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Emmerson's time, but I do know that
our bridges are as I have told you,
good for a hundred years or more.
I am sorry I can't give you more in-
formation, but I'm not in a position
to do so."

DR. STOCKTON'S VIEWS.

From His Address to the Electors.

Our system of auditing the public
accounts should be entirely changed.
The auditor general of this province
holds his office at the pleasure of the
government of the day. He can be
dismissed from office at any time.
At Ottawa it is not so. The auditor
general there is independent of the
government. It should be the same
in New Brunswick. It should be his
duty to see that no accounts are paid
unless authorized by law; that vouch-
ers are produced for each payment,
and all accounts, showing in detail
the items, on which payments are
made should be filed in his office. It
is almost needless to say we have no
such system at present.

The expenditure of public money
should be by public competition and
tender. Thousands of dollars under
the present government have been
expended yearly by private contract
without competition.

GIVEN TO FAVORITES.

The work has been done by
friends and favorites of the
government to the advantage of
the contractor, but not in the interest
of the taxpayer. To ensure honesty
and economy there should be public
competition and tender, and the suc-
cessful tenderer should be compelled
faithfully to carry out the terms of
his contract. The names of all the
tenderers and the amounts for public
services should appear annually in
some public report. In Nova Scotia,
for the construction of bridges, the
names of all the tenderers and the
amounts are published yearly in the
provincial engineer's report. We
should have a similar system in this
province. Such a system honestly
carried out would have saved New
Brunswick, during the past few
years, tens of thousands of dollars.
The people are entitled to the fullest
information out do not get it.

The expenditure on by-roads is not
satisfactory. We must have good
roads. They add to the value of
every farm along which they pass.

Here the evils of favoritism are par-
ticularly seen.

THE BY-ROAD MONEY.

The political necessities of the
government have led them to
hand over the by-road money to
their friends in the different counties,
not so much for improving the roads
as to strengthen the government. I
am satisfied it would be better for
the road service, as far as practicable,
to allow the by-road money to be
spent through the municipalities.
Those having local knowledge, and
who are directly interested in having
good roads, under that system would
be responsible for spending the money
to the best advantage. It would still
be the duty of the government to see
that the municipal officers faithfully
spent the money.

The Highway act of 1896 is not
satisfactory as a general law. It has
too much machinery. When the bill
was before the house members of the
opposition suggested amendments,
which, if accepted by the govern-
ment, would have made it more
satisfactory. The act of 1886, with
some amendments, would be a much
better law.

TWO BRIDGES BETTER THAN TWO PRICES.

The expenditure on great roads and
bridges is made through the depart-
ment of public works. In addition
to the yearly grant the government
have given bonds to the amount of
over half a million dollars for
building what they call permanent
bridges. For the superstructure of
all those bridges built within the last
five years, so far as can be ascer-
tained, Mr. Emmerson, without com-
petition or tender, has paid two
prices, and in some cases even more.
The province should have two bridges
where there is but one. It would
have been far better in the public in-
terest to have paid a fair price and
have two bridges than two prices and
have but one bridge. The application
of ordinary business principles would
have saved large sums of money. Mr.
Emmerson and his government do
not wish to face an investigation be-
fore a committee of the legislature,
and the present election is brought
on to escape full exposure. This is
the hope and expectation of the gov-
ernment. Is it possible that the public
conscience of the province is so dead
as to condone such acts on the part
of Mr. Emmerson and his govern-
ment? I cannot think so.