

PUGSLEY CONCLUDES.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

These items make up a total of \$2,035,800 for which the old government are responsible. In addition to the above, the old government left a floating debt of \$321,374 of which Mr. Blair paid off \$71,374, out of his current revenue and funded the balance of \$250,000. The old government paid off \$44,000 of these bonds before Mr. Blair took office leaving the sum of \$2,241,800, of outstanding debt which was legislated by the old government. Mr. Blair came into office in March 1883 and the amount of bonded indebtedness incurred by him down to the end of the fiscal year 1896 was as follows:

Horse importation.....	\$ 30,000
Permanent bridges.....	275,000
Tobique valley railway.....	70,000
Black brook branch.....	20,000
Woodstock bridge.....	150,000
Grain elevator St. John.....	4,500

Total \$549,500

He redeemed \$25,300 of these bonds leaving a total amount of bonded indebtedness by Mr. Blair down to the end of the fiscal year 1896 of \$524,300. Add to this the total amount of debt created by the old government, \$2,241,800 and we have a total bonded debt at the end of 1896 of \$2,766,000. There had been added within the last five years \$525,846, making the total bonded debt at the end of 1901 of \$3,291,846. The bonded debt since 1896 has been mainly for steel bridges and I challenge my hon. friend to say that any of these bonds have been improperly issued. There is another matter of grave importance to which I must direct attention. When the old government desired to assist the railway from Gibson to Edmundston, they did not issue bonds, but gave the railway company 10,000 acres a mile of the best timber lands in New Brunswick, or about 1,600,000 acres altogether. This land would be worth now at least \$5,000,000. If we had been guilty of such reckless conduct as this we might have been condemned. It would have been better for the province to have given a subsidy of \$20,000 a mile for this railway and to retain its forest land. When the old government wanted money, they put up land for sale and got money with it. I am sure that the people are of the opinion that the administration of affairs since 1883 has been far superior to that which prevailed before, and my hon. friend the Premier who holds the purse strings deserves the greatest credit for the manner in which he has maintained the services of the province, notwithstanding the large amount of interest which has to be paid on the debt incurred by the old government.

The estimates presented by the premier have been criticised. It is said that the balance of the Eastern extension claim \$6,500 will not be paid. This claim is for land taken for the Eastern extension railway, which the claimants say the man who gave the deed only had a life interest in. The sum of \$5,000 was retained by the Dominion government but an arrangement has been made by which it will be paid over, the condition being that if the case is sued in the Exchequer court the Province of New Brunswick will become a party and if there is a judgment against the Dominion will abide by it. But I have no fear of the success of any such claim. The title to this property was looked into and proved by the present Chief Justice Tuck, acting for the Dominion government, so that there can be no claim against us. Then we are charged with taking money from St. John under the liquor license act, I cannot understand why the leader of the opposition should find fault with that portion of the speech in which St. John was congratulated on its prosperity. That money for liquor licenses is received under an act passed before the present premier assumed the reins of government. Since then the people of St. John have approved of it by electing supporters of the government. In the improbable event of my friend becoming the leader of a government will he say that he will repeal this law and hand this money back to St. John? Are we not putting this money to a good use in assisting with it the lunatic asylum, the hospital and other services. Will the opposition say that these are not proper objects to which to devote money derived from liquor licenses. Then we are charged with putting \$40,000 for the smallpox loan into current revenue. This money was paid out of current revenue and therefore should come back to current revenue. With regard to the \$8000 for the fishery claim against the Dominion we can only say that the Dominion authorities have taken our property and by law they are bound to restore it. We have the assurance of the Minister of Railways that he will recommend to his colleagues the payment of this money.

We are told that the estimate for contingency is at \$14,000 is too low but it must be remembered that out of the contingencies of last year \$2,200 was paid to Mr. McDade for the balance of his bill for the reports of 1900. That item now disappears. Last year we not only paid this sum but \$1500 to the present reporter Mr. Hannay. The sum of \$1500 will also be paid this year, and there is no reason to believe that any more will be asked for. I am happy to be able to say that the reports published under this new arrangement are giving every satisfaction.

There is no ground for the gloomy predictions of my Hon. friends with regard to the future of the Province. Its financial position. We began this year with a balance of \$26,000 in our favor and we expect to end it with a favorable balance of \$50,000. The opposition are fond of quoting the finances of Nova Scotia and comparing them with our own. The members of the executive in Nova Scotia receive much larger salaries than we do. The premier is paid \$4,000. Our premier receives \$2,100. The attorney general of Nova Scotia receives \$3,200, while I get \$2,100. I am not afraid to compare our own financial position with that of Nova Scotia. Looking at the accounts of 1901 I find that they started with a balance of \$127,000 against them. There was a balance of \$90,000 against us. They received for Eastern extension claims \$671,836 and put it into current revenue; we received \$275,000. At the end of the year they had a favorable balance of \$62,000; we had a favorable balance of \$26,000. I venture to say that this is a good showing, although the province of Nova Scotia for several years past has been governed by very able men. That province received from its mines \$436,619 last year, twice as much as our territorial revenue. Considering our limited revenue and the heavy charges upon it this province has been admirably governed and we have every reason to look forward with hope to the future. Our revenue will soon be largely increased. When the coal fields of Queens and Sunbury are fully developed we may expect to receive in royalties from \$30,000 to \$40,000 for coal. The leader of the opposition charges me with promising the electors of Kings to construct a railway via St. John Valley to Edmundston. What I said was that I thought this railway should be built. I felt it was not creditable to this province that the oldest settled portion of it one of its most fertile districts should be without railway facilities. I expressed the hope that when we had received increased revenues from coal royalties we would be able to assist this St. John valley railway, but I did not pledge this assistance until a favorable result had been reached with regard to the railway now under construction in Queens. I yield to no one in my desire to see the various sections of this province provided with railway facilities. With regard to the fisheries claim against the Dominion government under the Halifax award I have no doubt that this claim will be recognized by the Dominion Government. It has been decided by the highest court of the empire that New Brunswick owns the fisheries in its tidal rivers and it follows as a matter of course that we also own the fisheries for three miles out from the sea shore. New Brunswick's share of the Halifax award would be about \$1,000,000, and this sum will be doubled since it was paid when the interest at four per cent is added. It is claimed that this money must go to the fishermen, but the Dominion government has only been paying our fishermen in bounties the paltry sum of \$18,000 a year. We intend to press this fishery claim and we will ask the Dominion government either to settle it or refer it to the courts. In conclusion I beg to thank this House for the courtesy and patience with which they have listened to me. I have endeavored to put matters fairly before the House, and to criticize the opposition in no unfriendly spirit, but only to show the gross injustice and unfairness of the attacks that have been made upon the administration.

Messrs. LaForest, LaBillois, Appleby, Farris and Porter followed and the debate was adjourned at 1 a. m.

Devil's Auction.

Manager Yale's claim that the "Devil's Auction" is the oldest in name, yet the newest in point of novelty, can well be substantiated in this the 20th edition of this famous spectacle, as everything is new from the time the curtain rises on the first act until it is rung down on the beautiful new Transportation scene "Oceans Mighty Depths," at the close of the performance. Every act, novelty and feature being new, all the scenery, properties, etc. etc. in fact, not one old feature is retained and the theatre going public of certainly have a treat in store for them on—d.

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JAMES CRANGLE.

Fredericton, Feb. 5.—dtt.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION.

Application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at present session for an Act to incorporate the First National Bank of Canada with the usual powers of Banks under the Bank Act and its amendments.

Signed S. B. WOODS,

Solicitor for Applicants.

March 21.—dtt

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Jan. 18.—dwtf.

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March 5.—dlmow6wks

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