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THE BUDGET SPEECH.

On Friday evening last, Premier Haszard presented to the Legislature the Government's annual financial statement, usually called the budget speech. The Leader of the Government consumed about an hour and three quarters in the delivery of his speech, which from beginning to end, was made up of confessions and admissions. The Premier's delivery was remarkable for the absence of that boastfulness, with which the Leader of the Government has hitherto, on similar occasions, regaled his hearers. The speech in striking contrast to some former budget speeches, was singularly apologetic in tone and was, to a considerable extent, a recital of failures, confessions and humiliating admissions on the part of the Government. The Premier spent about three quarters of an hour telling about the good guesses he made last year, in estimating the revenue and showing that the deficit was very little more than he had predicted. He admitted that the public accounts for the last fiscal year showed a deficit of \$17,490; but he claimed that amounts charged to sinking fund and other accounts should be subtracted therefrom, reducing the deficit by four or five thousand dollars. In thus juggling with the figures and fencing with the financial operations of last year, the Leader of the Government exercised a wise discretion. By such tactics he doubtless hoped to prepossess the minds of his hearers and divert their attention, in some measure, from the damaging admissions he was about to make regarding the Government's financial operations for the current year. At last the Premier reached the crucial point; made the damaging admission that the deficit for the present year would not be less than \$38,235,000. He estimated the revenue at \$369,206,000 and the expenditure at \$407,441,000. So this is the best the Liberal Government is able to say for themselves, nineteen years after they promised to make revenue and expenditure meet. After getting all the increase in the annual subsidy they can get, according to the Premier's confession; after taxing everything in sight and after rolling up a huge Provincial debt, Mr. Haszard now tells the taxpayers, that the expenditure of this year will exceed the revenue nearly \$40,000. In the face of this distressing and humiliating statement, he confesses that there is no hope of receiving anything on account of our claims from Ottawa, and he frankly says more taxes must be collected from the people. \$8,867 is to be spent on the experimental farm, and \$3,600 on account is to be paid to the Education Commission. The amount of \$3,600 to the education commission, added to \$342, already paid makes all \$4,000, so far for this commission. In addition to this there will be the cost of publishing their very voluminous report etc. What benefit are the people to receive from this expenditure? None at all; for the Premier says no action will be taken on any recommendation of the Commissioner. More than that, he says that he himself, went to Toronto and had a conference with Premier Whitney, who agreed to let our

Provincial Government have the Ontario series of school-books at the same price as they sell for there. By this means, the Premier admits, the school children here can have the series of readers for about 50 cents, which now costs them \$2.15. Why did the Government spend several thousand dollars on a commission from which the people are not to benefit instead of, at once, adopting the Ontario school books, and effecting a saving of \$1.65 per pupil? Let the parents of the school children remember these facts. From this brief summing up of Premier Haszard's budget speech, our readers may learn that the present Government are true to their record; that agility in rolling up deficits and creating a huge Provincial debt are their financial strong points; that their ability to deceive the people is what they chiefly rely upon to keep themselves in power.

MR. MATHIESON'S SPEECH.

It was nearly 10 o'clock when Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition, began his reply to the Premier's budget speech. He wasted no time in useless language; but at once attacked the specious arguments of the Premier and pierced his armor at its most vulnerable points. The Leader, he said, had occupied nearly an hour and three quarters in saying very little. The Premier's appeal to patriotism was altogether uncalled for. A better and nobler brand of patriotism would be to make an honest effort to collect what is justly due us from Ottawa. Since entering Confederation the Province has made financial leeway to the extent of \$1,600,000. The present Provincial Government have collected over \$1,022,000 in taxes. Last year the Government collected more taxes than the Sullivan and McLeod Governments had collected during their whole time in office. The Leader of the Government, said Mr. Mathieson, should have been candid and honest in his references to the debt and liabilities of the Province. The Premier could not deny, that the debt and liabilities were now upwards of a million dollars. It is very disingenuous for the Premier to leave out the quarter teachers' salaries and the numerous other large amounts falling due immediately or shortly after the accounts are closed on the 30th day of September. These amounts are due and the Province is liable for them. When Chalmers and Davison were employed by the Government to make up a statement for them, they were particular to include in the debt and liabilities every dollar that could, by any means, be placed there. It is another story now; and another plan is adopted when the Premier wants to hoodwink the people. The Leader of the Government, said Mr. Mathieson, did not tell all he knew about the by-elections; he made no reference to the defeat of his friend Captain Read and the return of Mr. Delaney. This was a victory for the Opposition; but in the other by-election the Opposition only succeeded in reducing the majority. The Government retained the seat; but the debt of the Province was considerably increased by the operation. The Premier and his Government had been engaged in the patriotic employment of suing some of the farmers. That was surely a very patriotic and statesmanlike process of raising a revenue. The Commissioner of Public Works sits in his seat self-confessed of the political crime of paying the salary of Charles B. Clay, while he was

a candidate for election to the Legislature. Not only that; but he paid another man to do Clay's work at the same time. The investigation of the Public Accounts so far conducted, shows that more money was spent on the roads, between the 30th, September and the 31st, December 1908, than during the whole of 1909. The elections were going on during the closing months of 1908; and all manner of operations were in force on the public roads. The best the Premier could say about the deficit of last year, was that it was only a small one; and this in the face of the Patriot's boasting that deficits had ended. For the current year he is obliged to proclaim in the Legislature that the deficit will be over \$38,000. This shows plainly that we are fast going from bad to worse. While the cost of education had grown, said Mr. Mathieson, the salaries paid to teachers had decreased. Our best teachers are leaving the Province, and licenses are given to some who could not qualify; to some who had grown old, and had been renewed to some who had even become grand mothers. More than five years ago the Opposition had called the Government's attention to the necessity of coming to the people's rescue in the matter of education, and from year to year ever since had reminded them of their duty in this regard. But during all this time, the Government stood guard over the school-book ring and all we had now was the unprinted report of the Commission. The people are still paying exorbitant prices for school books, and the taxpayers are asked to contribute nearly \$4,000 on account of the expenses of the education commission, and no one knows how much more we shall have to pay this commission. In Ontario, Mr. Mathieson pointed out, Premier Whitney, when he ran against the Liberal Government, promised that he would reduce the prices of school-books, and he had scarcely come into office when he redeemed his promise. Now the people of Ontario get their school books for about one quarter of what they formerly paid for them. Premier Hazen had accomplished a like good work in New Brunswick, where a reduction of forty per cent had been effected in the prices of school-books. Mr. Mathieson showed how nature studies, agriculture and domestic science and kindred practical subjects had steadily declined from year to year and some instances had been entirely neglected since 1907. That is what has been going on, while the public money has been drawn upon to the extent of \$4,000, towards the expenses of this commission. Last year, said Mr. Mathieson, the Government, by suing and other processes of law, collected about \$10,000 more taxes than usual from the farmers. But those who are not farmers paid about \$5,000 less than usual. During the general election in 1908, the Premier, in his election platform, proclaimed that our claims against the Dominion Government, including the fishery award, would be vigorously pressed. Now, the Leader of the Government tells us that no hope can be held out of getting anything from Ottawa on these claims. All the Leader of the Government has done in this matter is to write some letters to the Premiers of other Provinces. Anyone ought to know that our claims stand on a basis altogether different from that of all other Provinces. Mr. Mathieson pointed out the practical manner in which Messrs. Sullivan and Ferguson prepared our case against the Federal Government. In consequence of this we secured an increase of subsidy; but Premier Haszard has done no-

thing of a practical nature to assist us in obtaining justice, and all the Premier has to offer in reply is a smile. We have an unquestionable claim in the case of the alienation of the public domain and its distribution among several Provinces; but absolutely nothing has been done in this matter; absolutely no effort has been put forth to reimburse us for loss of our claims. The few papers tabled in this connection show the utmost carelessness and inaccuracy; so much so indeed that mistakes of several millions are manifest. It seems quite evident that the Leader of the Government is only playing with this important matter; that he has simply undertaken to mislead the people of this Province. Mr. Mathieson pointed out that our railroad, costing \$3,144,000 was charged against us; this is a claim from which we should benefit to a large amount; but the Leader of the Government has not attempted to do anything at all in this connection. This matter was never sincerely taken up, by the Leader of the Government. Had things been made in the proper manner, there would now be a record of every step taken. This would be data from which to continue the prosecution of our just claims. The Premier of Ontario, Mr. Mathieson pointed out, is a Conservative; but he is quite willing to assist Premier Haszard, in the matter of school-books. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal Premier of Canada, does nothing to assist our Premier in any particular. As a matter of fact, the Leader of our Government seems afraid to ask Sir Wilfrid for anything. (Mr. Mathieson here adjourned the debate.)

SESSIONAL NOTES.

On Tuesday 16th of Mr A J McDonald's bill founded on a petition was presented and read a first time, for the purpose of incorporating the Georgetown Temperance Association. In answer to Mr. Mathieson the Leader of the Government said the report of the education commission was in the printer's hands, and everything possible was doing to facilitate its completion.

On motion of the Leader of the Government, consideration of the bill guaranteeing the bonds of the cold storage company was resumed in committee of the whole. Hon. Mr. Gallant, who had moved the adjournment of the debate, resumed for the Government.

Mr. Mathieson, referring to some remarks of Mr. Gallant, said that all that was required to start indignation meetings in the country, was for the people to understand the true inwardness of the measure before the Legislature. This was in no way different from the scheme proposed by the Dominion Packing Company. It was called a cold storage company; but it provided for pork-packing, meat canning, fruit preserving, etc. It was not near so good as what the Dominion Packing Company proposed. There was no mention of what amount of space the public would be entitled to, and no mention of the scale of rates to be charged. The guarantee of the Dominion Packing Co. Mr. Mathieson again pointed out, was condemned by Mr. Palmer, and strongly condemned by the Premier, Mr. Haszard, in his speech before the Board of Trade in 1902. On that occasion Mr. Haszard considered the proposition of eight years ago was giving the Dominion Packing Co. a monopoly over all other packers. Mr. Mathieson wanted to know how Mr. Haszard found the taste of these words now. Mr. Haszard argued eight years ago, that if this was such a great affair why should not the company secure the money at the banks without a guarantee. This manner of cold storage was altogether different from cold storage in transit. Mr. Haszard thought the scheme of the Dominion Packing Company tended to blindfold the public, and we should not put our fingers in our eyes. How wonderful that Mr. Haszard and other members of the Government are now putting their fingers in their own eyes. Mr. Mathieson read a petition from J. H. Myrick & Co., J. A. Farquharson & Co., Auld Bros., R. E. Mutch & Co., Wheatley and many others, who all condemned the proposition. They all regarded the Government guarantee to this company as a most unfair discrimination against all competitors in the trade of pork buying and packing. It would certainly be doing a great wrong to assist any one in particular to kill out others in the trade. All those

who signed the memorial read by the Leader of the Opposition were political friends of the Government. It could not, therefore, be any desire to injure the Government that actuated these firms in their opposition to the Government's scheme. The more this proposition became known throughout the Province, the more it would be condemned.

Mr. McLean, answering the Leader of the Government, said the Premier was doing the Opposition a great wrong in keeping from them the amendments he just now intimated he intended to make to the bill. Mr. Mathieson said, if we, in the words of the Premier, "do not know what we are up against" Davies and Fraser's names or business reputation are not under review at all. It is with the "Island Cold Storage Company" we are dealing. The Premier gave us to understand that Davies and Fraser are to be tenants of the company, they themselves have created. Before the bill can be passed, the House had a right to know what changes the Leader of the Government intends to make in the bill. In the New Brunswick Cold Storage arrangement provision is made for continuous cold in transit.

On the motion of the Leader of the Government on Wednesday to resume consideration in committee of the cold storage guarantee question, Mr. Mathieson said that before the motion prevailed members should have in their possession copies of the proposed amendments to the bill. This was the course invariably followed in the House of Commons, as a prelude of Hansard will show. Yielding to the contention of the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier withdrew his motion to go into committee for the time being, and the House went into committee on the controverted elections act. At 4.30 progress was reported and consideration of the cold storage bill was resumed in committee.

Mr. Wyatt considered this a question of such importance that it should receive the most careful consideration, regardless of party. He admitted that cold storage of itself was a good thing. There would probably be no dispute on that point. He was informed that cold storage, to be beneficial, should be continuous. In order to have the full benefit of cold storage, we should have it located at other points besides Charlottetown. In other Provinces, as well as under the Federal law, cold storage is provided for by a general act, so that any company or corporation fulfilling the necessary conditions may establish a plant for this purpose. In the bill before the House only one particular company is intended to be benefited. That looked very much like partiality, and was unfair to competing companies. In this case, the Provincial Government had no control. Once they gave the guarantee of the bonds, they were at the mercy of the Cold Storage Company. This company, according to the bill under consideration, has the power among other things, to sell their plant and property. Should they, after a short time, determine to sell out to another party, the Government have no power to prevent such a proceeding. In order to understand the nature of the security from the Company to the Government, Mr. Wyatt considered that the main features of the mortgage should be laid before the members of the House. The personnel of the company is to be at Halifax, and the bonds and the interests on them may be paid here or elsewhere. In view of these facts, he thought the Commissioner of Agriculture being a member of the directorate, as provided by the amendment introduced by the Premier, might not be a matter of very great consequence. If cold storage is a matter of such importance, why not frame the act sufficiently wide to be applicable to any company, and not confine it to the company now under consideration. Cold storage, in this case, is but a subsidiary matter with this company. Their principal business is pork packing. What is to prevent this company from allowing their property to depreciate, as it has done, since the old company failed. They might keep on paying the interest for twenty-four years and then step out, leaving the Government an old ramshead building. There is no particular guarantee as to the payment of the interest or sinking fund.

Mr. Delaney considered the question should be placed before the people. If it could not have

been laid before the public at the last general election, it might have been made public at the by-elections. Had such been done, he would have been the very first to stand up for it if it were of the proper kind. Cold storage to be beneficial must be continuous. As appears from the bill before us, the farmers could not benefit by it, and therefore he could not support the measure.

Mr. James Kennedy would be strongly in favor of cold storage if it were of the best kind and of general utility. This cold storage at Charlottetown would not be of general use. True, some men in Charlottetown might benefit; but it would be equally disastrous to others, as it would unequally subsidize the first named. He read a petition he had received from a number of people at Kensington and vicinity, in his district. These are fishermen, merchants and others, and they place themselves emphatically on record against the guaranteeing of these bonds. They show that in the matter of fish, no benefit, but injury would ensue. He showed that the charges that would be made on products sent in from outside points, added to the freight, would be so extensive that the value of the products, in many cases, would be swallowed up. The advantages credited to cold storage are very largely problematical. The most profitable way of getting products to the market is to keep them continually moving. (The Premier interjected a remark that Mr. Kennedy had perhaps shipped some bad pork.) Mr. Kennedy quickly retorted that it was the business of the Government Inspector to decide whether pork was good or bad. He desired to do what was right and just to the people he represented, and under present conditions, he could not support this proposition as it stood.

Mr. Arsenault said that if looked as if the Government had placed their back against the wall and determined to push this matter through without discussing it. He said the Opposition did not want to be quoted as against cold storage; but in this case cold storage was simply a side issue to pork-packing, etc. He quoted from the Nova Scotia cold storage act, showing that the Government are empowered to subsidize a cold storage company, equipped to their satisfaction, to an extent not exceeding \$5,000 a year, and for a period not exceeding three years. He also quoted from the New Brunswick act on the matter, showing how very different it was from the one before the Legislature. He read the conditions on which the Dominion Packing Company asked for their guarantee and showed how much more generous and favorable the company go to the back. Private companies have put in cold storage at their own expense. Why should these firms after having built up their business by industry and perseverance be subjected to undue competition and liability to ruin, by the Government guaranteeing a company to kill them out?

At the opening session Mr. Arsenault continued the debate. He referred to the provision of the act constituting the Commissioner of Agriculture an ex-officio member of the board of directors, as contrary to clause five. Even if this were not so, it would be more a disadvantage than an advantage, inasmuch as he would be powerless against the united strength of the other directors. He concluded by emphasizing the specific reasons why the members of the Opposition opposed this proposition. The guarantee was to a project that proposed cold storage as a mere sideline to the project, and would create a monopoly for one company against all others in the same line of business, and because the control was taken out of the hands of the Government. For these and many other reasons he emphatically opposed this measure.

Mr. A. J. McDonald said that after hearing all that had been said he pitied the Government. It seemed quite evident the Government had been imposed upon. The statement by the Government, that cold storage is opposed by the members of the opposition was altogether unfounded. What they did oppose was such a one-sided arrangement as was attempted here. If the Government were anxious to encourage cold storage that would benefit the people generally; and would be established at various shipping points, then something might be said in its favor. So far as Kings County is concerned, and Georgetown in particular, this project was worse than useless. Different kinds of cold storage are required for different kinds of products, such cold storage as suits meat is not adapted for eggs, and so forth. The \$150,000 project submitted to the Government eight years ago anticipated a better and larger amount of cold storage. He thought it would be just as excusable to undertake to assist some of our lobster packers. At present pork can be much more easily and readily handled than it could be eight years ago, when the matter of guaranteeing to the extent of \$150,000 was before the people. From the knowledge he had acquired from different directions he considered the people were decidedly opposed to this project. He read from a report of a large cold storage plant at Lockport, N. S. In this case a large building had been erected and extensive machinery installed; but no guarantee of bonds was asked from the Government. Why could not the Island cold storage company do as they did at Lockport?

Mr. Wyatt said Mr. Haszard's speech would remind one of the man who shaved

the pig; there was much noise; but very little wool. He had been, most of the time he was speaking, pumping hot air. Notwithstanding all he had said, he said nothing to clear up the fact that the project under consideration was to guarantee a particular company against all others. If this was a good thing, then the project of 1902 was not bad; but the Leader of the Government condemned in the strongest possible terms the guarantee contemplated eight years ago. Mr. Wyatt here read from the speech delivered by Mr. Haszard in opposition to the \$150,000 guarantee. He could not then see any reason such a guarantee should be given the Dominion Packing Company. That would give them a great advantage over all other companies. If that was good argument then, it ought to be good now. Mr. Haszard, then said there was no need of such a guarantee. If that was true then; it is equally true now. If Mr. Haszard's argument was sound then it is equally sound now. Mr. Wyatt also quoted from the speech of Mr. Fraser of Davis and Fraser who condemned the guaranteeing of the bonds of the Dominion Packing company, and said that such a company would kill out all competitors. Mr. Palmer's speech eight years ago, was also quoted. The question was then put emphatically against the contemplated guarantee of that day. Thousands of dollars worth of smelts were lost because there was no cold storage at Georgetown. Mr. Wyatt again turned his attention to Mr. Palmer. He pointed out that eight years ago, that gentleman said he would oppose the guarantee should be given even if the security were in gold. According to the calculations given by some members of the Government the value of the plant would be \$60,000. The Dominion Government bonus of 80 per cent, on that would be \$48,000. That with the \$25,000 would be \$73,000. The sinking fund, according to the bill, is to be paid to the trustee company and the Government will have no control. He would not vote for this guarantee unless ample security were given.

Mr. Mathieson, referring to the Premier's sneering remarks as to what capital Georgetown would put into such an enterprise, wanted to know who was putting one cent into this enterprise except the Provincial Government and the Federal Government. When the Premier introduced the bill he said it was complete. But when the Opposition pointed out its numerous defects, the Leader of the Government came down to the House with several amendments. Mr. Mathieson pointed out that the bill set out that Davis and Fraser, and Sims are to be provisional directors, and such other shareholders as these may associate with them. Now the Leader of the Government brings in amendments to the bill stating that the Provincial secretary shall be director. This was a contradiction to the first bill. The three directors first named, may or may not admit this fourth director to their meetings; or what could he do if he went in. The attempts to cure the defect in the original bill are so worthless that the paper they are written on becomes less worthless than it was before. In this bill the interests of the company are fully and specifically guarded; but no safe-guard is provided for the Province. In New Brunswick, the Lieutenant Governor in council determines what the rates shall be; in this bill there is no provision for arranging the rates to be charged by the managers of the cold storage plant. Why was not a continuous system of cold storage provided for? The stinging of hogs, was not well adapted for a cold storage plant. The proper place for a cold storage plant in Charlottetown would be on the railway wharf, at the terminus. The Premier is advocating the interests of a particular company; it is not seeking for the rights of the Province. Why did he not ask the Dominion Government to establish cold storage in their warehouse on the wharf? Is all

other Provinces, cold storage is established and regulated by a general act.

Among the questions asked on Thursday was that asked by Mr. McKinnon, requesting information regarding instructions given by the Government to the Education Commission; requesting copies of all such instructions and all correspondence connected therewith to be laid on the table. Also what action has been taken by the Government to procure cheaper school books, and also asking the cost of the Education Commission. Questions were asked by Mr. Delaney regarding the action to be taken by the Government regarding the Tryon Point Road, washed away last fall; also requesting a return showing how and for what service the sum of \$1233 paid M. F. Schurman was spent; also asking for information regarding \$18.56 paid Joseph Baker, and \$66.70 paid the same Joseph Baker. He wished to know what services had been rendered for those payments. The Commissioner of Public Works promised the information. Mr. Arsenault asked concerning a petition for telephone subsidy from Wellington station to Mount Carmel.

On Thursday a long discussion took place, in committee, on a bill providing for the closing of a street at Summerside in connection with land donated for the Prince County Hospital. The discussion was participated in by the Attorney General and Mr. Arsenault, promoter of the bill, Mr. McNeill, and Mr. Wyatt, members for Summerside.

In the afternoon, after the Summerside bill had been disposed of, the House went into committee on the bill incorporating the Georgetown Temperance Society. The bill was reported agreed to, without amendment. Some other private bills were then advanced a stage. The bill respecting "annuities" promptly by the Premier evoked some criticism from Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition. He pointed out that great wrongs might be perpetrated under this act. Some persons might undertake to purchase annuities with money belonging to their creditors. A falling creditor might gather in resources and buy a Dominion annuity and then laugh at his creditors. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Palmer, Arsenault and others. Mr. Mathieson argued that the act we were here asked to pass was simply confirming the power already possessed by the Federal Government, which enables annuitants to cheat their creditors, in connection with this matter. Mr. Dobbie said that we were not, in this matter, discussing whether or not insurance was a good thing. The point was, should we pass an act enabling a man, so disposed, to cheat his creditors. Mr. Mathieson pointed out that this was creating a privileged class, an annuitant could get some one to join a note with him, raise money on it, and then snap his fingers at the man who has to redeem that note. That is what this enactment was calculated to bring about.

This is as far as our space and type permit us to go.

The offices of Holy Week in the Cathedral are as follows: This (Wednesday) evening, Holy Thursday evening and Good Friday evening. Services will be on Holy Thursday and Good Friday commencing at 8 o'clock and on Holy Saturday at 7.30.

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MODERN BUILDING PLANT! The undersigned intends to establish at MONTAGUE BRIDGE Early in the coming spring, an up-to-date Building Plant for the manufacture From Concrete Of all manner of material for building purposes. The building material here manufactured will include brick and all kinds of Concrete Building Stone, Monuments, Coffin Vaults, Steps, Drain Tiles, Caps, Lintels, Cellar Walls and Floors, Veranda Columns and Floors, and Veranda Walls of all descriptions; all requirements for Concrete Side-Walks, etc., etc. In connection with the establishment there will be a Builders' Supply Store Where the requirements for all kinds of buildings may be obtained. Contracts will be entered into for the erection of Concrete Buildings in any part of the Province. Enquiries regarding buildings and material will receive careful attention and prompt replies. CHARLES LUND, 48 Brook Road, Quincy, Mass. Jan. 5, 1910-41