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Mr. Fielding's Finance Budget Speech. Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, delivered his budget speech on St. Patrick's day, and was able to congratulate Parliament and the country again on a prosperous year and a plethoric treasury. There had been great activity in nearly all branches of industry, and in the chief industry of the country the conditions had been most gratifying, especially in Manitoba and the Northwest, where an increased acreage and an abundant harvest had resulted in quantities of grain so great as to tax all the country's facilities for transportation and indicate the need of making larger provision for handling the harvests of coming years. The revenue of the year ending June, 1901, the Finance Minister showed, amounted to \$52,514,701. It had not quite realized his estimate, but was considerably greater than the revenue of the preceding year. In pointing out the different departments in which there had been an increase of revenue, Mr. Fielding made special reference to the Post Office department which showed an increase of \$235,000 over the previous year. The operations of the department for the year had indeed resulted in a deficit of about \$490,000, but in spite of the great reduction which had been made in the rate of postage the deficit was much less than that of some previous years. The sale of stamps for the eight months of the present fiscal year has exceeded that of the corresponding period of last year by about \$200,000. The Intercolonial Railway, though still operated at a loss, had come much nearer to being self-supporting the past year than the preceding year, the deficit for the seven months of the current year ending with January being \$89,787, as compared with \$537,479 in the corresponding period of the previous year. With an increase in revenue there has been an increase in expenditure, so that with the good crops and a generally active condition of the country's industries there is no laying up for a rainy day or any diminution of the national debt. On the contrary the debt has gone on increasing under the present Government at the average rate of nearly two million dollars a year. But Mr. Fielding contends that this is a very gratifying condition of things when compared with an average annual addition to the debt of more than six and a half millions during the eighteen years of Conservative rule. The public debt of Canada on the 30th of June last stood at \$268,480,003. Coming to the affairs of the current year, the revenues to the 10th March was \$38,047,685, and Mr. Fielding estimated that at the close of the year on June 30 next the amount would be in round numbers \$56,800,000, as against an actual revenue last year of \$52,514,701. With regard to the expenditure up to the 10th March it was \$30,133,502, and at the close of the year he estimated it would be in round numbers \$51,000,000.

No Change in the Tariff.

In respect to the tariff Mr. Fielding said that there would be no change this year. This was not because changes had not been asked for. The Finance Minister did not say so, but it will be well understood that the application for changes have come for the most part, if not wholly, from manufacturers seeking a larger measure of protection. Mr. Fielding did not claim that the tariff was perfect, but on the whole and considering the complicated character of the problem which had to be dealt with, he thought the Government was to be congratulated on having framed a tariff so well adapted to the needs of the country. He intimated that it would probably be necessary to make changes before long, but such changes could be made with greater advantage after the industrial statistics of the census were in hand and after the

results should be seen of the two trade conferences which were to be held in London during the coming summer. Referring to the duty on British and American goods, the Finance Minister said that while the difference was very small, it was slightly in favor of British goods, whereas in 1896 the tariff had made a discrimination of about four per cent. against British goods. As a result, he contended, there had been a remarkable increase in the trade with the Mother Country. The only industry specially dealt with by Mr. Fielding in his speech was the manufacture of beet sugar. The only thing that has been done for its encouragement is to place the machinery required for it on the free list for another year.

Mr. Borden's Criticism

Mr. Borden, leader of the Opposition, in rising to criticize the Budget Speech would congratulate the country on the record of another prosperous year, but was not disposed to allow any more credit for it to the Finance Minister than belonged to the cock which crowed in the morning for making the sun rise. Mr. Borden instituted a comparison between the expenditure and taxation of 1896 and of 1901 to show that there had been a rapid increase in the cost of government, and he suggested that an article which Sir Richard Cartwright had once published in an English periodical condemning the extravagance of Government in Canada under the Conservative regime was particularly applicable to the present situation. In respect to trade statistics, Mr. Borden contended that, if gold and silver bullion were excepted, there had been no recent increase in trade. He considered it an unpleasant fact that Canadian imports from England were less last year by two million dollars than the year before and that there was a corresponding decrease in British imports from Canada, although British imports of the same articles from other countries had increased. At the same time Canada's purchases from the United States were \$7,000,000 more last year than the previous year. This condition of things, Mr. Borden contended, was due to the fact that while the tariff gives a nominal preference to Great Britain, the general tariff is so framed that it gives the real preference to the United States. Canada sells to the United States only one third as much value of farm and animal products as it purchases from that country and only one thirteenth as much of manufactured goods. Mr. Borden contended that the tariff should be so constructed as to secure the Canadian market to Canadians, and concluded by moving the following resolution of which he had given notice at an earlier stage of his speech: "This House, regarding the operation of the present tariff as unsatisfactory, is of opinion that this country requires a declared policy of such adequate protection to its labor, agricultural products, manufacturers and industries as will at all times secure the Canadian market for Canadians, and while always firmly maintaining the necessity of such protection to Canadian interests, this House affirms its belief in a policy of reciprocal trade preferences within the empire."

For His Health.

It was certainly a rather surprising thing that Lord Wolseley, the ex-Commander-in-Chief of the British army, should visit South Africa at the present juncture, and it was only natural that there should be some disposition to look beneath the surface for a reason and to discount in some measure Lord Wolseley's own explanation that he was going only for a holiday trip. According to Mr. I. N. Ford, however, the reason for the explanation lies very much upon the surface. The real explanation of the journey, he says, is that Lord Wolseley, when feeling jaded, met Sir Donald Currie and learned that he was sailing for South Africa within 48 hours. Lord Wolseley exclaimed: "You ought to take me with you." "Come on," was the reply, and Lord Wolseley went on the shortest possible notice. It is not unlikely that he will see Lord Kitchener and obtain sidelights on the mysteries of the campaign, but Mr. Brodrick has no cause to dread the appearance of Lord Wolseley as a literary guerrilla on the high veldt.

Prohibition asked for in New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Government was waited upon last Saturday by a delegation of ladies and gentlemen in the interests of provincial prohibition. The delegation comprised Revs. R. W. Weddall, George Steele, D. Long and H. H. Roach of St. John; Mrs. S. D. Scott and other ladies of the W. C. T. U.; Messrs. W. F. Hatheway, J. R. Woodburn, C. A. Everett, C. N. Vroom and a number of other prominent temperance men. The delegation was introduced by Mr. J. R. Woodburn, who said that they had come to ask for the enactment of a provincial prohibitory law, as the next best thing to Dominion prohibition, and because provincial prohibition on the lines of the Manitoba Liquor Act has been declared valid by the highest authority. The request of the delegation, Mr. Woodburn said, was supported by a numerous signed petition. The petition, which contained 9,000 names from different parts of the Province, was then presented. The request embodied in the petition and in Mr. Woodburn's remarks was endorsed by Rev. David Long, Mr. C. N. Vroom, Mrs. S. D. Scott, Rev. George Steele and other members of the delegation. The speakers urged upon the attention of the Government the terrible evils connected with the liquor business, the popular sentiment of the Province in favor of prohibition as shown by the plebiscite, and expressed the belief that a prohibitory law with the proper machinery could be enforced. Premier Tweedie, in reply to the delegation, said that the Government recognized the importance of prohibition, and that they would deal with the petition which had been presented and would give their reply in writing.

Ontario Prohibitionists Indignant.

In connection with the passage by the Ontario Legislature of the Prohibitory Liquor Bill, two amendments were adopted in reference to the conditions of the referendum. One of these makes the majority necessary to be secured to depend upon the vote polled at the last general election instead of upon that to be polled at the coming general election in June, as at first proposed, so that the element of uncertainty as to the number of votes required is removed. Prohibitionists know now that in order that the Act shall become law there must be cast in favor of it 213,500 votes, whether any votes are cast against it or not. The other amendment fixes the day of polling on December 1. There is a strong feeling among the Prohibitionists of the Province—and on the whole the feeling seems not unreasonable—that the Government has not dealt fairly with them and that the conditions have been made hard with a view to making it impossible for the referendum to carry. It is a good deal to ask that as many electors should go to the polls to vote for a prohibitory liquor law as can be drawn out by political interest and all partizan influences, good and bad, to secure a party triumph. Still, considering the interests at stake and the immense influence of the liquor business which must be antagonized in enacting and enforcing such a law, perhaps that was not too much to ask. But admitting so much, it was surely but reasonable to expect that the vote should be taken under conditions as favorable to the polling of a full vote as could be arranged. This has not been done. The Prohibitionists asked that the vote on the referendum should take place at the time of the municipal elections, as a much larger vote could probably be polled at that time than if the referendum were taken by itself. This request the Government has ignored, and has thereby, as many prohibitionists feel, about destroyed all hope that an affirmative response upon the referendum can be obtained. A good deal of indignation is being expressed, and if there were any hope of prohibition from the other side of the House, that indignation would doubtless make itself effectively felt in the coming elections. But as Mr. Whitney has pronounced against both the prohibitory Act and the referendum, there is small hope for prohibition in that quarter.