

CLOSING SPEECH

IN THE

Nova Scotia Legislature

ON THE

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE PROVINCE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG said in concluding the debate which had arisen over this important matter of the consideration of the financial accounts of the Province, he desired as concisely as possible to take into consideration some of the matters referred to both on this side of the House and on the other side.

NOT AFRAID OF CRITICISM.

It was a matter that very properly should be made the subject of debate and careful consideration, involving as it did the consideration of questions affecting the well-being of the Province and the administration of its affairs by the party in power—the Government of the day. He was sure we all must agree with the principle suggested by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday, that criticism was desirable. No Government should be alarmed about criticism, but should welcome it. We welcome criticism as does every strong Government—strong in the conviction that its administration has been honest, progressive and in the best interests of the welfare of our people. But all Governments meet with criticism, whether good or bad. If one were to believe what is recorded in the press at the present time, they are driven to the conclusion that the Federal Government at Ottawa, looked upon by gentlemen opposite as the ideal Government, run under ideal conditions, is being the subject of very severe criticism. The acts of commission and omission were made the subject of attack at the hands of those opposed to them. It was only a reasonable and natural condition of things which was quite to be expected. The very best of Government would, therefore, find criticism and the Opposition was entitled to criticise.