Where Every Dollar Works Overtime In Public Good

THE BUDGET IN A NUTSHELL.

Estimated revenue for 1910	$1,251,952
Estimated expenditure for 1910	1,227,079
Estimated surplus	24,853
Current surplus for 1909	4,444
Excess of territorial revenue over estimate	15,000
Excess the previous year	50,000
Further estimated increase this year	35,000
Stumpage collections (sq. ft.)	200,000,000
Stumpage collections previous year (sq. ft.)	151,000,000
Appropriation to agriculture	53,815
Appropriation to agriculture in 1908	35,465
Increase	18,350
New Votes.	
Horticulture	2,500
Stock Raising	5,000
To extend farmers' markets	4,000
Deficit on school books in 18 months, only	530

Continued From Page One.

The leader of the Opposition had, therefore, answered his own criticism.

But he had also said that the receipts of the probate court fee fund exceeded the payments and had been placed in the ordinary revenue. He must have known that that was the only place where the government could place them. They could not put them **IN A SUSPENSE ACCOUNT, AS THE OLD GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE, BUT THEY PUT THEM WHERE EVERYBODY COULD SEE IT.**

The facts were that from the year 1908 there had been a balance on hand in this fund of $2564.67, which had been carried over and payment had been made during the year for only three quarters of a year of the judges salaries. Owing to the change brought about when the account became a part of the consolidated revenue account, which was necessary under the new audit act, and the year had to be changed to date with the fiscal year, instead of the calendar year. The statement showed the full revenue for the year and also a balance on hand of $2,564.00, which had to be added. The leader of the opposition must have known that the fund had been kept in separate account under the old system and that the changes shown in the statement issued by the auditor general were exactly what was made necessary by the audit act, and why did he try to create a false impression that the government was taking more money from the estates in probate court than was necessary.

Costs Reduced.

Honorable gentlemen would all remember that when the government last year saw that there was a slight surplus from this source a bill had been introduced reducing costs to be paid by those left dependent on small estates.

Another item on which the opposition leader had offered some criticism at that time was because the government had placed a premium of two per cent on a special loan as a part of revenue. It was true that the government had done this but they could not do otherwise under the audit act. While they had put the premium of $44,000 on the credit side, they had placed on the other side of the account the cost of negotiating the loan and the selling of the stock in London, thus giving the complete information to the House and to the country. The expenditure for education had been $11,000 more than the estimate, but he was sure that all members when they heard that more money was being given to this important service would express no regret but on the other hand would feel that it was a matter of great satisfaction. **IT MEANT MORE AND BETTER SCHOOLS AND MORE GOOD TO THE EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE PROVINCE,** and there was nothing that would bring back a more satisfactory result. The future of the province depended very largely on education and the equipment thereby furnished to the young people to go out and fight the battle of life. It was the duty of the government to deal liberally with education services as without proper educational facilities, the young people as they grew up would be unable to be successful in competition with their fellows and to win out.

Forest Protection.

The expenditure for fish, forest and game protection had been approximately $15,000 more than estimated. Much of this amount had been spent for forest protection. During the months of May and June last there had been disastrous forest fires in this province as well as everywhere through the country. While it might be a matter of congratulation that these fires had not very badly damaged the Crown lands, it was equally unpleasant to recollect the ravages it had wrought on private lands. Large sums had been spent in stopping the damage by fires and it had not all been spent on Crown lands, but to save the property of private individuals throughout the province from destruction. **THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE AND THE HOUSE SHOULD BE PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT STOPPED WORK WHEN THE FIRES WERE KEPT AWAY FROM THE CROWN LANDS, BUT HAD RENDERED ASSISTANCE TO THE PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND THUS SAVED THEM GREAT MONETARY LOSSES.**

The expenditures for interest had been less than estimated. The special loan had been floated in London last May and the interest was specified to be paid semi-annually. When the fiscal year closed at the last of October four months had expired. A payment for interest could not then be made, as it was necessary to wait until the conclusion of the six months. A sinking fund of $10,950 had been provided to be arranged for annually and this could be paid at any time during the year, but as he had explained four months elapsed before the close of the fiscal year, and as there had been no payment of interest necessary it had been decided to provide for the sinking fund for the entire 12 months and the full amount had been paid and charged to ordinary expenditure for the year. If permanent public works were to be constructed the interest charges annually must increase.

Reasonable Showing.

Hon. gentlemen opposite had been informed in answer to inquiry regarding the interest payment to the bank on current accounts and the Government had made what could be truthfully described as a remarkable showing.

A COMPARISON WITH THE RECORD OF THE LATE ADMINISTRATION SHOWED THAT IT HAD PAID INTEREST ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS AT THE BANK AS FOLLOWS: 1905, $16,332.55; 1906, $19,105.98; 1907, $48,473.53; 1908, $6,724.03.

This showed that in the last four years of its existence the late administration had paid an average of $26,659.02 annually in interest on current accounts at the banks. It was surely a favorable comparison that the present administration had to offer for 1909 when it had received $4,034.50 for interest on current accounts from the banks instead of paying out such large sums.

This was one of the differences in conditions under the new administration as compared with the old.

Mr. Robinson—What per cent. was paid?

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that the banks paid three per cent. on credit balances and charged 5 per cent. on overdrawn accounts, and it must be pleasing to the House and to the people to note that in answer to the inquiry of hon. gentleman opposite he had been able to say there had been a credit balance at the Bank of New Brunswick every month throughout the year. The old administration on the other hand began in debt and the debt was kept growing from the first of the year. The Provincial Hospital was carried along on credit for eleven months and then the appropriation for the year was turned over to reduce the overdraft.

A Separate Account.

The old system was to keep the liquor licenses fund statement as a separate account and probably the first criticism that would be offered from the honorable gentlemen opposite that it had also been added to the consolidated revenue account. The fact was that under the audit act all accounts were combined. The consolidated revenue account and the provincial hospital, liquor license and probate court fund had been added to the consolidated revenue and while they swelled the receipts the honorable gentlemen opposite should remember they also swelled the expenditure very largely.

He had no doubt that the people would say that it was best to give all information as to the finances of the province in one complete and comprehensive statement.

The amount expended for public works during the past year had been about $30,000 more than estimated. One of the large expenditures in this department had been for the repairs made necessary by the disastrous fire at the provincial hospital.

There had been placed with the chief commissioner for expenditure on roads and bridges **MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE,** and his only regret was that more had not been expended for this important service so that the people with better highways would be able to get their produce to the markets at less expense, and with more convenience and be better able to compete in the markets of the world.

The Figures.

To show the increased expenditures for ordinary bridges he quoted the following figures: **1905, $81,058.48; 1906, $86,301.54; 1907, $94,179.78; 1908, $101,762.43; 1909, $154,916.40, OR AN INCREASE IN 1909 OVER THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS OF $64,091.40, AND HE WAS GLAD TO SAY THAT IN 1909 NO SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS HAD BEEN CREATED AND NO BILLS HAD BEEN HELD OVER SO AS TO ESCAPE PAYMENT IN THE PAST YEAR.**

The leader of the opposition had through an inquiry asked for information as to when the government closed the consolidated revenue account and in this connection he was glad to be able to state that all bills in the office, and approved before the end of the fiscal year, were charged to 1909 and paid out of the revenues of that year.

The government had adopted a plan to keep open the accounts for ten days after the close of the year, to receive revenue and to pay expenditures properly chargable to that year. The province of Ontario kept their accounts open for fifteen or twenty days, and if an effort was made to make it appear that this was done to try to increase the revenue, all that was necessary to be said was that the receipts for the ten days that the accounts had been kept open at the end of the last year had amounted to $16,271.70, while the expenditures added were $73,227.37 or about $60,000 more had been paid out than received.

In other words, if the account had been closed up on 31st October **THE CREDIT BALANCE FOR THE YEAR'S OPERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN $60,000 MORE THAN IS ACTUALLY SHOWN.** The old government kept the accounts open until December in order to charge up accounts coming in and swell the revenue and **IN THE SAME PERIOD HAD HIDDEN $70,000 OF EXPENDITURE IN SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS.. THEY HAD RECEIVED OVER $100,000, WHICH**

Estimated Income, 1910.

Dom. Subsidies	$621,360.96
Territorial revenues	430,000.00
Fees, prov. secy. office	16,000.00
Private and local bills	1,500.00
Taxes, incorp. companies	35,000.00
Succession duties	25,000.00
King's printer	1,750.00
Liquor licenses, gross rpts.	42,000.00
Probate court fund	14,500.00
Supreme court fund	2,500.00
Public wharves, half cost from Dom. Government	6,000.00
Provincial Hospital	22,000.00
School books, for sales	12,000.00
Agriculture Department—	
Sales of horses	1,950.00
Potato warehouses	2,600.00
Miscellaneous receipts	3,000.00
Fishing leases, Quatawamkedgwick river from Dom. Government	14,771.67
	$1,251,932.63

Memo.	
Estimated income	$1,251,932.63
Estimated expenditure	1,227,079.73
Unappropriated	$24,852.90

Abstract of Estimated Expenditure, 1910.

Administration of Justice	$ 22,550.00
Agriculture	53,815.00
Aud. Gen. Dept.	3,000.00
Boys' In. Home	1,500.00
Champlain Mon., St. John	1,500.00
Education	260,344.48
Education, Sch. Books	12,000.00
Executive Government	46,337.00
Factory Inspector	900.00
Fish, For. and Game Pro.	40,000.00
Free Grants Act	1,000.00
Guar. Bonds—Gov. Offis.	950.00
His. of N. B., Es. Dr. Hannay	1,500.00
Immigration	6,000.00
Interest	250,000.00
Legislature	36,153.25
Liquor Licenses	21,500.00
Min. & Min. Dev.	5,000.00
Mon. Sir Leon. Tilley	2,500.00
Nat. His. Societies	650.00
N. B. His. Society	125.00
N. B. Rifle Asso.	300.00
Probate Courts	13,200.00
Printing	11,300.00
Prov. Hos. Maintenance	82,000.00
N.B. Coal and Ry. Invst.	3,000.00
Public Health	9,870.00
Public Hospitals	9,700.00
Public Works	265,000.00
Refunds, Crown Lands	1,500.00
Revisors	1,800.00
Sinking Funds	24,835.00
Surveys and Inspections	6,000.00
Sur. & Rds, N.B.R.Set. Lds	2,500.00
Stumpage Collection	20,000.00
Succession Duties Col.	1,00.00
Superan. and Pension	2,250.00
Tourist Associations	2,500.00
Unforseen Expenses	3,000.00
	$1,227,079.73

THEY ADDED TO THE REVENUE AND FOR FIVE MONTHS PREVIOUS HAD HAD A SUSPNSE ACCOUNT RUNNING WHICH THEY CHARGED UP TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

Expenditure Less.

The Provincial Hospital superintendent in his report for the year had stated that if there had been no fire the expenditures for maintenance would have been less but the fire had made it necessary to charge up to maintenance over $1500 for light and $300 or more for laundry and other amounts which otherwise would not have been necessary. It was worthy of note that while the cost of food, help, etc., had increased, the institution by careful watching and a better system **HAD BEEN MAINTAINED AT A SMALLER COST AND THE CONDITIONS FOR AN EQUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF THE UNFORTUNATE PERSONS WHO WERE PATIENTS AT THE INSTITUTION HAD BEEN IMPROVED.**

Regarding the issue of £450,000 of registered stock that had been brought out through the Bank of Montreal, he wished to explain that conditions had been such that they must be eminently satisfactory to the province. The Monetary Times showed that an issue of six million pounds for the Dominion Government bearing interest at 3¾ per cent. had sold at 99½ and an issuance of £820,000 of 4 per cent. for the Government of Ontario had sold at 102 or **EACTLY WHAT WAS RECEIVED FOR THAT ISSUED BY THIS PROVINCE ALTHOUGH THE NEW BRUNSWICK ISSUE WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE HALF OF THAT OF ONTARIO.** It was a matter of gratification that this small province had been able to place its stock in the money markets of the commercial heart of the world and do as well as the great metropolitan province of Ontario and had received nearly three per cent. more than the Dominion Government did on its issue which had borne interest at only one-quarter of one per cent. less.

Comparison of Cost.

The hon. gentleman opposite would endeavor to make it appear that the cost for placing this loan had been great but if they look up the records of cost for placing Dominion loans they would probably refrain from making a comparison. The province had handled the matter in a way which was most satisfactory. It was not done through political friends of the Government, but the province had dealt with the Bank of Montreal, and the expenditures had been governed by that reputable institution and their experts on the ground.

Stumpage had been collected on over two hundred million feet of lumber cut on Crown lands, as against 151,000,000 feet for the previous year. The scalers were paid at so much per thousand feet, and very naturally therefore the cost of scaling was increased with the larger cut. The small increase for stumpage collections had meant a very large increase in the revenue.

Regarding the $15,769 expended for permanent bridges by special order in council, in addition to the regular expenditure of $170,000, the division was not because the bridges were of a different class. The act of 1907, which provided for the construction of certain bridges and authorized the issue of $350,000 of debentures, was the legislation under which the $170,000 had been expended, and the $15,769 had been for bridges which were not included under the list in that act, and were paid by the special order in council. An act would be introduced at the present session to cover these and others that may be constructed during the next year or two.

HITS FROM THE SHOULDER.

- No suspense accounts; no overdrafts.
- Freshet of 1900 caused borrowing of $150,000
- Worse freshet in 1908 met out of current revenue.
- Average interest paid banks by late government 26,659
- Interest paid by banks to present government 4,043
- Expenditure for ordinary bridges 1909 154,916
- Average of late government 90,825
- Increase 64,091
- Instead of $8,000, agricultural societies get $ 13,000
- Number of societies increased from 59 to 76.
- Market found for 125,000 barrels of potatoes.
- Horse importations, cost per head, $ 30
- Importation by late government $160
- Increase over late government's appropriation for roads $63,000
- Cost of administration of justice reduced one-half.
- King's Printer's Office becomes self-supporting.

Ordinary Revenue.

He was glad to be able to tell, that although the expenditure for roads and bridges and provincial hospital had been more than ordinary, **ALL HAD BEEN PROVIDED AND PAID FOR OUT OF ORDINARY REVENUE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RESORTED TO SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS** and overdrafts as was the case with the old administration. There had been many overdrafts in the public works department under the late administration and there had been overdrafts in the other departments too. A statement of the overdrafts in the public works department in the last year of the old government's existance was, 1905, **OVER EXPENDED $25,028.41, SUSPENSE $36,635.21, TOTAL $61,663.62;** 1906, **OVER EXPENDED $47,122. 24, SUSPENSE, $68,209.00, TOTAL,** $115,331.24; 1907, **OVER EXPENDED,** $11,032.39, **SUSPENSE, $67,961.42, TOTAL $78,991.81.** Following this record there had in the past year been **NO OVERDRAFT UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION,** and the change he was sure was one that would commend itself to the members of the House and to the people.

In the great freshet of January 1909 no less than sixty bridges in one parish alone ewer destroyed, and had been paid for without having to recourse to the plan followed by the old administration, who did not grapple with the situation and pay for the result of the freshet of 1900 but confessed to their inability and took leigslation for the issue of $150,000 of bonds to pay for the damage at that time. This amount was still a burden on the province and every year cost the people $6,000.

That freshet had coused no more damage than that of 1909, but the old government could not spend all the hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and kept the account open for two years and then only having found $131,000 which they could charge up to it, including every bill of even ten dollars for little culverts. **THEY TURNED THE BALANCE OVER TO CURRENT REVENUE AND SPENT THAT.**

To Current Revenue.

The territorial revenue collected during the past year had through vigilance and care on the part of the government and its officials **AMOUNTED TO $15,000 MORE THAN ESTIMATED, OR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. HIS HONORABLE FRIENDS OPPOSITE KNEW THAT THAT INCREASE WAS NOT DUE TO THERE BEING A LARGER CUT OF LUMBER BUT IT MEANT GREATER VIGILANCE, GREATER EFFORT AND GREATER DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE AN HONEST COLLECTION OF THE REVENUE.**

The leader of the Opposition had by means of an improper inquiry sought to make it appear that this Government had not collected certain revenues which it should have in the year it first came into power. The Government was not sworn in until 24th of March, and the lumber cut that winter was then in the streams. Much of it had been driven and out. Before the Government could have grappled with the situation much of the lumber would have been manufactured and shipped away. His hon. friend who know more about the lumber business than he apparently knew about the finances of the province, must have realized this. What this Government had done was not to be oppressive, but to have collected all or as nearly as possible all the revenue that was properly due the province.

Administration of Justice.

The expenditure for administration of justice had been larger than the estimate. In this expenditure had been a supplementary appropriation of $2,500 to the County of Albert to assist in the unusual expenditure of $5,000 which that county had been compelled to make for conducting the three trials necessary for the youthful stranger who had shortly after his arrival in that county been responsible for a brutal murder. It had been felt that it was not unreasonable, after the representatives of Albert Co. had placed the matter before the Government, to make this appropriation and he was glad to find at the time that it was commended by the then leader of the Opposition.

Owing to a large number of foreigners employed in the construction of railways throughout the province, crime during the past year had been greatly above the average, and thus it was only reasonable that the cost for prosecutions had been larger than it otherwise would have been. He was glad, however, to state that **ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MORE PROSECUTIONS NECESSARY, THE COST HAD BEEN LESS,** and during the past year the total cost of this work had been $1,913.68 or **LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THE LAST YEAR** under the late administration. The Crown officers are attending to criminal prosecutions as never under the old administration.

Unpaid Bills.

The collection of charges from municipalities for patients at the provincial hospital, for which they were responsible, had in past years been on an unsatisfactory basis, and when he assumed the duties of provincial secretary, he found an accumulation of $24,000 in accounts of this kind unpaid by the municipalities. Some counties had never paid anything at all since the act came into force. He had taken this matter up with the municipalities, and had visited several of the North Shore counties, which were interested, and had secured settlements which were satisfactory to the municipalities and considered reasonable by the government. With amounts coming in this year it was felt that this matter would be cleaned up.

The old friend of $14,771.67 of fishing leases on the Quatawamkedgwick River from the Dominion government was included once more. He was sure that it would receive applause from the gentlemen opposite if he said that it would be kept there until paid, as that was what had been said many times before from the same place that he now occupied.

Estimated Expenditures.

Taking up the estimated expenditures he said that he felt assured that after the manner the hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House had said the country owed to farmers, they would be pleased to note that **APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN INCREASED TO $53,815.** This was big increase over assistance granted to agriculture by the old administration which had granted to this service as follows: 1905, $34,125.00; 1906, $32,125.00; 1907, $39,825.00; 1908, $35,465.00.

This made an average for four years of $35,385 for the last period of existence of the late administration.

Last year this government increased the appropriation to $44,865 and this year it was brought up to $53,815 or an increase $18,430 or over 50 per cent. of an increase over the average for four years of the old government. If the hon. gentlemen would turn to the estimates for agriculture they would see that $13,000 had been allotted to agricultural societies. The hon. gentleman from Restigouche, speaking a few days before, had almost deplored the increase in the number of such societies, and although he professed such a great interest in the subject of agriculture yet he regretted that twenty new societies had been formed, because it would only decrease the amount of the grant to each. But he was wrong. **THIS TIME THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH RESULT. UNDER THE OLD GOVERNMENT THE AMOUNT ALLOTTED FOR SOCIETIES WAS $8,000. LAST YEAR THE PRESENT TO $10,000, AND THIS YEAR THE AMOUNT WAS $13,000, AN INCREASE IN AID WHICH WENT DIRECTLY TO THE FARMERS OF $5,000 OR NEARLY 60 PER CENT. IN TWO YEARS.**

In 1903.

In 1903 there were four more agricultural societies than there were in 1908. Did that fact corroborate the story the hon. gentleman opposite were so loudly telling of all that the late government had done for the farmers? No but it **TOLD THE STORY OF DECAY AND DRY ROT** that secured such a hold on the department now so ably presided over by his hon. friend from Kent. Instead of 64 societies in 1903 there were but 59 in 1908. Today there were 76 and there were more coming. The formation of such societies was the only way to increase the enthusiasm of farmers, to get them to organize that they might benefit by the lessons of success and failure. His hon. friend from Westmorland said such societies were no good. Perhaps he would want to deny that statement but he made it on the authority of one man from his own county who thought they were no good, therefore he believed it to be true. That was not the experience of farmers generally. The desire among them as a rule is to organize for they realize what this means.

It would be noticed that there were a lot of new items in the appropriation; $2,500 was devoted to horticulture, and surely every one would applaud the expenditure on that account. It was recognized by all thinking people that the province possessed a large area of as fine growing lands as there were in the country. Nova Scotia found fruit growing a source of considerable wealth and they in this province had similar lands which if developed would be found just as profitable. If this province has the soil why hamper development. The appointment of a horticulturalist would commend itself to all as another step in the development of fruit growing districts.

Stock Raising.

Another item which was new was $5,000 for stock raising.

This amount would cover the loss on the recent importation of horses and would provide a fund out of which to make further importations. Recognizing as they did the needs of the province with regard to heavy draft horses at the small cost to the province of $1700, sixty Clydsdale mares had been distributed by the efforts of the Government all over the province at the very small loss of $30 a head. The sale of these horses was well advertised and no matter where he came from every purchaser was placed on an equal footing in regard to his purchase the Government paying freight from St. John to the home of the purchaser no matter what part of the province it was. He had neither time or disposition to rehearse the old story of the late Government's horse importation but the difference in policy of the present Government and their predecessors was apparent when the last importation was made **AT A LOSS OF $30 PER HEAD ONLY, AS AGAINST $160 PER HEAD UNDER THE LATE GOVERNMENT.**

Mr. Tweeddale said some of the agricultural societies made up the difference.

Wrong as Usual.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said his friend was **WRONG AS USUAL.** The difference was not caused by sales but by the method adopted by the late Government and the expenses incurred in sending men over to Scotland, **WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HORSES, BUT WHO HAD TO ENGAGE A MAN WHEN THEY GOT THERE TO BUY FOR THEM.**

Mr. Tweeddale said did not the societies lose money on the resale.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said they did and were glad to do so, because they knew they were getting value out of the loss. He would like to enlighten his friend a little if he was only open to conviction, but he feared it would be a waste of time to attempt it.

The next item they would notice was for $4000 for the extension of the market for farm produce. The hon. gentlemen opposite had been seeking to make out that it was not owing in any way to the Government that now markets had been opened up, but the fact remained all the same that up to August last year, the potato shippers of New Brunswick had no entrance to the markets of Havana. There was no subsidized line of steamers to Havana in August last and there is not now.

Mr. Tweeddale—"I have the contract right here."

Mr. Flemming—"But a contract is not a payment. I knew all about that contract months ago, but I ask my Hon. friend to produce evidence of the payment of a single cent of subsidy."

No Market.

Continuing Mr. Flemming said the member for Victoria had deplored the fact that there were hundreds and thousands of barrels of potatoes in the hands of the farmers of river counties, for which they could find no market, and yet he said it was not worth a cent that the government had opened up a market for 125,000 barrels for them in Havana. He would suggest that his honorable friend try again. How far the criticisms of the member for Victoria were justified would be shown from a letter he had received from Mr. Dewitt of Havana, under date of 15th February, which he would read. It was as follows:

On the S. S. Bornu we had 120 bags of potatoes that were slightly touched with the frost and were refused on the dock by the purchaser. We immediately had these goods sent to the government warehouse, and after being sorted **WE ONLY GOT TWO BARRELS OF DAMAGED POTATOES** which proves that we realized **PRACTICALLY NO LOSS.** Should we have been obliged to sacrifice these potatoes **OUR LOSS WOULD HAVE BEEN AT LEAST $100.**

Then again he had a letter from another gentleman not unknown to his honorable friend opposite. It was dated Havana, Feb. 18th and was as follows:

The Warehouse.

"I understand there has been considerable talk made in New Brunswick about the government warehouse in Havana, and being a shipper I feel that I should express my views on the matter. I arrived in Havana the last week in December, and my first call was at this warehouse which your government had supplied. I found the house very suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, that is for storing and sorting purposes. It is well ventilated and has a capacity of 5000 barrels and is very conveniently located near the dock and produce exchange. I have had a large quantity of potatoes go through the warehouse, as I had two or three shipments arrive in bad condition. Some were frozen, others rotting badly, and had to be worked over. I was in this way able to dispose of them and my loss was comparatively small. I think the policy of your government in establishing a warehouse here for the benefit of the New Brunswick shippers **IS A GOOD ONE AND A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IT WILL GREATLY ASSIST THE NEW BRUNSWICK SHIPPERS** in getting in this market, and would heartily recommend that you do not allow the lease of this warehouse to run out.

Yours very truly,
GUY. G. PORTER."

These letters were pretty good evidence of the value of this warehouse and showed that the government had one at any rate. There were only a few shippers who were so blindly partisan that they would not go into the business that were running down the warehouse. These letters were absolutely unsolicited and were a direct refutation of assertions of gentlemen opposite that the governments efforts were of no benefit.

Interest Estimate.

The interest estimate it was felt would cover all the interest for the year. The appropriation for executive government, honorable members should remember, included the amount that had usually been put down as for contingencies. The estimate for provincial hospital had been figured up on expense of maintenance of the past year, with the extraordinary expenses taken out.

The appropriation for public works for the present year was estimated at $265,000. If the hon. gentlemen would look at the details they would find that of that amount $210,000 was for roads and bridges. This was a sum of $40,000 in excess of the amount appropriated under the old government. In addition out of $170,000 by the late government, $10,000 was to pay interest on permanent bridge loan and $13,000 was to provide sinking funds. The present government had placed this $10,000 interest under the head of interest, where it belonged, and had made a separate appropriation for sinking funds, which relieved roads and bridges by a total of $26,000. So the amount for roads and bridges was $63,000 more than under the late government.

When the people knew that the government had so husbanded the revenue as to cause an increase, and placed the increased amount where it could be used to the best advantage, they would say it was a prudent government that now held the reins of office. The total estimate expenditure was $1,227,079.73, leaving $24,852.90 unappropriated, and he hoped the province would be able to go through the year securing the amount of revenue that was estimated and keeping the expenditure within the estimate also.

An Anniversary.

The hon. gentlemen opposite had been ready to say that this government had not carried out its promises to the people, it was two years yesterday since the old administration got notice from the people to quit. Two years was not long in the life of a government, and he was sure it was only a short portion of the life of this government, if its administration continued to give the same satisfaction of the province. The government had promised an audit act under which the auditor general would be an entirely independent official and today there is an act which has established a system not excelled in any province or in the Dominion for safeguarding the public money. Another province recognizing the good points of this act had copied it. The auditor general was not a creature of the government. He could not be dismissed by the government, nor even by a majority vote of the legislature, but only by a two-thirds vote of the House thus making him an entirely independent official. There was only one door to where the checks were issued, and that was through the auditor general. Compare this with the old system, when under the late government they paid out the money from all departments and the checks were issued whether there was money in the bank to meet them or not.

This government had also promised to reduce the price of school books although told by the old administration that it would be impossible to carry out their pledge. Now the poor man was able to purchase school books for his children at forty per cent. less than before.

School Books.

The Opposition has come to the session of the Legislature buoyed up by the false statement of the Telegraph that thousands of dollars had been lost in handling the school books, and the leader of the Opposition in his speech at the opening of the House had stated that the carrying out of the Government school book policy had been costing thousands of dollars every year. In reply to the hon. gentleman it had been stated that the **TOTAL DEFICIT ON HANDLING SCHOOL BOOKS FOR 18 MONTHS HAD BEEN ONLY $530.**

And thus another of the Opposition's bubbles had been burst.

This Government had promised an honest collection of the revenues of the province. The last Government had never given an honest collection of their revenues, but this Government had used every possible effort to collect every dollar that was due. He did not say that every cent due the province was now being collected or could be collected, but they were at least making an honest effort and collected as much as anybody possibly could.

This Government had also promised an honest expenditure of public money. They had not sent money out right and left throughout the province and then have the auditor general receive the account long after the money had been spent, when an objection would have availed nothing. The Government was giving an honest expenditure of public money, and if any proof of this was wanted they could go over to the offices and there see an independent official conducting a continuous audit. The old Government sent out money throughout the province and for some of it there was never any returns.

The honest collection and expenditure of public moneys was another obligation of this administration which had been fully carried out.

In Agriculture.

This Government had also promised to awaken an interest in agriculture and the fact that **THERE WERE OVER 50 TIMES AS MANY FARMERS IN ATTENDANCE** at the last annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association in this city was proof that this interest had been awakened. New agricultural societies had been organized and new markets for the farmers had been opened up. It would take the hon. gentlemen opposite a long time to find a market for the farmers that had been opened up by the old administration.

The old highway act had proved distasteful to the people of the province and when this government promised to give an act which would place the control of the highways largely in the municipalities, it was the bad law of the old government that was more or less responsible for their defeat at last election. In placing control of the highways in the hands of the municipalities the control had in some instances gone into the hands of political opponents of this government. In Carleton County the only fault that was found with the act was in parishes where opponents were county councillors and would ruin the roads for the sake of making political capital against this administration. One highway board in Carleton County had not even spent the money in their possesion on the roads.
the roads.

The Boards Duty.

Mr. Copp—Is that in objection to the act?

Hon Mr .Flemming said if the matter was looked at from a political standpoint it was but the government had promised to place the control of highways in hands of county councils and had done so and he was willing to wait. **THE PEOPLE OF CARLETON COUNTY WOULD LOOK AFTER THOSE COUNCILLORS WHO WERE WILLING TO RUIN THE ROADS** for sake of political capital when they next sought election. The government had had no quarrel with any man on his political views, but he would say that the highway boards must show that they recognize their responsibility to the people and do the best they can to give the province good roads.

His honorable friends opposite had supported the late administration with all its faults and failings, and they must now be prepared to stand in their places in this House and take full responsibility for the actions of the administration which they had supported, or of which they had been members. However they liked to say that the old administration had been judged on its merits and had gone down. It was true that they had been beaten three to one or more, but if the people of the province had then known as much as they now know of the dealings of that administration their defeat would have been far greater than it was.

To Forget Past.

Gentlemen opposite asked the house to forget the past. They would like to have it so that they would come before the house in robes politically white, and would have the people believe they were shocked at things which they never noticed under old administration. Instead of wearing the political robes of white and setting themselves up on a pedestal they should put on sackcloth and ashes and repent. When this government goes to the country the people will not forget the past but they will compare the record of the old administration with that of the present government, and he concluded, "that is why I have such an abiding faith in the future of this government."

Mr. Robinson moved the adjournment of debate which was made the order of the day for Monday.

The House adjourned at 6.05 p. m.