

THE BUDGET.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

I have already dealt with the grant to the Imperial Institute and the one for immigration. The next item is for the expenses of the legislature. The estimate was \$20,327 the expenditure was \$21,206. The items in this account were, salary of the clerks \$1,000; officers and messengers \$2,608; indemnity and travel of members \$15,171; legislative library \$1,100; balance expenses steel bridge investigation \$1,326. For public printing the grant was \$11,000 and the expenditure came to \$12,837. The amount expended in 1900 was \$12,494. Some days ago the question was asked with regard to tenders, and I then gave full information with regard to that matter. The cost of printing has been greatly reduced by the tender system but the amount of printing is constantly increasing, still, with the lower price at which it is done we expect to keep its cost within a reasonable limit.

Mr. Hazen—What's the per centage of saving by the tender system?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—I speak from memory, but I think it was about \$5 for each form of 16 pages. For public works the estimate amounted to \$296,077. This included an over expenditure of \$102,227 from the previous year. For roads and bridges there was \$165,000; for steam navigation, \$9,000; for public buildings \$17,000 and for miscellaneous expenses \$2,850. Some people have charged the government with extravagance in respect to this item. A large amount had to be expended to meet emergencies caused by the carrying away of bridges by the heavy rains. The government was not responsible for these disasters. I regret to say that the present rain is likely to do a great deal of damage all over the province and we have news from many counties of bridges being carried away. Every county is suffering from the same cause. Few people are aware of the vast amount of work which has to be done by this department or of the great number of bridges which it has to maintain. I have in my hand a statement showing the number of miles of great roads in each county, the number of bridges and the length of bridge work and the great roads of each county which I will read:

County	Miles of Road.	No. of Bridges.	Length of Bridge wk. ft.
Albert.....	128	52	6,223
Carleton.....	134	88	10,702
Charlotte.....	202	86	5,949
Gloucester.....	127	53	20,158
Kent.....	111	54	12,269
Kings.....	190	91	4,181
Madawaska....	102	81	9,072
Northumberland	251	132	25,004
Queens.....	176	83	12,896
Restigouche...	111	69	9,411
St. John.....	75	64	4,733
Sunbury.....	103	46	3,913
Victoria.....	155	52	6,013
Westmorland.	218	95	16,454
York.....	262	119	18,384

Total.....2,345 1,165 166,362

This statement will open the eyes of many persons and enable them to understand better the difficult position of the Chief Commissioner who has to take care of so many roads and bridges. In addition to these bridges on the great roads the public works department estimates the number of bridges on bye roads at 2,833, so that the total number of bridges in New Brunswick is 4,000. This includes 45 steel bridges. No person is responsible for the state of things which exists today in consequence of the heavy rains but it is our duty to meet the emergency which has arisen, for any break in our lines of communication is a matter that must be taken hold of vigorously. I think the Chief Commissioner of the board of works is to be congratulated for being able to keep his expenditure within reasonable bounds and to satisfy everyone. Under the item tourist association there is an estimate of \$2,000 which was distributed as follows:—Bay Chaleur \$500, St. John association \$1,000, and the Fredericton association \$500. These associations want a larger grant, but I fear they will have to be satisfied with the same amount this year that they had last. I think that it would perhaps be better that these associations would amalgamate and work together, by doing so they would be able to arrange a better programme of tourist travel covering the different portions of the province.

The Current Year.

I have gone over the accounts of last year and will take up the estimates and receipts for the present year. Our Dominion subsidy is some \$12,000 more than it was last year in consequence of the increased population of the province. The sum is larger this year than it will be next year because it dates from the first of July of last year. The next item is for the balance of the Eastern extension claim, which I explained yesterday. For territorial revenue the estimate is

\$195,000. This is a difficult item to estimate exactly but the surveyor general had given this estimate from the best information available and I do not think it will be much astray. The fees of the provincial secretary's office, \$10,000; private and local bills, \$1,000; taxes on incorporated companies, \$25,000; succession duties \$25,000; King's printer, \$1,000; liquor licensee, \$21,500; miscellaneous receipts, \$1,000; refund for Dominion government on fishery leases, \$8,000; proceeds of loan fund to cover smallpox expenses, \$40,000; and we see here that as the expenses of the smallpox epidemic are of an unusual character we do not propose to deal with it as part of the current expenditure but will issue a guarantee bond for ten years, bearing four per cent interest, a portion of which will be paid every year. I now come to the estimates of expenditure for the year. For administration of justice we have \$17,050, a reduction of \$475 from the figures last year; for agriculture the estimate is \$29,125, which is \$5,401 less than last year. The reduction in this estimate is due to the fact that there are no roller mills to be bonused this year. The Commissioner for Agriculture informs me that no new mills are being built beyond those already provided for. If however, any new mills should appear the government has authority under the act to bonus them. For education the estimate is \$204,544, a reduction of \$1910 from the previous year. The expenditure for the previous year was \$200,681; for elections the estimate is \$750, a reduction from last year; for executive government the estimate is \$30,250, which is \$180 more than last year; for game protection the estimate is \$7,000, against \$6,000 for last year, and there is a new item of \$3,000 for the provincial museum. The interest on the bonded debt is put down at \$128,000 or \$4,000 more than last year; for the legislature the estimate is \$20,477, an increase of \$150 over last year; for the lunatic asylum the estimate is \$54,419 or \$7,123 less than last year. The grant for maintenance is the same as last year, but in 1901 the old balance paid off was \$21,543, while this year the balance to be paid off will be only \$14,419; for mining the estimate is \$3,500 or \$2,700 more than last year. Last year the estimate did not cover expenditure for salt boring authorized by law amounting to \$1,000. This year the estimate has been increased with a view to cover all expenditures of that class as well as those connected with the Diamond drill; for public health the estimate is \$8,600, a decrease of \$2,400 from last year. Last year the estimate for smallpox was \$9,000. This year \$7,000 has been estimated for this service. Public hospitals the estimate is \$8,200 an increase of \$600. This increase allows far aid to an additional institution; for public works the estimate is \$194,350 a decrease of \$101,727. The estimate last year included an accumulated balance of former years amounting to \$102,227. The estimate of this year includes an addition of \$500 to steam navigation. For surveys and railway inspection the estimate is \$3,000, a decrease of \$1000. For imperial institute the estimate is \$250, a decrease of \$250. Last year the sum of \$243, was paid as the contribution of New Brunswick to that institution. The new grants contained in the estimates of this year are for Eastern extension arbitration \$11,738; Royal reception \$23,487; Sportsmen's show, Boston, \$500; and agent general for New Brunswick in London \$1,000.

Concerning this last item, some years ago we gave the agent general the same amount; he receives no salary and has been put in a large expense, so we think it only right to reimburse him by this grant. He is indefatigable in his efforts to promote the interests of this province. Every few days we receive letters from him on matters of importance connected with its welfare and we feel that his valuable services should be properly recognized. The \$500 for the Sportsmen's Show in Boston is to cover the expense of sending a New Brunswick exhibit to that city. This was strongly urged upon us by the tourists associations and others, and I hope it may have a beneficial effect in bringing sportsmen to the Province. New Brunswick is becoming well known as a sporting country. The receipts from game licenses are every year increasing, and the people everywhere show a disposition to protect the game. I need not explain further in regard to these items. With regard to stock importation, what we propose to do will be told when the bill for that purpose comes before the House. The commissioner for agriculture will then have an opportunity of explaining his plans.

Now that I have gone over the different items I do not know that I have anything more to say except to ask honorable members to give the estimates the most careful consideration. I rely on the business men of the house to see that the figures that I have given are correct. I have shown, I think, that the affairs of the province are in a fairly prosperous condition. We have now a prospect of receiving from the Dominion Government

a very large sum, which we claim on account of our fisheries. I have no doubt that this claim is one that will be recognized and that in a short time it will be paid. It is not always easy to have claims recognized by the Government of Canada. The Eastern Extension money was only obtained by continually pressing the matter upon their attention. We will follow the same course with regard to the fishery claim and will not rest until we get this matter settled. I expect that we will receive from that of over \$2,000,000. Then we have the better terms movement as outlined in the Quebec resolutions. We expect that the Dominion government will treat us fairly in this matter. After confederation the total expenditure of Canada was only about \$12,000,000 a year. Now the expenditure is \$46,000,000. While their expenditure has increased fourfold it is surely unreasonable for them to expect that ours will remain the same as it was thirty-five years ago. The present is an opportune time to press the claim for better terms and if this is done I feel satisfied that that some result beneficial to the province will be reached.

In conclusion I can only say that I have stated to the House fully and freely the financial state of the Province in all its aspects. I have endeavored to speak openly and honestly, and the figures I have given can be tested by the business men of the House. While my friends opposite who are opposed to the government may tell the country in their election speeches that the figures are incorrect, the business men of both sides of politics who are willing to give an impartial judgment will have an opportunity of deciding between us. The hon. gentlemen opposite may say that the men who are supporting us in this House are tame followers. That is not the case. We do not want any tame followers. We want men of intelligence and independence, and we have plenty of such men in this House. I am happy to say that the bye elections, which have resulted in our favor, have brought into this House a class of men of whom any country might be proud. Their presence here and the handsome manner in which the government has been sustained, is the best presage of the result of the next election.

We are not afraid of the next election, I confidently predict now that the Government will be handsomely sustained, and that my honorable friend opposite

will have no larger following in the next House than he has in this one. This result will show the appreciation of the people of New Brunswick for the policy of the government. That policy has been progressive, its aim has been to encourage all new industries, to assist the farmer, the lumberman and the miner, and in going to the country we feel that we will go with all these classes at our backs, and that this government will be handsomely sustained, because it is a government that is not afraid to spend money when it is required to benefit the people of the province. (Cheers.)

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