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When a man bumps up against a domestic difficulty he immediately has pressing business down town.

MR. FLEMMING ON BUDGET
REAL DEFICIT OF \$300,000

(Continued from page 6).

I saw it I said surely there is an election coming, but the Premier tells us that \$13,000 is to pay for grants to exhibitions held in 1906, a debt due at the close of the fiscal year. Surely this is an astounding condition of affairs. The people will be looking for grants this year. The agriculturists desire encouragement. Where will the money come from?

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—The returns of the exhibitions do not come in until after Nov. 1st, and grants are not paid until the year in which the returns are received. The exhibitions will get this year whatever grants are reasonable and possible.

Mr. Flemming—The government knows every year what is given to each exhibition. This is simply an attempt to throw dust into the eyes of the people. The money voted last year for exhibitions was used up and more paid out. Now it is added to this year's agricultural estimates.

The Total Overdraft is \$310,812.75,

or close to one-third of a million. How absurd it is to attempt to show a surplus of \$3,000, if the overdrafts were paid there would be a deficit of over \$300,000. In addition to the admitted overdrafts to which I have referred, there have been paid since the close of the year large sums for Public Works. No doubt a portion of them were due and payable at the close of the year. If this is a fact, then the true condition at the end of the fiscal year was in reality much worse than I have indicated.

The people are interested in the working of the objectionable Highway Act, yet during the year they paid over \$60,000 for expenditure by superintendents. From the revenues of the province charged against 1906 there was expended \$72,724.41, and charged against 1907, \$69,851.82. The total expenditure by the road superintendents in 1906 was thus \$208,576.23. This of course was exclusive of the county of St. John. The very large sums, moreover, included a dollar for bridges or special purposes. Yet notwithstanding this great outlay

Our Roads are Not Being Improved.

Indeed, their condition is growing worse. I submit that it must be a bad system which with such a large expenditure does not bring improved conditions. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to deal with the Highway Act at this time. Opportunity to do so will be taken advantage of later. In the speech from the throne it was announced that an amendment will be made to the Act to make better provision for winter roads. I remember how we urged on the government when the highway bill was before the House the necessity of providing winter roads. We introduced an amendment designed to give such provision. The Chief Commissioner said they would not spend a single day or night on winter roads, save it for summer roads. Now the time is changed and amendments along the lines suggested by the Opposition will be introduced. The Opposition, Sir, realizes more fully than the government the needs of the people.

The Premier has estimated that \$25,000 will be received for succession duties in 1907. If his estimate proves approximately correct, then the fee paid him will be \$1,200. Yet he says the sum due did amount to him last year was three hundred dollars.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—The hon. gentleman asked me if anything was due at the close of 1905, not 1906. Mr. Flemming—We would not ask the hon. gentleman if anything were due in 1905, because we know he received immediately after the close of the year \$2,800. He is now merely attempting to again throw dust in the eyes of the public. Let us consider for a moment the Agricultural Department. A few years ago the government laid stress on the value of its agricultural policy. With a blare of trumpets they boasted of the policy regarding the production. Their dairy policy was praised. In 1900 the Hon. Mr. Laflamme came to Carleton and told the electors that it was important to secure a government supporter that they might vindicate the government's efforts on behalf of the agriculturists. But the people weigh the agricultural policy properly. They did not elect a government candidate. To-day government members when before the people do not boast of the agricultural policy, and I do not wonder. Under the present commissioner dairying, one thing in which the province ought to be able to compete with all comers, is being put out. Naturally the people of the province will not stand still.

There has been progress in some respects, but

Progress Has Been Overbalanced by Failures

elsewhere. I want to point out the costs of keeping up the agricultural machinery of the province.

Expenses come under three heads. First, executive expenses, which by the way should not be charged against agriculture. By counting in these expenses, however, the amount is swelled and the farmer deceived. Under this head there has been an increase every year since 1902. In that year it was \$1,603. Last year it was \$4,876.64. The total for the five years was \$23,866.49.

Under the second head come the expenses for the encouragement of dairying, which in the five years tallied \$25,516.48. For institute meetings in the five years the expenses were \$6,741.76. The grand total for these five years was \$57,184.73. In these five years there was a decrease in the number of acres under wheat cultivation of 1,778, and the decrease in the number of bushels of wheat raised was 46,787.

A few days ago I enquired as to the production of cheese in Carleton Co.

Replying, the Commissioner stated that the information was in the report. Of course it was, but, as is the case in all cases of making comparisons, I desired to get it placed on record. The only reason for the Commissioner's course was that he was

Ashamed to Have This Thing on Record.

Under his administration there has been going down and decay. In the past five years in New Brunswick there was a decrease of 58,875 lbs. of cheese produced. I pass to the matter of butter production. Here there was an increase in the five years of 216,292 pounds. Now, if we consider cheese worth ten cents a pound and butter worth 20 cents—taking the average prices we find the value of butter and cheese produced to have gone down over \$15,000. Yet we spend \$72,000 to keep it up. I will dwell for a minute on the brighter side of the picture. Glance at the figures showing the production of potatoes. The production in Carleton counties, the garden of the province. In this respect in these two counties there was an increase there of 681,218 bushels, which would be worth about \$250,000.

The above increase has brought more prosperity to these counties than anything the government has ever done. But to aid it the government did nothing whatever. The prosperity has come through the people's enterprise. The western market is not the only one for potato shippers. Possibly there is a market in the West Indies. A live agricultural department would be

Looking for New Markets for the People.

but that which we now have is lamentably weak and backward. The Premier has said that the government will consider a plan to aid starch factories. I have stood by the principle that the people's interests are always uppermost. If the government can formulate a good policy in regard to starch factories, it will be hailed as an excellent step. In Victoria and Carleton next year the yield of potatoes will be 50 per cent. greater than this year. The time must come when the marketing of the potatoes will be when the production is large the farmers, if factories are provided, will be able to dispose of their crops and not suffer the loss which would otherwise come to them.

The Attorney General contradicted me in regard to an emptying a short time ago.

Mr. Pugsley—I think we misunderstood each other. I was of the opinion that the hon. member had referred to one thousand dollars paid quarterly after 1905.

Muddled Accounts.

Mr. Flemming—A remarkable explanation. The hon. gentleman has a most satisfactory way of keeping the succession duties accounts. The accounts are muddled and crooked. I must not misunderstand.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—But information always flows.

Mr. Flemming—Yes, but we have to enquire several times. We enquired regarding an overdraft from the bank of British North America and the reply was not complete. The bookkeeping is so muddled, so crooked.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—The statement is entirely unimpeachable.

Mr. Hazen—Order! Order! He has no right to make a speech.

The Speaker—The Attorney General is in order. The use of the word crooked is unparliamentary. Banter from both sides.

Mr. Flemming—I withdraw "crooked" for "straight" accounts these convey wrong ideas than any "straight" bookkeeping I ever had to do with. I think the leader of the House should see that fair play prevails. Yesterday I asked him a pertinent question. Part of it he ignored.

Mr. Pugsley—Certainly I did not hear the hon. gentleman. I intended no discourtesy.

Mr. Flemming—The Premier says he did not answer because he did not hear. Why, then, did he answer the first part of my question and not the second?

Government's New Platform.

In a few months the government will appeal to the people. I have conjectured what will be the principal plank in its platform. True, the government has had many policies. A few years ago the old wells in Westmorland furnished a policy. That has died away. We do not hear much of the agricultural policy. Accuse failure is written large across it. Certainly it will not be the Highway Act on which they will appeal. We have had, too, a great policy for the de-

(Continued on page one.)

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