

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

In every session of Parliament the delivery of the Budget speech is regarded as the great event, the summing up of the operations of the year, the balancing of the national books. Unlike the books of the merchant, in which year by year the only assurance of increasing prosperity is the favourable balance to be carried to the credit of the concern, a nation may be rapidly growing in wealth, whilst from neglect of providing by the imposition of taxes which might be very justly made to bear a portion of the national expenditure, the balance shows a sum at the debit. It more resembles the house-keeping money provided by a well-to-do man of business for the maintenance of his establishment. He may be coining money in his counting-room, or mill or shop, but miscalculating the needs of his better half, and her growing ambition to have a well furnished house, if he does not supply her with a sufficiency to carry on her household operations, her income may not cover her yearly expenses, and yet that is no sign of her husband running in debt. Of course the existence of a surplus in the exchequer in any country is regarded as *prima facie* evidence that it is doing well, yet even with the yearly deficits that were chronic previous to Confederation, Canada was advancing, it may be said, rapidly, if not with the feverish haste of the Republic lying on her borders. Philosophise as we may there is always a satisfaction in having a full purse, be it public or private, and, therefore, the details of the year's income and expenditure given by the Finance Minister and known as the Budget speech are always looked forward to with interest.

The reader of Parliamentary reports not thoroughly conversant with the ways of "the House" as the House of Commons is called *par excellence*, are puzzled at little paragraphs appearing from day to day for a few days previous to the Finance Minister delivering his annual *exposé*. Little motions are made which apparently lead to nothing. The House goes into Committee of the Whole without any apparent object; does nothing; rises and reports and asks leave to sit again. But these are all guarantees against any attempt to surprise the members of the Opposition, and whilst, apparently legal or Parliamentary fictions are really, when they must be used, valuable safeguards. All these steps are preparatory to going into "Committee of Ways and Means," and it is either in this Committee, or on moving that the House should go into Committee, that the Budget speech is made. The former course has been that most usual, but last year and this Sir Francis Hincks has taken the latter.

On the 30th April, routine work had been got through a few minutes to four. This routine work, by the way, slightly as it is mentioned by the press reporter, included on that day the introduction of bills involving the expenditure of a fabulous number of millions for railway and other works. About ten minutes to four Sir Francis Hincks moved the House into Committee of Supply, "took" two or three items of expenditure, moved the Committee to rise and report, and thus having cleared the way by formally "Voting the Supplies," he rose to move that the Speaker do now leave the chair and that the House go into a "Committee of Ways and Means," that is, to find the money to pay for the supplies supposed to be granted. As Sir Francis rose to his task, which is by no means a slight one, the members on both sides settled themselves down in their seats, evidently prepared to listen patiently and attentively to the statement about to be made. Sir Francis, grey, nearly white as to hair and whiskers, clean shaven and showing a keen acute face, with dark sparkling eyes, whose brightness age has not yet dimmed, slightly stooping, yet ever and anon lifting himself up as he emphasized with the index finger of his left hand, spoke slowly, deliberately and very distinctly, enunciating every word with perfect articulation, seldom hesitating for an expression. In their usual places were Sir John A. Macdonald, the Minister of Justice; Sir George E. Cartier, the Minister of Militia; next Sir Francis sat Mr. Tilley, the Minister of Customs, on the other side Mr. Morris, the Minister of Internal Revenue. Behind were: Mr. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, with his shrewd, business-like, common-sense-face, so different from that of his somewhat theoretical, thoroughly conscientious predecessor, who aimed at impossible excellence, and necessarily failed of reaching it. He is the latest addition to the Ministry, the selection being one generally approved of. Dr. Tupper, whose face, somewhat heavy in repose, becomes lightened up as he girds himself for intellectual combat, sat next; Mr. Langevin, the pains-taking Minister of Public Works, being alongside. Opposite were the *Dii Minores*, the leaders of the Opposition. Mr. Holton quietly watching for weak points, his friend Mr. Dorion, who usually occupies the seat next him, being absent; Mr. Mackenzie, plain-looking, but with a determined north country face,

and beside him Mr. Blake, the leader of the Ontario Government, sharply featured and round shouldered, the heads of the three gentlemen being frequently brought together as Sir Francis makes a point or emphasizes a statement. The condition of the country, as depicted by Sir Francis, is matter for congratulation. All sources of revenue have increased, ordinary expenditures have diminished. The estimated income has largely fallen short of the reality; the estimated cost has greatly exceeded the actual payments, so that between the two there has been realised a surplus of about three millions and three quarters. As one favourable statement after another was made, a buzz of satisfaction arose, once or twice rising to a cheer, but throughout, with these exceptions, there was more than ordinary silence kept. The "strangers in the gallery" were not by any means numerous, the general expectations having been that the Budget Speech would not be delivered till evening, but there was a fair sprinkling of ladies, the Speaker's gallery being occupied chiefly by the fair sex. All felt as the Finance Minister sat down, that the condition of the country had been admirably presented; that the references to what were called by subsequent speakers extraneous matters had not been made without a purpose, and that every word had been well weighed, and its effect duly calculated. The Opposition evidently were crippled; their usual store of ammunition was sadly reduced; their attacks for reckless extravagance fell on unbelieving ears, and the warning that a system of piling up surpluses should not be continued, was not laid much to heart in a house whose members had hitherto been regaled with denunciations of a course of policy which had rendered deficits chronic, by which the floating debt of the country was increasing without adding anything to its resources. There is no need to enter into the course of the discussion, that duty devolves on the daily journals, whose task has on the whole been well performed. There were some good sharp-shooting attacks on minor details, criticisms on small items, but the fortress itself stood firm; there was the great central fact of a large surplus on the current year, no appreciable increase of debt; large sums charged against revenue which had hitherto been debited to capital, and for every dollar expended and added to capital account there were public works to meet it, which would return interest directly to the Treasury, and which indirectly would add to the wealth of the country to an extent that could scarcely be realised. In face of all these things, what availed adverse criticism? The country believes in tangible results and what could be more tangible than those shewn by the Budget Speech of 1872?

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

THE MOVER AND SECONDER OF THE ADDRESS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In accordance with established custom in England and Canada, we this week present our readers with portraits of the Mover and Secunder of the Address at the opening of Parliament. The duty of moving the Address is usually assigned to the member of the House, on the Ministerial side, who has been most recently returned, or in the case where several members have been recently returned, to the youngest or ablest of these, the Secunder being also a young member of position and ability. On referring to the *Canadian Parliamentary Companion* we find that in 1867 the Address was moved by Hon. Charles, now Judge, Fisher, of New Brunswick, seconded by Dr. Désaulniers, late member for St. Maurice; in 1869, by Mr. W. M. Simpson, of Algoma, now Indian Commissioner in the North-West, seconded by Mr. John Bolton, member for Charlotte, N. B.; in 1870, by Mr. Alfred W. Savary, the talented representative of Digby, N.S., seconded by Mr. J. Scriver, Sir John Rose's successor in Huntingdon; and, in 1871, by Dr. Lacerte, then newly elected for St. Maurice, Q., seconded by Mr. George Kirkpatrick, who had been elected but a short time before to replace his deceased father, in Frontenac, O. This year, owing to the entrance of two new Provinces into the Dominion, and the election of several new members in Ontario and Quebec, there were many gentlemen well qualified to choose from. The honour was finally awarded to Mr. Henry Nathan, Junr., member for the city of Victoria, in the new Province of British Columbia, and to Mr. Edward Carter, the well-known Queen's Counsel, who has been lately returned to represent the county of Brome, Judge Dunkin's old constituency.

For the particulars regarding the personal history of these gentlemen we are indebted to the new edition of the *Canadian Parliamentary Companion*.

No. 102.—HENRY NATHAN, JR., ESQ., M.P.

Referring to the authority above cited we learn that Mr. Nathan is the eldest son of Henry Nathan, Esq., of Maida Vale, London, England, and it was in the world's Great Metropolis that the subject of this sketch first saw the light on the 3rd September, 1842. He is consequently in his thirtieth

year, though none would suppose that he had attained that age, his appearance, as will be perceived by our portrait, being exceedingly youthful. He was educated at the London University School, and being destined for the mercantile profession, did not proceed to any of the higher institutions of learning. *En passant*, however, we may state that the member for Victoria is a good classical scholar, and is conversant, besides, with several of the modern languages. His first connection with the Province, of which he is now one of the representatives in the Dominion House of Commons, dates back to May, 1861, when, moved by the favourable accounts which had reached England of the growing importance of the Pacific Colonies, Mr. Nathan proceeded to Victoria, Vancouver Island, taking the necessary capital with him to embark in business. "Henry Nathan, Jr., & Co." Wholesale General Importers, the firm which he then established, and which has continued to exist up to the present time, has been one of the most extensive and successful mercantile houses in British Columbia. This fact speaks well for the business energy and capacity of the senior partner, who, we are assured, for over eleven years, devoted himself unceasingly, without a single day's holiday, to the conduct and management of the important interests he had in hand. At the period of which we speak, what now constitutes the Province of British Columbia was then divided into the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, each possessing a separate Government and Legislature. These became united in 1866; from which time it may be said that the larger union of the Province with the Dominion was the great question in the country. In 1870, after Mr. Trutch and Doctors Carroll and Helmcken, who had been sent to Ottawa to arrange terms of union, had returned from their mission, a general election took place, at which the question was submitted to the people. On that occasion Mr. Nathan and Dr. Helmcken were returned as members for the city of Victoria, the former having a majority of over one hundred votes over his opponent. Beyond adopting the address on Union, this Legislature did but little; but one of the questions considered was the adoption of the Canadian Customs' Tariff, which Mr. Nathan strenuously advocated. After the admission of the Province into the Canadian Union, his constituents evinced their confidence in him by returning him by acclamation to the House of Commons. Mr. Nathan possesses considerable ability as a speaker, and in moving the address created a most favourable impression. We may add that he holds high rank as a Freemason, being a Past Grand Senior Warden of the District Grand Lodge of British Columbia before the establishment of the present Grand Lodge. He is still unmarried. In politics he is a Liberal, and a supporter of the present Administration.

NO. 103.—MR. CARTER, M. P. FOR BROME.

Edward Carter, Esq., Q. C., B. C. L. & LL.D., the seconder of the Address, is the son of the late Dr. George Carter, of the Town of Three Rivers, and was born on the 1st March, 1822. He was a pupil of the Rev. S. S. Wood, for several years the Rector of the Episcopal Church of that place, and followed a three years' course in the college at Nicolet, where he continued his classical studies and rendered himself perfectly familiar with the French language. In the year 1838 he removed to Montreal to enter a mercantile establishment, and in the course of two years became the manager of the chief Department. His inclinations did not however lead him to acquire a taste for mercantile pursuits which he abandoned for the study of the law. In 1840 he entered the law office of Messrs. Aylwin & Short, then practising in the City of Quebec, both of whom were so favourably known as able lawyers, and subsequently as two of our most distinguished Judges. At the expiration of two years, the subject of our sketch removed to the office of the Honourable F. W. Primrose, Q. C., with whom he continued his studies for one year. He then removed from Quebec to Montreal as affording a wider field for practice and there entered the office of the Honourable (now Sir) John Rose, where he remained for a period of two years longer and was admitted to the Bar in February or March, 1845.

Mr. Carter at once entered upon his professional career in the City of Montreal, and soon acquired an extensive practice, more especially in Criminal law, Municipal Corporation matters and prerogative writs. He acquired also an extensive practice in civil cases. At the time he commenced his career the practice in *certiorari* proceedings was but little known or understood, and he introduced the practice of removing convictions, judgments and orders by *certiorari* with such success that he acquired a very high reputation at the Bar. The research made by him and the experience which he had acquired in this branch of the law led him to comply with a general wish expressed by members of the profession that he should publish a work on that subject. Accordingly in 1856 he published "A treatise on Summary Convictions and Orders by Justices of the Peace" dedicated to his former patron, the Honourable Thomas Cushing Aylwin, Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. This work is recognized as authority and is cited and referred to by the Bar and Bench. As a criminal lawyer, Mr. Carter had no superior; but of late years he has devoted his attention almost exclusively to civil practice. In the year 1862 he was made a Queen's Counsel, and in conse-