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MR. JONES' SPEECH.

Indisputable Facts and Arguments Presented in Defence of the Government.

(Concluded from Thursday)

Administration of Justice.

On resuming his speech Wednesday evening, Mr. Jones said:—When I concluded my remarks on Tuesday evening, I was referring to the criticisms of the Hon. member for Charlotte, Mr. Grimmer, in regard to the amount spent last year for the administration of justice, and I pointed out that the only items with which he found fault were those for criminal prosecutions and for the payment for telephones in the office of the clerk of the pleas and in the supreme court chambers in this building. These two items were taken out of a total of \$17,523.54.

The hon. gentleman did not indicate in what respect the amounts paid for criminal prosecutions were excessive. He did not even intimate that they had been accessed nor did he lay down as a principal that council should not be employed to conduct such prosecution, not that the Crown officers should personally attend them. I pointed out too that the amount for justice administration was less last year than usual. The hon. gentleman did indicate that his remarks were criticism of the work of the Crown officers. I believe that the people will sustain the government on its position in regard to this matter.

In reference to the other items—a small matter let me say that the remarks of the hon. gentleman show to

What Lengths the Opposition is Driven

to find basis for criticism of this government, Mr. Allen, the clerk of the pleas was responsible in some measure for the expenditure and the duties of the office, make frequent telephoning for which toll rates are charged a necessity. Mr. Allen is too well known for any one to suggest that he is not fair and honest in his bills. It indicates the straits of the opposition when an item of \$100 must be singled out from a total of \$879,000 to furnish opposition criticism. Let me say in passing that in Nova Scotia, \$5,000 is paid for counsel for the conduct of criminal prosecutions.

The case of Emmerson vs. Madison I have already dealt with. I do not intend to attempt to go at all fully into the matter of the expenditures and policy of the department of agriculture. I leave that for the Commissioner and other gentlemen more competent than myself to discuss agricultural affairs. I am justified in saying, however, that the government will always be willing as in the past to do everything possible to encourage the agricultural interests. The opposition gentleman complains that the government spends only so much for the farmers. They should avoid petty criticisms and lay down some propositions in reference to the advancement of agricultural interests which I can assure the house will always be given serious consideration.

Recently it has been said that the government will

Assist Cold Storage Plants.

I am glad that this line of action has been determined upon. One of these plants we are to have at Woodstock, the centre of a fine farming district. I hope that it will be but one of many for such plants are greatly in the interests of the agriculturalists.

I want to say a word also in reference to the potato business I am not prepared to say just what assistance has been given the potato industry by the department of agriculture, but the great development of that industry has been largely due to the Liberal party in Canada under whose policy such great development has come. A market for New Brunswick potatoes has been opened up in Ontario and Quebec, and there is a widening market in the west. The matter of encouraging the potato growers is one which the department and this House may well carefully consider.

In regard to the proposal to aid starch factories, in the Province, let me say that I believe the proposal is one which should be given practical effect. In Maine much development has come through the raising of potatoes, and the establishment of starch factories. In Canada in 1901 the potato starch exported was

valued at \$24,286, in 1905 the value of the starch exported was \$4,770, in 1901 the starch imported was valued at \$63,942 in 1902, \$41,070. At the present time there are 12 starch factories in Canada and the potato starch is valued at about \$60 per ton. In the United States it is worth a little more. The Marysville cotton factory by the way recently purchased Prince Edward Island potato starch for \$57 a ton. A potato starch factory employs about 15 men making two tons of starch a day. The factories are operated however for only about 60 days. In Europe there is an excellent market for potato starch as well as in the United States. The department of agriculture is willing, I think to make some arrangements,

To Assist Starch Factories

in their operation. Certainly the question is one of importance to Carleton, Madawaska and Victoria and indeed to other counties.

Mr. Robertson—I may say that Manchester has one of the largest starch markets in England, and one of the leading buyers of that city not long ago asked for information regarding the securing of starch in Canada.

Mr. Jones—I may say that the Department of Agriculture is now making enquiries with a view to acquiring all the information possible. It follows naturally—take the County of Carleton more particularly, that the farmers are not manufacturing so much butter and Cheese since they are producing such large quantities of potatoes from which they receive so much profit. They raise also large quantities of hay and consequently they do not give so much attention to dairy matters as the men of Kings and other counties may do. The department has done, and is doing all it can to further the dairy interests of the Province. The government should not be condemned if in some cases the farmers are turning from dairying to potato raising which pays so well.

Passing on to the criticism of the contingencies expenditures a favorable subject for opposition speakers. From the remarks of the Hon. Member for Charlotte one would think that the Govt. expended all the items of the contingencies account but the contingencies expenditures occur in many Departments. The Auditor Genl's office, the Atty. Genl's Office, Agri. Dept. Crown Land Office etc. The hon. gentlemen mentioned some items only chiefly those relating to the office of the Atty. Genl. No attempt was made to show that the contingencies were too much. No comparison was made with other years.

Mr. Smith—There was comparison of the Atty. Genl's coaching Bill with that of the bill of other years.

Mr. Pugsley—The Hon. gentlemen knew that part of the bill was incurred several years ago and had been in dispute.

Educational Policy.

Mr. Jones—The Govt. should be given credit for its educational policy. A large expenditure has been made for education but in such a manner that no criticism has been possible. Objection was made to the fact that an item of \$13,000 for exhibitions held last fall has been placed in the estimates for 1907. It has been pointed out that the amount was not paid in 1906. Surely we cannot be asked to put the amounts in the accounts of the last years. The items for Fisheries protection, game protection, public health etc. have not been criticized.

The interest amount however has been criticized. The Premier in his speech presented a statement so that full information regarding interest might be available, yet the Govt. has been condemned because these items of interests were not gathered together on one page of the report. In past years and this year the hon. member for Carleton, Mr. Flemming, has complained that among the items of interest was one of \$10,000 on account of public works. That is charged by law and could not be entered elsewhere than against the public works.

In 1905 including interest on New Brunswick Coal and Railway which should not properly be included, the interest charges were \$201,964.88; leaving out the interest on N. B. C. and Ry. Co., the amount is some \$25,000 less. The item of \$64,670 expended upon the Provincial Hospital has also been taken up by gentlemen opposite. All I can say is that this institution

Is Splendidly Conducted

under Dr. Anglin, in a manner very creditable to him and to the Province. The Hon. member for Carleton (Flemming) has said that he discovered that interest was charged in St. John in connection with the institution. He said that the grant was not sent down early in the year, but in the fall. In that, he was correct, but we must remember that the Province receives the greater part of its revenue late in the year. Since it must wait for this revenue is it not the same for the hospital to overdraw in St. John as to have the government borrow on its account here. This interest charged is plainly shown in the account. There has been no attempt to confuse.

The Hon. member for Charlotte

(Grimmer) gave considerable time to the expense of the Executive Government. He made a number of sarcastic statements re the travelling expenses of the government members. This was a remarkable criticism since these expenses were less last year than usual. He read also statements of amounts received by the Attorney General in 1906, declaring them to be too great. The members of the opposition are prone to refer to speeches and votes of the senior member from Charlotte, but that gentleman's colleague did not refer I notice to Mr. Hill's speech of last year, when he showed the unfairness of the opposition attacks upon the Attorney General. Last year the Attorney General challenged the leader of the opposition to have the fees taxed by three independent lawyers. If an overcharge was found he said he would not only refund the amount of excess, but he would also resign from the government, and the House, needless to say, the challenge was not accepted. Yet in the House and in Carleton County, the hon. member for Charlotte has reiterated the charges, but had not the fairness to point out the challenge of the Attorney General and the failure of the opposition leader to accept that challenge. Nor does he explain that some of the services for which the Attorney General was paid were rendered

Before He Entered the House.

Hon. gentlemen have not shown that the expenses of the Executive Government are relatively greater than the condition of the country warrants compared with the remuneration given for services of similar importance the amounts paid members of the government in New Brunswick are very small. In Nova Scotia members of the government receive, I think, \$4,000.

In regard to the public works, the hon. gentlemen seem to grow hot and cold at the same time they criticize expenditure and then complain of insufficient expenditure. They complain that the chief commissioner has had to overdraw the account. They think it a terrible thing, but every dollar has been honestly spent on the public services. Every one will admit that the public works department is honestly administered. The opposition say that anything has been built which should not have been built? Every expenditure has been made for the benefit of the people. The account was overdrawn too, partly because the government had to provide all the money expended on roads in 1905. The hon. member for Charlotte has said that there was only an overdraft of \$149,000, but also one of \$69,000. It seems to me that he should have verified his information and thus he must have avoided such a mis-statement. The department has on hand money held by the treasurers of the different counties something like \$64,000, which may be paid out on the order of the chief commissioner, I believe that we should take steps to enable the department to

Start Out With a Clear Sheet.

Hon. Mr. Robinson, a few days ago, outlined a plan to have the increased subsidy allowance pledged so as to have the security of the credit of the Dominion, or to borrow money at a lower rate, saving \$30,000 annually in interest. This amount is to be set aside bearing (amplified interest and in 50 years will produce \$3,400,000 or more than enough to meet the public debt. I think the public works indebtedness should be included. We should give the chief commissioner a chance. We have a splendid highway act and opportunity should be given to demonstrate its success. The government, in my opinion, will proceed to make the roads better than ever.

The hon. member for Charlotte has said that the New Brunswick Coal and Railway should not be placed in the assets at \$1,150,000.

Mr. Grimmer—I did not.

Mr. Jones—The remark was made that the road should be put down at \$700,000, the balance against the province, was in that way made \$450,000. The proper valuation at \$200,000 per mile we see the road is worth \$1,200,000. Mr. Grimmer's own statement it is worth \$900,000. Since that estimate \$250,000 has been expended, so we see, the road is worth the \$1,150,000. Mr. Brown also computed the earnings of the road at \$10,000 per year and we see that the value set down is a correct one. This is emphasized when we consider the amount the governments have paid into the road. The valuation given seems to have been approved by the leader of the opposition in a speech made last year. The province should be jealous of its credit. It might well place the public lands in its assets. In a few years these lands so wisely retained by the government will be a tremendous asset. Were they sold the province need not owe a single dollar. It is not now in debt to any extent and in 20 years the land will be worth \$50,000,000. Why call a halt? The province can pay the debt tomorrow ten times over. The hon. gentleman should avoid small criticisms and join the progressive party in an effort to advance provincial interests. (Applause.)

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