

THE BUDGET.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

There is a great deal in that letter worthy of attention. This province is a difficult one to prospect because of it being so heavily timbered, but for the future the government will see that this work is properly done. The government has been diligent in promoting the work of developing the coal areas of Queens and Sanbury counties. Owing to the assistance given last year to the New Brunswick coal and railway company, in a few months the first fifteen miles of the railway, from Chipman to Newcastle will be completed and the coal brought within reach of a ready market. The Intercolonial has already ordered 60,000 tons of this coal. The Canadian Pacific and other railway companies are ready to take it so the market for this coal is assured. I think we may fairly claim credit for taking hold of this matter in an effective fashion. So far the methods of mining in that district have been primitive, mainly by means of stripping. The company have been examining a machine made in Illinois for mining coal by stripping. It is called the Butler excavator, and in Illinois it is used on a five foot seam of coal covered by ten feet of earth. In Queens County the seam is from twenty-two inches to thirty-two inches thick. The company have had the patentee of this machine in Queens, and he said that with it he could place in St. John coal of the very finest quality and in the best condition. These machines are costly and heavy, weighing about 115 tons each and to operate them successfully they require a large area to work upon so that they may go straight ahead for a mile or two. The company are now looking out for stripping grounds suitable for them to work upon.

The government has been accused of negligence in respect to combines but there is no ground for this charge. The other day a sale of fishing leases took place on the Restigouche and it was discovered that a wealthy corporation, the Restigouche Salmon Club, had made a bargain with other parties to prevent competition. The government promptly vacated the sale, yet we are told that we are not attending to the public interest. The truth is that everything is being looked after by the government in a business like way. The numerous notices of enquiry that have been given by the opposition have really helped the government for they have shown how well business is being looked after and that we have nothing to hide. If we make a mistake we are willing to admit we, we do not claim to be infallible and when a man becomes a member of the government his capacity does not increase to such an extent as to make him always right.

The government has been attacked with respect to the hand book of New Brunswick, prepared by Mr. Hickman. I am not willing to admit that the book is to be condemned. Mistakes occur in all books. The book has been commended in England, where it has been extensively circulated, and its circulation has been the means of bringing settlers to the province.

In regard to the immigration policy of the government it cannot be denied that it has led to beneficial results. Several hundred people have arrived in the province and taken up valuable farms. The fact that Mr. Hickman is no longer in the service of the government must not be taken to mean that its immigration policy has been abandoned. Movement towards this province having been fairly started, it was felt that a special agent was no longer necessary. We are receiving letters from England every day and people are coming to this province all the time. All the work is now being done through the office of the surveyor general and the agent general in London. The fact that four hundred people from England settled in New Brunswick last year is a good showing, and proves that the money spent on immigration has been well spent. We have got a good class of immigrants, farmers with a little money to invest, men who will not be a shifty element.

The other day I referred to the figures given by the leader of the opposition in his speech at Kingston in regard to the increase of the debt of the Province. He knew very well that long before this government came into power legislation providing the railway subsidies was on the statute book. When companies came forward offering to build railways under these subsidy acts we had no choice but to grant them. We are not responsible for the policy which added so much to the debt of the Province.

Mr. Hazen: What do you call this, a new government or a continuation of the old?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie, I call this a new government but I am willing to be responsible for my acts while a member of the former government. The leader of the opposition in his Kingston speech by

a system of averages for fifteen years from confederation to the year 1882 arrives at the conclusion that the provincial revenue provides an increased amount for provincial purposes as compared with the revenue from 1884 to the present time making his figures \$158,024. Without testing the accuracy of the statement upon which he bases this conclusion or admitting the correctness of his system, some glaring and very obvious omissions may be detected. He entirely ignores the fact that for ten years out of the first fifteen the sum of \$63,000 additional was received from the Dominion as provided by the British North America act. Again he takes the territorial revenue for 15 years and places it against the territorial revenue for 18 years and finds that there has been an increase of \$1,111,609. Certainly in the plan pursued by him, to get an average he should have taken equal periods. Applying these two corrections we get \$63,000 for ten years, \$630,000; proportion of territorial revenue for three years at an average of \$137,182 a year, \$411,547, making on just two items \$1,041,547. Deducting this amount from the whole amount as given by Mr. Hazen as the increased income viz, \$2,848,469, we get \$1,806,922 or an average of about \$100,000 on the opposition plan of figuring. Now it will be interesting to look at the other side of the account. From 1884 to 1901 a period of 18 years the province has paid an average yearly increase as compared with the fifteen years down to 1882 for education \$36,362, for agriculture \$9,832 for roads and bridges and public works not including those for which bonds were issued \$10,539; for the care of the insane \$14,928; total \$71,663 on four items alone; and to this for interest on the public debt incurred in 1882 and before under several railway subsidy acts \$46,360, making a grand total of \$118,022. As the leader of the opposition has made use of services that have dropped out to swell the available income since 1882, it is only fair to remember services that have dropped in during that time viz, game protection \$13,675; fisheries protection \$1,100; forest protection \$1200; historical and natural history societies \$900; hospitals \$6,100; fish fair Campbello \$200; tourists associations \$2,000; imperial institute \$243; total \$25,419. These latter items are obtained from the accounts of 1901. I think the leader of the opposition should have been more careful in his statements at Kingston. Perhaps he will explain that his speech was not intended for a deliberative body, but was a mere school house speech. Still it was his duty to state things fairly and properly, and not to juggle with the figures, for if the day should ever come that he is leader of the government the people will lose respect for him if he adopted a similar plan of dealing with figures. These new services that are costing so much money are all necessary. A government cannot be run now as economically as it was fifty years ago. The expenses of households have increased and so have the expenses of the province. The point is, do the people demand the expenditure, and are we expending the money properly? If the people demand it and the money is properly spent there is nothing more to be said.

In reference to the increase of the debt and interest, of course one follows the other. The largest item in the debt is of course the bonded debt which at the end of the last fiscal year amounted to \$2,291,846. The responsibility for this debt may be divided as follows:—Incurred by the governments of New Brunswick from confederation to the year 1883, \$2,224,566; incurred by the government from 1883 to 1901, \$1,067,280. The amount for which the government from 1883 to 1901 is responsible is made up as follows:—Bridges, \$824,280; grain elevator and wharf St. John, \$17,000; lunatic asylum, \$10,000; Dufferin Eaton wharf, \$8,000; railway subsidies, under 54 Victoria Chap. II, \$209,000; total \$1,067,280. Now which of these items of expenditure will the leader of the opposition say was improper.

After all his Kingston speech I challenge him to say that any of the opposition ever raised their voice against these expenditures. Will they say that this money should not have been expended in building new bridges? Will they say that we should not have given any assistance for the grain elevator at St. John? Should the lunatic asylum have been left as it was and the most helpless and hopeless portion of the community been thus neglected? Which of the railway subsidies will they say should not have been given? The people demand these expenditures and the government could not refuse them.

(Continued tomorrow.)

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