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**MR. KENT ABLY DISSECTS  
THE DISASTROUS BUDGET  
OF MORRIS GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Kent (continued)—

It also provides that information must be given regarding the place of manufacture or production. It clearly requires, Mr. Chairman, that the value of these exports at the time and port of exportation should be verified upon oath. If there is carelessness upon the part of people passing these entries it is surely the duty of the Department to insist upon proper valuations and not to issue figures upon the export trade of the country which convey such an utterly false impression of the conditions of the country.

**Peculiar Conduct**

It is said that these figures are sufficiently large to make a change in the balance of trade in the Colony. If that is so, the authorities allow an adverse balance of trade to be published to go abroad when the figures in the Custom House are, as we are told by the Deputy Minister, so utterly unreliable, as if converted to show a favorable condition. By proper intelligence, proper information and proper observance of the law this defect anyway might be very easily remedied, and if my observations have no other effect I shall not have spoken without effect.

**Had Record Treasury**

I have said, Mr. Chairman, that the present Government have had more money during the years they have

been in power than any previous administration, and the Minister in his Budget Speech which he delivered here the other day took the position that one of the objects of a Minister of Finance is to find a surplus, not as the result of economy, but by taking more and more money from the people every year. He has always up to the present time been able to find a surplus because of the very large revenues that had come to him. The reduction in taxation which took

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place last year we were told was justified because of the surpluses which had existed and because the condition of our finance warranted the reduction.

**Curious Commentary**

Well you have to-day a very curious commentary upon the position which the Minister took in this respect last year. If you compare the Budget figures since 1909 they will, I think, teach you a lesson which it would be well for the Government to take to heart. Economy is the direction in which the energy of the Government should be directed and not towards increased taxation and not towards burdening our people with taxes which are unnecessary and which I propose to show before I am finished are utterly unwarranted, unfair and improper.

It is to be assumed, Mr. Chairman, that when the Minister of Finance comes into this House with his estimates he has carefully considered the sums necessary to meet the needs of the public service for the following year, and though every latitude should be allowed for unforeseen contingencies, that his estimates would cover all the needs of the public service that could be foreseen, and any emergencies which may occur during the year which might reasonably be anticipated by experienced officials.

**Avoided a Principle**

Now if we compare the record of the Government in respect to their estimated expenditure and actual revenue during the past four years, we will see how the Minister and the Government have avoided this principle.

Take the year 1909-10. That year the Minister estimated that the expenditure of the country would be \$2,972,000.00. As a matter of fact,

when the years amounts were closed it was found that the actual revenue amounted to \$3,447,988.84. In other words the actual revenue exceeded the estimated expenditure by about \$475,000.00 or nearly half a million of dollars. The revenue that year was larger than during any previous year and it is easy to see how to account for these large expenditures.

**Spent Because Revenue Was Big**  
These large expenditures are due to the fact that the money was coming in and the Government and the Minister fell into the temptation to spend these moneys on current account. They might have had as the outcome of careful financing, if they had exercised it in that year, a sum of nearly \$500,000.00, which would have covered the loans they asked for in the Session of the Legislature which then followed.

If that surplus over their estimated expenditure had been available there would have been no need for increasing the public debt in this respect; and I think Mr. Chairman, if the figures of expenditure for that year were carefully gone into in detail, it would be found that none of the Public Services would have suffered, that none of the grants for Education or Old Age Pensions or other such purposes would have suffered. They were matters provided for in the estimated expenditure and could have been met out of the moneys voted without drawing on this surplus of half a million dollars at all.

**Same Old Story**

Then, Sir, we come to the next year, the same thing happened. In the year 1910-11 the estimated expenditure was \$3,055,055.72, and the actual revenue was \$3,527,126.42, leaving another balance of actual revenue over-estimated expenditure of \$472,000.00, or nearly another half million dollars. The same remarks apply to this as I have made on the finances of the year 1909-10.

Of course it will be said, as it has been said over and over again, that they had to spend money for education, for old age pensions and for other humanitarian and useful works of that kind, but I say, Mr. Chairman, that these are things provided for in the regular estimates—were foreseen expenditures, and that these excessive receipts should have remained in the Minister's hands after meeting all the requirements for these services and others that were anticipated in the estimates for the year.

**Not All Available**

Of course, I do not say Mr. Chairman, that all this money—nearly a half million dollars in each of these years—should have been available for capital expenditure or for reducing the burden of taxation, but I say that the greater portion of it should, and I say that it should have been enough in the years that have been covered by the present Administration's terms of office to have rendered it unnecessary

to have resorted to such large borrowings for local purposes as has been the case.

All the expenditures upon which loans have been raised could have been met out of these surplus amounts remaining on current account after meeting all legitimate and proper expenditure.

Then, again, Sir, take the next year 1911-12. In that year the estimated expenditure was \$3,332,000 and the actual revenue \$3,736,455.87, showing a balance of actual revenue over-estimated expenditure of \$404,455.

Again last year we had an actual revenue of \$3,919,040.40, and the estimated expenditure was \$3,600,000, leaving a surplus of \$319,040.40. In all, during the four years the difference between actual revenue and estimated expenditure was \$1,671,556.35.

**Might Have Been Saved**

This large surplus might have been saved in four years had your expenditure kept within your estimated expenditures. As a matter of fact the surpluses of actual receipts over actual expenditures during these four years, if we include the hundred thousand dollars that was appropriated in anticipation in 1910 for special works, amounted to \$919,000.

These actual surpluses for the four years were also spent on current account, and to-day you have practically no balance to the credit of your current account. In addition all amounts spent by the Government on capital account were borrowed, which in view of these large receipts over the estimated expenditures and notwithstanding these large surpluses on your current account for these years.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, the borrowings for local purposes other than railway building including the loan which was authorized the other day amount to over a million and a half together. (I am referring to local borrowings only.) Of course, the Minister will say the first loan included an amount on current account for 1908-9, and that this was due to the Government which went before them.

**Not Responsible**

Well, I pointed out last year in the House that the Government which went before the present could not be held responsible for that deficit, because that Government went out of power four months before the termination of that financial year, and the present Government—which has certainly made a record for itself in the matter of expenditure—came into power and had control during these four months of accounts and expenditure and it had then, of course, the making up and closing of the accounts for the current year. It is another case of the man painting the lion instead of the lion painting the man.

Of course, that is neither here nor there with regard to the present

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position which I am trying to place before the Committee. Notwithstanding all this money that has come into the Treasury what is our position to-day?

**Our Position To-day**

Are we in a financially healthy condition to-day? What does the Budget of the Minister of Finance show us? Now, according to the statement issued by the Prime Minister prior to the last election in his Manifesto, he pointed out and accentuated the benefits that railways have been to this country and the taxation last year as compared with the year prior to the building of the first railway in 1882 showed an aggregate reduction of \$800,000 a year.

**Not According to Prophecy**

We find to-day, in the Budget which the Minister of Finance presented here, that nearly all that has been swept away, and that the thirty years' benefits which the Prime Minister claims to have accrued by reason of the opening of the railway, have been swept out of existence by a single stroke of the pen of the Minister. So far as the taxation borne by the people of the country is concerned, you are putting on to-day nearly \$700,000 of taxation at one swoop. Still, Sir, we are told that the Government has been carrying on

public works, has been building railways, that it has been extending the public services of the Colony, and that it has not increased taxation.

If the fact stood alone, and if the Government had faced the fact that the works they were undertaking would have entailed increased taxation, that the people would have to pay, and if they had honestly and squarely put the matter before the people and the people accepted it, then, Sir, we could not find fault with them. They could say, 'the people put us here, we told them what was going to happen, and they are to blame, and you cannot find fault with us.'

**People Not Told**

But we find, Sir, that these things were not put before the people of the country. They were told that all these things were going to be done without increased taxation, and yet on the very first opportunity that the Administration has to deal with the matter of taxation, it is increased by nearly \$300,000 and above the \$380,000, the amount which was taken off last year.

Looking at these facts and looking back at the comments made in relation to the election, it is my wonder that I stated, and that I repeat now, that the Budget last year was 'an excellent Budget,' made specially for the purposes of the election, to carry out on the eve of the General Election a promise made to the people at the previous election, and simply for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the people with the intention at the next session of the House not only to restore that amount of taxation, but to increase it by nearly eighty per cent.

**Broken Promises**

Before recess, Mr. Chairman, were discussing the matter of taxation. I was pointing out that the Government had failed to carry out the promise made in the elections of 1908-9, and repeated in the last election to accomplish the work they had undertaken, including the building of railways and carrying out other important public services without increasing taxation, but that they had actually added to the taxation of the Colony nearly \$650,000 per year.

I pointed out that the Prime Minister in his manifesto in the last election, had stated that one of the benefits that had accrued to the colony by reason of the construction of the railways, commenced in 1882, had been to reduce taxation by \$800,000 per annum. And I pointed out that in the Budget Speech of the other day and with which I am now dealing, this total reduction had been practically wiped out by the proposed increase this year of \$700,000. In other words all the benefits in so far as they affect the amount of taxation that accrued in connection with our railways, have been obliterated by the tariff changes now proposed.

(To be continued)

**NOTICE TO CAPTAINS AND OFFICERS**

**Of Coastal Boats Calling at Bay de Verde and Vicinity**

The attention of Captains and Officers of the different Coastal Boats, calling at Bay de Verde and vicinity, is directed to the fact that there are cod traps set in the waters in the approaches to Bay de Verde (back side). Captains and other Officers in charge of ships, are requested to take proper care, when through stress of wind or other cause they are compelled to make the back side of Bay de Verde, and to avoid doing damage to traps set in these waters.

Traps and leaders are distinctly marked with black barrels. For any damage done claims will be made on owners of the ships.

NOTE.—We have been requested by the residents of Bay de Verde to publish the above notice.—Editor.—Je18,61

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