

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Estimates—Bills—Kent Election—The Hon. Mr. Mitchell makes his Budget Speech.

On Saturday morning, the 15th inst., Mr. Mitchell submitted estimates of sums required for the service of the province not otherwise provided for the current year as follows:

Administration of Justice:
Equity chambers, St. John - \$150
Judges' chambers and law library, St. John - 300
Total - 450

Agriculture:
Expenses 100 imported horses - \$5,500
Stock farm - 150
Total - \$5,650

Blind asylum, Halifax - 1,350

Contingencies:
Legislature and public departments - \$12,500
Deaf and dumb institution maintenance - 1,500

Education:
School houses, poor districts - 1,500
Free grants - 5,000
Immigration - 2,500

Legislation:
Librarian - \$500
Insurance on library - 50
Books for library - 500
Total - 1,050

Assistant clerk, legislative council - \$500
Engraving clerk, legislative council - 300
Chaplain, legislative council - 80
Usher black rod, legislative council - 100
Door keeper, legislative council - 80
Messenger, legislative council - 80
Total - 1,300

Assistant clerk, house of assembly - \$500
Two engraving clerks - 600
Chaplain, house - 80
Sergeant-at-arms - 100
Door keeper, house - 80
Messenger, house - 80
Three messengers, house - 180
Two pages, house - 80
Total - 1,700

Lunatic asylum maintenance - 40,000
Natural history society - 125
Public health contingencies - 800
Public hospitals - 4,050
Public printing - 11,000

Public Works:
Great roads and bridges - \$5,500
Steam navigation - 5,000
Public buildings, legislative buildings and offices - 8,500
Government house - 500
Normal school - 2,500
Lunatic asylum - 1,000
Total - 14,000

Miscellaneous expenses - 2,850
By-roads - 70,000
Refunds crown lands - 200
Surveys and railway inspection - 1,000
Unforeseen expenses - 2,000
Grand total - \$381,845

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The motion that Mr. Speaker leave the chair was now put and carried, and the house went into

Committee of Supply.
When the immigration item was introduced the attorney general paid a high compliment to the practical agricultural capabilities of Mr. Boyce. The reports received from that gentleman so far had been satisfactory.

Dr. Stockton hoped the government would clarify attorney general paid a high compliment to the practical agricultural capabilities of Mr. Boyce. The reports received from that gentleman so far had been satisfactory.

Mr. Blair said he would not follow the hon. gentleman's rambling speech about unrestricted reciprocity. The farmers delegates had been invited here, and the government thought the delegates would get a good idea of the province by visiting the hon. gentleman's place at Johnville, Gloucester, Jacksonville and Florenceville, in Carleton county, which was really the garden of the province. Had time permitted, the government would have pleased to have had the delegates visit every part of the province. What they had seen in the places named enabled the delegates to make a more favorable report and that must be to this province at least of immense advantage.

House adjourned till Thursday morning. Mr. McKeown, for a committee to whom shall be referred the bill establishing liens on logs and lumber; carried.

On the motion that the house go into committee to further consider supply, Mr. Alward said he desired to make a few remarks. The auditor general's report contains information well calculated to alarm the people of this province. The paragraph in the speech from the throne referring to the bridges that had simultaneously fallen into decay reminded him of the words of the Hon. Deschenes minister, or the wonderful One Horse Shay. It had run for 100 years when all of a sudden it collapsed. So it was with the bridges of the country. The debt too was rapidly growing. What was the condition of the country? The Hon. Deschenes minister in 1871? In that year the debt of the province was \$1,000,000 and there was a deficit of \$45,000. There is an admitted deficit of upwards of \$42,000 and the over expenditure by the board of works as well as the other sums already stated, make up the \$87,000.

Mr. Alward - Again in 1884 the traveling expenses of the auditor general amounted to \$384, in 1880 the same hon. gentleman's traveling expenses were \$600. Hon. Mr. Pugsley - That was a special matter. Before adopting the

Role of an Amateur.
Mr. Alward - I have been accurate as to his facts. The hon. member started out with the statement that there was an admitted deficit in the current revenue last year of \$42,887, in other words that the province had expended that amount more than it had received. If the hon. member wanted to be fair he would have deducted from that amount the \$34,243 due the province by the Maritime bank. To be strictly correct, the amount of the deficit was \$8,343. Of that sum \$2,900 was an account of the special grant to the Hon. John exhibition, for which no provision had been made in the estimate. That would reduce the apparent deficit to \$5,443, and \$4,000 of that amount went into the sinking fund, which would reduce the deficit to \$1,443. If hon. members would look at page seven of the auditor general's report they would see carried forward to the debit side of a balance from the year before, the sum of \$2,888, thus it would be seen that instead of a deficit in current revenue there was as a matter of fact a small surplus. It was unfair for an hon. member like Mr. Alward, who aspires to be a statesman to peek out an item here and there in the public accounts and twist them to suit his convenience. The over expenditure in the board of works account could not be charged to current account. It was properly chargeable to capital account. The hon. member had referred to an increase in the public debt; he had not told his constituents that the public debt had increased. In 1881 when the present attorney general called attention to the financial condition of the province, there was a floating debt of \$321,374.

Mr. Stocketon - That's not so.
Mr. Stocketon - This building was erected out of that.
Hon. Mr. Pugsley - In 1880 the old government borrowed money on debentures on which they paid interest of six per cent. This government had so managed the affairs of the province that four per cent bonds are selling to-day at par.

Mr. Turner - What has the government to do with that?
Mr. Pugsley - A government's management must much to do with the credit of a province or country.
Mr. Pugsley in his concluding remarks briefly summarized the items complained of by Mr. Alward. He compared the management of the old government from 1876 to 1882 with the traveling expenses of this government from 1886 to 1890, showing a saving in favor of this government of nearly \$4,000.

After recess the debate was continued by Mr. Stocketon who stated that he thought the finances of the country imperatively demanded a reduction on all hands.
Mr. Wilson followed, Mr. Stocketon claimed to the effectors of St. John in 1886 that the finances of the country were in an excellent position, and spoke of the remarks of the late leader of the opposition in 1885, and of Phinney and Atkinson in 1888-89. The hon. member from St. John (Alward) makes the deficit \$87,000, while (Powell) made it \$37,000. The discrepancy the opposition were most extraordinary. Had the author of the One Horse Shay heard in advance Dr. Alward recite it to these melancholy tones of his, he would never have written it. He (Wilson)

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The house then went into committee of supply and passed a number of items, adjourning at one o'clock, a. m.

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Hon. Mr. Mitchell defended the manner of keeping the printing accounts and pointed out that the prices were the same as had been paid for years.
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Hon. Mr. Blair said it might be thought he was wanting in courtesy if he did not reply to the leader of the opposition. That hon. member had allowed himself to be made a vehicle for the transmission of all kinds of scandals that might be circulated about the streets against himself (Blair) or any other member of the government. It was time that the hon. member tried to act of a man and sought to inform himself on the matters of public interest before thrusting malicious insinuations against the government. The leader of the opposition had charged him with being the owner or one of the owners of THE HERALD newspaper. He had most emphatically denied. He had no financial interest in that newspaper; he held none of the stock nor did any one hold stock in it for him. The paper was owned by gentlemen interested in both sides of dominion politics and he was glad to say that they were friendly to him. He did not hesitate to say that he desired to assist that paper in every legitimate manner. If any one doubted his statement that he had no financial interest in the Herald he was willing that there should be the fullest investigation of the matter. He courted the fullest inquiry on the subject. He did not know whether the charge made by the Blair for printing the report of the Blair inquiry was an excessive one or not. He had never known what THE HERALD bill for that work was until he had seen the item in the report of the auditor general, and he assumed that the bill was not an unreasonable one or it would not have been passed by the auditor general, who deals with all such matters according to a fixed scale of rates for printing. He was prepared to admit that this government could not defend its action by a comparison with the acts of the old government. What he did say, however, was that it did not become the leader of the opposition to challenge any member of the opposition to disprove any statement he made there in reference to the finances of the country. The method of bookkeeping adopted by the auditor general of this province would compare favorably with the manner in which the dominion accounts were kept. The government had nothing to conceal and they courted the closest investigation with every item of the public accounts.

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And ice upon his chin.
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Who cares a kilogram?
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Ram's Horn: A woman can say more with a few tears than a man can express in a book.
Binghampton Leader: We suppose it is called the highway because it is the highway along which people are accustomed to lie.

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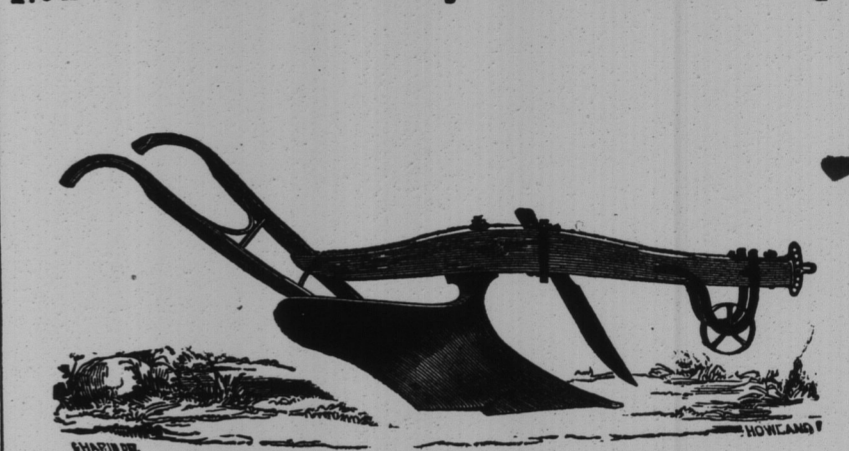
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Hon. Mr. Mitchell defended the manner of keeping the printing accounts and pointed out that the prices were the same as had been paid for years.
Hon. Mr. Hamilton said it would not do for this government to try and excuse themselves by saying the old government did this or that. He criticized the manner in which accounts for printing were placed in the reports, and said it now reported THE HERALD editor is to be translated to the office of Queen's printer. If that be so, no doubt THE HERALD printed by the friends of the attorney general, will also be transferred to that office.
Hon. Mr. Blair said it might be thought he was wanting in courtesy if he did not reply to the leader of the opposition. That hon. member had allowed himself to be made a vehicle for the transmission of all kinds of scandals that might be circulated about the streets against himself (Blair) or any other member of the government. It was time that the hon. member tried to act of a man and sought to inform himself on the matters of public interest before thrusting malicious insinuations against the government. The leader of the opposition had charged him with being the owner or one of the owners of THE HERALD newspaper. He had most emphatically denied. He had no financial interest in that newspaper; he held none of the stock nor did any one hold stock in it for him. The paper was owned by gentlemen interested in both sides of dominion politics and he was glad to say that they were friendly to him. He did not hesitate to say that he desired to assist that paper in every legitimate manner. If any one doubted his statement that he had no financial interest in the Herald he was willing that there should be the fullest investigation of the matter. He courted the fullest inquiry on the subject. He did not know whether the charge made by the Blair for printing the report of the Blair inquiry was an excessive one or not. He had never known what THE HERALD bill for that work was until he had seen the item in the report of the auditor general, and he assumed that the bill was not an unreasonable one or it would not have been passed by the auditor general, who deals with all such matters according to a fixed scale of rates for printing. He was prepared to admit that this government could not defend its action by a comparison with the acts of the old government. What he did say, however, was that it did not become the leader of the opposition to challenge any member of the opposition to disprove any statement he made there in reference to the finances of the country. The method of bookkeeping adopted by the auditor general of this province would compare favorably with the manner in which the dominion accounts were kept. The government had nothing to conceal and they courted the closest investigation with every item of the public accounts.

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