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## AND OUTPORT TELEPHONE

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### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 10.

Continued.

Mr. Little—Yes, when that balance  
was squeezed out of the people of the  
country by the imposition of burdensome  
taxation. But he (Mr. L.) felt that it  
was a waste of time to be speaking to  
gentlemen like the hon. Mr. Shea, or to  
attempt to convince them? Of course  
the bill must follow the bill.

Mr. Scott.—After the able and elo-  
quent speech of the hon. the leader of the  
Opposition, Mr. Little, there does not  
seem much to be said by those who fol-  
low. All they can say will be to cor-  
roborate and reiterate what that hon.  
gentleman has so ably expressed on the  
subject of this unnecessary imposition of  
15 per cent. No one will deny that a  
government ought not to impose any  
burden on the people that is not  
justified by the exigency of the public  
service. Where, then, is the justifica-  
tion in this instance? The hon. mem-  
ber Mr. Little made reference to the  
manner in which this taxation had been  
going on increasing year after year; how  
year after year our public debt is being  
added to; how year after year the bur-  
dens of the people are augmented with-  
out even the shadow of an excuse. It is  
a well known fact that large sums of  
money are yearly extracted from the peo-  
ple. As had been stated by the hon.  
and learned gentleman who preceded  
him, the Receiver General had increased  
the debts of the colony during six years  
incumbency of office by the large sum of  
\$517,000 or \$518,000 in addition to the  
expenditure of \$5,194,430.31, the revenue  
received during that period. The figures  
would stand thus:

The public debt of the colony, 31st December, 1879, was \$1,451,290 44
An increase since 31st De- cember, 1873,..... \$299,613 85
To this add the sum taken from the Halifax Fishery Award to pay off floating debt.....218,186 00

Whole sum spent by gov-  
ernment in six years..... \$6,712,230 76

The hon. Receiver General has shown no  
reason to continue this increase. He  
(hon. R. G.) has attempted to show by  
figures, which will not bear the test of in-  
vestigation that the increase of last year  
was rendered necessary by the depreda-  
tion in price of "ad valorem" dutiable  
goods. How can he excuse the keeping on  
of that increase this year when the  
value of "ad valorem" has increased to  
as high a figure as they were the nine  
years preceding the placing on of the 15  
per cent. A petition numerously and  
importantly signed by all the large im-  
porting houses and all merchants in this  
city well acquainted with the trade and  
its wants, and competent to judge of the  
requirements of the country, is presented  
to this House by one of the wealthiest  
and most influential gentlemen in the  
trade, the hon. member for St. John's  
West, Mr. Tessier, praying for a reduction  
of the present burdensome tax, and  
setting forth in plain terms good finan-  
cial reasons for a reduction in the tariff.  
That petition is treated with something  
very like contempt by some leading  
members on the Government side. If,  
then, we are to take the opinion of all

the respectable mercantile men in St.  
John's, the "ad valorem" goods will  
reach as much in this year as they did in  
any one time of the nine years preceding  
1879. In 1879 the "ad valorem" goods  
brought in \$272,000 or \$273,000. If the  
imports be only equal in quantity to last  
year, of which there can be no reason to  
doubt, your customs revenue will be \$3-  
35,253 without the 15 per cent. If to this  
be added \$54,800 for 20 per cent. increased  
duty on the "ad valorem" owing to that  
rate of increase in value, you have \$889-  
753.15 per cent. on this will give \$1,023-  
215 instead of \$972,000 received. Thus  
you will have a balance of \$54,000 at the  
lowest estimate over the amount alleged  
to be necessary to carry on all the work-  
ings of the civil Government. But this  
credit balance does not include some  
\$40,000 received from other sources  
which will make a total of some \$100,000  
over and above even what you claim to  
be necessary for the working of the ma-  
chinery of Government. It was vain  
that we looked for any justification for  
such a course. The hon. gentleman is  
boasted to be precedent in preparing his  
estimate so as to have a balance to the  
credit of the colony at the termination of  
the financial year. Such a course alike  
necessary for the sustentation of our cur-  
rent at home and abroad. But neither the  
hon. gentleman who has prepared the  
estimate nor the Government who sup-  
ported it were right in dragging from a  
over taxed people thousands of dollars  
annua ly over and above what was so ab-  
solutely requisite. If the expenditure of  
the Government was annually increasing,  
it required an extraordinary discernment  
to foresee that at a time must shortly arrive  
when a long suffering people would rise  
in their wrath and refuse to submit to  
further taxation. Turning again to the  
consolidated statement it would be found  
that at the end of the year the colony  
appeared to have the sum of \$14,000 to  
its credit. A close inquiry into the ac-  
counts would show that that credit bal-  
ance was made up by crediting the cur-  
rent year with a sum of some \$15,000  
which is to be returned by the Imperial  
Government, part of the sum had been  
retained by them from the Halifax Fish-  
ery Award to pay our proportion of the  
expenses. Whatever may be said to the  
contrary, he believed his position per-  
fectly tenable that this sum should not  
be credited to the colony in the Receiver  
General's statement when it was to all  
intents and purposes a portion of the  
Halifax Award. It had taken from that  
award and should, when received by our  
Government on account of that commis-  
sion had been amply recouped when we  
look \$218,000 to pay our debts. There  
was only one hypothesis upon this action  
of the hon. gentleman's was explainable  
if this or some similar amount were not  
passed to the credit of the colony upon  
current account, the consolidated state-  
ment would show the country to be in  
debt some thousands of dollars. Des-  
pite all these things the Government  
asked the assent of the House to imposi-  
tion of taxation which would give an in-  
crease of \$100,000. If hon. members on  
his (Mr. S's.) side assented to such a pro-  
position they would be recreant to their  
duty. They would not fail to express  
the true state of affairs. There ought to  
be sufficient intelligence, and there was  
in the country, to understand a plain  
statement of fact. If after a clear ex-  
position the people chose to retain the  
present Government in power, then at  
any rate he would have done his duty,  
and would have no remissness to tax  
himself with. No doubt the Govern-  
ment would seek to draw off attention  
from the unfortunate state of its finan-  
ces by rising side issues for discussion. No  
doubt they hoped that in the excitement  
of the debate upon the contemplated  
railway a little matter such as an extra  
15 per cent duty would pass without  
comment. But there was hardly a be-  
liever outside in the sincerity of the Gov-  
ernment, and by-and-by when in the nat-  
ural order of events the present Gov-  
ernment resigned the reins of office, they  
will be known as the Government of mag-  
nificent projects and disastrous failures.  
From time to time we have heard about  
the construction of a dock in our harbor,  
but beyond elaborate and highly colored  
plans and specifications, probably expen-  
sive nothing has been done.

Hon. Attorney General.—The surveys  
and plans for the dock cost the colony  
nothing.

Mr. Scott.—Even if they did it would  
be satisfactory to pay for work that was  
palatably accomplished. That the addi-  
tional 15 per cent tax is unpalatable to  
some of the warmest supporters of the  
Government, the pet on presented the  
other day sufficient attests. That some  
hon. gentlemen opposite were induced  
to assent to it because of its alleged tem-  
porary character, probably they them-  
selves will not deny. Now that the ex-  
igency has passed away why do they still  
support it? It had been said that if it  
could be proved that the 15 per cent  
was unnecessary, it would not be contin-  
ued. But it would be hopeless to contend  
against hon. gentlemen's capacity for not  
believing when it is suited them. No  
matter how potent or unanswerable the

arguments, hon. gentlemen would still  
say there were worthless. In reference  
to the petitions before the house asking  
for the abolition of the additional fifteen  
per cent, coming as they did from such  
men as Edwin Duder, P. L. Tessier, the  
Messrs. Stewart and others, he did not  
consider that the hon. Receiver General  
and the Government had treated their  
opinions with that respect which they de-  
serve when they attempt to put forward  
the hon. member for Twillingate to re-  
ply to petitioners. He may be a man  
of intelligence and quite qualified to look  
after the interests of his district, but  
with all due respect for his powers, he  
considered that his legislative experi-  
ence was too limited a character to en-  
title him to assume that role. He should  
be glad to hear their position detented  
by one of the members of the Govern-  
ment. Hon. members of the opposition  
were, however, strongly supported by  
public opinion in this matter. The peti-  
tions are before the House, and they did  
not originate with them, and those peti-  
tions contain the requirements of a most  
convincing character as to the hardships  
of such an unnecessary imposition.

Hon. Mr. Rorke had listened with a  
great deal of pleasure to the arguments  
adduced by hon. members upon the sub-  
ject matter before the chair, and he  
should say that he was not a little amu-  
sed by some of the statements made by  
hon. and learned member, Mr. Scott.  
In his accusation against the Govern-  
ment, and their supporters whom he thought  
proper to designate as "ring." He  
enumerates certain persons as absolutely  
receiving the revenue and amongst those  
he includes himself. The hon. and learn-  
ed member could not have been serio-  
us in making this statement for neither di-  
rectly nor indirectly was he interested.  
He (hon. Mr. R.) was an importer to a  
considerable extent of manufactured  
goods to the colony, and this additional  
imposition of fifteen per cent must neces-  
sarily be disastrous to him. He should  
therefore have some very strong rea-  
sons for supporting it. The arguments put  
forward in support of the position of hon.  
members opposite, would appear to be  
reduced to two. Firstly, they say that  
the additional fifteen per cent ought not  
to be levied, that the imports of this year  
will bear a more advanced price than  
those of last year. He (hon. Mr. R.)  
believed that there would be an increase  
in price, but not to the extent hon.  
members anticipated. They further say  
that the amount of imports will be great-  
er. That is not his opinion, and for  
these reasons: the shore fishery of last  
year was a failure, the Labrador fishery  
only being a success. The prices being  
low and the foreign markets being indif-  
ferent, the merchants will not be induced  
to increase the importations. Petitions  
are daily presented to the House asking  
for roads, bounties increased, steam  
communication, and innumerable other pub-  
lic improvements. How, he would ask  
are the Government to meet those char-  
ges if not by such an equitable system of  
taxation as they now propose? If there  
be extravagance in the expenditure it is  
the duty of hon. members to point them  
out in order that such a condition of  
things may be remedied. He agreed  
with him that in some things a little  
more economy may be practised. Under  
existing circumstances he considered the  
retention of the fifteen per cent as a  
necessity.

The Committee then rose, reported  
progress, and asked leave to sit again on  
to-morrow, the consideration of Ways  
and Means to be first on the order  
of the day. The House then adjourned  
till to-morrow at 3 1/2 o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 11.

At half past three o'clock, there being  
only two members present, owing to the  
weather, Mr. Speaker adjourned the  
House for want of a quorum.

FRIDAY, March 12.

The house opened to-day pursuant to  
adjournment at 3 1/2 o'clock.

Mr. Parsons presented a petition from  
Marin Kennedy and others, inhabitants  
of Torbay, on the subject of roads.

Mr. Watson presented a petition from  
Frederick Murray and others, of Heart's  
Content, in the district of Trinity, pray-  
ing for the appointment of a Stipendiary  
Magistrate in that town. The petition  
is very numerously and influentially sign-  
ed by the inhabitants of Heart's Content,  
has within the past few years in addi-  
tion to having become the terminus of  
the Atlantic cable, grown considerably  
in commercial importance. It is the  
central port in the south side of the Bay,  
and people are compelled to go to Car-  
bonear, a distance of eighteen miles, to  
obtain a magisterial intervention. There  
is but one Magistrate in Trinity Bay, and  
he resides at Trinity on the north side.  
He (Mr. W.) hoped that the Govern-ment  
would take this matter into their consid-  
eration without delay, and appoint some  
gentleman to discharge the duties of Stip-  
endiary Magistrate at Heart's Content,  
he was certain that every hon. member  
who was acquainted with the requirements

of such a largely populated and impor-  
tant part of the district, of which Heart's  
Content is the centre, would give this  
petition his earnest support. He ear-  
nestly hoped that the Government would  
see their way clear to make some pro-  
vision in the supply bill for this neces-  
sary appointment. He would give no-  
tice that he would, on to-morrow, move  
an address of this House to his Excellency  
the Governor on the subject of this  
Petition.

Mr. Rendell had much pleasure in  
supporting the prayer of the petition just  
presented by his hon. colleague, Mr.  
Watson. The respectable and influential  
signatures to the petition were of them-  
selves almost sufficient warrant for the  
House to accede to the prayer. The neces-  
sity for Stipendiary Magistrate at  
Heart's Content has been felt for some  
years. The growing importance of the  
place, the fact that there is but one  
Magistrate in the whole of Trinity Bay,  
that the nearest Magistrate is Mr. McNeil,  
J. P., who resides at Carbonear, some  
eighteen miles distant, are reasons which  
he was sure would influence the House  
in according to the prayer of the peti-  
tioners. As one of the members represent-  
ing the important district of Trinity, it  
gave him much pleasure in supporting  
the prayer of the petition, and endorsing  
the views expressed and the hopes en-  
tertained by his colleague, Mr. Watson,  
that the Government would make the  
appointment without delay.

Hon. Mr. Shea presented a petition  
from G. W. R. Hierlihy, Esq., of Bay  
Roberts, praying for an increase of salary.  
When the general increase of salaries  
look place a few years ago this  
gentleman was by some unfortunate over-  
sight, forgotten. The petitioner is a gen-  
tleman of high character and attainments  
and he (hon. Mr. S.) was certain that his  
hon. colleague Mr. Dawe would confirm his  
remarks and support the prayer of the  
petition.

Mr. Dawe was well acquainted with  
the petitioner and had much pleasure in  
giving his hearty support to his request,  
and in corroborating the remarks made  
by his hon. Mr. Shea as to the merits of  
the petitioner's claim. Mr. Hierlihy has  
been for many years a servant of the  
Government, and had during his tenure  
of office discharged his various and im-  
portant duties with credit to himself and  
satisfaction to the public, especially of  
the district of which he is an inhabitant.  
Seeing that the Receiver General takes  
such an interest in the officials of Con-  
ception Bay who ably and honestly per-  
form their duties, he would, he (Mr. D.)  
was sure give the prayer of the peti-  
tioner his support. He (Mr. D.) hoped  
that when the Supply Bill came up for  
consideration that the claims of this wor-  
thy official would not be overlooked.

Mr. O'Mara presented a petition from  
John Young and others, of Upper Island  
Cove, praying for the erection of a Public  
Wharf in that locality.

Also a petition from the Rev. William  
Goyvilm, and others, of Spaniards Bay  
and Bishops Cove, praying for the ap-  
pointment of a Board of Education for  
those settlements.

Mr. Watson in the Chair,  
Mr. Dawe.—Before the House took up  
the consideration of the subject before  
the chair, he would like to make a few  
observations in reply to a statement  
made by the hon. member for St. John's  
West, Mr. Scott, a few nights ago, to the  
effect that the outport members knew  
little and cared less about the public ac-  
counts. He rose to give that statement  
his unqualified contradiction. He (Mr.  
Dawe) was of opinion that he and out-  
port members were as competent to  
judge, and were as well acquainted with  
the matters connected with the financial  
affairs of the Colony as any hon. mem-  
ber on the other side; and notwith-  
standing any assertions to the contrary,  
he (Mr. Dawe) and the other port mem-  
bers supporting the Government cared  
just as much, and perhaps more, for the  
sound financial condition of the colony  
as any member of the opposition.

Mr. Kent did not desire to approach  
this question in a party spirit, though he  
differed from the hon. Mr. Shea on the  
subject of this budget. The question of  
how much taxation the Government to  
or is prepared to lay on the shoulders  
of the people is amongst the most im-  
portant that comes or can come before  
the House. It affects the whole colony,  
and every man, woman and child of all  
classes. It would therefore be approach-  
ed coolly and dispassionately, and having  
regard to the large quantity of figures  
placed upon the table by the hon. Re-  
ceiver General, we should not hurriedly  
and without due consideration rush  
through this debate. The Receiver Gen-  
eral opened his budget speech with the  
information that the revenue of the year  
had been \$979,602, and that the expen-  
diture had been about \$955,000, leaving  
a balance to the credit of the colony of  
\$24,602. He (Mr. K.) would have liked  
the Receiver General to have explained  
to the House how that \$24,600 had been  
expended. It is a large sum of money,  
and the largest local Chancellor of the  
Exchequer had in the colony. But can

we say the country has received a pros-  
portionate benefit, or can we say the  
material condition of the colony has ad-  
vanced and received an adequate return  
for this immense revenue, the bulk of  
which has been contributed by the la-  
bouring classes. He (Mr. K.) thought  
that every one in this House and this  
country who gave even the slightest  
thought to the matter must think not,  
especially when we look back at the enor-  
mous revenues received by the present  
Administration since its advent to power.  
During the past six years they have re-  
ceived the enormous sum of \$5,384,000,  
and in addition to that have increased  
the public debt by very close upon  
\$200,000 within the same period,  
and this inclusive of \$218,000 taken from  
the Fishery Award to pay off floating  
debt last year, and 102,000 from same  
source to pay for telegraph extension.  
The hon. Receiver General should be pre-  
pared to show the House and the coun-  
try what he has done with all that money.  
Has he justified the expenditure of this  
enormous sum? He (Mr. K.) submitted  
that a bolder statement was never made  
in this House than the budget speech of  
the hon. Receiver General. He points to  
the building of a few light houses to the  
North and one or two other minor mat-  
ters as the milestones by which the pro-  
gress of the country is to be marked,  
if he forgets that the money for these un-  
der takings was raised upon loan and did  
not come out of the general revenue.  
He must admit he must receive for these  
purposes the sum of \$600,000, but what  
has he done with the sum \$5,384,000 he  
has received within the past six years.  
Where has it gone? Has it gone in  
salaries or how? We are at a loss to  
conjecture how such an enormous  
amount of money could be spent in  
such a short space of time with the  
public seeing some benefit derived from  
it. Hon. gentlemen opposite are fond  
of telling the House that their prede-  
cessors in office left them very heavy  
charges to provide for. Let us see  
what sort of defense of his largely in-  
creased demands that statement affords  
to the hon. Receiver General. When  
the hon. gentleman took the reins of  
power he was, of course, aware of all  
the fixed charges entailed upon his pre-  
decessors. With a knowledge of every  
single item of official expenditure in  
March 1875, he stated that the sum of  
\$775,000 would be sufficient to meet  
all charges and carry on the affairs of  
the government. To-day he asked us  
for nearly \$200,000 more. It is  
claimed that the increased annual  
charges amount \$200,000. What has  
the colony to show for it? We fail to  
see anything beyond the increase of  
official salaries which has caused an  
additional expenditure of \$17,000 or  
\$18,000 per annum. But on the other  
hand to meet this additional outlay for  
increase of the Road Grant to the ex-  
tent of \$17,000, and the Special Grant  
to each district had been reduced by  
\$700 per annum. These matters the  
hon. gentleman should explain. Bes-  
fore we assent to an increase of taxation  
the hon. gentleman should inform us in  
plain words and figures what the taxa-  
tion is for.

Mr. Kent had asked for but could  
not get them, and was not aware that  
they were upon the table. The hon.  
Receiver General had last year a sur-  
plus of \$14,000 and it was difficult to  
discover any reason for demanding an  
increased revenue by reason of the re-  
quirements of any public service. There  
are, no doubt, great services in con-  
templation, but they are after all,  
merely substitutes for services, the es-  
timate far which were this year drop-  
ped out of the accounts to such an ex-  
tent, as to counterbalance the require-  
ments of the new services in relation to  
former expenditures or estimates. Com-  
ing down then to the question of the  
15 per cent. It was well understood the  
last year, though it was not distinctly  
stated that this was to be imposed to  
meet the necessities of the one year only,  
and the reasons given for imposing  
this 15 per cent was gone. By men  
of technical knowledge and experience,  
it is now claimed that without this ad-  
ditional 15 per cent the alteration in  
the cost of "ad valorem" goods, and  
increased importations will give a suffi-  
cient revenue to meet all the legiti-  
mate demands of the public service. The  
petitions presented to this House have  
been signed by mercantile men who  
would not put their names to any state-  
ment unless they knew it to be correct,  
and who say that that 15 per cent will  
not be required. If you ask the hon-  
orable Receiver General he will tell  
you that owing to his exertions in in-

See fourth page.