

MR. CARBRAY ON THE BUDGET

THE MEMBER FOR QUEBEC WEST REPLIES TO MR. SHEHYN

Mr. Felix Carbray, M. P. P. for Quebec West, in addressing the Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday, on the financial position of the Province, spoke as follows :

Mr. Speaker,

The Honorable Member, Ex-Treasurer of the Mercier Government, has devoted four hours in making a speech studded with a most formidable and bewildering array of figures and statements, all evidently for the purpose of proving, if such were possible, that during the time the conservatives were in power from 1892 to 1897, they increased the debt of the Province by over \$9,000,000, and that their administration of the finances of the Province during those years resulted in large annual deficits. That when the present Government came into power in May, 1897, they found the financial position in a most deplorable condition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, parliamentary usage forbids me to use the correct words to qualify such unjust assertions. I can only therefore say they are most unjust, untruthful, incorrect and misleading, anyhow, as addressed to the Conservative party. They might apply rather to himself and to his friends. I shall endeavor to convince this House of the truth of what I assert, and hope to succeed, and in a shorter time than four hours. I shall not attempt to follow the Honorable Gentleman in his endless details—I will go to results—for after all that is the important end to reach.

I shall prove :

1. That the conservative government from 1892 to 1897 did not increase the public debt by \$9,000,000, nor by one dollar.
2. That their administration of the finances of the Province during those years did not result in annual deficits, but, on the contrary resulted in yearly surplusses.
3. That when they, the conservatives, left power in May, 1897, the financial position of the Province was in a most satisfactory position.