

THE HERALD

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A Disastrous Policy.

The Legislative session closed on Friday last was probably as barren in accomplishment as any session ever held in this Province since the advent of responsible government. Although the public debt, which has been steadily growing for the past fourteen years, has reached according to the Government's own showing, a figure beyond \$780,000, no steps have been taken, no plan has been outlined to prevent its continuous and indefinite increase.

The Government admit a deficit on last year's transactions of \$68,149.53; but this is not all the deficit, nor near all. To begin with there is an amount of \$3,408.90 interest on loans, which should be added to the interest charge for the year, as well as to the deficit. That brings the deficit up to \$71,558.53, and the year's interest up to \$32,743.66. Besides this there were at the end of the year up-wards of \$4,000 unpaid on contracts, of which one half at least should fairly be charged to last year. Besides these there are many other items that would swell the account considerably.

We have now a debt of \$732,681.63, whatever more, and an interest charge of at least \$32,743.66. That is \$605,202.42 more debt than was against this Province when the Liberals came into power in 1891. The interest charge was \$30,046.22 greater last year than it was in 1890, the last year for which the Conservatives are responsible. But in the face of all this the Government of the day do nothing, outline no plan by which to prevent a further rolling up of the Provincial debt.

MR. MARTIN has given notice in the House of Commons of an address to the Governor General asking for copies of all correspondence, addresses and memorials from the Government of Prince Edward Island, its legislature or public assemblies, since Confederation, concerning the matter of communication between the Island and the Mainland, as provided in the terms of Union, including the joint addresses of both houses of

the Prince Edward Island Legislature in 1881, Minute of Council in 1883, joint address in 1884, Minute of Council in 1885, joint address in 1885 to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, report of Island Government delegation to Downing Street, and the Colonial Secretary's Minute to the Dominion Government in 1886, memo. and resolutions of the People's Delegation, and joint address of Island Legislature in the month of April last. It is pleasing to note that our representatives are keeping the matter alive in Parliament.

A HITCH of a somewhat serious nature occurred between the Provincial and Federal Governments on Friday last. It appears, from what can be learned that the handling of the hay from the cars to the steamers at Pictou, and from the steamers to the wharves here and at Georgetown had been paid for by the department of marine. This was a charge altogether apart from the freight, and amounted to something like a dollar a ton. Up to the date in question the bill had amounted to about \$5,000, and a demand was made on the Provincial Government for the payment of this amount. The money not being forthcoming at once, delivery of hay landed from the steamers was peremptorily prohibited by the marine department, and the Government steamers were forbidden to carry any more hay until the matter was arranged. Indeed the Minto was ordered off the route. The Provincial Government demurred to the demand made upon them and telegraphed to their friend, Mr. Hughes. His answer was that the Minister of Marine had forbidden any further progress in the hay business until the money was paid. The Provincial Government had in consequence to knock down and pay the bill, or a part of it. This raised the embargo and the hay was allowed to be moved once more. This is as far as we know about the matter. There may be some interesting particulars that time will reveal.

Sessional Notes.

Apart from matters of a routine character, most of the time of the House on Monday the 1st was occupied in discussing the bill empowering the City Council of Charlottetown to construct and operate an electric light and gas plant. The bill gives the City Council power to issue debentures for \$75,000 bearing interest at four per cent, redeemable at the end of twenty-five years, the proceeds to be employed to discharge the liabilities incurred in carrying out the works and improvements contemplated. To secure the payment of the debentures, the land and everything connected with the works thereon are especially charged, mortgaged and hypothecated to the debenture-holders and a sinking fund is provided. After considerable discussion the bill was reported from committee and ordered to a third reading.

The proceedings on Tuesday were principally of a routine character. Several bills were advanced a stage and some questions were asked and some answered wholly or in part. Mr. McKinnon for Mr. Prowse asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of the House a report and return showing the total amount of all payments made on account of the public service from 31st December, A. D. 1904, to the 18th day of April, A. D. 1905. Said statement to show what part of this amount was due up to the 31st December, A. D. 1904; also what amounts are due or owing by the several departments of the public service on the 18th April, 1905. In reply Hon. Mr. Peters said the Government did not propose to keep their accounts in a manner that would render it necessary to give such a statement. Mr. McKinnon said an itemized statement was not asked for, only the total sum. The Leader of the Government moved the House into committee in order to increase the estimates for roads. He said the \$19,000 placed in the estimates for roads should have been \$24,000. \$150 was also voted to build a scow for transferring freight from vessels at Rustico harbor, and \$60 for Boughton Island Ferry.

The three short sittings on Wednesday were occupied with matters of routine. Some bills were pushed forward a stage and some questions were asked.

After matters of routine on Thursday, Hon. Mr. Reid moved the House into committee on the act to further amend "The Assessment Act, 1894," and acts in amendment thereof. Following is the act as presented by Mr. Reid:

As it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, as follows: 1. Section 61 of the said Act is hereby amended by striking out the words "demand and" in the third line of the said section and all proceedings taken for the recovery of taxes and arrears under the provisions of the Assessment Act, 1894, and the amendments thereto shall be held to be valid to have the same force and effect as if the words "demand and" had never been inserted in said section.

2. Section 1 of the Act of 2 Edward Chapter 4 is hereby amended by striking out the word "three" in the ninth line of said section and inserting in lieu thereof the word "five." 3. Section 4 of the Assessment Act, 1894, is hereby amended by striking out all the words after the word "there" in the ninth line of said section and inserting in lieu thereof the words "make affidavit."

4. Wherever the word "declaration" or the word "declarations," occur in the said Act or in the amendments thereof the same shall be struck out and the word "affidavit" or "affidavits" as the case may be, inserted in lieu thereof respectively.

5. That Section 3, 2 of Edward VII Chapter 4 is hereby amended by adding the following thereto: "To provide for the consolidation of the County Courts, Commissioners for taking affidavits in the County Courts, Clerks of the County Courts and any Deputy Receiver of taxes, and whether said Deputy resided in the district where the property is situated or not."

6. Section 19 of the said Assessment Act of 1894 is hereby amended by striking out the words "cannot ascertain" in the sixth line of the said section and inserting in lieu thereof the words "do not know," and in striking out the word "Deputy Provincial Treasurer" in the tenth line of the said section and inserting in lieu thereof the following words, "Provincial Treasurer or the Deputy." 7. Section 4 of the said 2 Edward VII, Chapters is hereby amended by striking out the words "cannot be ascertained" in the third and fourth lines of said section and inserting in lieu thereof the following words: "is not known."

8. Section 12 of the said Assessment Act of 1894 is hereby amended by striking out the words after the word "make" in the ninth line of said section and inserting in lieu thereof the word "affidavit."

Whenever the word "declarant" occurs in said Assessment Act, 1894, and the amendments thereto the same shall be struck out and the word "deponent" inserted in lieu thereof.

After the bill had been reported from committee, Hon. Mr. Reid moved the suspension of the standing rule necessary to permit the bill to be read the third time. According to this rule a bill can only be read once in one day; but the second reading had taken place immediately before going into committee. The rule cannot be suspended except by unanimous consent; one dissenting voice prevents it. Accordingly, when the motion for suspension was made Mr. McKinnon and other members of the Opposition objected. This brought matters to a standstill. The Leader of the Government said that if the Opposition objected, prorogation, which was to take place that afternoon would have to be postponed till next day, and the Lieutenant Governor would have to be notified. Mr. McKinnon said he objected to the bill being railroaded through at the end of the session, and that the Government would go about the country and tell the people that if there was anything objectionable in the bill the Opposition were responsible as the bill could not be passed without their consent. Why had not the Government brought in the bill earlier when it could be discussed. The Opposition had already waited the pleasure of the Government for two months; but they could stay another month, if necessary, rather than be imposed upon. Finally a division was called for and for once, the Opposition minority defeated the Government majority. The vote stood Government 18, Opposition 5. The House then adjourned till the following day. On Friday the House met shortly before 12 o'clock, and routine, the bill held over from Thursday was read a third time and passed. The House then adjourned till 2 o'clock to await the Lieutenant Governor's attendance for prorogation.

The Legislature prorogued Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, with the usual formalities. His Honor having taken his seat he assented to the bills passed during the session and then prorogued the Assembly with the following speech: MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: As your Legislative duties for the

present session are now concluded, I have much pleasure in congratulating you on the important measures enacted, and trust they will conduce to the prosperity of the Province. I shall take the earliest opportunity of transmitting to His Excellency the Governor General the message from this Legislature praying that immediate steps be taken by the Dominion Government to fulfill the terms of Union with respect to continuous steam communication between this Province and the mainland; and the message with regard to Representation of Prince Edward Island in the House of Commons of Canada, with the hope that these matters will soon receive a satisfactory solution.

I have to thank you for the provision you have made for the maintenance of the Public Service, and I assure you that the money voted will be expended by my Government with the strictest economy. In taking leave of you for the recess, I must express the sincere hope that the guiding hand of Divine Providence may bring you back next session ready to devote your earnest attention to the best interests of the Province. Following is the address in reply from the Legislature. To His Honor Donald A. McKinnon, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island. May it please your Honor The Legislative Assembly most respectfully thank Your Honor for the various communications and messages sent to the House by your Honor, during the present session, and also for the readiness with which Your Honor has complied with the wishes of the House in furnishing such information as they have required. The following Bills were assented to: An Act respecting the Legislature. Partition Amendment Act. To amend the Trustee Act. To incorporate the Life Insurance Agents of P. E. Island. Respecting the Charlottetown Waterworks. Respecting the Charlottetown Condensed Milk Co. To provide for the consolidation of the Provincial Debt. To amend an Act respecting the Legislature. To amend the Jury Amendment Act of 1890. To incorporate the P. E. Island Development and Tourist Association. To amend an Act respecting assignments for the benefit of creditors. An Act to further amend "The Assessment Act 1894 and Acts in amendment thereof." An Act to further amend an Act to impose an Income Tax. An Act to amend an Act passed in the 9th year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Cap 3 "An Act further securing the independence of the General Assembly." An Act to further amend the City of Charlottetown Incorporation Act. To incorporate the Trustees of the Baptist Church, Charlottetown. To amend the Prohibition Act 1900. To further amend an Act for the encouragement of Agriculture. To incorporate the Perfection Wire Fence Co. To incorporate the Clinton Hall Co. To incorporate the Pharmaceutical Association. To authorize the City of Charlottetown to install an electric light and gas plant. To amend the Summerside Incorporation Act, providing for waterworks and sewage. Respecting North River road and Victoria Park. To incorporate Pleasant Cove Hall Co. To incorporate the Island tug company. The Appropriation Act.

As the record appeared, he was shown to have voted for it. After a discussion it was shown that the motion had been carried on "the same division reversed," and the mistake had been Mr. McIntyre's. Mr. Ingram drew attention to the fact that upon the record, the names of the members as they voted were only printed for the first vote, upon the amendment, when the actual division occurred. They should also have been printed a second time reversed, so as to leave no doubt as to how every member voted. Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Fielding said the practice was only to record the votes when a division actually occurred. Mr. Borden said the practice was to declare a motion carried on "the same division reversed" for the convenience of the House at the time, and that the names were always reprinted on the record. Mr. Haggart, Mr. Lennox, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Henderson and others objected, but to no effect.

The House then took up the financial resolutions in connection with the Alberta autonomy bill in committee. The first grant was \$50,000 a year for the government and legislature. Sir Wilfrid said this was based on the arrangement made in the B. N. A. act for the other Provinces. The clause was carried. The second grant was for \$200,000, being 80 cents a head on an estimated population of 250,000. A quinquennial census is to be taken and the allowance increased on the same basis of 80 cents a head until the population reaches 800,000. Sir Wilfrid said that this had been done for the other Provinces because the Dominion took away their sources of revenue. The other Provinces had all had a limit of population set for the calculation of the amount. As the sources of revenue had been taken away it was considered by the old Provinces that no population limit should be set. The revision of the provincial subsidies was a question that would have to be taken up by the Government at no distant day, perhaps during the present year. But in as much as the other Provinces had a limit it had been thought well for the sake of uniformity to put a limit on the new Provinces. He himself was opposed to the whole principle of provincial subsidies, but that had been settled long ago and could not be abolished now. Dr. Sproule objected to the adoption of a system that had already proved unsatisfactory. Mr. Henderson said that an excellent opportunity was given for getting rid of a very bad principle. It never conducted to economy to give the Provinces money taken from the people, to whom they were not responsible for the expenditure. Mr. Bergeron argued to the same effect, and said that the new Provinces were in a different position from the original Provinces of confederation, because they were not giving up any rights to collect customs or excise.

Mr. Borden urged the importance of the objection based upon the lack of responsibility of the Provinces to the people who contributed the money. There never would be a better opportunity than the present for adopting a new principle. Sir Wilfrid explained the principle upon which the population basis had been fixed was that the population in the new territories was about the same as that of Nova Scotia and of New Brunswick at the time of confederation. But the extent of territory to be administered was so much greater that the new Provinces were entitled to about double the amount given to the old Provinces.

The next clause was the one giving the Province 5 per cent, interest annually upon \$8,107,500 as compensation for having no debt when joining confederation. Mr. Henderson spoke of the trouble that had arisen in the case of Ontario when the rate of interest was given on the fixed sum instead of making it an annual subsidy. There should be no opportunity given to the new Provinces to call upon the Dominion for the capital sum instead of accepting the annual interest.

Mr. Fielding said the intention was to make the payment an annuity in perpetuity. The present case was different from the Ontario case, because the Government of the day in the latter case had carried the sum into the Public Accounts as a debt due to the Province and there was an old act under which such money could be applied for by the Province for the public works. Before the session was considered as disposed of he would consider the insertion of words to make it clear that the grant was only an annuity. The clause was passed conditionally upon further discussion being permitted.

Fielding's amendment to the autonomy bills, sections 3 and 4, is as follows: Sec. 3.—In as much as the said Province will not have the land as a source of revenue, there shall be paid by Canada to the Province annually a sum based upon the population of the Province, as from time to time ascertained by the quinquennial census thereof as follows: The population of the said Province being assumed to be at present 250,000, the sum payable until such population reaches 400,000 shall be \$375,000; thereafter until such population reaches 800,000, the sum payable shall be \$562,500; thereafter until such population reaches 1,200,000 the sum payable shall be \$750,000; and thereafter the sum

payable shall be \$1,125,000. Sec. 4. As an additional allowance in lieu of public lands there shall be paid by Canada to the Province annually for five years from the time this act comes into force, to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings the sum of \$93,750.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS. Joseph Ferguson and Joseph Dufort were instantly killed and Francis Chartrand seriously injured at Laprairie Que. on Wednesday last as the result of the bursting of one of the ovens of the Laprairie Press-Brick and Terra Cotta Company. Both leave widows and families. The explosion was due to an accumulation of gas.

Hon. James Sutherland Federal Minister of Public Works died on Wednesday afternoon at his home at Woodstock Ont. He had been ill for several months with Bright's disease. The announcement of his death caused universal mourning throughout the town where the deceased was honored and beloved by all. Much regret was manifested in Ottawa when the sad news reached there and appropriate remarks were made on the occasion in the House of Commons by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden, Leader of the Opposition.

The following report relative to changes in the Federal Cabinet is going the rounds of the press: Hon. Senator Scott, Secretary of State, is to withdraw, and to be succeeded by Lamont, Solicitor General. Mr. Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice, is shortly to be appointed to the Bench, and this portfolio will be filled by Mr. Aylesworth, K. C., Toronto. It is well known that Mr. Prefontaine is anxious to become Minister of Public Works which portfolio he will now receive owing to the death of Mr. Sutherland. The office of Minister of Marine and Fisheries will be handed over to Mr. Hyman the minister at present without a portfolio. The latter gentleman is to be succeeded by Mr. Bickerdike as Minister without portfolio.

The New Edition of the Canadian Newspaper Directory. The Canadian Newspaper Directory for 1905, which has just been published, is a mine of information—not only to the advertiser, but also to firms in every line of business. It is the most ambitious work of the kind ever published in Canada. It is more than a directory of Canadian publications; besides giving a complete and accurate list of newspapers, magazines and trade journals, with intimate particulars as to issues, circulation, politics, and extent of field covered, it also supplies vital statistics regarding the places of issue, with location, population, industries and resources. A set of specially prepared maps of the Dominion, giving the newspaper towns by provinces is included in a separate envelope with the Directory. The Canadian Newspaper Directory is published by A. McKim & Company, Newspaper Advertising Agency, Montreal and Toronto, who plan and place the advertising of many of the largest and most successful advertisers in Canada, as well as the leading advertising agencies of the United States and Great Britain.

A Magnificent Outing. A trip through the 30,000 islands of the Georgian Bay, visiting the weird and romantic scenery of the Inner Channel, Manitowish Island, the North Channel, Sault Ste. Marie, Parry Sound, Mackinac, etc., is one that once taken is never forgotten. The region stands first in lovely scenery and interesting environments and capital sport is assured lovers of rod and gun. It also gives one an opportunity of making a voyage of 1,500 miles on the great inland seas. A descriptive publication has recently been issued by the Grand Frank Railway System giving full information together with maps and all particulars, copies of which may be had free on application to J. Quinlan, D. P. A., Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

DIED. At Charlottetown, on Wednesday, May 3rd, Mary O'Brien, aged 72. R. I. P. In this city, on Saturday, May 6th, 1905, Harriet E. beloved wife of Michael J. Moran, in the 62nd year of her age. R. I. P. At St. Peter's Harbor, on May 1st, 1905, Alfred McEwen, aged 68 years. At St. Peter's Lake, on May 6th, 1905, Lottie May, fourth eldest daughter of Benjamin J. Douglas, St. Peter's Lake aged 19 years.

The woman who buys Dress Goods now-a-days; has yet to buy right, but buying right does not mean a matter of "How Cheap." A-how cheap dress that is old fashioned and that will not stand the wear and tear is not the one wide awake people buy. They want a dress right up-to-date in every particular. Quality, style, we have, and good wear resisting qualities. This is the kind we sell. Send for samples—Stanley Bros.

E. F. RYAN, B. A., BARRISTER & ATTORNEY, GEO RGETOWN, P. E. ISLAND March 29, 1905.

Morson & Duffy Barristers & Attorneys, Brown's Block, Charlottetown, P. E. I. MONEY TO LOAN. Collectors for Royal Bank of Canada.

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CHILDREN'S All German make, age 3 to 15 years, in short and Ulster lengths, navy, fancy piping, \$2.00 each for small size, and up according to size. Fancy mix coat, long, belt back, stole front, very natty—cost, small size, \$2.75, up to 12 years of age at \$4.25. A better grade in navy frieze with shoulder cape, trimmed red felt, small size \$4.50 and up to \$6.75. Did you see that splendid silk frieze skirt we are selling at \$2.25, it's worth \$3.25 of anybody's money.

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