MR. ROBINSON'S MASTERLY SPEECH

Leader of the Opposition Trimmed the Government for its Misrepresentation of the Late Administration and for its Broken Pledges.

Special Auditors Jenkins and Hardy Recommended th Very Reforms for Which Mr. Hazen is Now Taking Credit.

Speaking on the budget debate in the Legislature Monday afternoon, Hon. Mr. Robinson, said he desired to say a few words with reference to the budget speech which could go go forth to the people of the country and in reply to some of the remarks of the provincial secretary, on the estimates for the current year. A great many of the statements made by the hon. gentleman in his budget speech, were a repetition of what he had said in the recent electoral campaign and he considered it only fair to himself and to the people whom he represented, that he should make some criticism on them. The provincial secretary had presented his side of the case very fully, but he (the speaker)) had a very strong feeling that there was another side to the case which also required presenting. The provincial secretary had drawn attention to what he described as the common liabilities of the province, which he had succeeded in running up to ten million. The statements came from him in his official capacity, and consequently would carry a good deal of weight, but he noticed that he quite neglected to draw attention to the assets of the province, and he made no attempt to set these great assets against the liabilities. It seemed to him (the speaker) that the hon. gentleman should recognize the importance of the utterances he made. It was his duty to make the best showing of the provincial finances possible. It would shortly be necessary for him to go into the money markets of the world to endeavor to make an issue of bonds to carry out his proposal to pay the outstanding debts of the province, and for that reason he ought to make the best showing he could. He could not go to the people to borrow money saying that the province was bankrupt, or he would have very little success in his efforts. In order that his hon. friend should no thave too great a task in his endeavor to show up the assets of the province to the best advantage, he (the speaker) would endeavor to give him some assistance. The auditor, too, would perhaps, need a little assistance, for he appeared to have dealt chiefly with the liabilities of the province. No doubt he (the auditor) had done what he was asked to do, but he (the speaker thought he had only half done it when he left the assets of the province out of consideration.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY CRITICIZED.

A good many remarks had been made about the agricultural policy of the late government. Hon. gentlemen would remember what had been said on the subject by the provincial secretary when in opposition. They had said that the money should go to the farmers. They didn't seem to see it now in that light. They said the late government had juggled with accounts relating to exhibitions, and said that they did not pay the grants for exhibitions in 1907 till 1908. The fiscal year closes on the 31st of October, and the calendar year does not close till the 31st of December. It had not been the custom to pay the exhibition grants till the close of the callendar year. They had always been charged with the fiscal year. He saw nothing to complain of in the way of juggling in that respect.

GAME PROTECTION.

The hon. gentlemen went to considerable length in discussing the policy of game protection of the late government. He had had but little experience himself in that respect, having been for such a short time a member of the government. The provincial secretary used some very strong language with regard to the cost of game protection in the county of Restigouche, which he characterized as out of all proportion to the size of the county, and he compared with the expenditure on the same account for the County of Carleton. Referring to Dr. Hannay's hand book of the province it would seem that the county of Restigouche contained 1,843,000 uncleared acres, while the county of Carleton contained only 69,000 uncleared acres. The county of Restigouche was practically one solid body of forest, which required a large number of wardens to protect the game, whilst a great portion of Carleton county was turnip fields and potato patches, which was scarcely the place to go to look for game. The policy of the late government was to do all that was possible to protect and increase the game, and that their efforts had been successful could be seen from the reports of the Crown Land office, which showed that the receipts on that account in 1896 were $325, whilst in 1906, ten years later, they had increased to $29,166.80. He thought the hon. gentleman made a mistake in attacking the game policy of the late government. It was the one plank in the late government'a policy which could not be successfully assailed. It was entirely due to the efforts of the late government that the numbers of American and other foreign sportsmen were coming year by year to this province in such increasing numbers and expending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Last year $21,667.00 was paid for the protection of game, but it also included a portion of the charges for the year previously, in fact, it represented about eighteen months' payment. The estimate made by the govern for the ensuing year was $18,600. That was a large amount, more than even the late government spent in a year.

Hon. Mr. Hazen asked would the hon. gentleman tell the House how much had been spent since the end of the last fiscal year till the present government came into office.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said he had not the information, but the government could get it.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that from the end of the fiscal year till the 30th of March some $9,800 had been spent.

Mr. Robinson said that if that was so there could not possibly be any occasion for such a large sum as was asked, because the time when the necessity was greatest for protecting the game had now passed. He could not understand what the government proposed to do with so much money unless they intended to specially protect the potato patches of Carleton county.

THE INTEREST QUESTION.

A great deal had been said on the question of interest. The hon. gentlemen figured it up that the amount paid in interest last year was $340,000. On the memorable occasion of the joint debate at St. John, he put it down to be $340,000 or somewhere thereabouts. Time and again, the late opposition had accused the government of understating the interest charges, and said that they were deceiving the people in so doing. If that was so, and if they had stated the interest at less thao it actually was then he (the speaker) thought it was just as wrong to overstate it. The hon. gentleman had said at St. John that under the extravagance of the late gnvernment, they had spent $340,000 in interest. When he became financial secretary and had the opportunity to go through the figures, and ascertained the correct condition of affairs, he says that only $230,000 was spent, which was more than $100,000 less than he had charged them at St. John with with spending.

Hon. Mr. Hazen—Will the hon. gentleman deny that $300,000 was paid in interest last year?

Hon. Mr. Robinson said they did not pay out that sum. It would be just as wrong to say they paid out too much as too little.

Hon. Mr. Hazen asked if leaving out of consideration altogether the amount charged for interest on the London loan paid last year was the sum of $178,000 the correct statement.

Mr. Robinson thought it was as near as he could reasonably give outside the amount charged to the various departments.

Hon. Mr. Hazen asked did they include the interest on the Central railway?

THE PREMIER FLOORED.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that was kept in a separate account. They didn't pretend to include that interest in the general account. The railway was under the control of commissioners, who submitted an annual report which came under mnmnnnnn report which came through the legislature to the people. In the apportionment no account was made for the Central railway. The interest charges they paid last year was $298,000, part of which had accrued in 1906. It was very difficult to show exactly what amount of interest was due for that year. If they had borrowed the sum from London in the way it was usual to borrow on notes, it would not have been necessary ta show the interest until it became due. Treasury bills bore interest at 5 per cent, which was not payable until it became due, and if they had been able to adopt that principle on the London loan, that interest would not have been shown, but it became necessary for them to discount the note which showed the interest and as a consequence swelled the amount, but the provincial secretary said in his estimate that $340,000 Has the amount paid in interest, when he knew such statement was not correct, though he tried to make the province believe that it was. He (the speaker), entirely agreed with the principle to have all interest charges placed in one account, but there were many people, including well known chartered accountants, who thought that separate accounts should be kept for the different departments.

THE SPECIAL AUDIT.

A great deal had also been said as to the report of the auditor engaged by the late government. It had been charged against him (the speaker) that he had tried to deceive the people and that he had held the report back from publication. He did nothing of the kind, he published it as soon as he received it. The provincial secretary had challenged him to meet him and discuss the provincial finances, and then said that he (the speaker) refused to do so. He did not refuse, but he merely said that he did not think it was the best way to settle the question. He (the speaker) thought it would be more satisfactory to the public to have the opinion of a professional accountant than it would be to have the opinion of himself and the hon. provincial secretary, and he asked that gentleman to agree with him in the selection of an independent auditor. The hon. gentleman did not choose to accept his (the speaker's) suggestion, so that he was driven to do so himself, and on the advice of the Bank of Montreal, he engaged the firm of Jenkins & Hardy to come and examine the provincial accounts. As soon as the auditors had prepared their statement, and forwarded it to him he published it. The provincial secretary had characterized his (the speaker's) statement as to the financial position as an unparalleled misrepresentation. He was sorry the hon. gentleman was not in his place, as he wished to analyze that statement. He (the provincial secretary) stated that they had added $1,911,905.50 to the provincial debt, and then he asked what would the farmers and business men and others think of such a sum as that being added to the permanent debt in one year. Wasn't that unparalleled misrepresentation? He would leave it to the hont hentlemen to judge.

Hon. Mr. Hazen—That is absolutely correct. Not one cent had been put down to the account for last year, but had been carried on from year to year.

SOME STRAIGHT TALK.

Mr. Robinson—If the hon. gentleman would only examine the account a little more carefully he would find that it was no such thing. Many things were included which had no right to be, accounts that had been owing for eight or ten years. The hon. gentleman had also sought to make it appear that the London loan was costing 10 per cent interest. He had not said in so many words, but he had done his best to leave that impression. When the hon. gentleman challenged him, he (the speaker) thought the public would prefer an independent auditor's report, and he would like this report made public. It contained a good deal of criticism on the methods by which the government's book-keeping was conducted, and showed in what respect it could be improved. No government or private individual had such a perfect system of book-keeping that it was not capable of improvement, and no one was more pleased than he at the government's determination to inaugurate a fresh system. He would now read the report of the auditor, which was dated the 13th of March, ten days after the election took place, and which was the report he had been charged with suppressing prior to the elections.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Toronto, Ont., March 13th, 1908

Hon. C. W. Robinson,
Moncton, N. B.

Re Province of New Brunswick

Dear Sir:

Referring to our letter of 22nd ulto. we now beg to report on the system of bookkeeping, etc. in the different departments with suggestions for a change.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

We were surprised to find on going over the books of this department that the cheques were all signed by T. B. Winslow, the secretary, and that large sums of money are drawn from the bank on this gentleman's own signature without any countersigning. This in our opinion is not correct. We do not question the accuracy of the payments made on foot of said cheques, but the special account in the B. N. A. Bank, at which there is a debit balance as at 31st October, 1907, of $78,893, 81, has no further cheque on it than the individual cheque of Mr. T. B. Winslow.

It is quite clear to us that when this department gets a grant from the government, that at the end of the fiscal year, if the grant is exhausted, the accounts remaining unpaid and outstanding are paid over from time to time, and then paid through the special account in the bank.

We suggest to you that if any money is required for the department in excess of the grant or appropriations granted by the government, that special application should be made in the proper quarter for a temporary advance, and that this application should be set out to full detail, what the money is required for and that all correspondence in connection with the getting of the advance should be published in your yearly report book and be open for inspection by your auditor general.

The books in this department require to be gone over and a new system insalled.

We think that all payments both incoming and outgoing should be received and made through the receiver general's office.

(Continued on fifth page.)

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—and it's just the same with a Tub—Eddy's Fibreware is of a Better Quality, Last Longer and Costs Less Money than any other. Ask for it.

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A weak and puny child is badly handicapped in the battle of life. It is isolated from the healthy enjoyments of its little fellow-beings. It cannot partake either of their play or their sturdy work and progress in the world; its whole life is embittered by incapacity and weakness.

Any woman who expects to become a mother ought to know what Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will do both for her own health, and safety during her time of trial and also to insure her in bequeathing a fair measure of health and strength to the prospective little one.

STORM LEFT THIRTY DEAD.

Three Towns Destroyed in Northwest Louisiana.

SHREVEPORT, La., May 17.—Thirty dead and two hundred injured is the conservative estimate of the fatalities caused by the tornado, which swept through northwest Louisiana Friday evening, destroying three small towns and leaving wrecked homes and ruined crops in a path a mile wide and fifty miles long. The dead at Gilliam, which had about two hundred inhabitants, number 13, while at Bolinger the known dead list is six. These two towns are about fifteen miles apart, and nothing has been learned of the work of the storm in the country between them.

At Elmore, a small town near Gilliam, several houses were destroyed, and it is not known how many people perished. Several of the dead were brought to Shreveport on the relief train from Gilliam this morning, and the hospitals and sanitariums are crowded with injured, several of whom will die.

Only two houses were left standing at Gilliam.

How Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets Give Instant Relief.—They're handy to carry—take one after eating—or whenever you feel stomach distress coming on—sufferers have proved it the only remedy known that will give instant relief and permanent cure—no long tedious treatments with unquestionable results—best for all sorts of stomach troubles. Sold at the Central Pharmacy, A. J. Ryan. 35 cents.—46.

A Natal public library catalogue contains entries as follows

Lead Kincly Light.
" Poisaning.

Almost as funny as the catalogue which gave:

"Mill—On the Human Understanding.
"MillMOn the Floss.

Weekle—So Tippsy is a delaulter eh?

Deekle—So they say.

Weekle—By George, I always wondered why he said "Thank you" so pleasantly every time I made a deposit.—Bohemian.

Miller—Really, Miss Passay, the white feather on your hat makes you look at least five years younger.

Miss Passy—Well, you may—er—put a cauple more white feathers on it.—London Spare Moments.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, SS.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of One HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

(Seal) A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the syatem. Send for testimonials free.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

The City of Fredericton will apply at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for an Act to authorize the said City annualfy to present the University of New Brunswick a medal for competition among the students.

(Sgd) J. W. McCREADY,
City Clerk.