

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Estimates - Bills - Kent Election - The Hon. Mr. Mitchell makes his Budget Speech.

On Saturday morning, the 19th inst., Mr. Mitchell submitted estimates of sums required for the service of the province not otherwise provided for the current year as follows:

Administration of Justice:
Equity chambers, St. John - \$150
Judges' chambers and law library, St. John - 300

Total - \$450

Agriculture:
Expenses 100 imported horses - \$5,000
Stock farm - 150

Total - \$5,150

Contingencies:
Legislature and public departments - \$12,500
Deaf and dumb institution - 1,500

Total - \$14,000

Education:
School houses, poor districts - 1,500
Free grants - 5,000
Immigration - 5,000

Total - \$11,500

Legislature:
Librarian - \$500
Insurance on library - 50
Books for library - 500

Total - \$1,050

Assistant clerk, legislative council - \$600
Engrossing clerk, legislative council - 300
Chaplain, legislative council - 80
Usher black rod, legislative council - 160

Door keeper, legislative council - 80
Messenger, legislative council - 60

Total - \$1,180

Assistant clerk, house of assembly - \$600
Two engrossing clerks - 600
House - 600
Chaplain, house - 80
Sergeant-at-arms - 160
Door keeper, house - 80
Messenger, house - 80
Three messengers, house - 180
Two pages, house - 80

Total - \$3,600

Lunatic asylum maintenance - 40,000
Natural history society - 125
Public health contingencies and printing - 800
Public hospitals - 4,000
Public printing - 11,000

Public Works:
Great roads and bridges - \$95,000
Steam navigation - 6,500
Public buildings, legislative buildings and offices - 8,500
Governor's house - 500
Normal school - 3,500
Lunatic asylum - 1,500

Total - \$14,000

Miscellaneous expenses - 2,850
By-roads - 70,000
Relief of crown lands - 200
Surveys and railway inspection - 1,000
Unforeseen expenses - 2,000

Grand total - \$231,845

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill entitled "An act to establish liens on logs and lumber."

On Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill relating to mines and minerals.

On Wednesday the Hon. Mr. Mitchell submitted a statement of current revenue account to March 12th instant.

The Kent election matter was brought up before the house, and referred to the committee on privileges.

Mr. Melanson made his motion seconded by Mr. Turner for particulars of horse hire expenditure.

Hon. Mr. Blair said that the accounts were in the hands of the public accounts committee, and unless they were supplied with an instrument for computing distances it would be utterly impossible to give the desired information.

After a few remarks by Messrs. Hanington, Stockton, Wilson and Atkinson, the Hon. Mr. Mitchell rose to order. He said the opposition had unfairly stated the case. The government had nothing to keep back, and access to public accounts can be had by any honorable member. The resolution was lost by 14 to 24.

The Budget Speech.
On the order of the day being reached, the Hon. Mr. Mitchell, provincial secretary delivered the budget speech. He said: A simple unvarnished statement of the financial condition of the province, and the stewardship of the government would be more satisfactory to them than the flowery arts of the orator. At the close of the year the total indebtedness of the province was \$2,140,700.

During the year there had been added to the bonded debt the sum of \$40,000 caused by subsidies to railway, for which the government were not responsible. To the central railway was paid \$36,000, to the Albert street \$4,000, to the St. John bridge extension \$10,000. The outstanding coupons on debentures at the close of last year amounted to \$18,188.53, as compared with \$16,361.25 at the close of 1889. The current revenue account at the close of the fiscal year showed a deficit of \$42,887.57, that is, less the amount of the deficit last year, leaving \$9,888.44. This was accounted for by the auditor general's report showing a debit standing to the board of works amounting to \$27,017.49. This amount was made up in:

Part by Expenses Upon the asylum annex, in part upon the departmental buildings, in part of subsidies upon steamship lines, and in part for the construction of iron bridges.

These three items would be properly charged to capital account, and the balance of \$10,000 to current revenue account.

It was anticipated that when the census was taken the province would be in receipt of an increased dominion subsidy, and these claims could then be met.

Another item was the amount of \$263.57 charged by the dominion government against the province on the old savings bank account. It would appear that the dominion government in closing up the old savings bank account between the province and dominion had overlooked this matter and had now placed the amount in reduction of the sum standing to our credit. To the sinking fund had been added as required by law \$4,000 for payment of imported horses, and the province had an asset of \$34,243.74 due from the liquidators of the Maritime bank.

In the latter case the Ottawa supreme had decided in favor of Province and the matter only awaited the decision of the privy council.

For public hospitals of the province, December 31, 1889, was \$1,620,500.00. At the end of 1891 the net total indebtedness was \$1,691,064.13 making an increase in the year of \$70,564.00. Of this amount as before stated \$40,000 was for railway debentures. The remainder is made up of the amount over-expended by the board of works as previously explained and the over-expenditure on current revenue account for the year.

The total receipts on current revenue account for the year amounted to \$646,079.37; the total expenditures to \$651,735.07, leaving a deficit for the years operations of \$5,655.70. Of that over-expenditure

\$4,000 was comprised in the sinking fund. There was \$145,200 of our bonded indebtedness which last session had attention. These debentures brought part, when advertised, the offer given was better than any we could get by tender. Receipts from territorial revenue were somewhat

Greater Than Had Been anticipated. The estimate of the government was \$138,000, which had been exceeded by \$2,837.44. Land sales had fallen off something like \$1,500 license receipts had fallen off nearly \$5,000, and from fishing licenses there was a falling off of \$1,150. The latter was due to the action of the dominion government in claiming the right to reserve certain rivers for spawning purposes.

Dr. Atkinson—What caused the falling off in sturgeon?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—There was no falling off on that item, the receipts rather exceeded our estimate.

Dr. Atkinson—I mean the falling off as compared with last year.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—Last year if I remember rightly the territorial receipts were \$149,000; this year's receipts were \$148,937.44. Part of this decrease is accounted for by the falling off in fishery licenses and land sales, as already referred to, amounting in all to \$5,800. The falling off as compared with the previous year in sturgeon was \$3,000. That decrease was estimated in the budget speech, and is equal to the estimate. The estimate of the government for territorial revenue was \$138,000, and had these decreases in fishery licenses and land sales not taken place the government would have derived from territorial revenue \$149,000.

The fees from the lunatic asylum, and from private and local bills exceed the estimate, but in the agricultural department there was a decrease as compared with the estimate. The expected receipts from all sources were \$9,500 but they only realized \$6,613.38. Receipts for sale of stock and mules on the stock farm were estimated at \$3000 but they came to \$1,556.10 only. There was a deficiency from services of horses, \$5,500 had been anticipated but only \$3,287.00 were received. Miscellaneous receipts as estimated were \$4,200 which was slightly exceeded. Excess of receipts over the estimates was \$464.25. Turning to expenditures \$14,000 for administration of justice had only reached \$13,862.07, several items would have reduced this. The McDonald case cost \$700 alone. Passing on Mr. Mitchell stated that he had unfortunately underestimated the amount for contingencies. The actual amount expended was \$13,966 which was nearly \$1000

Less Than Last Year. The lengthy session and expensive Leary investigation cost the province \$2,000 and the hon. gentleman from Westmorland, he was sorry to say did not feel very comfortable or yet. Another expectation which the outlay had exceeded items on the estimate was that the excess was \$2,405.21. For elections \$6,000 had been estimated but owing to the extraordinary mania of some counties in this province for running elections, the amount required to meet this demand was \$7,481. There had been a slight excess of \$20,000 of \$20,000 for executive government, and a trivial excess also in the matter of fishery protection.

The estimated expenditure for the legislature last year was \$25,070; the actual outlay was \$24,700. Proceeding Mr. Mitchell said that the cost of maintaining the lunatic asylum last year was \$53,523.72 as compared with \$52,586.15 in 1889. He was sorry to say the number of patients had increased. The amount expended for public health was a few dollars under the estimate. Under the head of public printing \$12,467.91 had been expended as compared with an estimate of \$11,000. In making that estimate he had based it upon the cost of public printing for the previous year which was \$10,965.90.

Mr. Stockton—Why don't you include under the head of public printing, the printing of the public health department?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—Because the work done in that department is entirely out of the government management and control. The increase was due to several causes, one of them, the Leary investigation had cost for printing in the vicinity of \$575; also lithographing and the extra amount of advertising. The expenditure in refunds, crown lands, was \$20 in excess of the estimate, and the cost of sturgeon collection was also exceeded owing to the

Larger Quantity Out. For surveys and railway inspection the amount expended had been \$1,019.50, where \$1,000 was anticipated. Unforeseen expenses had swelled beyond the usual limit. The cost of the governor general's reception was \$713.82, and \$328.28 for the exhibit at Jamaica.

Turning to the estimated receipts for 1891, Mr. Mitchell stated that he placed the dominion subsidy at \$497,000. It was thought by the government that the census to be taken this year would show an increase of population for New Brunswick of 10 per cent, or 32,000, which would entitle the province to receive the half of 80 cents per head—say \$12,000. The estimate for territorial revenue was \$130,000, a considerable reduction upon recent years, owing to the extremely unfavorable character of the present winter for lumbering operations. From the agricultural department the estimated receipts were \$6,500; from lunatic asylum maintenance \$2,300; from private and local bills \$750, and from miscellaneous sources \$1,000, making a total estimated income of \$945,000.

As to the Estimated Expenditures, it was thought \$13,950 would meet all demands for administration of justice; for agriculture \$21,000, including \$5,500 for horse maintenance. A certain rental would have to be met for the old stock farm; \$1,250. It was thought, would be sufficient for the blind asylum, Halifax, providing for nine pupils. Contingencies were estimated at \$12,000, and a faithful effort would be made to confine them within that sum; \$2,500 will be required for the deaf and dumb institution, comprising \$1,000 for construction \$1,500 for maintenance. The item of \$1,000 for immigration would probably have the desired effect of inducing old country farmers to settle in this province. The government asked for \$105,000 to meet interest on bonded debt, \$105,000 for the legislature, which amount somewhat exceeded the outlay of last year owing to additional members having been appointed to the legislative council. For lunatic asylum maintenance the amount estimated was \$40,000, the same as last year. For public printing \$11,000, it was thought, would be sufficient. For public health the same amount is required from year to year.

For public hospitals of the province, the estimate, which was \$500 more than last year owing to \$300 having been granted to the Chatham hospital. The estimate for public works ordinary was \$1,183,350 and for by-roads \$70,000. Refunds crown lands \$200; surveys and railway expenses \$1,000. Sturgeon collection had been placed at \$7,500, it being thought, owing to the reduced cut, that the cost of collection would be less than last year. For unforeseen expenses the same amount was asked as last year, \$2,000. In closing the hon. Mr. Mitchell heartily thanked the house for the attention they had given him.

The motion that Mr. Speaker leave the chair was now put and carried, and the house went into recess.

Commerce of Supply, with Dr. Lewis, in the absence of Mr. Palmer, in the chair.

When the immigration item was introduced the attorney general paid a high compliment to the practical agricultural capabilities of Mr. Boyce. The reports received from that gentleman so far had been satisfactory.

Dr. Stockton hoped the government would spend some money in opening up the wilderness lands of Madawaska, Carleton and Victoria.

Mr. Blair said that he would not follow the hon. gentleman's rambling speech about unrestricted reciprocity.

Mr. Blair—What do you think of unrestricted reciprocity?

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was disposed to accept the figures of the auditor general. Why should not the \$34,000 of the Maritime bank claim be allowed as a genuine asset, as it undoubtedly was? The opposition gave the government no credit for the \$37,000 which the government dealt with over and above the \$250,000 of floating debt that was funded.

Dr. Atkinson—It has not been wiped out.

Mr. Wilson—What has become of it? Dr. Atkinson—Nobody knows.

Mr. Wilson—No, it has been wiped out every dollar of it. Continuing Mr. Wilson dealt with the policies of the old and new government, and insisted comparisons of expenditure to the disadvantage of the former.

Mr. McKeown blamed the government for want of economy. He said his object in speaking was to raise a warning flag, as the people would consign this government to the cold shades of opposition at the first opportunity.

Mr. Burchill said he had no doubt Mr. McKeown did not believe his own prediction that the future of the province was a dark one. He criticized at some length the changes of the opposition, and said they were at sixes and sevens regarding unrestricted reciprocity. (Laughter.) If the opposition ever wish to succeed they must get down to some policy on which they can all agree; at present they are proving themselves worthy of the title of "Blind guides and unprophetic Nebes."

The house then went into committee of supply and passed a number of items, adjourning at one o'clock, a. m.

Friday, March 20.

Mr. Melanson made his motion, seconded by Mr. Stockton, for the resolution of the heads of department, etc.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—Any information not contained in the auditor general's report will be furnished.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell submitted the supplementary estimates. They are as follows:—

To provide for the over expenditure of the department of public works at 31st December, 1890, including amounts voted in 1890 and not drawn - \$20,972

To provide for the purchase of cattle and sheep - \$20,000

Mr. McKeown introduced a bill entitling the trustees of St. David's school, to St. John, to issue debentures on the security of their corporate property in St. John.

Mr. Palmer, from the municipality committee, submitted a report.

Hon. Mr. Blair introduced a bill respecting the railway. He stated that it was intended that all railway charters should come under the provisions act.

The house went into committee of supply.

On the item of public printing there was considerable discussion.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell defended the manner of keeping the printing accounts and pointed out that the prices were the same as had been paid for years.

Mr. Hanington said it would not do for this government to try and excuse themselves by saying the old government did it or that. He criticized the manner in which accounts for printing were placed in the reports, and said it was reported that the editor in chief is translated to the office of Queen's printer.

If that be so, no doubt THE HERALD printed owned by the friends of the attorney general, will also be transferred to that office.

Hon. Mr. Blair said it might be thought he was wanting in courtesy if he did not reply to the leader of the opposition. That hon. member had allowed himself to be made a vehicle for the transmission of all kinds of scandals that might be circulated about the streets against himself (Blair) or any other member of the government. It was time that the hon. member tried to act the part of a man and sought to inform himself on the matters of public interest before thundering malign accusations against the government. The leader of the opposition had charged him with being the owner or one of the owners of THE HERALD newspaper. He had no financial interest in that newspaper; he had no stock in it, and he did not own a single share in it for him. The paper was owned by gentlemen interested in both sides of dominion politics and he was glad to say that they were friendly to him. He did not hesitate to say that he desired to put out an item of every legitimate manner. If any one doubted his statement that he had no financial interest in the Herald he was willing that there should be the fullest investigation of the matter. He courted the matter fully on the subject. He did not know whether the charge made by the HERALD for printing the report of the Blair inquiry was an excessive one or not. He had never known what THE HERALD's bill for that work was, but he had seen the item in the report of the auditor general, and he assumed that the bill was not an unreasonable one or it would not have been passed by the auditor general, who deals with all such matters according to a fixed scale of rates for printing. He was prepared to admit that this government could not defend its action by a comparison with the acts of the old government. What he did say, however, was that it did not become the leader of the opposition to find fault with the methods of bookkeeping used by the government when the same method was followed as was followed by the government of the hon. member had been a member, neither did it lie the month of the leader of the opposition to reflect on the government for expenditures in certain departments, when it could be shown that such expenditures were less than under the old government. The idea was sought to be created that Mr. Risteen had been paid out of the public treasury for reporting his (Blair's) Woodstock speech. That was another slander. He had paid Mr. Risteen out of his own pocket as the fullest inquiry would show. Referring to his Woodstock speech he challenged any member of the opposition to disprove any statement he made there in reference to the finances of the country. The method of bookkeeping adopted by the government of this province would compare favorably with the manner in which the dominion accounts were kept. The government had nothing to conceal and they courted the closest investigation with every item of the public accounts.

This discussion and one over an alleged discrimination against the Sun newspaper in the matter of advertising charges, which was shown to be imaginary, occupied several hours. The item passed and the appropriations for the books of works were then taken up and the discussion over them lasted until 2 a. m.

Supply was resumed at 2.30 p. m. on Saturday.

The Lion and the Lamb

March like a roaring lion
Right rampantly came in,
With snowballs on his whiskers
And ice upon his chin.

But let him roar and bluster!
Who cares a kilogram
For everybody knows he's got
To sneak out like a lamb.

Ran's Horn: A woman can say more with a few tears than a man can express in a book.

Binghamton Leader: We suppose it is called the highway because it is the highway along which people are accustomed to lie.

1891 EASTAR 1891

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DRY-GOODS

FOR THE

EASTER HOLIDAYS

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

W. E. SEERY,
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The premises can be inspected between 10 and 6 p. m. on any week day. For further particulars apply to the undersigned or to HENRY B. HAINES, Barrister, Fredericton.

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WILLIAM RO