

# ROBINSON TELLS OF GOVERNMENT'S EXTRAVAGANCE

(Continued from page one.)

gentleman painted a gloomy picture; the province was verging on bankruptcy; over expenditures were ruining the provincial credit. Now a change has come. He sees a good revenue and he declares the credit good.

The provincial secretary opened his speech with repentance for omissions and commissions. He closed with a declaration of faith. Mr. Robinson was glad to know that the hon. gentleman was repenting for his remarks derogatory to the province, but unfortunately his faith is the evidence of things not seen for in the auditor general's report many important things were omitted. Mr. Fleming had referred to his criticism at the time of the publication of the financial statement in the Royal Gazette. The insurance on the provincial hospital had been classed as ordinary revenue. Criticism of such classification was perfectly justifiable. Insurance was surely extraordinary revenue. Insurance was included in the receipts but the expenditure did not show whether or not they included repairs.

## THE DISASTROUS LOAN

One important matter last year was a negotiation of the loan. Mr. Fleming congratulated himself because the bonds sold at 102 and said that this was equal to the record of Ontario, a much larger and wealthier province. This figure might seem reasonable, but the Ontario sale was made previous to New Brunswick sale. Two Canadian cities received higher prices for their bonds than did the province. New Brunswick did not actually receive 102. When the large expenses were taken out it is doubtful if par was obtained. An answer to an enquiry today shows another item of \$10,000 expense in connection with the issue of bonds. If this was not part of the cost of flotation it must be a charge which apparently will be repeated annually.

Hon. Mr. Fleming—This amount is paid but once.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said then it is not a charge of interest but on account of the loan itself so the Province got less than par. As a matter of fact the Province got \$7,000 less than par, the bonds actually selling at less than one hundred. Today these bonds are quoted in London at 104. The floating of that large loan was badly managed and thousands were lost. It was not successful nor prudent. A province like New Brunswick should sell its bonds higher than a city. When he was a member of the government, and Mr. Fleming and others said the province was nearing bankruptcy, the province borrowed on much better terms than the cities. He had been able to reduce the rate of interest on loans from 6 to 5 per cent. at the very worst time in the financial market. He contrasted Mr. Fleming's loan with Hon. Mr. Tweedie's million dollar loan at 3 per cent. Mr. Tweedie did not go to London at great expense but called twice for tenders, and got 96 for 3 per cent. bonds, the highest price ever obtained for 3 per cent. bonds by a Canadian province. Mr. Fleming had talked of comparing the past with the present. Mr. Robinson said that though he had been in the Speaker's chair for some years, he took the responsibility for his predecessors in the Premiership, and realized that the old government did many statesmanlike and beneficial things. He reviewed the expenses of the Fleming loan and showed that for advertising alone \$2,500 had been spent and that the circumstances seemed to indicate that the Bank of Montreal was allowed to do about as it pleased. In this transaction Mr. Fleming stood back and let the bank and its solicitors make all the money possible. If tenders had been called for the loan might have been made at less cost and for a higher premium.

## THE OLD POLICY AND THE NEW.

There are times when looking to the future, it is proper to incur reasonable debt. The debt of a province should not be considered by itself, but in conjunction with the resources of a province and its needs. The old government increased the debt somewhat to build permanent bridges, to assist various works of development. Yet in the election campaign, Mr. Hazen and his friends made much of the fact that the debt had been increased by the old government. They even included the same items two and three times and included in the debt the possible liability for the Valley Railroad. They said the debt was nine million dollars. Yet, when shown that they were unmistakably wrong, neither they nor their papers ever acknowledged the misstatement. They said the debt increases were absolutely indefensible. In 1883 the debt was \$1,150,000. By Oct. 31st, 1907, it was \$3,590,897, or in 24 years, an increase of \$2,440,897, an average annual increase of \$101,704. In 1908, the debt was increased by \$400,000, because of a change in the valuation of the Central Railway and the funding of over-expenditures. Leaving out that year, for which the government was responsible, 1909 shows an increase of \$217,491, or double the average increase in the old days. If there

ever was anything in the bankruptcy cry of the hon. gentlemen, how much stronger would it be today if they were in opposition; how much louder would be their tones of stage thunder. But this was not all the liability.

This government formerly so strongly opposed to loans, passed an act to guarantee the bonds of the Bathurst and Seaboard Railway, to the extent of \$390,000. He was never opposed to reasonable aid for helping the development of the province but he wished to call attention to the wonderful change which had come over the members of this government who took office with promise of economy. The government came in with a large majority when the lumber industry was better than ever. The territorial revenue was increasing, when the revenue was enlarged by the \$130,000 additional subsidy, gained by the old government. No government ever started under better auspices, but the visions of the morning had vanished and in scarcely two years all promises and pledges have been thrown to the winds. Mr. Fleming has lost control of his horses. The expenditures are larger than ever. The largest revenue the province ever had before 1907 was \$900,000, and the old government managed affairs with a very slight increase of debt. Now when the revenues are larger the debt under this economical government is also much larger proportionately.

## GETTING A SURPLUS.

In opposition Mr. Fleming said that small bridges should be built out of ordinary revenue. Even in 1908 he said that a great many expenditures for small permanent bridges should be paid out of current revenue. The auditor general's report for 1909 shows an item of \$15,679.75 for a special permanent bridge account not paid out of current revenue, but charged to the debt. When coming to the close of the fiscal year the government saw the difficulty of securing a surplus. The auditor general charged this \$15,679.75 to current expenditure, but when the ministers saw the situation, notwithstanding the Audit Act and their declaration regarding bridges and current revenue, they passed an order in council transferring the item to permanent accounts without any legislative authority.

Instead of the claimed surplus of \$4,434, there was a very large deficit. The expenditure statement showed an apparent ordinary expenditure of \$1,255,381.92. It had not included this unauthorized permanent bridge expenditure nor the four months' interest on the London Loan from July 1st to October 31st \$29,200 nor the \$76,035.62 of municipal road money collected in 1908 and expended in 1909 under the government in lieu of provincial money, nor the balance on account of Central Railway investigation \$2,805.05 carried over to 1910, nor the unpaid bills of the Board of Works for work done in 1908 and forest, fish and game protection estimated at least \$50,000. The real expenditure was \$1,429,152. The expenditure over and above ordinary revenue of \$169,325.

The Central Railway investigation report came in a year ago. One would suppose that all expenditures had been paid long ago, yet since the close of the present year nearly \$3,000 had been paid. The only reason for carrying over the item above would be to try and show a surplus.

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The provincial secretary gave alleged expenditures regarding bridges under the old and present government but nothing at all regarding roads. He was careful to omit the amounts expended on roads and bridges in 1906 and 1907 and charged as overdrafts. Had he wanted to be fair he would have included these amounts but he did not.

Hon. Mr. Fleming—The Hon. gentleman says my statement was absolutely incorrect, where? Mr. Robinson said he was just coming to that. In 1905 for the roads the old government expended \$86,056.03. In 1906 the expenditure was \$168,838, including \$88,365 over expenditure. In 1907 the expenditure was \$150,158, including \$35,237 over expenditure; in 1908 under the present government the expenditure was \$81,516; in 1909 \$60,021; the average for the years under the old government was \$135,017; for the two years under the new government, \$70,768, a decrease of \$64,248. When the House met last year they found \$44,000 of road money already expended. All the people received on the roads in the summer of 1909 was \$17,000. Dominion elections had been held in 1908 and a good deal of money was spent on the roads in the fall. What would have happened if there had been more elections last year?

For bridges in 1905 the old government spent \$81,058; in 1906 \$139,296, of which \$52,894 was unappropriated. In 1907 the expenditure was \$179,326, with \$85,147 unappropriated. The average for the three years was \$133,227. In 1908 the expenditure was \$101,762 and in 1909 \$154,916, or an average of \$128,329, a decrease of some \$4,000 as compared with the old government. When the old highway act came into force the government had no county money for the roads, so for one year the government had to take the sole care of the highways. When this government came into power it found the municipalities had \$66,000 of road money and the government had the benefit of it. When the new act came in there was \$76,000 in the hands of the

Surveyor General, as the result of the old act and this money was applied to the roads instead of provincial money. Of the small amount spent in 1909 much went to St. John county, for the benefit of the government in the bye-election, but the desired effect was not accomplished. The government was fortunate in having that \$76,000 and it had also increased highway taxes. Notwithstanding these facts it found a surplus impossible.

## ABOUT OVEREXPENDITURES.

There are bills for 1908 not yet paid. Last year the government supporters declared by resolution that there was no ground for belief that amounts chargeable to 1908 were not then paid. Yet it was only necessary to refer to the Auditor General's report this year to see that these bills are not all paid yet. Mr. Fleming himself drew attention to the fact that fully one-third for forest protection in 1909 was for work done in 1908. Thousands and thousands charged for 1909 were for work done in 1908, the very thing the ministers had formerly declared against. He ventured the assertion that from \$50,000 to \$100,000 chargeable to 1909 had not been paid when the books were closed. Mr. Fleming in 1908 gave a list of the accounts chargeable to the old government and said he would clean them up. One account he had cleaned up was that of a Westmorland lawyer, which the old government had refused to pay. There are today very large accounts unpaid and the appropriations are expended. Instead of a surplus the deficit is \$169,000, when credit is given for practically everything including revenue from the Blue Bell tract, though this revenue should go into a sinking fund. He was proud to have been connected with a transaction whereby land now worth \$250,000 was secured for \$38,000. Notwithstanding that the solicitor general had said that the title to the tract was no good the government had done nothing to improve it. Giving the government the advantage of increased subsidy, increased revenue, etc., it is unable to keep current liabilities and expenditures within current revenue.

The government came into power under professions of economy. They claimed the old government wasted money. They attacked the expenses and salaries of the members of the government.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

1908 .....	\$ 228,133.71
1909 .....	304,498.13
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	116,939.64
To this must be added the Permanent Bridges expenditure, charged to capital account.	
1909 .....	\$ 15,679.75
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	29,739.35

## PERMANENT HOSPITAL.

1908 .....	\$ 61,208.38
1909 .....	89,908.96
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	25,270.24

## STUMPAGE COLLECTION.

1908 .....	\$ 11,972.04
1909 .....	20,419.20
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	4,988.74

## IMMIGRATION.

1908 .....	\$ 1,993.30
1909 .....	5,015.00
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	2,523.00

## ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

1908 .....	\$1,042,136.49
1909 .....	1,255,381.92
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	441,660.34

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

1908 .....	\$ 19,770.76
1909 .....	25,218.37
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	5,595.26

## AGRICULTURE.

1908 .....	\$ 21,987.19
1909 .....	31,194.16
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	11,748.88

## EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT.

1908 .....	\$ 31,734.14
1909 .....	38,176.83
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	11,767.97

## FISH, FOREST AND GAME PROTECTION.

1908 .....	\$ 19,451.69
1909 .....	43,474.86
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	17,665.64

## EDUCATION.

1908 .....	\$ 238,741.70
1909 .....	246,677.97
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	100,826.77

## N. B. COAL AND RAILWAY INVESTIGATION.

1908 .....	\$ 1,515.99
1909 .....	2,909.55
1910, 3 1/2 months, .....	2,805.59

## Where is the end of this to be?

Everything is growing. The expenditure is mounting rapidly.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Salary, .....	\$ 2,100.00
Travelling Expenses .....	575.00
Collection Succession Duties, .....	621.76
Provincial Hospital, .....	72.00
.....	3,268.66
Sessional Indemnity, .....	514.00
Total .....	\$ 3,882.66

## PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Salary, .....	\$ 2,100.00
Travelling Expenses .....	436.50
Liquor License Investigations, .....	160.00
Provincial Hospital, .....	162.00
Treasury Loan Expenses .....	40.00
.....	2,898.50
Sessional Indemnity .....	514.40
Total .....	\$ 3,422.90

SURVEYOR GENERAL.	
Salary, .....	\$ 2,100.00
Travelling Expenses, .....	580.00
Provincial Hospital, .....	72.00
Forestry Convention Expenses, .....	70.00
Fishery Convention Expenses, .....	40.00
Expenses Stevenson Enquiry, .....	25.00
.....	\$ 2,887.00
Sessional Indemnity, .....	524.80
Total .....	\$ 3,409.80
CHIEF COMMISSIONER PUBLIC WORKS.	
Salary, .....	\$ 2,100.00
Travelling Expenses, .....	890.00
Provincial Hospital, .....	72.00
.....	\$ 3,062.00
Sessional Indemnity, .....	524.80
Total .....	\$ 3,586.80
SOLICITOR GENERAL.	
Salary, .....	\$ 1,200.00
Travelling Expenses, .....	590.00
Provincial Hospital, .....	157.00
.....	\$ 1,947.00
Sessional Indemnity, .....	500.00
Total .....	\$ 2,447.00
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.	
Allowance for 34 days, .....	\$ 272.00
Travelling Expenses, .....	135.00
Provincial Hospital, .....	72.00
.....	\$ 479.00
Sessional Indemnity, .....	514.00
Total .....	\$ 993.00

Summarized these payments are:

Attorney General, .....	\$ 3,882.66
Provincial Secretary, .....	3,422.90
Surveyor General, .....	3,409.80
Chief Commissioner Public Works, .....	3,586.80
Solicitor General, .....	2,447.00
President of the Council, .....	993.00
Total .....	\$ 17,740.16

The ministers used to complain that the salary of the commissioner of agriculture was charged against agriculture. They have made no change. Out of \$21,987 for agriculture last year some \$15,000 went for salaries. Mr. Robinson criticised Mr. Fleming for taking all the credit for encouraging the potato trade with Cuba. He read a telegram from F. C. T. O'Hara, deputy minister of commerce, showing that the contract for the subsidy service arranged by the Dominion Government was signed on Dec. 6th and pointed out that the first payment would not be made until three months after that date and after the money had been voted by parliament as the Ottawa Treasury Board cannot do as it pleases with the country's money. As for the Havana Warehouse it is a DeWitt's warehouse from which the DeWitt's get more than the farmers or the government.

## THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

When the ministers say that the lumber cut of 1909 was only 60 per cent. of that of 1908 they talk absurdities. The lumber business was never so flourishing, the output never so large. The incomes of capitalists has boomed the industry materially. The prices were up and hence there was encouragement to lumbermen and if that was not enough this government on the eve of a by-election in Northumberland reduced the size of the saw log, a step calculated to deplete our forest resources. We should endeavour to protect the crown lands and keep them from speculators. Notwithstanding political exigencies in Northumberland, notwithstanding the statement that the lumbermen had kept the old government in power twenty-five years and will keep the new government in as long, the administration had no right to hasten the depletion of our forest wealth in this way. One thing Mr. Hazen promised in opposition was to bring into effect the domain act. The solicitor general said it would cost too much. Surely the government should have some definite policy to regulate the cut and preserve the forest. In opposition the government used to talk about spending money on lawyers. Yet last year the government spent \$5,733 for lawyers other than the crown officers and this does not include a balance of a fee of Mr. M. G. Teed.

## SLAUGHTER OF LIBERALS.

When appealing for votes, the minister said they would know neither Liberal or Conservative. He failed to find anywhere that they thought a Liberal good enough. On the agricultural commission, to teach Dr. Landry, there were no Liberals. There were no Liberals on the central commission, and no Liberal lawyers were employed in connection with it. There was no Liberal for the Kay investigation. There was no Liberal when they wanted a commissioner in the case of Mr. A. Rogers of Albert, a respected citizen whose job a hungry Tory wanted.

What can Hon. Mr. Morrissey think when he sees Tories everywhere about him, no Liberals good enough. Surely sometimes he must want a divorce from this morganatic marriage. When they needed lawyers to carry on criminal work in Westmorland, there was no Tory lawyer good enough for them in the county, so they went to Kings. This government, which obtained office through Liberal support, forgets its debt to these electors.

## NOTICE OF SALE

To Odilon Fortin of the City of Fredericton in the County of York, Yeoman, and to all others whom it may in any wise concern:

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and five, recorded in the York County Records in Book Y-5 pages 114-117, made between the said Odilon Fortin of the one part, and Henry Montgomery-Campbell of Apolau in the County of Kings, Esquire, of the other part, there in pursuance of the said Power of Sale and for the purpose of satisfying moneys secured by the said mortgage, default having been made in the payment thereof, be sold at Public Auction on Saturday, the ninth day of April, at twelve o'clock noon in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton in the County of York, the lease and household lands and premises described in the said mortgage as follows: "All that certain piece or parcel of land and premises situated, lying and being in the City of Fredericton aforesaid, abutted and bounded as follows: North easterly on Charlotte Street one hundred and two links northwesterly two hundred and fifty links along the side line of lot number four south westerly one hundred and two links along the rear line of lot number twenty six and south easterly two hundred and fifty links along the side line of lot number four, more or less, and being the same land lately under lease to the late James Daley" together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the said lease and any and all rights of renewal or other rights thereunder.

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

J. F. Winslow  
Solicitor for the Mortgagee.  
(sd) H. MONTGOMERY-CAMPBELL  
d, 1 mo.

(Continued on page three.)

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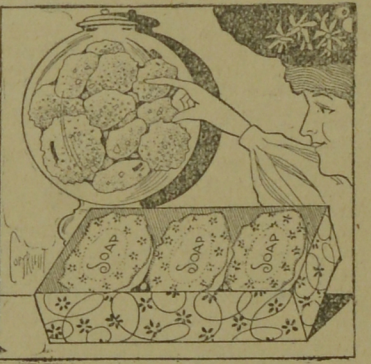
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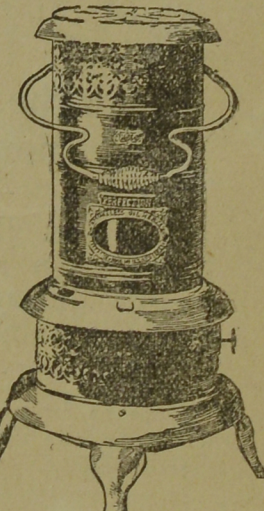
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