

tically must not be allowed to speculate in securities. The North American Life had many beautiful money-making schemes laid before it, and such temptation should be removed from their path.

Some questions followed respecting different systems of insurance and the larger expenses of a new company as compared with an old one and as the American companies were twice the age of the Canadian their expenses were lower.

"Would you still say that?" asked Mr. Hellmuth, "keeping in view the extravagance which was brought to light in the recent investigation in New York?"

"That so-called extravagance," replied Mr. Goldman, "was only a small fraction of their income." Continuing, the witness said that there was no plan whereby the cost of the first year's insurance could be obviated.

With respect to the deferred system, Mr. Hellmuth asked if he knew that it had been condemned by the Armstrong commission in New York.

"Oh, that's all stuff and nonsense," replied Mr. Goldman.

After this lively sally the commission adjourned.

THE BUDGET.

The Hon. Mr. Fielding delivered his 10th Budget Speech in the House of Commons on 22nd inst., the delivery of which occupied a few minutes over one hour. The revenue for current year he estimated at \$79,000,000, and expenditure \$66,600,000, leaving a surplus of \$12,400,000. There would, however, be an expenditure of \$15,500,000 on capital account, making the total outlay for 1905-6 \$82,100,000. After allowing for the sinking fund he had hopes that the debt would not be increased.

In regard to the year 1906-7, for which only nine months' supply is asked, Mr. Fielding said the main estimates called for \$51,594,532 on revenue account, and \$16,342,015 on capital, a total of \$67,936,547. There might also be about two millions of supplementary estimates. The revenue for the past nine months of the current fiscal year was \$57,015,562. There would be a revision of the tariff before the coming fiscal year closed, but it was not likely that it would seriously affect the revenue. He expected the Government would get enough to provide for the consolidated fund expenditure and have a surplus to diminish the public debt. This would be in part due to other causes than the increase of taxation.

He announced that the Intercolonial Railway would have deficiency of only \$115,000, and the Post Office a surplus of \$900,000. In regard to this the Finance Minister were wisely said, "there was no desire to keep up such a surplus, and that it would be advisable to reduce it by extending postal facilities and improving the service."

Referring to the foreign trade of the Dominion it was shown that an increase had occurred over last year.

In regard to the debt Mr. Fielding considered that "no apology was required." In 9 years the Government had spent 97 millions over the ordinary expenditures on special services, public works, railways, etc., and the net increase of the debt was \$7,726,732. He estimated the debt as \$44.37 per head, "a lower figure than it has stood at any time in 20 years."

Mr. Fielding spoke of the loan of 1897 as a great financial achievement. Two million pounds had been borrowed at a rate of interest of 2½ per cent. Allowing for discount at which the bonds were sold the rate was but 2.86 p.c. No other colony had done anything like this. Things, however, had changed since then. There had been wars and heavy national loans and a great demand for individual capital. Russia had lately had to pay practically 6 per cent. for a loan of \$430,000,000. In view of this situation the Government had not deemed it wise to go on the market for a permanent loan to meet maturing obligations. It had issued treasury bills, a form of temporary borrowing. There were outstanding now £600,000 of these at 3¼ p.c. interest.

The only tariff matter of interest was the statement, that railways might send out of the country their worn out rails to be re-rolled, and then re-import by paying 25 p.c. of the value of the labour upon them when abroad, this to continue only till there are establishments in this country for doing such work.

Mr. Fielding intimated that at a later Session a new tariff would be introduced.

The Budget Speech was the shortest since 1879, and Mr. Fielding was complimented by members of both parties on its lucidity and completeness.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK AND ITS BRITISH POLICY-HOLDERS.

The recent resignation of Mr. Haldeman, who represented the Mutual Life of New York in London, where he was building up very valuable connections, was expected to lead to very important developments.

They are now preceeding in the metropolis.

The policy-holders are divided into two sections, those who are withdrawing from the company, under the advice and direction of Mr. Haldeman, and those who have decided to "stick to the ship" as advised by Mr. H. E. Duncan, who succeeded Mr. Haldeman, formerly superintendent of the Foreign Department of the Mutual.

This split is much to be regretted as it has a tendency to prejudice life insurance interests gen-