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 JAMES MCISAAC,
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The debate on the budget continues in the Legislature. The committee stage has not been reached.

Provincial Legislature.

The House met on Tuesday 8th, at 3.45. After the usual routine, a number of private bills mostly to incorporate black and blue fox Companies, were introduced and read a first time. Hon. Mr. Mathieson introduced a bill to amend the Prince Edward Island Joint Stock Companies Act; also a bill to amend the Interpretation Act. Both bills were read a first time and ordered to a second reading. Several bills were read a third time and passed and several others were advanced a stage. The Leader of the Government presented a message from his Honour, the Lieutenant Governor transmitting the estimates for the current year. The estimates were then laid on the table. Several other bills were then read a third time and passed, or advanced from one stage to another. The bill to incorporate the Dominion Trust Company was taken up in committee for further consideration. After some time progress was reported. Several bills were reported from the private bills committee and the House adjourned.

It was 11.45 when the House met on Wednesday forenoon. Bills to amend the Prince Edward Island Telephone Company and the Souris Electric Company and to incorporate several Companies were introduced and read a first time. Mr. Gallant presented a petition praying that no law for the registry of foxes be passed at present. The petition was laid on the table. On motion of the Leader of the Government the House went into committee to further consider the Election Act 1913. Considerable progress was made by 1 o'clock, when the Speaker took the chair and the House took recess to resume at 3 o'clock.

When the House again met in the afternoon, committee on the election act was immediately resumed. Section 31 of the act relating to the qualification of Councillor voters was amended as follows: In order to qualify to vote under this section, it was necessary, in addition to the ownership of real property worth \$325, to have a receipt for all land tax up to December 31, previous to the election. It was amended, so that the ownership of the land is sufficient without the necessity of showing that the land tax has been paid. Section 32 relating to the qualification of voters for Assemblymen was amended so that those voting as owners are not required to show that there land tax has been paid. In section 33 the time of occasional absences without forfeiting the privilege of voting, was extended from three to four months. Section 35 was amended to the effect that not more than thirty days shall elapse between the disposal of one property and the acquiring of another, without forfeiting the right to vote as a property holder. The Speaker took the chair a few minutes before six and the chairman reported progress. A number of bills were reported from the committee on private bills, and some other bills were advanced a stage. The House then adjourned.

THE BUDGET SPEECH

There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen in the Legislative Chamber on the occasion of the budget speech, by Premier Mathieson, on Wednesday evening. It was a few minutes after 8 o'clock when the Premier arose, amid hearty applause, and immediately began his comprehensive exposition of our financial position. He first reviewed the past fiscal period of fifteen months. He pointed out that two months and two days of that period belonged to the late Liberal Government, and thirteen months all but two days belonged to the present Conservative Government. The present Government inherited from the Palmer Government a deficit of \$83,000, besides further liabilities amounting to \$85,000. The present Government had been engaged in removing this burden as far as possible. The total net deficit on the 31st December last was \$89,976.75; besides this there were unpaid contracts and other bills amounting to \$32,000. That left the total indebtedness for the fifteen months period \$122,850. This was a reduction of the liabilities assumed from their predecessors by the Conservative Government of \$45,000. He next reviewed the report of the audit and investigation of Messrs. Rossborough and Dench, and animadverted on the misleading attitude assumed by the Patriot in this matter. He said the present Government did not wish to take any credit not belonging to them for the reduction of the liabilities. When the Government assumed office, there were \$64,000 of taxes uncollected. But on the 31st of December last the uncollected taxes were only \$23,000.

He now turned attention to the estimate of expenditure made by him last session. The true estimated anticipated deficit was \$115,000, and the actual deficit was \$108,809. During that period six quarters of teachers salaries were paid, and five quarters of all other payments; while, only four quarters subsidy were received. The policy of the Government is to make every year's transactions, receipts and payments, show for themselves. As far as possible the bills payable to be carried over, would be reduced to a minimum.

The securing of increased subsidies from Ottawa was then discussed. The amount of \$126,000 secured by the present Government is more than the combined amounts secured by all Governments of this Province for the previous forty years. The advantageous terms obtained by the Government in the matter of the telegraph and telephone services were reviewed. The claims presented to the Federal authorities, in conjunction with the other Maritime Provinces, regarding the western lands were discussed. We had an interest in the territories purchased from the Hudson Bay Company; we paid our share of the purchase money of these lands. We also had a claim in consequence of the great tracts recently given to Ontario and Quebec. This matter had been pressed upon the attention of the Federal authorities and received a favorable hearing. The best of hopes are entertained for the securing of compensation in this connection. The matter of securing our original representation in the Federal Parliament had also been pressed upon the attention of the Federal Government, and much encouragement in this matter was received from other Provinces. He expressed the highest hope that success would be achieved in the case.

of the Government were passed in review. The period of thirteen months, the Government had been in power was the first time in forty years that a real reduction of Provincial liabilities had been effected. Discussing the possible development of the oyster industry he pointed out what wonderful possibilities as to revenue production exist in this development. Greater expenditure than usual would be made in the matter of the Hospital for the Insane. This could not be avoided. We have to attend to the unfortunate of our country.

In the matter of education considerable improvement had been made; this year much greater things would be done. Last year supplements had been paid. It was now intended to grant an increase of one dollar per pupil up to \$25 to every teacher. An additional school Inspector had been appointed. The Government had taken the first step to aid aged teachers. Our teachers had been going away. This was changed to some extent last year. This year a very much greater improvement is looked for. With increased inducements now held out he believed we have our best teachers teaching in our own schools, instead of going to the Western Provinces. Better and cheaper school books would soon be introduced.

A short course in nature studies would be inaugurated in the Prince of Wales College. It is hoped, also to extend the short agricultural course to a long course in agriculture. In the department of Public Works we had, he said, the greatest year in the history of our Province. He had no knowledge of any Commissioner of Public Works who had brought so much industry, competence and enthusiasm into his work, as Hon. Mr. McNeill. It was intended this year to spend \$50,000 on permanent public works. About \$2,000 of bills not accounted for until lately had been paid in addition to all set down in the Public Accounts.

The receipts estimated for this year exceed \$500,000, and the debt would be reduced by \$1,400. The teachers would receive \$30,000 additional, and an equal addition would be made in the Public Works, and much more would be spent on the roads. We are now in a position of solvency; our revenue from various sources, is expanding; and we must reach out to meet many necessities. Hon. Mr. Dalton's princely gift had inaugurated a grand movement, and the Government are putting in the estimates a sum sufficient to place this institution on a thoroughly permanent basis. We want an institution for the treatment of nervous diseases, and this would afford an opportunity to philanthropists. A hospital for contagious diseases was another public necessity crying for a remedy.

He trusted that in this year we would be able to bring our Province to an independent financial position. He hoped we would have occasion to record more generous contributions to public charity of the nature of that of the Hon. Charles Dalton. No Province afforded such opportunity for a profitable and pleasant life as did Prince Edward Island. To extend, as far as possible, to all parts of the country the advantages enjoyed in the cities, was the desire of the Government. The Premier concluded his speech at 9.45, having spoken an hour and a half.

He commenced his criticism. He spoke for about an hour. At the conclusion of his speech, Hon. Mr. Arsenault continued the debate. He did not consider the speech of the Leader of the Opposition required any reply. He had not, in any particular, answered the speech of the Premier. The Government had fairly redeemed their pledges, so far as education is concerned, and much greater improvement would be accomplished in this direction. The taxes collected in any one district are spent in that district. The advancement made in our agriculture is most important. The short course and the purchase of a building for agricultural exhibitions, etc., are some of the advancements in this direction. The method employed by the external auditor was exactly the same as that employed by Chalmers and Davidson. It had been the fashion of the late Government to carry over from one year to another large amounts which should have been settled. The present Government make each year account for itself. It was quite proper to charge among the liabilities the proportional portion of the Dominion Subsidy. It was his opinion that the present Commissioner of Public Works had done more travelling in the interest of the public service, during the last year, than the late Commissioner did during all the years he was in office. At 11 o'clock Mr. Arsenault moved the adjournment of the debate and the House then adjourned.

House met Thursday forenoon at 11.35. Mr. Gallant presented a petition asking for the incorporation of the O'Leary Silver Black Fox Company. He also presented a petition asking for the incorporation of the Cascumpeque Silver Fox Company. Hon. Mr. McKinnon presented a petition in reference to a bill to incorporate the proposed Veterinary Association. Hon. Mr. McNeill presented a petition asking for the incorporation of the Black Silver Fox Breeders association of Prince Edward Island. After questions, bills in accordance with the petitions above enumerated, except that relating to the Veterinary Association, were introduced, read a first time and referred to the private bills committee. Several bills were reported from the private bills committee and ordered to a second reading. The following bills were read a third time and held for second reading: Canada Fox and Investment Exchange; Amending the Charlottetown Incorporation Act; Patricia Fox Company; A. E. McLean Company; Ellis Silver and Black Beauty Fox Company; Summerside-Malpeque Oyster Company. On motion of Hon. Mr. Stewart, the order for the third reading of the Upton Black Fox company bill was discharged, and the bill was referred back to a committee of the whole, to amend the same. It was duly reported and ordered to a third reading. On motion of the Leader of the Government, the order for the third reading of the Oyster Area Registry Bill was discharged, and the bill was referred back to committee for amendment. It was duly reported and ordered to a third reading. The House then adjourned.

House resumed at 3.30. On motion of Mr. Feehan the bill for the better government of Mount Stewart was read a second time and sent to committee, Mr. J. A. Dewar in the chair. It was reported with an amendment and ordered to a third reading. The bills to incorporate the New Perth Blue Fox Company, the McDonald Silver Black Fox Company, the Medeshill Black Fox Company, the Sampson Silver Black Fox Company, the Kodiac Blue Fox Company, the Standard Black

Fox Company were all read a second time, put through committee and set down for a third reading. The committee stage of the Election act was then resumed. Progress was reported. Mr. Gallant introduced a bill to incorporate the Cascumpeque Black Fox Company and also a bill to incorporate the O'Leary Silver Black Fox Company. A number of bills were reported from the private bills committee. The House then took recess.

House resumed at 8.10 p. m. Hon. Mr. Arsenault resumed the adjourned debate on the budget. He discussed the financial liabilities of the Province on the 30th, September and the 31st, December 1911 respectively. He considered that the actual deficit of the Province on Sept. 30, 1911 was \$108,000. All the figures relating to the debt and deficit of the Province are to be found in the reports of Rossborough and Dench. The present Government have kept their pre-elect promises. This could be seen by reference to the platform issued by the Leader of the Government, when Leader of the opposition. The evidence of this truth was to be seen in the improvements in education, agriculture etc. Beginnings only have been made in these matters; much greater things would be done this year and in the future. Within the past year our Government had obtained from Ottawa \$126,000 additional subsidy. That is something to be proud of. The Car Ferry was the greatest boon that this Province had ever received. From the claim in the matter of the Western lands the Government hopes to receive a considerable amount of money. Some \$10,000 had been spent by the late Government for delegations to Ottawa and other places, but the results amounted to nothing. The present Government had spent only \$720 for delegations and the result so far is the addition of \$126,000 to our subsidy from Ottawa. The debate was adjourned by Mr. Buntain and the House then adjourned.

House opened at 12 o'clock on Friday Hon. Mr. Arsenault presented a petition asking for the incorporation of the Belmont Telephone Company. After questions Hon. Mr. Stewart introduced a bill to incorporate the Royal Silver Black Fox Company, a bill to incorporate the Belmont Telephone Company, in accordance with the petition above referred to, was also introduced. These bills were read a first time. Hon. Mr. Stewart presented a resolution, on which to found a bill amending the act appointing Stipendiary Magistrates. Hon. Mr. Arsenault introduced a resolution on which was founded a bill imposing a tax on foxes held in captivity. The House went into committee on this resolution. The Speaker took the chair and the chairman reported the resolution agreed to. The bill founded on this resolution was received, read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

Hon. Mr. Mathieson introduced a bill to amend the Common Law Procedure Act, which was read a first time and held for second reading. Hon. Mr. Mathieson also introduced a bill amending an Act relating to certain Departments of the Public Service. The House then took recess.

House resumed in the afternoon at 4.15. On motion of the Leader of the Government the adjourned debate on the budget was resumed by Mr. Buntain. He took exception to remarks by the Leader of the Opposition regarding something he (Mr. Buntain) had said in a previous debate relative to the killing of sheep by dogs. Mr. J. A. Dewar made a few remarks to the effect that he thought it would be better not to occupy much more time discussing the budget.

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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Head St. Peter's Bay, Greenwich, Cable Head West, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN F. WHEAR,  
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,  
Charlottetown, Mar. 29, 1913.  
April 2, 1913-31



### Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on Friday, the 9th May, 1913, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, Over Rural Route No. 2 from Cardigan Bridge, Prince Edward Island.

To commence at the pleasure of the Postmaster General.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Cardigan Bridge, Summerside Station, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

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Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,  
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