

(Continued from 1st page.)
 is so very low it makes their showing all the worse. It has been another boast of our friends across the floor, that they have not been taxing the farmers of this Province. They have made that statement at public meetings and they have made it on the floor of this House. THEY WOULD LIKE TO DECEIVE THE FARMERS
 a little longer if they could, they would like to try and make them believe that they were drawing the taxes from other sources. Well let us look into the matter a little. If I can judge aright they have been drawing large taxes, from the farmers. They have collected in Land tax \$328,993.27. If we add to this the Road tax which is collected from the farmers, amounting to \$39,911 the taxes collected from the farmers of this Province amount to \$368,904.97. Still they say they have collected little or no taxes from the farmers; when in reality they have taken nearly four hundred thousand dollars or about one-half as much as was originally paid for the lands when they were bought out by the Government. This is the way the Government is trying to deceive the people. The total debt as acknowledged by themselves is \$666,655, but to that amount we must add the accrued interest on loans amounting to \$4,581.00, and interest on Prince of Wales College debentures amounting to \$1,225, add amount due on contracts, making a total debt of \$680,000 in round numbers. There is also another quarter's salary due the teachers. Probably if we but knew the exact amount of the debt we would find it to be between \$725,000 and \$750,000. This is the condition of affairs we find after this Party has been in office for 13 years. This is the Party that said they were going to run this Province without taxes. This is the Party that shouts loudly about the growing time. It is indeed a growing time of debt, deficits and interest. Our Liberal friends have been liberal in nothing but in taking taxes out of our pockets, liberal in piling up debts, and liberal to their own friends. Let us take into account the amount of interest paid from the year 1891 to 1903 inclusive and we find that it amounts to \$220,831.29 almost a quarter of a million paid in interest and that by the people who said the era of deficits is at an end. This is the "Business is business" Government. If that is business I think it is time the people of this Province rose in their might and told the Government that they want no more of such business. We have had some little evidence of that not very long ago. Some of our friends on the other side of the House went to the country at the recent elections and thought by their imaginary logic and their counterfeit eloquence to persuade the people the electors should support them. It made no difference what sins they had committed, WHAT PLEDGES AND PROMISES THEY HAD BROKEN, they thought by their sophistry to persuade the people that it was all right; but they were mistaken. The people were not blind. They could see for themselves how things are managed, and they gave their answer by returning two Opposition members. In 1891 the Liberals came before this House and the Premier said that he was desirous of wiping out the debt that was against the Province. Henceforth, we were to have no debt. Every thing was to be plain sailing. We were to have a clean sheet. There has been some little dispute about the amount of that debt. The Commissioner of Agriculture said that the debt was \$128,000. I am quite willing to accept that statement. I heard the late Mr. Farquharson in making his Budget speech say that the debt was \$128,000. I take it that these will be satisfactory to the Liberals. When Hon. Frederick Peters found that he had this debt of \$128,000 or thereabouts he asked permission of this House to issue Debentures for \$185,000 and then informed the House that from henceforth there would be no MORE DEBT.
 He got authority to issue Debentures and they were issued. The money obtained from the sale of these debentures was sufficient to pay the floating debt and leave a surplus of several thousand dollars. Now, he paid off the debt or he did not. If he did not he deceived the people. But whether he did or not the money received was more than sufficient for the purpose. I made reference to this matter at a meeting at St. Peter's and the Hon. member from Bay View (Mr. Simpson) got up and thought he was saying something very clever when he told a little schoolboy's story, one that was as old as the hills and that created very little mirth. Had he originated anything of his own it might have been a little different but to try to force this chestnut on the people was no good. Now the Leader of the Government having received permission from the House to issue those Debentures may we ask did he pay the debt with the money received? (Interruption by Mr. Read and Mr. Rogers) He was to repair the Provincial building with part of that amount;

whether this was done or not I do not know. Perhaps it was. He was to carry out his idea of making revenue and expenditure meet. I have shown, and every member on this side of the House who has spoken has shown that there is at present a little gap of \$700,000 or thereabouts between revenue and expenditure. If we subtract from that amount the sum of \$128,000 which was the amount of debt against the Province when the Liberals came in 1891, and if we subtract from this the sum of \$51,000 which was inherited by the Conservatives from the Davies Government that would leave the present Government responsible for about \$625,000, quite an item for such a small Province as this. Our revenue is very limited; we have no mines, no manufactures like Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Ontario. The greatest possible economy should be practised in order to keep revenue and expenditure as near each other as possible. If we continue rolling up such a large debt we shall reach that stage which Mr. Hyndman in his magazine article says we shall come to; bankruptcy. The members of this side of the House have always held that idea. Why is it that gentlemen of the Liberal party pretend to shut their eyes to these facts and try to make the people believe a different story when
 THEY KNOW IN THEIR VERY HEART AND SOUL that this is the condition of affairs. (Interruption by the Commissioner of Agriculture.)
 When I was interrupted I was about making some remarks concerning the Morell bridge. There is the sum of \$2,000 in the estimates for the new Morell bridge. I am not finding any fault with that, I believe the good people of Morell deserve the very best kind of a bridge they can get. They need one, as the present structure is in a very dangerous condition. It is hardly safe to pass over it. Probably the members of this House who have had occasion to pass it know the condition it is in. A bridge has been needed there for some time; but it is most extraordinary that it never dawned upon the Government that a bridge was needed there until last winter when there was a convention to choose a Government candidate for that district to replace Mr. McLaughlin. The Leader of the Government and the Commissioner of Public Works went down in a special train. They took the plan of the bridge with them. It was not only the plan of the bridge they took with them. Rumor has it that they took something else, something, and when they exhibited the plan they also exhibited the refreshments. (Interruption by the Commissioner of Public Works, who said they went on a freight train and that the refreshments were not exhibited while he and the Premier were at the meeting.) You will notice Mr. Speaker that the Hon. gentleman does not deny that the staff was there. There are many ways by which it could be brought there; however, it is on record that it was exhibited there with the plan. They say that some of the delegates did not get home until next day. It looked a little suspicious to say the least, that they took advantage of their own convention to exhibit the plan. Men had been there boring through the ice. Mr. Fielding was here shortly before. I say that it did look suspicious that the plan was exhibited at this convention. Why did they not call a mass meeting of the people of Morell regardless of politics, and there show the plan? That would have been a business course. They were men on only one side of politics who knew anything about that plan. If
 THE PEOPLE OF MORELL ARE ENTITLED TO A BRIDGE, and they are, and the best bridge that can be built, then I say they should have all been made acquainted with the plan. It bears on the face of it that there was a strong desire to influence the people. That this did not work is shown by the fact that they gave me three votes to one for my opponent. The Leader of Government in making his budget speech referred to the \$2,000 for the Morell bridge. The Commissioner of Public Works has stated that no tenders have been accepted. Several have been put in and none accepted. Tenders were called for this work and published in the newspapers on the 23rd day of February, and these tenders were to be in on the 14th day of March. It was the time of year when mail connection with the mainland was not very good, the mails were frequently interrupted. Days and days there were no mails. Now this is a very important bridge, and as I take it a very difficult one to build—an expensive bridge—a bridge that will require extraordinary engineering skill. I am not sure that there is any man in this Province who could successfully build such a bridge. Sufficient time should be given for those outside the Province to tender for this work, and a time of year should be chosen when people outside the Province could see those tenders as published in the papers. Sufficient time should be allowed so that all persons throughout Canada interested in such works would have time to submit tenders if they saw fit to do so. Crocoted timber would

have to be used in the work and this could not be procured here. We find that only three weeks time was given from the publishing of the tenders to the time they were to be opened, and when we consider that sometimes there were three days out of the week that we had no mail connections with the Mainland we can see that parties outside of P. E. I. had no chance of tendering. It would take some time before contractors could find out the cost of crocoted timber and other materials that were to be used in the construction of this bridge. Therefore, it can be seen that three weeks was entirely too short a time in which to receive tenders. I say that if the Government were really sincere in asking for tenders, THEY WOULD HAVE GIVEN MORE TIME. There was a bridge built at Morell in 1892. The reason I make this reference is this, that there was a call issued for tenders and a certain man by the name of Mellish put in a tender for \$1600. There were other tenders considerably higher. It was not deemed proper or expedient that Mr. Mellish be given the contract, and a certain emissary was sent to him who bought him off for \$50. In looking over the names of those who submitted tenders we find the name of Oox occurring no less than five times. Five tenders were submitted in the name of Oox and the contract was given to Mr. R. N. Cox.
 When the members of the Government undertake to discuss public questions, they never refer to their own record. They talk about things that happened ten, fifteen or twenty years ago. The Commissioner of Agriculture is very strong on that point. He made very little reference to the actions of his own Government in his speech. I do not blame him. It is a very serious thing for any Government to have such a bad record as the present Government have. He knows that the political mask is torn off and that they will no longer be able to deceive the people as they have done in the past but that their day is near at an end, and in a very short time they will pass into political oblivion. Considerable reference has been made to roads and bridges; to summer and winter roads. Suppose we acknowledge for the sake of argument that the roads are as good as they were thirteen, fourteen, fifteen years ago, does that improve their case any? Did not they come into power pledged to give us better roads? We are not a young Province now and are supposed to be progressing. We have a right to progress as far as our roads are concerned. Anyone who has travelled over them knows that they are no better now than they were some fourteen or fifteen years ago. I have had occasion to travel over some of those roads and I must say that I have found them, IN ANYTHING BUT A GOOD CONDITION. I have found that in the case of a great many of the bridges, that is the small bridges, that the planks are raised up two or three inches above the level of the road. People driving over those bridges are very liable to be upset from their carriages. What is the use for the hon. gentleman on the opposite side of this House to say that the roads are better or as good as they were under Conservative rule. That is no argument. It is no use for them trying to deceive the people as the people have eyes and can see for themselves. I believe the era of deception is at an end and this will be proved in a very few months when the Government goes to the country for a renewal of confidence.
 There has been a great deal said about the Public Accounts. There has been in this House a standing committee on Public Accounts appointed at the beginning of every session. Last year this committee was never called together. The Chairman of this Committee is a member belonging to the other side of this House. This Committee is practically a dead letter. The hon. member from Bedeque is Chairman of that Committee this year, and I would ask him, has he called that Committee together, and if not why not? He told the people in the country that this Committee was no good, then I say, what is his object? Why has he been appointed Chairman of that Committee? Is it in order that he will not call it together and thus choke off free discussion? (Interruption by Mr. Read.) There is the expenditure at elections. The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture endeavored to make a point against the Conservatives with reference to this expenditure, but I would remind him that during the time of Conservative rule there were two Houses in existence. Elections had to be held for two Houses instead of one. Those expenses would have been cut down had the Conservatives had their way as they WERE ANXIOUS TO ABOLISH THE UPPER HOUSE, but several members who had seats in that House—and among others the Commissioner of Agriculture—were unwilling that it should be abolished. The hon. member from Bedeque has made some references to the bye-elections, he wanted to find some reason or some excuse for the Government's defeat. He was down at those meetings and he did not do us very much harm—in fact, I think he did us good. I would not wish anything better than to have him attend similar meetings

in future. I would like to have him at the next election, but I suppose we cannot have that privilege as he will be looking after his own skin in Bedeque. The junior member for Charlottetown made some remarks about a juggling of figures. Well, he gave us an exhibition of figure juggling that ought to satisfy anyone. He read columns and columns of figures, and I do not know what they were all about. I do not know whether or not he understood them himself. I am sure nobody else did. He is an expert figure juggler without doubt. I say Mr. Speaker, that there is a very serious problem ahead for the people of this Province, and the Government that came into power 13 years ago pledged to economy; pledged to make revenue and expenditure meet; the "Business is business" Government. During all this time we have had the strongest and most accumulative evidence that economy has not been practised. We have had EXTRAVAGANCE AND THE GREATEST CARELESSNESS in connection with the conduct of our public affairs, and the manipulating of the finances. Instead of revenue and expenditure meeting we now have a gap of \$700,000. We have over a half a million dollars taken out of the people in taxes, nearly a quarter of a million dollars paid for interest on the Public Debt. This is the case with which those people have to go to the country. This is their record and I ask you Mr. Speaker, if it is not a wretched and damaging one? What hope can they have that the people will be any longer deceived by their soporifics and false promises and political deception. We are satisfied the majority of the people in this Province will not renew their confidence in them. On the contrary, we feel confident that when the appeal is made the people will say to them, No! We cannot give you our support. You can deceive us no longer. You have been a Government of extravagance, that spent our money lavishly and extravagantly and rolled up a debt of \$700,000 against this Province. Is it possible that the Government has any idea that they will win? I certainly think they have not. I don't see how they can have. I am convinced that when the appeal is made the people of this Province will consign them to well earned, well deserved political oblivion.
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 To star the meadows of May.
 The streams long held in an icy trance
 Now over the rocks their waters fling,
 Or softly steal where the sun-beams glance
 Through blossoms and buds of Spring.
 'Tis Spring again, and the vagrant heart
 Of the poet pent in the city's walls
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