

THE PROVINCIAL DEFICIT IN 1906

Looking at the Auditor General's Report for 1906, it is seen that there was a surplus claimed for that year of \$8,136.01; but a further scrutiny of the book shows this to be a very fictitious statement. Yet this fictitious statement has been heralded all over the country as a proof of the great genius and sound business management of the government.

Now, what are the facts? The money spent during 1906 by the government was as follows:

Expenditure shown on page 11 Auditor General's Report	879,065.52
Public Works advanced by Bank of N. A.	149,943.73
Provincial Hospital deficit	22,502.31
Public Works overdraft	47,122.24
Paid for Hartland bridge	5,401.71
Crown lands, over expenditure	2,910.04
Paid to Exhibitions	13,000.00
Consolidated Fund balance, disappeared during year	90,185.08
Total revenue	\$1,210,190.63
Deficit for 1906	\$322,869.10

Thus instead of a balance of over \$8,000 to our credit on the year's operations, we really had on current account to keep up the ordinary services of the country a deficit of \$322,869.10, or under the management of the present administration the Province last year spent a sum about 30 p.c. greater than the normal revenue of the Province upon ordinary services, and in addition to that added to the debt of the Province by \$88,785.87 for expenditure upon capital account. This increase in debt does not show in the Auditor General's Report because the Central Railway is dragged in to appear as an asset worth \$1,150,000. While at the same time it is worth \$28,000 per year less than nothing to us.

FRENCH MEMBER CALLED LEMIEUX A COWARD

A Lively Scene in Parliament—Mr. Lavergne Objected to Western Provinces Being Treated More Favorably Than Quebec—Increased Pay for Postmasters Promised Soon—The Railway Subsidies All Passed—Subsidies to the Provinces.

Ottawa, April 25.—Mr. Fielding moved the address to the King for the payment of the increased subsidies to the provinces. It was brought back from the Senate to insert an amendment which made it perfectly clear that the rights of the two new provinces and Manitoba as far as the quinquennial census were concerned, would be maintained. Mr. Lavergne rose to a point of order, but Mr. Fielding held there was no point of order.

A Lively Scene. Mr. Lavergne—Then it is a question of cowardice on the part of the Postmaster General. (Cries of "withdraw.") The deputy speaker (Mr. Marcil) called upon Mr. Lavergne to withdraw. Mr. Lavergne—I won't withdraw. Mr. Foster thought the case was one where the words should be taken down. Mr. Fielding appealed to Lavergne to withdraw for his own credit and for the dignity of the House.

The deputy speaker—I again ask the honorable member to withdraw. Mr. Borden said he doubted whether the term used was unparliamentary. The deputy speaker insisted that Mr. Lavergne should withdraw. Mr. Lavergne—Then I'll withdraw and say that the Postmaster General was very brave. (Laughter.)

More Money for Rural Postmasters. At the evening session Mr. Martin moved an amendment to the address that \$100,000 a year extra be granted to Prince Edward Island for ten years. This was supported by Mr. MacLean (Queens) and lost. When the resolution embodying the address from the committee was being reported, Mr. Foster again advanced some points of order as to the method of procedure, after which it was finally passed.

In reply to Mr. Lennox, Mr. Lemieux said that he had now under preparation a new scale of salaries for rural postmasters which would give them a substantial increase. (Cheers.) He hoped to have this ready in a few weeks.

All the railway subsidies were passed without opposition. The bill creating the Department of Mines passed the Senate.

Morning Session. The Erie & Ontario Power Company's bill was withdrawn at the meeting of the House to-day. Mr. Aylesworth introduced a bill at the request of the province of Ontario, giving power to the court to annul certain marriages which have taken

place without the consent of the parents between parties, these parties never having lived together either before or after the marriage ceremony having been performed. Power is given to dissolve these marriages between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. There was one such case, both parties treating the marriage ceremony as a joke. The bill was similar to one passed by Ontario, and would not have effect on any other province without that province having first legislated on the subject.

In reply to Mr. Chisholm (Huron) Mr. Fielding said that there was no grant for a monument for D'Arcy McGee this session, but he had no doubt that in the future recognition would be made of the services of that eminent man.

THIS IS MY 44TH BIRTHDAY. Lewis Harcourt. Lewis Harcourt, who was recently elevated to the British Cabinet, was born April 26, 1862. He is the oldest surviving son of the late Liberal leader, Sir William Vernon Harcourt. Lewis Harcourt was elected to Parliament two years ago, and it is said that he would have been included in the cabinet when the present government was formed if he had then possessed a little more parliamentary experience. But he had not at that time made his first speech in the House of Commons. Since then, however, he has made a most excellent record. He is a first rate speaker and he gave good evidence of his skill to pilot a bill through the House last session when he was in charge of the plural voting bill. It is said he will be intrusted with the new land bill to be introduced shortly. Mr. Harcourt was married in 1899 to the daughter of the late Walter H. Burns of New York.

Alexander Day Goes to Brownsburgh, Quebec. The many friends of Mr. Alexander Day of the Stanley Gun Club, Toronto, will be pleased to know that he has been appointed to take charge of the Dominion Cartridge Company's shot shell loading department and is now living in Brownsburgh, where the company's factory is situated. The Dominion Cartridge Company is also to be congratulated in securing the services of such experienced a man for this department, and we doubt not that trap-shots throughout Canada and sportsmen generally will feel if possible, increased confidence in the Dominion ammunition, knowing that Mr. Day has had "a finger in the pie."

An operation was performed on Leo Tannehill's leg last Friday to prevent the spread of blood poisoning. His leg was cut above the ankle, and though the doctors say he is out of danger, it will be a full month before he will play again.

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