

Budget Debate Still Going On

The Solicitor General Unable to Answer the Charges of the Leader of the Opposition—Speeches by Messrs. Leger, Bentley, Sormany and Others on the Failure of the Government.

The budget debate was not concluded when the House adjourned at 11 o'clock last night. In the afternoon Mr. McLeod addressed the House in a wordy harangue in which he completely failed to answer any of the charges made against the government. Many of the statements made by the Solicitor General were absurdly incorrect and too ridiculous to merit serious attention. The speakers on the opposition side were Dr. Sormany, Mr. Bentley and the Messrs. Leger. The only supporter of the government who summoned up sufficient courage to address the House in defence of the government was Mr. McLachlan, of Northumberland. Mr. Burchill criticized the government for some of its acts and expressed his satisfaction with others. When the House adjourned Mr. Jones, of Kings had the floor.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

The House met at 3 o'clock. Reports of the various standing committees were presented.

Hon. Mr. Flemming presented the annual report of the Miramichi Natural History Society, also that of the N. B. Historical Society.

Mr. Burchill introduced a bill relating to the Bartibogue Boom Co.

Mr. Hatheway introduced a bill to provide for a Bureau of Labor.

Mr. Copp moved for a return of the expenditure of Ezra P. Hoar on the roads in Albert Co.

Mr. Upham gave notice of enquiry relating to Mr. G. H. Harrison, and also as to school books in Messrs. Tompkins store at Bath.

Mr. Woods gave notice of motion for suspension of Rule 79 in favor of a bill relating to certain lands in Gagetown.

Mr. McLachlan gave notice of motion regarding a bill respecting the town of Chatham.

Mr. Wilson gave notice of motion with reference to an act relating to civic elections in the city of St. John and also relating to an act regarding the building of wharves, etc., in the harbor of St. John.

Mr. Munro presented the petitions of the town of Woodstock in favor of a bill relating to that town; also relating to a bill authorizing the town of Woodstock to borrow \$10,000; also of A. W. Hay and others praying for a continuance of certain acts referring to the Meduxnekeag Boom Co.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to incorporate the Fenton Land and Building Co.

Mr. Murray introduced a bill relating to the trustees of the Reformed Presbyterian Church at Barnesville.

Dr. Sormany presented the petition of N. A. Landry in favor of authorizing the municipality of Gloucester to grant \$25,000 in aid of the Northern New Brunswick and Seaboard Railway Company.

A second petition of N. A. Landry in favor of a bill, also of N. A. Landry, authorizing the municipality of Gloucester to borrow \$6,000.

Mr. Young introduced a bill to amend the Act relating to Presbyterian churches in New Brunswick so far as it relates to St. Paul's church, Fredericton.

Mr. McLachlan presented the petition of J. G. Forbes and others favoring a bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Auxiliary of the Canadian Bible Society.

Mr. Pinder presented the petition of the New Brunswick Railway Company favoring a bill to amend that Company's Incorporation Act.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill to further amend the Schools Act, authorizing an increase in the assessments for school purposes at Fredericton from \$18,000 to \$20,000 and at Chatham from \$10,000 to \$15,000; and to provide for the establishment of a sinking fund by the town of Chatham.

Mr. Pinder introduced a bill to incorporate the Southampton Railway Company.

Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to incorporate the Tobique Pulp and Paper Company.

Mr. Robinson, for Mr. LaBillois, introduced a bill relating to the town of Dalhousie.

Hon. Mr. McLeod introduced a bill to incorporate the Fredericton Street Railway Company.

Mr. Copp gave notice of enquiry regarding the Narrows Bridge, Queen's County.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL.

The order of the day being called Hon. Mr. McLeod, resuming the budget debate said that the leader of the opposition in his criticism of the budget had at the outset made a facetious comparison of Hon. Mr. Flemming as opposition critic delivering a hard criticism and now in delivering the budget being guilty of the same offences which he had placed against former provincial secretaries.

Mr. Flemming's deliverance of the budget speech had been marked by that same clearness of detail and straightforward presentation that had

in that direction were in every way the equal of the Annapolis Valley.

DR. SORMANY

Dr. Sormany said he had been very much impressed by the speech of the provincial secretary and even more so by that of the leader of the opposition. The provincial secretary had found it comparatively easy to show a surplus existing in figures, but the leader of the opposition had found it easier to show that the surplus didn't exist in fact. One of his pledges the government made before coming into power was that they would do away with all overexpenditure, but notwithstanding the provisions of the audit act which was supposed to prevent anything of the kind, there was just as much overexpenditure as there ever had been. It could be found all over the report of the auditor general, the only addition being some specimens of orders in council. The provincial secretary referring to the question of stimpage had credited the government with having performed the wonderful feat of getting more stimpage out of less lumber. If this was true then the government had been getting some over appropriations under false pretenses for the surveyor general had written to the auditor general on more than one occasion asking for a further appropriation on account of the larger quantity of lumber cut, the original appropriation had been used up in expenses. The new highway act was said by the members of the government to be working nicely. His own experience was that it was not doing anything of the kind. He did not wish to condemn the law altogether because there were some points in it which were very good particularly regarding the performance of statute labor, but the main flaw in it was the government's nominee on the highway boards which brought politics into the matter and made the roads a party question. The alteration made by the government in the liquor license law had been beneficial in some respects and he was willing to give the government credit for this, although as far as local option was concerned the present regulations were not so good as they were before.

The parish of Shippegan had been able through a petition, to have the issuing of liquor licenses in that parish stopped after May 1st next, but that had been through a provision made by the late government. In the granting of this petition the Executive Council had done their duty, and he wished to sincerely congratulate the government on that account. Hon. Mr. Hazen wanted to know if the hon. gentleman felt that the decision of the date of holding no-license elections should be left with the municipal council, rather than fixed for the same date as the municipal election. Mr. Sormany said that was about what he meant.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the bill originally did not state that no license elections should be held on the date of municipal elections, but that provision to that effect was put in it at the request of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation, who felt that a larger vote would thus be got out.

Mr. Sormany said that it meant that there could only be a vote every second year and it had been impossible to call on an election in his county in the parish referred to. While the present government should be congratulated on doing their duty in granting the petition from the parish of Shippegan, the old administration had also to be congratulated for what it had done. The present administration when in opposition, had gone about the country stating that the debt of the province had increased to such a point that the province was falling into bankruptcy but since this government came into power the debt had kept on increasing and the hon. gentleman opposite did not seem to have any more fear for bankruptcy but seemed pleased to tell of the great credit of the province. The members of the government might juggle with figures but even a layman knew that if they continued to spend more money than they received, the end would be bankruptcy. The state of affairs was no better now than it used to be. Expenditures kept on growing and apparently would keep on growing until the people put on a check which they would do at the first opportunity.

The House took recess and resumed at 8 p. m. Mr. Burchill presented the report of the Standing Rules Committee. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill relating to the building of wharves and piers in the harbor of St. John. Mr. Robinson introduced a bill relating to the Moncton Street Railway Heat and Power Company.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill relating to civic elections in St. John. The Speaker drew attention to the fact that there had not been sufficient number of copies for distribution of several bills that had been introduced. The Rules of the House called for not less than 100 copies of each bill and it was necessary that this rule be strictly observed.

Mr. Bentley said that in the by-election in St. John county he had had the temerity to tell the electors that the government had so many members supporting it that it would be in the interest of good government to return a member of the opposition, and he felt that in carrying out his duty to the electors, he should offer at least a few remarks in the Budget debate. He had been impressed with

the able arguments of the solicitor general and of the provincial secretary, and they doubtless made a good showing from their standpoint. They had made what he believed to be a sombre situation look bright. They had pictured the present as perfection and the past as terrible bad. And they had placed on all the members of his side of the house responsibility for the sins of twenty-five years of the old administration, but he hardly was blameable for all that time.

The revenue was larger than it used to be, but it still seemed insufficient to meet the public necessities, and was all spent and more with it. Liberal provision had been voted last session for the different services and should have not the demands, but the auditor general's report showed in thirty-three cases the treasury board had been called together to make additional appropriations. It did not seem to be any harder under the new audit act to get their hands on the public monies for expenditures under estimates but he failed to see where the act secured any wiser administration of the public funds than might obtain under another system. He almost thought the government had forgotten it was the people's money and had used it too lavishly.

He did not think the solicitor general was candid in his statement in the increase from Dominion subsidies was only \$65,000, as the province was enjoying \$130,000 more annually from this source and no credit was being given to the old administration for their persistent effort in obtaining it. According to his best efforts in figuring it out, the government had a revenue of \$200,000 annually more than the old government, and just before the accounts were closed for the last year, over \$15,000 had been called a special payment for bridges by the treasury board, and it looked as if this had been done to keep down the expenditure appearing in the ordinary way.

He was not particularly covetous with all the items in the estimates, but he would like to refer to one particularly which he was heartily glad to see, that was the additional grant in aid of agriculture. There was no more important industry in the province or none that would compare in importance with agriculture and he was glad that the hon. commissioner of agriculture was able to take so hopeful a view of the future prospects of the industry.

No one acquainted with forest matters would deny that the cutting of timber was going on much faster than the growth warranted and the time would soon come when it would be necessary to severely curtail the amount of the cut when, of course, a curtailment of the revenue would follow. Something would then have to be done to make up for it. He said that Agriculture in the province was only in its infancy and that the farmers did not even attempt to supply the home demand for the natural products of the country. Meat, fruit, grain and other things to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth were imported every year and this in spite of the fact that they had as good opportunities for producing these articles as any country under the sun. He was glad to give credit for the great interest he took in the work of his department, the commissioner for agriculture though he regretted that he allowed himself at times to blow the party horn.

The present government had not lived up to their promises in the way of letting out public works by tender but still adhered to the system of day work. Two small bridges in his county had recently been repaired in this manner and if they were to be put up by tender the cost would have been not more than half of what it actually was.

As to highways. During the last session the premier had stated that all government monies would be expended through the highway boards, except in the cases of roads in out of the way settlements, but he had found that this had not been adhered to but that in many cases it had been expended by independent commissioners in violation of the government's pledges in that regard.

In conclusion while it might be true as the Provincial Secretary said that the opposition would have to take the responsibility of the sins of the old government it would require a much larger blanket to cover the sins of the present government than it would to cover those of their predecessors.

MR. McLACHLAN.

Mr. McLachlan of Northumberland said the statement had been made by the leader of the opposition that while the government had advocated conservation yet they had reduced the size of the log which might be cut. To some this reduction might seem grievous but the regulation was really more expedient than it looked and if it was a fact that 16x9 logs had been cut contrary to regulations it would be better to make that regulation size and live up to it. No Natural law was violated by cutting logs of that size. The standard was simply one of expediency and there was ample justification for the department's action.

Opposition speakers claimed that the government had failed to make good with regard to the highways and that they had violated the spirit of the act by appointing one member of the board. As long as the government had a grant in aid of the roads it had a right to see to its expenditure.

(Continued on page three.)

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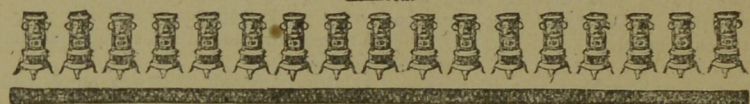
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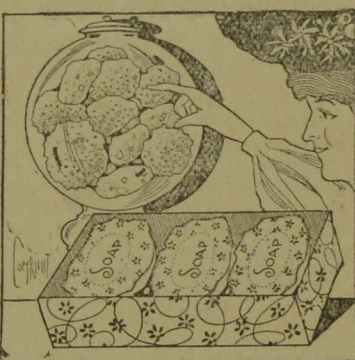
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Dated at Fredericton aforesaid, this twenty fifth day of February, A. D. 1910.

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Solicitor for the Mortgagees.
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