. It has been said that while the government has had a surplus they have found it necessary to make a temporary loan. Temporary loans had sometimes to be made in the most prosperous years. Loans

have been made in years when there were handsome surpluses. If the finance minister was commencing a year with a clean sheet the first thing he would be required to do would be to go to the money market to secure a sum of \$2,000,000 which had to be paid over in advance to provincial governments and revenue from day to day could not be relied upon to meet expenditures. A balance of not less than one and a half million dollars on hand was necessary. When it was reduced to that amount the minister had to look around for more. Temporary loans were made to meet temporary conditions.

## THE DEBT INCREASE.

Mr. Fielding showed that the increase for the two years of the present government was exceptionally low. During the 15 years of Conservative rule he said that the average increase was \$6,000,000 while the average increase for the two years of Liberal rule was \$2,500,000. Again the charge had been made against the government that they had no surplus because when the capital had consolidated revenue was added together there was found to be a decrease. The present government treated the public accounts in just the same way as did their predecessors. Altogether sixteen surpluses have been shown, but if capital and ordinary expenditure were included there would be only two years in the 31 years since confederation when there were surpluses. Proceeding he showed that the Yukon administration was profitable; that the tobacco duties had increased the revenue, despite the increase in Canadian grown tobacco. He then took up the question of increased expenditure, and showed that the per capita expenditure last year was within a single exception the lowest for 14 years.

## THE ERA OF PROSPERITY.

The finance minister then produced the prosperity statistics and made a marvelous showing. He gave details which summarized show that for the total trade of Canada from 1879 to 1896, 18 years of Conservative rule, the increase was \$57,666,000. From 1895 to 1898, two years of Liberal rule, the increase was \$66,300,000. Mining statistics, savings bank deposits, bank clearings, life insurance business, decreased commercial failures, the railway and street railway earnings, were all quoted as proofs of prosperity.

## FOREIGN TRADE.

Mr. Fielding submitted a comparative statement of the foreign trade of Canada and the United States per head of population, to show that Canada in this matter was much ahead of the United States. The total trade of the United States per head of population in 1898 was \$24.60, and Canada's \$56.29. From 1868 the United States foreign trade increased by \$7.30 per head, ours increased by \$20.33. The United States' exports per head last year were \$16.24, while ours were \$27.54. The total trade (foreign) of the United States for 1896 was \$23.32 per head and for 1898 was \$24.60. Canada's total trade (foreign) for 1896 was \$41.69 and for 1898 \$56.29. Our increase was \$11.60 per head, while that of the United States was \$1.28. In 1897 the United States trade decreased \$34 per head and ours increased \$8.28.

Continuing he expressed doubt as to the outlook for the West Indian trade. In this connection Mr. Fielding made an announcement that the U. S. had issued an order to permit foreign vessels to load in Porto Rico for American ports.

## TARIFF LESS BUT COLLECTIONS LARGE.

Mr. Fielding said that the government had given the country a measure of tariff reform and fulfilled the pledges of 1893. Taking the tariff of 1896 item by item and applying it to the imports of 1898 and the duties collected on the latter they would have been \$24,152,827, instead of \$22,157,788, which was collected under the present tariff. This less refunds of \$120,037 leaves preferential or net duty collected \$22,032,790. This makes a reduction of taxation in 1898 over 1896 of \$2,115,778. If the amount of corn imported is deducted there would still be left the sum of \$1,642,047 less taxation than under the 1896 tariff. For the first nine months of the fiscal year 1898-99, the rate of duty was about 11 per cent, less than under the old tariff. As compared with the old tariff, the present year would show a remission of duties equal to \$3,000,000. Referring to specific and ad valorem duties Mr. Fielding said that there were 59 items on tariff on which the duty was specific or specific and ad valorem combined, all of which had been removed.

Mr. Foster—How many remain?  
Mr. Fielding—There are a number yet, but we are gradually removing them. The preferential tariff it was proven gave Great Britain a preference; and the increase of United States exports to Canada were largely of raw materials, a similar increase taking place into Great Britain. Coming to coal oil he announced that there would be no change in the duty but there would be changes in the regulations which would tend to reduce the price. There will be no tariff changes, as the government aimed so far as possible at present stability, in view of the recent date (only nine months) when a portion of the reductions came into effect. It was also not advisable to make tariff changes while negotiations with the United States were in progress.

Speaking of these negotiations, Mr. Fielding said Canadians were not as anx-

ious for reciprocity as they were two years ago.

Freer trade relations would always be desirable, but Canadians were never so well able as now to do without them. The negotiations would be resumed. If they failed, Canada will go on her present course with firmness and self-reliance. general feeling was that Canada would have a fair treaty or none at all.

In conclusion, the Finance minister uttered a note of warning. This was a time of great prosperity, but the pendulum might swing the other way. Not every year was a finance minister able to make such a showing as he had made to-day. We would not always have good crops and good prices. If people would take a word of advice, they would not clap on too much sail, so that when the check came they would be able to maintain Canada's position as the greatest colony of the greatest empire in the world.

Mr. Fielding closed at 9.30, having spoken three and a half hours.

Mr. Foster moved the adjournment of the debate.

## AN ODD TOMBSTONE.

A correspondent of the Chicago Record writing of the tombs in the little church at Williamsburg, Virginia—said to be the oldest protestant place of worship in the Western Hemisphere—says "In one corner I found this striking inscription:

"Here lies all the grave can claim  
of  
Mrs. Ann Timson Jones,  
Born 1 Sept., 1787.  
Mar. 26 Dec., 1855.  
Bapt'd 3 Mar., 1882.  
Died 6 June, 1849.

If woman ever yet did well;  
If woman ever did excel;  
If woman husband'er adored;  
If woman ever loved the Lord,  
If ever Faith and Hope and Love  
In human flesh did live and move;  
In all the Graces'er did meet—  
In her, in her, they were complete.

My Ann, my all, my Angel wife!  
My dearest one, my love, my life!  
I cannot say or sigh farewell,  
But where thou dwellest I will dwell."

"This epitaph was composed by a Baptist Clergyman named Scervant Jones, a well known and eccentric character in this part of the country for half a century. He seems to have resembled the Rev. Sam Jones, the Georgia revivalist, in some of his characteristics and had an odd way of mixing humor and piety. Mr. Jones lies beside his wife and his tombstone bears a long epitaph of an apologetic character. It speaks of his many faults and frailties, but gives him credit for being a useful and well-meaning man. His enemies are invited to forgive him and the public to remember that he was more sinned against than sinning.

"One of the stories they tell of Brother Jones is that while he was riding his circuit one day he stopped for rest and refreshment at the house of a planter named Towles. The family had just finished dinner as he arrived, and the servants were directed to bring back to the table what was left on the platter. When Mr. Jones sat down he said grace as follows:

"Good Lord of love,  
Look from above  
And bless the Towles  
Who ate these fowls  
And left the bones  
For Scervant."

"Another prayer of more blasphemous character, which has been attributed to several people, is also charged to him. It is said to have been uttered on a similar occasion when he stopped for dinner at the house of a parishioner, and reminded his host over the Almighty's shoulder that the food was not as good as it ought to be:

"Good Lord of love,  
Look from above  
On me and Sam,  
And give us meat  
That's fit to eat,  
For this ain't worth a d—."

"It is one of the traditions that only a few months after composing the affecting lines which are carved upon the tombstone of his wife, Mr. Jones married a rich widow who proved to be the master of the situation and left him little peace."

## "HIS MONEY IN THE STREET."

Catarrah Remedies Cost Him Hundreds and no Cure—Two Bottles of Dr. Agnew's Catarrah Powder Cured Him.

Fred H. Helb, jr., distiller, Railroad, York Co., Pa., on January 31st last wrote of Dr. Agnew's Catarrah Powder like this: "I had catarrh of the head and stomach for two years, and had it in the worst form. I spent several hundred dollars in remedies and might as well have thrown my money in the street. I was recommended to try Dr. Agnew's Catarrah Powder, and two bottles of it have already cured me. I am a well man and wish its makers the greatest of success." Sold at Short's Drug Store.

The following deaths of former provincialists are announced in Boston and vicinity: In Charlestown, April 23, Daniel Monahan, aged 87 years, formerly of St. John; in Malden, April 24, Gertrude S. Bridges, daughter of Robert and Emma Bridges of Charlestown, aged 32 years; in East Boston, April 26, Reuben Chapman, aged 35, formerly of Halifax; in Medford, John A. Hammond formerly of Newport, N. S., aged 56 years.

Hook's Penetrating Plasters.

## "Every Well Man Hath His Ill Day."

A doctor's examination might show that kidneys, liver and stomach are normal, but the doctor cannot analyze the blood upon which these organs depend.

Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies, vitalizes and enriches the blood. It cures you when "a bit off" or when seriously afflicted. It never disappoints.

Rheumatism—"I believe Hood's Sarsaparilla has no equal for rheumatism. It has done me more good than any other medicine I have taken." Mrs. PATRICK KENNEY, Brampton, Ont.

Bad Cough—"After my long illness, I was very weak and had a bad cough. I could not eat or sleep. Different remedies did not help me but Hood's Sarsaparilla built me up and I am now able to attend to my work." MINNIE JACQUES Oshano, Ont.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

## WILLED HIS HORSES DEATH.

MONTREAL SPORTSMAN'S DYING ORDERS ARE RELUCTANTLY CARRIED OUT.

MONTREAL, May 6.—Three weeks ago Dr. Wardle, a well-known young veterinary surgeon and sportsman, died rather suddenly, aged 38. He was the owner of several well-known steeple-chasers, among them Bushbolt, a winner of the Herald cup at Belair track; Felix, which he purchased from Mr. J. C. Seagram, M. P., of Waterloo, Ont., and Billy McKinley, his own personal steed. Yesterday those three animals lay dead, murdered at the request of their dead master. Dr. Wardle's will contained this clause: "It is my wish and desire that a week after my death my three horses, Billy McKinley, Bushbolt and Felix, shall be put to death in the most painless manner possible. This is my desire, because I would be much grieved should the animals, after the affection and the care I have had for them fall into the hands of people who would treat them cruelly or make them work or do anything which would make them suffer." Confronted by this unusual clause in the will, the executors had no alternative but to obey, and so the other day the three valuable animals were taken out to the club house of the Montreal Hunt Club, behind Mont Royal, and there killed, each in his turn by a shot from a revolver in the hands of Dr. Ernest Thurston. It is said that Billy McKinley was broken-hearted at the death of his master, whose body he followed to the grave; that he refused to eat anything from the time he missed the features which he loved so well. This is believed to be the first time in Canada that a sportsman has so provided for the killing of his favorite horses, though there have been several such instances in Great Britain and the United States.

## A Good Report.

"My mother was troubled with rheumatism in her knee for a number of years, and it broke out into a running sore. She has taken three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and now she is almost entirely well. She cannot speak too highly of this great medicine." Mrs. JOHN FARR, Cloverlawn, Ancaster, Ontario.

Hood's Pills cure nausea, sick headache, biliousness, indigestion, constipation.

## SO DELICATELY PUT.

A certain artist (a friend of the writer) who is distinguished for his extreme obesity none the less than for his sensitiveness of disposition, had a somewhat disheartening experience the other day. He had occasion to show some specimens of his portraiture to a number of friends, among whom was a gentleman of the self-made order.

The latter, not being aware of his profession, exhibited astonishment, and somewhat ingenuously inquired—

"Are you an artist?"

He modestly affirmed that he was, and is now slowly recovering from the effects of the reply.

"Well, I always thought you was a butcher."

## Children Cry for CASTORIA.

The railway from Yarmouth to Shelburne is to be in operation by the 1st of July.

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**Pain-Killer.**  
A Medicine Chast in Itself.  
Simple, Safe and Quick Cure for  
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Felt for Fancy Work,  
Men's Boots, Shoes and Rubbers,  
Ladies' " " " " " "  
Child's " " " " " "

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Receipts, Reports, Statements, Show Cards, Shipping Tags,  
Tickets, Visiting Cards, Wedding Cards, Wedding  
Invitations, executed with neatness and despatch.