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NEW BRUNSWICK BUDGET.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie in eloquent Terms

LAYS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

A Statement of Provincial Finances.

ALL INDUSTRIES IN A PROSPEROUS CONDITION.

In the legislature Tuesday evening

Hon. Mr. Tweedie

commenced his budget speech. He said: This is the seventh time I have risen in my place in this House to move that you leave the chair for the House to go into committee of supply. On all these occasions while not able to satisfy every member of the House, I have been happy enough to be able to please a majority of them, and I congratulate myself that as the result of the recent general election the country is also satisfied with my administration of public affairs. In dealing with the finances of the province there is not much room for flights of the imagination. Larger questions of policy are dealt with by the Federal government, nor is there much of novelty in my statement for hon. gentlemen have had the accounts before them and they have also been published in the Royal Gazette under an act passed by us two or three years ago. But in the remarks that I propose to make I will go over some ground that has been trodden before because about one-third of the members of this House are new men, who have not heard previous financial statements. I propose therefore to lay before you as concisely as possible the state of the finances of the province. In doing so I rather approach it from the view of non-party politics. It is simply a question whether the government has administered its affairs prudently or not. The first charge that is usually made against us is that we have increased the bonded indebtedness. That statement is true. But what honorable gentleman will say that the services for which the debt has been increased should not have been looked after. I challenge the opposition to name a service which they will say was improperly expended or an expenditure which they opposed in the House. I think I may fairly congratulate this province, which it shares with the rest of Canada, in its great and continued prosperity. Of course a period of depression must come in the course of time, some indeed think it is due now. But I believe that with our resources we have we will pass over this period when it does come better than almost any other part of the world. This province has progressed marvelously in agriculture in recent years, and now that industry stands on a very satisfactory footing. All the cheese formerly used by our people was purchased outside the province. Last year we manufactured enough for our own use and exported 1,210,000 pounds, having manufactured a grand total of 1,911,000 pounds. In butter we manufactured last year, in creameries, 751,000 pounds or a total value of cheese and butter of \$341,715. This magnificent result was mainly due to the grand educational work carried on by the department of agriculture through the three dairy superintendents, supplemented by generous assistance in the erection and equipment of cheese and butter factories. But say our friends of the Opposition "a great deal of this money is spent in salaries." That is true, but this educational work is necessary and these men are educators. The superintendents Messrs. Mitchell, Tilley and Daigle, are constantly engaged in pushing this work. They not only instruct in the creamery business but they take charge and they are constantly holding

meetings, advocating the advantages of cooperative dairying and organizing cheese and butter companies. Students from all over the province attend the dairy school and disseminate useful knowledge with regard to dairying in every part of the province. Two of these dairy superintendents have received from other provinces very flattering offers, much larger than anything we could afford to give, yet they have remained with us, preferring to continue the work in their native province. As a proof of the good work they are doing I may compare our dairy products with those of Nova Scotia, which offers the same assistance to dairying that we do, but has no dairy superintendents. The output of butter and cheese in that province is very much less than our own and the difference is due to the work done by our dairy superintendents.

Every industry in this province is prosperous today. I might refer to the lumber industry, which is now in a better position than it has been in for many years, paying higher wages by at least 15 per cent, than it has for the past thirty years, but I will postpone my remarks until a latter period when I will announce the policy of the government with reference to this industry. Now our mines are just beginning to be developed. Never before has there been such a boom in mining in this province as there is now. Years ago when the government began to give facilities for searching for oil it is said that we were creating monopolies. The idea of there being oil in New Brunswick was laughed at. Now the result proved the wisdom of our course. No one now doubts that oil exists in this province in great abundance. In boring twenty-five oil wells in the counties of Westmorland and Albert only two or three were found to be dry. Experts have visited these wells and pronounced the oil to be a first rate quality, and abundant in quantity. The company that has been engaged in boring for oil now proposes to build a refinery, and there is no doubt that the result of their enterprise will be, in the course of time, to change the entire industrial position of that portion of this province, so here there is another feature of our policy that has been justified by the results. Another mining industry is the aluminum company, which is now seeking incorporation. It is promoted by local as well as foreign capitalists, one local capitalist has invested \$40,000 in it. This company proposes to manufacture aluminum in Queens County. The capital of the Company is \$5,000,000, and it is evident that they mean business and are ready to make large expenditures. Then there is the coal of Queens county, which has been developed by the policy of the Government. The railway from Chipman to the mine, although delayed from unforeseen causes, is now nearly completed and will be running in a few weeks. The city of St. John will get the benefit of this improved means of transportation. Not long ago a man from the South visited the Queens County coal field and proposed to use a machine for the purpose of screening the coal. He said that he could place Grand Lake coal in St. John of a quality never seen before. This coal had lost in character because it was not properly screened, but now coal will be sent to market as the very best quality and in large quantities. But Queens is not the only county that is developing its coal areas under the policy of the government. Mining is going on also in the county of Kent, and an output of three or four hundred tons a week will shortly be realized in this mine. In every direction we see the marks of progress. The province is waking up out of its sleep. The people are no longer running in the same old ruts: they are beginning to realize that the province has other sources of wealth than agriculture and lumber and that they should see to it that our heritage should be developed.

Let me now give you briefly a statement of the bonded indebtedness of the province; on page five of the auditor general's report appears a statement, showing the liabilities and assets of the province at the end of the fiscal year. Taking up the liabilities in the order in which they occur we have first the bonded debt, which is the largest item to be considered. The bonds of the province are here classified in relation to

the rate of interest which they bear, but at page 253 will be found a statement showing the acts of the legislature under which the liability was incurred as well as the public works that they represent. The rate of interest ranges from six per cent to three per cent., the average rate being about four per cent. The total bonded debt on the 31st of October last was \$3,636,846, the increase during the year being \$345,000. Of these bonds \$60,000 at four per cent. were issued on account of the smallpox epidemic. After the sale of bonds some years ago the price of bonds fell and all kinds of government securities were affected. Guilt edge securities, such as provincial bonds, are only good when times are depressed. At other times people use their money for securities that give a higher rate of interest. Today you cannot do anything with your bonds compared with their proper value. The smallpox bonds for \$60,000 are redeemable in twenty years, \$3,000 of them being paid off each year, and for that reason they bear four per cent. interest. There are two issues of bonds in this account for permanent bridges, aggregating \$450,000 at three and one half per cent. \$200,000 of this was to replace a special bond for the same amount held by the Bank of New Brunswick and charged in the public accounts of 1901. The whole issue, bearing three and one half per cent. interest, and payable in thirty years, was sold to the Bank of New Brunswick at 99 in October last. Under the circumstances I think we made a most favorable loan and that the price obtained for the bonds was the best possible. Now which of these bonds will the opposition say should not have been issued? I challenge them to name any that they can object to. We all know that this province has been visited by the smallpox and that the municipalities have been put to great expense in fighting it. Would the opposition have left the whole burden on them? We thought it right that the province should pay one half and this has been done. We propose in the future that the Boards of Health shall deal directly with municipalities. Will it be contended that the policy of the government in this matter has been wrong or that the municipalities should have received no assistance from us. As for the permanent bridges the necessity for them is admitted. They have been built under former acts of the Legislature and the country approves of them. There is also an issue of bonds to the extent of \$32,500 to the New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company, this was to assist in building that line of railway and the act authorizing it met with the approval of the leader of the opposition. Then there is an issue of bonds on account of wharves and grain elevator at St. John, \$2,500. I was glad to see in the paper today that St. John is likely soon to have more wharves and to become a great city. If the government could afford it we would gladly give further aid to wharf building in St. John. Not long ago we were asked to give a steamship subsidy to a steamer plying from St. John to the southern ports of Nova Scotia. We have promised to do so and we will stand by that promise. No one can object to an expenditure which is intended to build up the chief commercial city of the province.

There is a balance debit of the lunatic asylum account \$13,087, showing a decrease of this liability as compared with last year. The lunatic asylum is every year costing the province more owing to the great increase in the number of patients. One paper complained that the percentage of cures is not so great as it was when the asylum was established, but this is one result of the increased number of patients. In 1865 the asylum cost the province \$21,118, in 1880 \$29,675 in 1890 \$46,922, and in 1902 \$68,299. The expenditure now can never be less than \$65,000 a year. This asylum is an institution which has given the government a great deal of concern and which has cost a great deal of money. I should be glad if members of the opposition would visit it occasionally and see for themselves how it is managed. I believe that it will compare favorably with any similar institution, but we should welcome any suggestions from gentlemen on the other side of the House that would tend to improve or lessen its cost. It may be that the medical part of it may be improved. I think the day has gone by when we should consider the position of medical superintendent as one for life. In other countries we find changes made every five or six years to the advantage of these institutions. With regard to its cost, I believe that the cost per capita

is smaller than any other Asylum in Canada or the United States.

Under the heading "Importation of Seed" is the balance of a suspense account opened in 1898. Seeds were purchased and distributed through the agricultural department the cost being charged to this account and all payments received for these seeds were duly credited to the account. The balance due upon this account is shown in the public accounts in the liability statement for each year. When all accounts are collected there will stand a loss on the transaction of \$1,192, which will have to be transferred to the current revenue account, chargeable to agriculture.

In a similar manner a suspense account was opened with the Bank of British North America for the importation of horses. At the sale of these horses in May last the amount realized fell short of the cost of importation by \$4,393. This loss has been charged to agriculture. The Hartland bridge liabilities is also a balance due by the province on a suspense account, amounting at the end of the year to \$2,329.

Turning to the assets the principal item is the balance at the credit of the province with the Dominion government, amounting to \$529,299. This amount bears five per cent interest, which is paid half yearly. It dates from confederation and there have been many transactions, the balance being alternately in favor of and against the province. At the present time and since 1884 the balance has been in favor of the province. This reminds me that when we are accused of increasing the bonded debt of the province we may fairly challenge a comparison with the work of our predecessors. There are several ways of bonusing railways. One of these which we have adopted is to give \$2,500 a mile to a railway. Another is that adopted by our predecessors, who gave away ten thousand acres of the best forest land in the province for each mile of railway, a transaction which was of the most improvident and even ruinous character. Our predecessors also, if they did not increase the bonded indebtedness, drew from the Dominion government very large sums of money for railway subsidies, which was bearing five per cent. interest. Between 1868 and 1869 they withdrew from the funds of the Province in the hands of the Dominion government no less than \$2,305,564 for railway subsidies alone, while all that has been drawn from that source since has been \$182,000. I think that our system of bonusing railways and issuing bonds at three and one half per cent is much more economical than that of our predecessors.

At this point the premier moved the adjournment of the debate, stating that he would resume his speech to day.

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CLEVER ADDRESS.

Prof. Robertson Before the Members of the Legislature.

URGES THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASED EDUCATION.

Especially in the Rural Districts,

AND ADVOCATES MANUAL TRAINING AND AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The members of the Legislature in informal session Tuesday afternoon listened to a most interesting and instructive address on agriculture and education by Prof. J. W. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The House adjourned at four o'clock on motion of Premier Tweedie, and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was invited to preside, and did so in a very acceptable manner. Dr. J. R. Inch, chief superintendent of education, Dr. Harrison, chancellor of the U. N. B., and several ladies occupied seats on the floor of the House, with the galleries were well filled with students and teachers of the Normal school and University.

Professor Robertson said he esteemed it an honour to address the House on the subject of agriculture and was glad that the subject of improvement along these lines was appreciated by the legislators of New Brunswick. Canada is making great progress and enjoying much prosperity. He had often heard this called a great country when people really meant large. Largeness and greatness are not one and the same thing. We own one-sixth of the way around the globe. The Indians owned as much but they were in no sense great. Intelligent, sturdy, God fearing men and women, the product of good schools are what makes a country great.

The New Brunswick school system is certainly unsurpassed by that of any other province in Canada. We are a liberty-loving people, appreciating and diffusing intelligence, demanding and meting out justice, and these are the foundations of self government. Therefore good government depends on the school because you cannot have liberty, intelligence and justice without good schools, supplemented by the church and good homes. The efficiency of the population depends on their education, and by that he did not mean the number of years a boy had attended school or college but a man's power to think intelligently, to do things skilfully, and to investigate scientifically. He was willing to admit that the public schools of Canada had played a great part in raising intelligence to a high plane, but he was forced to consider how much more they could and should have accomplished and what they would do during the next few years. The educational opportunities in the rural districts of our country are more meagre than in some of the European empires, and this is not worthy of our prosperity and wealth. There are 746,000 school boys and girls in the rural parts of Canada and one third of them have not a fair chance to get a common school education, owing to bad roads, small schools and untrained teachers and other causes. Permanent prosperity in a country depends upon looking after the children, so that they may become useful citizens. The cities have their Universities, Colleges, High schools and Academies, but no attempt has been made to improve the condition of the rural schools.

In Canada we have abundant wealth to provide good schools for all the boys and girls, and after all wealth can only be properly claimed for the defence of our existence and the maintenance of our school system. The rural schools as they at present exist are entirely inefficient and consolidation is a crying necessity.

But it may be asked what has this to do with agriculture and prosperity. To

(CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE.)