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HARCOURT'S BUDGET DOWN

Keeper of Ontario's Chest Makes His Statement

ON PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

When the Rich Men Die, the Treasury Has a Hand in Always.

Toronto and Ottawa Are the Cities Which Contribute the Most Money in This Respect—The Treasurer Has Hope for the Future as the Mining Boom is the Source of Revenue That Surprises Special Votes—Mr. Matheson's Criticism.

The preliminary business of the Legislature was speedily disposed of yesterday afternoon and the galleries were crowded when Hon. Mr. Harcourt rose to move the House into Committee of Supply.

Hon. R. Harcourt, on rising to present his financial statement, was received with applause from the Government benches. In opening his report to the fact that his aim was merely to interest or hold the attention of the audience in the House, he was about to address the House was the very last subject which he would select. Yet, said the speaker, the question of our finances, the exact condition of the balance sheet, and everything in fact relating to our expenditure and receipts prove of perennial interest.

It is true that the province has no very flexible source of revenue capable as exist in other countries, and therefore the House never expects a surplus, and an announcement of an abnormally productive year in any particular direction, or a year of two exceptions, are so fixed and insensate that we are able to estimate them from year to year with no small degree of accuracy.

NOTHING NEW TO ANNOUNCE.

I have nothing to announce of unusual or ordinary character concerning the finances of 1896, neither as regards our receipts or expenditures. The receipts aggregate or having regard to the main items of revenue taken one by one, are alike satisfactory. I estimated, for instance, last February that we would receive during the year upon which we were then entering \$32,220,000. As a fact we did actually receive, excluding the annuities, \$32,324,000. This proves that we are always careful to state as our estimate of revenue and we are reasonably sure to receive.

Our surplus receipt was of course the same as last year. It will be noted that our receipts for the year under consideration were \$1,000,000 less than the Dominion total and \$1,000,000 more than the Dominion total as received as interest from the Dominion on money held in trust for the Dominion. This sum was an approximate amount, the real actual amount not being ascertained until the close of the year. The Dominion holds in trust for the province the Upper Canada and Lower Canada Building Fund \$1,472,891, and the Land Improvement Fund \$1,000,000.

NOT AN INCREASED LIABILITY.

From the sale of annuities we realized \$17,730, in selling several annuities prior to 1894 we received an interest from the Dominion on money held in trust for the Dominion. This sum was an approximate amount, the real actual amount not being ascertained until the close of the year. The Dominion holds in trust for the province the Upper Canada and Lower Canada Building Fund \$1,472,891, and the Land Improvement Fund \$1,000,000.

PATIENTS PAYING UP.

The increase of \$41,000 in revenue from public institutions is mainly due to closer collection of arrears of maintenance account, rendered possible by an improved method in keeping the accounts. The central office shows a falling off as compared with the previous year. The number of paying patients was 99, or less than one out of five. Of this number 286 were in the Toronto, 218 in the London and 100 in the Hamilton asylums.

Our casual revenue has grown from \$72,000 in 1895 to \$88,000 in 1896, a considerably larger sum than formerly received by way of percentages from fees of officials.

LAWYERS ARE SUFFERING.

The receipts from law stamps were the smallest for many years and \$20,000 less than in 1894, which must mean less litigation, a less volume of work in our Surrogate and other offices, and some relief to the bar. The large increased receipts from the sale of law stamps, viz., \$828, nearly five times as large as those of last year is noticeable. Hon. gentlemen should remember that one of our recent bills, by no means least important victories in the courts concerns the jurisdiction of the courts over Provincial fisheries. The decision is not of little importance from a revenue standpoint. I hope that the increased jurisdiction to be given to us will be the means in the near future of materially adding to our revenue.

The ultimate and definite settlement of this important question, whether the case goes to the Privy Council or is otherwise settled, will be awaited with much interest. Speaking generally of our casual revenue, I confidently expect still further improvement from year to year.

DISCUSSION NOT NECESSARY.

I need not speak at great length of our expenditures. They will later on in the session be examined in detail and with care by the Public Accounts Committee. We succeeded in keeping within the budget in the House of Commons. The over expenditure for stationery of \$14,267 was largely caused by the public demand for departmental reports, which were always made in a budget speech, but he was also obliged to concede with the Treasurer upon the expenditure for education kept growing apace. We spent last year \$72,569, or more than one-fifth of our

total revenue. No one suggests that we can, consistently with growth, progress and improvement, curtail in this direction. In fact, the science is the predominant partner in every branch of trade and manufacture. If we wish to develop our trade we must in every way possible encourage science, agriculture, and the various branches of industry. It would be false economy to even think of lessening grants to schools. For money thus spent we get a good return, rich and ample. The late Premier, Sir Moses, who, as well as a superior education for all who earnestly desire it.

We expended a little less than the educational vote of last year. The over expenditure was for departmental examinations and superintending teachers. The cost of examinations increases as the number of candidates increases. The total cost of examinations amounted to \$34,681.

CAUSE OF OVER-EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the maintenance of our public works represents an amount equal to about one-fourth of the total annual revenue. The over-expenditure in the Brockville Asylum is accounted for by the fact that the cost per capita greater than in larger institutions. The cost per capita in the asylums was \$184.55, as compared with \$142.85 in 1895, \$127.22 in 1894 and \$135.71 in 1893.

The expenditure for hospitals and charities was the largest. The amounts amounted to \$194,615. Up to the present time assistance has been given to about 1,000,000 persons, amounting to \$3,750,000. In concluding my remarks on the budget, I would like to call attention to the fact that we are year by year making a considerable saving in our expenditures. Year by year the aggregate revenue from liquor licenses is declining, and owing to the steady diminution in the number of licenses issued. Of the revenue received from this source last year \$12,281 came from the city municipalities and \$18,551 from the other municipalities. The various municipalities received \$27,072 as their share of the \$12,281 received from the brewers and distillers. The amount of \$12,281 was less than the amount of \$13,253 received from 65 brewers and 8 distillers. The amount of \$12,281 was less than the amount of \$13,253 received from 65 brewers and 8 distillers.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Crown Lands affords the largest source of revenue aside from the excise. The amount being \$129,000 in excess of the estimate, a satisfactory result in view of the unfavorable year for the lumber industry. Year by year the aggregate revenue from liquor licenses is declining, and owing to the steady diminution in the number of licenses issued.

LOCAL OPTION BY-LAW.

Local option by-law in force in Essex, Kent, and North York, West York, and York. The amount of \$12,281 was less than the amount of \$13,253 received from 65 brewers and 8 distillers.

YORK AND CARLETON PAY IT.

From succession duties we estimated \$200,000 revenue. We received \$210,000 in 1896, and \$197,000 in 1895. The amount of \$210,000 was less than the amount of \$210,000 received from 65 brewers and 8 distillers.

SPECIAL VOTES ASKED FOR.

My estimate of the expenditure of this year is \$32,610,000. This is only an estimate. It is not a guarantee. I would like to know, keep within this estimate. We ask this year larger votes for the maintenance of our public institutions. As the dependent income in our care is \$4,000,000, we need \$1,000,000 for the maintenance of our public institutions.

THE MINING BOOM.

In conclusion, the speaker expressed the belief that we are on the eve of a period of steady and prudent progress. The steady and prudent progress of the province is a period of prosperity should it come. We are not a province of inexhaustible mineral wealth. It is true, a part of the liability which we are now assuming is a part of the liability which we are now assuming.

NEW MINING PLANTS.

A mill of 20 stamps at the Foley mine on Selkirk River was expected to be in operation by the end of the present year. There is a good prospect for at least one or two more mills of this kind in the north and north-western parts of the Province being built and completed.

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MR. MATHESON'S CRITICISM.

Expenditures increasing, but the Revenue at a Standstill.

Lieut.-Col. Matheson, upon resuming, after recess to criticize the budget which he had just presented to the House. The over expenditure for stationery of \$14,267 was largely caused by the public demand for departmental reports, which were always made in a budget speech, but he was also obliged to concede with the Treasurer upon the expenditure for education kept growing apace. We spent last year \$72,569, or more than one-fifth of our

CROWN'S CASE CLOSED.

Continued from Page 1.

Lee's, 430 Bathurst-street, from which house the next is written:

400 Bathurst-street, Toronto, Jan. 10. Dear Sir, I have to thank you for the letter of the 7th inst. I will be able to go to Beverley-street. Would be pleased if you will call about half past seven. Yours in haste, K. R.

TWO FROM GRAVENHEIM.

The other two letters are written after K. R. had gone home to Gravenheim and before Hammond had left Toronto. They explain themselves:

Gravenheim, Feb. 18. Dear Sir, I have waited for my trunk till I am tired. I have told you the story of my trunk. I have told you the story of my trunk. I have told you the story of my trunk.

THE FOURTH TIME.

Gravenheim, Feb. 27. Dear Sir, I have waited for my trunk till I am tired. I have told you the story of my trunk. I have told you the story of my trunk. I have told you the story of my trunk.

HEAD CONSTABLE SLOAN.

Archie Sloan, who was constable at Gravenheim. The prisoner was arrested by my brother. Found the following document on prisoner when I searched him: A letter from Amhurst to Mrs. C. E. Jones, dated 18th Nov. 1896. The letter was addressed to Mrs. C. E. Jones, and was signed by W. J. Sloan, head constable of the Gravenheim police.

SUCCESSION TAX.

The succession duty rate was also much too high. A large amount of revenue was lost for the year. The rate was too high. A large amount of revenue was lost for the year.

THE TELEGRAMS.

John C. Rooney, operator at Gravenheim, was called to prove the receipt and delivery of the New York telegram, which read: "Stop taking medicine. Wrong directions." Rooney admitted this telegram as evidence, but ruled out Kate Toug's letter to Mrs. C. E. Jones, dated 18th Nov. 1896.

A BUFFALO WITNESS.

Mrs. R. A. Chamberlain, an old lady from Buffalo, was the witness in the case. She testified that she saw the prisoner on the night of the murder. She testified that she saw the prisoner on the night of the murder.

MRS. ANANDA LECOMPE.

Mrs. Ananda Lecompe, who keeps a private hotel at 221 West 22nd-street, New York, said she had seen the prisoner at her house about three weeks before Christmas, 1895. She gave the name of James, a woman came five days after and she knew her as Mrs. C. E. Jones.

DR. GRANT'S SWORN.

Dr. A. J. Grant, who lives in Gravenheim, called to see deceased on the night of March 6, 1897. He testified that he saw the prisoner on the night of the murder. He testified that he saw the prisoner on the night of the murder.

WHAT HER CONJUGER SWORE.

Dr. Bridgeman (coroner): Held inquest on the body of the deceased; pointed the contents of cup found in her room in a bottle and kept it in my possession. It is in my possession. It is in my possession.

MRS. JAMES'S APPLICATION.

When court resumed Mr. Oster asked to tender the application made by Mrs. James to the Equitable Life. This he did in view of what Mrs. James had said in the commission evidence. He James placing in evidence a \$500 policy on her own life, payable to her husband, the premiums to cost \$2.50 every three months.

DR. GRANT UNDER FIRE.

The jury returned, and Mr. Johnston proceeded with the cross-examination of Dr. Grant, and for the remainder of the day the court listened to lectures on prussic acid poisoning. Dr. Grant admitted, under

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Special purchase of White and Colored Shirts to be cleared at once to make room for spring goods.

Cambric Shirts, 2 collars, detached, 50c, regular 70c and 81c.
Cambric Shirts, 2 collars and cuffs, detached, neat stripes and blue hair line, 75c, regular \$1.10 and \$1.25.
Drabden Shirts, new goods, 75c and 80c, regular \$1.10 and \$1.25.
White Shirts, unadorned, open front or back, 80c, regular 75c.
White Shirts, open back and front, for business or full dress, \$1, regular \$1.50.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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HELP WANTED.

WANTED—AT ONCE—FIRST AND SECOND HAND SHOES, to be sent to the Stratford Shoe Co. (limited), Stratford, Ontario.

ROOMS AND BOARD.

GENTLEMAN WANTS ROOM AND BOARD in strictly private family; no other. H. A. G. Queen's Hotel.

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