

N. B. LEGISLATURE.

(Official Report.)

FREDERICTON, April 23.—When the order of the day was called this afternoon, Mr. Fleming of Carleton Co. arose to criticize the provincial secretary's financial statement. He said it is not pleasant to be forced to look on the dark side of the picture. The provincial secretary had been very optimistic in his tone and it would be pleased to agree with him if I could see any reason for the conclusion he arrives at. I wish to compliment him on the fact that he did not charge the opposition with declaring that the country was going to the dogs. He also omitted to charge us with being unpatriotic. Both of these charges occupied a prominent place in his speech on previous years. He has said that the government has a progressive policy for the effect of which has been to keep our young men home, and that it will not be necessary for them hereafter to go elsewhere to seek their fortunes. I cannot see where the progressive policy comes in, unless you call it progressiveness to have increased the debt year after year and rolled up a burden which the coming generation will find it hard to bear.

The provincial secretary said: "The opposition has sneered and made light of the resources of the province. I challenge him to state when and where the leader of the opposition or his followers in the house and country have sneered at the resources of New Brunswick. On the contrary, we view them with us as much pride as any man on the floor of this house. But while we are buoyed up with that fact, we cannot see the wisdom of increasing the debt year after year. The opposition has also been charged with opposing the policy of the building permanent bridges. We have never opposed that policy, but we protest strongly against buying permanent bridges and paying two prices for them. The cost of the three-year bridge program in three years ago into the two-year program upon which they are now so dumb, which showed the wisdom of dollars of public money had been wasted and which resulted in the government being forced to reverse its policy and call for tenders, thus effecting a great saving.

current balance against the public works, included in which are such items as printing and bookbinding and travelling expenses of the engineers of the public works department. In 1902 the deficit against the end of the year is \$10,870. The small pox fund yielded \$40,000 and there was expended \$14,927, leaving a balance of \$25,073, so that the actual deficit is \$4,897. Add to this the deficit of \$13,087, and we have an aggregate deficit of \$17,984, without taking into consideration the \$250,000 spent on roads and bridges. In 1902 the deficit increased \$225,188 and we received on account of the Eastern Extension award, \$200,000, making the total deficit \$13,087. This is a condition of affairs which does not admit of optimism on the part of any hon. member, when he points out that the deficit has happened in the face of the fact that we have had an increased revenue during the past number of years. In 1902 the revenue was \$1,061,422; in 1901, \$1,022,626; in 1900, \$1,019,397; in 1899, \$964,497; in 1898, \$708,805; in 1900, \$758,988; in 1901, \$768,066; in 1902, \$825,190, \$115,821.

The premier began his remarks with a reference to the agricultural policy of the government. Representing, as I do, an agricultural county, I always feel that the amount voted for agriculture is a partial tender system with regard to public printing, which would result in a great saving, but last year we paid more than ever for it. The reports from succession duties amounted to \$15,835, and there was charged for settling these the sum of \$160. Last year the amount of the succession duties was \$18,300, but this was for settling only three or four small estates. If we were to pay, as no doubt we will have to do, the full amount of the succession duties, the whole amount collected, it will amount to \$184. I note with pleasure the efforts of the hon. gentleman to improve the appearance of the report and extend the information therein contained. I am not finding fault, but in the bygone days the hon. gentleman's reports have never made a return. There should be some way of remedying this, and the hon. gentleman will succeed in doing so.

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FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. A surplus of \$1,827 was estimated. Now I don't want to assume the role of a prophet, but I venture to predict that instead of a surplus there will be a substantial deficit at the end of the year. The hon. gentleman's estimate of \$1,827 is based on assumptions which are not realistic. The hon. gentleman's estimate of \$1,827 is based on assumptions which are not realistic. The hon. gentleman's estimate of \$1,827 is based on assumptions which are not realistic.

TAKING UP THE ITEM. OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. I will go back ten years for the purpose of comparing the cost of the administration of justice in 1904 with that of 1894. In 1894 the cost was \$1,000,000, and in 1904 it was \$1,500,000. This is an increase of 50 per cent. The hon. gentleman has pointed out that the amount of the succession duties was \$18,300, but this was for settling only three or four small estates. If we were to pay, as no doubt we will have to do, the full amount of the succession duties, the whole amount collected, it will amount to \$184.

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