

THE LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 28.—Hon. Mr. Labllois followed the leader of the opposition, Dr. Stockton, in the budget debate on Saturday. He said: During the last fourteen or fifteen years I have not taken up much of the time of the house in making speeches, but on the present occasion I think I will be warranted in making some remarks, especially as the department of agriculture has come in for considerable criticism at the hands of the opposition. I do not intend to follow the leader of the opposition through his long address of three hours. As he has referred to the offices of public works and crown lands department, and as the hon. gentlemen in charge of these departments will answer for themselves, I will not delay the house with touching on matters properly in these departments, but will say a word regarding the bonded indebtedness of the province. I am willing to take my share of responsibility with regard to the increase of the public debt, since the action of the government in 1883. The people of the province, through their representatives, have from time to time since that date been asking for subsidies for railways, promised in most cases, almost in every case, by the legislation of 1883; and the action of the government in granting these subsidies has been approved by the people at each general election; and I might say at nearly every by-election since the change of government in 1883. (Applause.)

The hon. leader of the opposition has referred to the fact that certain crown lands held by wealthy lumber companies were not being operated on, while poor men could not secure lands to lumber upon. He has referred particularly to the Muskoka Lumber Company, which held crown lands in the county of Restigouche. I will tell the hon. gentleman that in that county it is only when there is a rumor of a general election that we hear any talk of the Muskoka Lumber Company not operating. (Hear, hear.) The lumber merchants in Restigouche, and even the smaller operators had secured what lumber they required, and if the lands of the Muskoka Lumber Company were thrown open, the small operators would not invest a dollar in those lands. There are hundreds of miles of vacant lumber lands in Restigouche. I think I am within the mark in saying that we have at least 45 square miles of lumber lands in Restigouche not yet taken up, and in view of this fact it is not idle to say that the Muskoka Lumber Company's being in Restigouche seriously affects the smaller operators? (Applause.)

As the hon. provincial secretary has pointed out, the province is receiving an income of \$4 per mile annually from the lands of the Muskoka company; the lumber is growing, and the only ones who complain are those who are understood to be the candidates in opposition to the government. (Applause.) I learned recently that one of the gentlemen who had been making a strong case about the Muskoka company had become discouraged of his prospects of success in the elections, that he has left for the Klondyke. (Applause.) In accepting the position of commissioner of agriculture, I was taking upon my shoulders a great responsibility, because in looking at the situation in our own province and following what had been done in other provinces, there was a great work to be done to place the farmers of New Brunswick on the same footing as the farmers of the other provinces of the dominion. A short time after my appointment to office, the government made an importation of pure-bred stock. This had been recommended by the agricultural committee of the house of assembly and by a resolution by the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association at their annual meeting held in 1897. The importation was a great success. The original cost of the 115 cattle imported was \$6,000. The average of each animal was \$57.39. The sales amounted to \$5,640; average of each animal, \$53.37. We imported 100 sheep, \$2,788; average of each animal, \$27.88. The proceeds of the sheep sale amounted to \$1,954; average of each, \$19.54. The total cost of importation, including expenses of delegates, freight, keep and advertising, \$12,230. The total sales amounted to \$10,382, showing a difference of \$1,848. The average cost of importation of 1891 for each animal was \$35.03; and the average sale was \$52. It will thus be seen that from the standpoint of income, the recent importation was most satisfactory; and there is no doubt that the result was very largely due to the gentlemen who had been entrusted with the selection of the stock. (Applause.) The department exercised great care in furnishing the purchasers with the pedigrees and transfers belonging to their animals. Before going any further I might say to the hon. member for York (Pinder) that whatever I may be now—clerk or merchant—that it was when I was in the position of a clerk, seventeen years ago, in a large store where we received between 40,000 and 50,000 lbs. of pork per year, besides a large quantity of grain and other products from the farmers, that I gained information, which I find very valuable at the present time in conducting the affairs of my department. (Applause.) Besides this, I have had sixteen years' experience as the representative in this house of a farming county, in addition to being a member of an agricultural society for many years; and in view of all these facts and circumstances, my colleagues may not have been so very censurable in entrusting me with the position of head of the new department of agriculture. (Applause.)

Passing on from the importation my attention was drawn to the fact that the dairy school at Sussex, which had been managed by the dominion government, would not be operated in future by them. I communicated immediately with Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, urging upon him to continue the school, but the minister gave me to understand that he expected each province to take

charge of such matters in future. I made arrangements at once for the opening of the dairy school at a provincial centre, and the result is our taking charge of the school at Sussex. (Applause.) In connection with the school we have been experimenting in the direction of winter butter making. In this respect I may say that from the 11th of November last till the first of the present month over ten thousand pounds of butter have been made at Sussex, which butter has been brought at the markets of St. John and Halifax 20 cents per pound, and the factory has been unable to supply the demand. A much larger quantity of butter will be made next winter, as we are hopeful that separators will be placed at Petticoat, Cornhill, Havelock, Jeffrey, Corner Mount, Middleton and Norton in addition to the separators now located at Sussex, Berwick and Watford. If we are successful in our hopes the house will be able to supply the demand at Sussex should turn out in the six winter months at least 60,000 pounds of butter, and indeed there is no reason why the quantity should not go up to 100,000 pounds. (Applause.) The dairy school is now open, and any young man of the lower provinces may be instructed in butter and cheese making without any cost for tuition. Notwithstanding the statement of the dominion minister of agriculture in the direction I have named, that hon. gentleman is kindly assisting us by placing at our disposal the valuable services of Mr. Hopkins of the Nappan farm. (Applause.) I feel that there is a great future for this province along the line of dairying, especially in the winter butter making.

Westmorland is a good county for winter butter making. The southern and northern parts of Kent county also afford a good field in this direction, and the same may be said of Carleton county. In this latter county there is a great work to be done, and I am glad to learn since the holding of our recent farmers' meetings a movement was on foot to open factories that have been closed. The county of Carleton should be making a great deal more cheese and butter, raising more pork and beef than it is, for in that way, besides an immediate direct financial benefit to the farmers of that splendid county, they would thereby preserve the fertility of their lands. I am glad to notice the prospects of dairying in many other counties of the province were improving, and I look forward to a great increase in the manufacture of cheese and butter all over our province. (Applause.)

It was important for farmers residing in localities where factories were situated to be united in making such factories a success. I am led to make this remark from the fact that in some localities I visited I found factories closed on account of dissensions existing among the farmers. On trifling matters, and it is for reasons such as this that some one in authority should visit the factories from time to time remove or prevent such differences.

I desire to say a few words with regard to the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association recently held throughout the province. I notice that some of the newspapers were endeavoring to leave the impression that these meetings were organized for political purposes. I wish to state now that after I was appointed to office a committee from the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association had an interview with me and made the request that their grant be increased to the sum of \$600 to carry on a certain number of institute meetings in the province so as to arouse a more general interest among the farmers to the possibilities of the business operations. I gave the matter some consideration before I made any recommendations to my colleagues in the government. I found that the province of Ontario farmers' institutes were first began in 1889. And were placed in definite form in 1889. In 1889 twelve meetings were held in Ontario, and 2,308 persons attended to hear the discussions of practical questions for farmers and the result of the experiments. The session of 1896 and '97, 659 meetings were held in Ontario, 3,227 addresses were given, 125,177 persons attended the meetings. The government of Ontario issues a farmers' institute report containing many of the most valuable papers read at these meetings, which papers are sent broadcast all over Ontario. In the western states institute meetings have been carried on for years.

After having ascertained what had been done and was being done in other countries, as soon as Hon. Mr. Emmerson became leader of the government, at our first meeting of council, I made the recommendation that the increased grant to the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association, which recommendation was cheerfully approved by my colleagues in the government and following that the corresponding secretary of the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association and myself set to work and made arrangements for the holding of forty or fifty meetings. We have had to cancel some of these meetings on account of recent storms, especially in York, Sunbury and Charlotte. These counties, as well as Madawaska, will be attended to in due time. (Applause.) The state of Maine in 1896 held 46 meetings; total attendance, 6,210; average attendance, 135; average cost, \$43.15. We held in all, 38 meetings, 50 sessions; total attendance, 5,700. Counting morning, afternoon and night meetings, the average was 190. Average cost, \$22.11. It is time we received valuable assistance from Hon. Mr. Fisher, who not only sent Col. McRae to talk on tuberculosis, but gave us material aid in placing at our disposal Dr. Fletcher of the Nappan experimental farm, and the three gentlemen who were at the Nappan farm. The hon. member for York (Pinder) made the statement that not a single one of the speakers attending the meetings was a farmer. He surely was not in earnest. Mr. Robinson, one of the best farmers in Canada, Col. McRae has a high reputation in Ontario, not only as a farmer, but as a stock raiser. We also had, as I have said, Dr. Fletcher, W. Saxby Blair, Mr. Hopkins and J. E. Starr, four gentlemen who were known to be well posted in the subjects they treat upon

or they would not be employed by a man of such experience as the Hon. Sydney Fisher. Mr. Millberry of Carleton county was also among the speakers, and no one will say that he is not a farmer; and I may say right here that the representatives of Carleton county in this house have reason to be proud of him. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Millberry, after having attended the meetings by our dairy superintendents, by information received at those meetings decided to improve his system of dairy butter making, and at the St. John exhibition took first prize, and he was certainly a very valuable man at the meetings, as there is a great work to be done in dairy butter making. Mr. Jack of St. John, who spoke at some of our meetings on poultry, was certainly posted in his line. The most valuable man to attend those meetings is W. W. Hubbard, editor of the Co-Operative Farmer.

The farmers of the province themselves took great interest in these meetings, and in the future they will be expected to take an increased interest, and as I am informed by the dominion minister of agriculture, the province will be expected to furnish their own dairy superintendents. We expect to hold during the next twelve months at least one hundred meetings in New Brunswick. (Applause.)

I wish to thank the members of the house who assisted in the different counties in making our meetings a success, and hope they will take the same interest in the meetings in the future. The secretary of the institute meetings held in the state of Maine pays a high tribute to the members of the Maine legislature for having so well assisted in making the farmers' meetings a success.

I find in the thirty-eighth annual report of the secretary of the board of education for Maine the following under the heading of institutes: "I wish to acknowledge the great assistance which the members have rendered in the work, and again urge upon all the necessity for much local work in planning and perfecting the meetings. If any new effort shall be made or new lines of work marked out the government will be glad to assist them. I think I am justified in saying that the members of the legislature have been along the line for better drawing out the interests of the people by the local members. We believe this duty has been too much overlooked in many instances." The report of the Maine legislature is no way add to the efficiency of the work better than by actually canvassing their counties for this purpose."

FREDERICTON, N. B., Feb. 28.—Mr. Chipman introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the New Brunswick Masonic Company. Mr. Dunn, a bill to enable the rector church wardens and rectory of St. Luke's church, Portland, to issue decrees and for other purposes; Mr. Porter, a bill to amend Grand Falls incorporation act; Hon. Mr. White, to amend the act respecting practice and proceedings in the supreme court in equity; Hon. Mr. Richard, relating to St. Joseph's College, the name thereof to be the University of St. Joseph College.

Mr. Mott from corporation committee submitted a report. On the motion that Mr. Speaker leave the chair and that the house go into further consideration of supply Mr. Stockton made an explanation of his remarks on the budget debate.

After recess, the house in committee of supply, passed the item on the item of encouragement of dairying, \$4,000. Mr. Pinder asked if the government had not paid Mr. Inche to give up the office of secretary for agriculture? Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that Mr. Inche had a claim of \$1,200, which he claimed as a result of an arrangement he had made with the late Hon. Mr. Mitchell when the work in connection with the Dairyman's Association was begun. The claim extended over a period of six years, Mr. Inche asserting that he was to be paid of \$200 a year for each of the six years by reason of extra work imposed upon him. His claim was \$1,200, and the government settled with him for \$1,000. This amount was not paid Mr. Inche either as a bonus or as superannuation. Hon. Mr. White said that by Hon. Mr. White further amending chapter 58 consolidated statutes and by Hon. Mr. White further amending the law respecting parish courts.

Mr. Pinder gave notice of motion for a statement in detail showing articles sold and the prices received therefor and the persons to whom sold making up the amount \$291.25 stated on page 26 of the auditor general's report as " sundries sold " of the agricultural products of the Lunenburg county. He gave notice of motion for a statement in detail of the cost of stock importation, stated on page 139 of the auditor general's report for 1897, to be \$12,823.30, giving cost and sex of each animal, the cost of conveyance, and all expense and charges of the commissioners or each of them, in detail, and including a statement in detail of all expenses incurred at Fredericton and in connection with the sale thereof.—Adjourned.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 1.—Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill amending the act relating to public slaughter houses in the city of St. John.

Dr. Alward introduced a bill to incorporate the St. John branch and city union of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons.

Hon. Mr. Richard asked the privilege of the house to make an explanation of the motion he made during the debates the hon. leader of the opposition (Stockton) had stated by the consolidated county courts additional taxes had been placed on the municipalities. He had stated that a sum of eight hundred or one thousand dollars had been placed upon the county of Westmorland alone, and of course what applied to that county would apply to all the counties of the province. He had further stated that next year would show that he was right. He said that he did not believe the statement, because as treasurer of the county of Westmorland, all such accounts passed through his hands. The hon. member (Stockton) had also stated the clerk of the county of

Westmorland had an account of \$200 which the judge of the county court had refused to certify. He (Richard) was now in a position to say that no such extra charges had been placed on the county of Westmorland. He was wired to the clerk of the county court of that county as to the claim of two hundred dollars, to which the hon. member (Stockton) referred, and had received the following reply: "Your telegram is the first I ever heard of such a matter. It is not true." Mr. Richard said the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house should not indulge in these charges unless they were prepared to formulate a definite accusation. Their charges in this matter were as baseless as those made in reference to the lunatic asylum management. Every person in the province was interested in the proper management of that institution, and it was a most unjustifiable proceeding to seek to create the impression that the asylum simply served as a dumping ground for suicides in the St. John falls.

Mr. Pitts—Do you deny that three of them went into the falls from lack of attention last year? Hon. Mr. Richard thought the hon. member's statement was only based upon surmise. It might be that these missing patients had disappeared in that way, but if the hon. member had evidence of mismanagement in his possession he ought to formulate his charges.

Mr. Pitts—Have you talked this thing over with the government, and do you want an investigation? Hon. Mr. Richard said he did not think he was especially obliged to tell the hon. member for York whether or not he had consulted his colleagues in the government. The government had already intimated to the hon. member that they feared no investigation whatever. If there was any wrong doing on the part of any of the officials of the asylum, the government were only too anxious to be informed of it.

Dr. Stockton—Do I understand the hon. member is demanding an investigation on the part of the government? Dr. Alward—Has not the hon. member wandered from his subject? Mr. Speaker—The hon. member should confine himself to the explanation.

Hon. Mr. Richard—I simply wished to show that the hon. member was entirely mistaken in the statement he made yesterday with regard to the county court act. He had incidentally referred to the asylum, and he would say now that in both of these matters the hon. gentlemen opposite were derelict in their duty in making statements that they were not prepared to back up by evidence.

Dr. Stockton said he felt obliged to the hon. member for Westmorland in giving him an opportunity to refer to this question. Hon. Mr. White—I rise to a point of order.

Dr. Stockton—The hon. gentleman was disingenuous when he sought to confine my criticisms to sections 101 and 105 of the county courts act. I say still that the act placed an additional burden upon the municipality, and I will later show how that is done. Hon. Mr. White—I confined my criticisms to the same sections that you did.

Hon. Mr. Dunn committed a bill to amend the game law, Mr. Carpenter in the chair. Mr. Dunn explained that under the bill each sportsman was restricted to one moose, one caribou and two deer. It also provided a close season for two years upon moose and caribou on the west side of the River St. John, and of five years in the county of Albert for moose, caribou and deer.

Dr. Stockton said he had been informed that the calling season for moose did not commence until October, and that perhaps it would be better to restrict the moose killing season to the period from October 1st to December 1st.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said that the hon. member was mistaken—that the best calling time was in September. He had consulted many sportsmen and they seemed to think the season provided was about right.

Mr. Porter thought it was useless to pass game laws unless they were enforced. He was informed that Hon. John Costigan had taken about all the beaver off the Tobique river.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said he regretted that the hon. member had credited such a rumor. He was satisfied there was no truth in the report. On the contrary, Hon. Mr. Costigan had the greatest interest in the protection of the beaver, and had asked him (Tweedie) to have a special game warden appointed to protect them.

Mr. Porter said doubtless the hon. provincial secretary's statement was correct, but that some of the people on the Tobique had stated to him that Hon. Mr. Costigan had taken the beaver.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said Hon. Mr. Costigan had shown the greatest interest in the protection of the beaver, and he did not think it reasonable to suppose that the hon. gentleman was himself destroying these animals. Hon. Mr. Costigan had interviewed him specially in reference to the matter and had impressed upon him the necessity of appointing special game wardens to protect the beaver.

Mr. Porter had recommended a man by the name of Merrithew for the purpose of protecting the beaver. This was another instance of what might happen by crediting lying rumors.

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Hon. Mr. Dunn said that sub-section 2 of section 3 was an amendment from

the law of last year, and was passed to make it clear that non-resident guides and camp helpers had to pay a license of \$20.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said our guides were shut out from Maine, and therefore it was reasonable that a tax should be placed on non-resident guides.

Dr. Stockton thought resident guides should be registered, the same as in Maine.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie thought the suggestion was a very good one, and he would suggest that the sub-section stand over in order that it might be perfected.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said that under the bill the partridge season would close on 1st December, instead of first of January, as formerly.

Mr. Fowler asked if the surveyor general intended to place a bounty upon wild cats and lynx.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said, yes; the bill provided a bounty of \$5 on wolves and fifty cents on lynx and wild cats. He also mentioned that sub-section 2 of section 7 provided a period of ten days for taking the carcass or pelts of game animals out of the woods.

Hon. Mr. Robinson hoped that the section prohibiting the catching and keeping of moose, caribou and deer would not interfere with Mr. Selick's moose farm at Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said the bill was not retrospective.

Mr. Porter thought written returns should be received from each county warden as to all licenses issued and game killed in their respective counties. He thought each county should issue its own licenses.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said the trouble was that when sportsmen came here from the States they had little time to waste, and it was very convenient for them to apply to the nearest warden for their licenses.

Progress was reported. Hon. Mr. White committed a bill to amend chap. 48 of Consolidated Statutes, witnesses and evidence. Mr. Robinson in the chair.—Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Mott submitted a report from corporations committee.

Hon. Mr. White reported from the committee on law practice and procedure.

Mr. Mott introduced a bill further relating to the town of Campbellton. Hon. Mr. White committed a bill to amend chap. 62, Con. Statutes, summary convictions, Mr. Porter chairman.

Agreed to. After recess, Mr. Lockhart committed a bill relating to the assessment for water supply in the city of St. John, Mr. Smith, chairman.—Agreed to.

Mr. Shaw committed a bill authorizing an assessment in the city of St. John to meet expenses incurred by the corporation for the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen, Mr. Smith, chairman.—Agreed to with amendments, and an amended title.

Mr. Hill, from the standing rules committee submitted a report. Mr. Sumner committed a bill enabling the trustees of the First Moncton Baptist church to issue debentures on the security of their corporate property, Mr. Fowler, chairman.—Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Fowler introduced a bill incorporating the Provincial Coal Company. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill authorizing the town council of Chatham to issue debentures to the sum of \$20,000, also relating to taxation in the town of Chatham.

Adjourned. FREDERICTON, March 2.—Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill in further amendment of chap. 65, Con. Stat., of schools. Hon. Mr. Tweedie explained that the bill provided that the premier of the province might preside at meetings of the board of education in the absence of the lieutenant governor. It also provided that school districts might if they saw fit provide means for conveying children to school.

Hon. Mr. Richard introduced a bill to enable the county council of Westmorland to sell and convey certain lands in the parish of Salisbury held for school purposes.

Hon. Mr. Labllois presented the report on agriculture for 1897.

Hon. Mr. White introduced a bill to authorize the boards of school trustees to dispose of real or personal estate.

Mr. Beveridge introduced a bill continuing the act to incorporate the Grand Falls Power and Boom company.

Mr. Hill submitted a report from the standing rules committee.

Dr. Stockton said he rose to a question of privilege. He said by an article in the St. John Globe that on nomination day in Gloucester a telegram was received from the premier stating that Mr. Stewart, having been chosen by a convention of the friends of the government, should support him, and that Mr. Veniot, M. P., announced that Mr. Poirier, if elected, should have nothing to say in the disposal of patronage. He (Stockton) thought the attention of the house should be called to such an extraordinary statement. That a member of this house, apparently with the authority of the premier, should make such a statement on hustings for the purpose of intimidating the electors of the constituency was certainly a revelation and one that struck at the independence of the electors of the country.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Emmerson, he did not know the exact contents of the telegram, but he was certain that nothing had been done that would reflect upon the government in any way. He presumed, the premier of the province would exercise the right, or the government would exercise the right, of making a choice of a candidate. So far as the county of Gloucester was concerned a convention of the friends of the government was held, and they selected a candidate. Whether they were wise or not in their selection was not for the government to say. It was the duty of the government to adopt the choice of the convention. He did not think the whole fabric of local responsible self government was likely to be abolished because the government was backing up its friends or supporters in a constituency.

Dr. Stockton—What I wanted to

know was whether I was authorized to make the statement I made in the election.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that the statement was a correct statement of the facts. He said that the statement was a correct statement of the facts.

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