

BUDGET DEBATE.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE]

The member for Carleton said he was not opposed to permanent bridges, but he seems to be opposed to everything done by this government. He complains that the government is dumb on the bridge question and seems to forget that an appeal was made to the country on this question in 1899, and that the result was the return of 41 supporters of the government, and only five opposition members. The bridge charges were renewed at the session of 1900, but the result of the investigation was a report from the committee that there was nothing wrong in regard to the bridges, and the man who moved the adoption of this report, in a two hours speech, was Mr. Mott, who has become a supporter of the opposition. Surely if there had been anything wrong Mr. Mott must have known it.

I have no hesitation in saying that no stronger policy was ever enunciated than the government's agricultural policy. It was the policy that won the support of the people. The member for Carleton did not have time to look over the agricultural report for 1902. He was wise in this, for if he had done so he would have seen that there was a very large increase in the amount of butter and cheese made in this province in creameries and factories last year as compared with previous years.

This gentleman also complains of the cost of executive government and expresses a great admiration for the management of affairs in Nova Scotia. Yet in that province the salaries of the three heads of departments in the government amount to \$10,400, while we obtain the services of six heads of departments for \$10,500. He also complains of the cost of criminal prosecutions. The Attorney General of Nova Scotia gets \$3,200 a year and still he conducts no criminal prosecutions. I hold in my hand a return of the province of Nova Scotia, giving the details of the criminal prosecutions for last year, which shows that the cost was about \$15,000 independently of the salary of the attorney general.

The member for Carleton complains of the cost of the telegrams and postage. What is the object of this? It is for the purpose of insinuating that the groceries of the employees of the government are paid for in postage stamps. That statement was made in the county of Westmorland. Knowing the employees as I do, I denounce it as false. It is not fair to make such charges. It is not fair to figure up the number of letters that this postage would represent, for it covers the cost of the postage of numerous packages, plans and papers, and of all the blue books that go out from the public departments. It is absurd to accuse the government of trumping up an account for telegrams, and it is beneath the dignity of the member to make such charges. Let him take up large questions of public policy and discuss them and not deal with such petty matters.

I feared that the member for Carleton was going to forget his usual complaint about the public printing. He now complains because the government referred the matter of printing to a person who is a supporter of the administration. Does he think that the premier should have referred the matter to the St. John Sun. If he was provincial secretary as he said he would be during the last election campaign, would he refer for information of this kind to a political opponent. I can tell my honourable friend of one supporter of the government who refused to print the agricultural report because the price offered was too small. This was the proprietor of the Moncton Transcript, who is a gentleman who knows something about the printing business.

He asks, who is there in the government that takes a dollar less than he can get. I can point him to one man, the Premier of this province, who went to England to attend the Coronation. He was put on no limit with regard to expense, he expended \$4,100, of which he only charged the country \$2,600. Yet one gentleman in Westmorland during the last election, stated that the province gave the Premier \$5,000, that he crossed to England at the same time, his trip only cost him \$200, so that the Premier robbed the country of \$4,800. Such were the absurd charges that were made during the last election campaign, and which as the result showed, the people refused to believe.

I do not think that the member for Carleton did himself justice in making insinuations against the premier's loyalty to his colleagues because he was elected and they were left at home. The member himself did not bring back two followers with him, so that the man who was left at home might possibly have made a similar charge against him. But the Premier is not the only man who has suffered in this way. Another pre-

mier of the province, the Hon. Mr. Blair, was rejected by the county of York and the people of that county have been sorry for it ever since.

The time is past for the opposition to deal in generalities. Last session the leader of the opposition prepared a number of resolutions which he made the basis of his appeal to the country and the country has passed upon them. He charged the government with extravagance and with spending too much money, yet if his programme had been carried out a great deal more money would have been spent. He advocated a progressive agricultural policy with cold storage and a great many other things, yet to carry out this policy would have cost much money.

In conclusion let me impress upon the members of this House the fact that we are here as the representatives of the different constituencies of a great province, rich in forests, mineral and agricultural wealth, and our waters alive with fish. Let us lay aside our party differences and political leanings and labor together manfully for the proper carrying out of a progressive policy that will insure to the general benefit of this fair province, and keep it well up in the race for supremacy that is now going on between the different provinces of the Dominion. (Applause.)

MR. MORRISON CRITICAL

And Got Into Altercation with the Premier.

Mr. Morrison said the fact that such excellent men as Hon. Mr. Burchill, Mr. Fish and Mr. O'Brien had been defeated was sufficient evidence that the policy of the government was not what it should be.

The government had his sympathy in reference to the proposed change in the road grant. He was satisfied that the road grant was not expended properly and he hoped the government would make one commissioner responsible so that the work might be done better than it is at present.

In dealing with the proposed increase in the stumpage Mr. Morrison said that with the information at present at his command he was not prepared to say that an increase was desirable. There was no doubt that the stumpage in the northern and southern sections of the province should not be the same, because the lumber in the north is harder to get at. It was an open secret that \$1 a thousand was not collected in all cases at present, and if the payment of the stumpage was enforced it would not be necessary to increase it at all.

Mr. Morrison here referred to the surveyor general's explanation in reference to Mr. Snowball's circular for 1902, and contended that there was still a discrepancy of 48 or 50 million of lumber to be accounted for.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—Don't you think you ought to be able to show a discrepancy before you make a charge?

Mr. Morrison—It is not my duty to make a charge. I am only calling the attention of the surveyor general to these facts, and it is his place to order an investigation. It was no defence to say that he did not believe that the lumbermen or scalers or anybody else would not do what was right. He was not so careful however as to the insinuations he made against those applying for land under the free grant act, for he did not hesitate to say that application for such land was made for the purpose of stealing the lumber off it.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—The surveyor general said no such thing. What he did state was that in many cases applications were not made bona fide.

Hon. Mr. Dunn—I said that when applications were received from four or five at one time we usually sent a competent man to investigate, and if the land was found suitable for farming, it was granted, but if it was found to be good timber land the applicants did not get it.

Mr. Morrison—That's the point I want to get at. In the case of a man applying for land under the free grants act you are quite willing to cause an investigation to be had, but as regards stampage you make no move whatever.

Taking up the expenses of the attorney general, Mr. Morrison said that while he was willing to admit that the attorney general was an able lawyer that was no reason why he should receive \$4,500, when his salary is placed at \$2,100.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—If you look at the accounts for 1892 you will find that the attorney general got \$4,000 more than you state for arguing the Maritime Bank case.

Mr. Morrison next referred to the government adopting the tender system in awarding bridge contracts, which he contended they were forced into as a result of the investigation two years ago, and the consequence of which was that we now get almost two bridges for one under the old system.

Taking up the government's agricultural policy, Mr. Morrison said he could not understand why the government had reduced the grants for the encouragement of dairying and for bonuses to roller mills all at once.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—You are entirely in error. The bill introduced the other day extends the time five years for giving bonuses to roller mills and the same assistance is given now as always to creameries making application.

As regards the fisheries Mr. Morrison thought the government should take some action to protect the spawning grounds, so that salmon may not be slaughtered. The sum of \$800 had been paid the inspector of fisheries. One month in the year would cover all the work he does during the season. He suggested that the offices of fishery inspector and game warden should be amalgamated at the salary now paid for one of these officers.

In reference to the matter of Bell, a lunatic from Carleton county, who died in the asylum and whose property was sold by the commissioner, the particulars of which were discussed in the election campaign, he was glad to learn that the government were going to pay the additional sum of \$320 to the widow, and thought it would be a good idea to give her still more.

In conclusion Mr. Morrison said he was ready to support any measure that he considered in the interests of the country, and would condemn the government when he considered it necessary so to do.

Mr. McLatchey followed, and after speaking for a few minutes moved the adjournment of the debate.

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