

# The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XXXIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1901.

NO. 51.

## CANADA CAN HOLD HER HEAD ERECT IN FINANCIAL WORLD.

Ottawa, March 14.—(Special)—The budget speech delivered by Hon. Mr. Fielding in the house of commons today, was one of the best financial statements ever made in the Canadian parliament. The fact that it was probably the shortest budget speech ever delivered made it all the better. It was a budget speech ought to be, a presentation of the financial position of the country, and not a mere recitation of figures. The budget was filled with tables and statistics gathered from all the blue books, as has been customary in the past. At the very start, with but one or two sentences of introduction, the finance minister went right into his subject and stuck to it until the end. It took him only one hour and a half to do this.

Mr. Fielding promises a surplus of \$6,350,000 for the current year, and although he did not say what the surplus of the next year, ending June 30th, 1902, will be, he points out that the crest of the wave of prosperity has been reached for the present, that no increase in revenue may be looked for and that there will be very considerable expenditures required to pay the bounties on steel and iron.

Owing to the extraordinary development of this industry, it is expected that it will require over a million dollars during the next year to meet the bounties. There were no tariff changes of any consequence to announce, the only one being that machinery for the manufacture of beet sugar, now admitted free if the article is not manufactured in Canada, will in future be placed on the free list whether manufactured here or not.

The galleries of the house of commons were well filled while the minister of finance spoke. Mr. E. B. Oaler, who replied, rose at 4.45 p. m. and concluded at 5.25, when it was called to order. The fact that the budget speech and the reply to it, and still a half an hour to spare were made during an afternoon sitting of the house is something unparalleled in the history of the Canadian parliament.

### MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH.

Facts 'Tersely Put Before the House—A Record Made.

Mr. Fielding, who received with cheers, said in opening: "For several years in succession, on occasions similar to this, I have had the good fortune to be able to congratulate the house and the country upon periods of great and steadily increasing prosperity. I rejoice to know that I am at liberty to make a similar statement today with respect to the affairs of Canada for the past year.

"In almost every department of industry in which the Canadian people are engaged, there was a great increase in trade, commerce and manufactures flourished. Here and there, as may always be expected in a country of this size and of such varied interests as prevailed in Canada, some local condition was unfavorable, some drawback may have occurred.

In summing up the affairs of the country we are able to describe it as one of unexampled prosperity. Prosperity in trade and manufactures brought prosperity to our national finances, and enabled me at the close of the year to announce results, which, it is not too much to say, form the most satisfactory financial statement that ever fell to the lot of a minister of finance to make in the Dominion of Canada.

"At a time of very considerable financial stringency, at a time when our expenditures were being conducted on a very liberal scale, we found our revenues so generous that we were able to provide for all our needs without having resort to fresh loans or even to an issue of treasury bills. A glance at the receipts and expenditures in comparison with the previous years will show that there is a general increase all along the line."

The revenue for the year 1898-99 was \$46,741,259, as compared with \$51,029,904 for 1899-00, showing an increase for the latter year of \$4,288,745. Cheers. In speaking of the prospects of the year, in a budget speech given by Mr. Fielding, he expressed the opinion that the receipts for the year would pass the \$50,000,000 mark, the figures that I have just given will show that this anticipation was realized. Cheers. The receipts of the year have been over \$51,000,000.

The minister of finance went on to show that the chief increase was in customs, due to the increased imports and to some extent no doubt to the higher values which prevailed.

Post Office Increase. The increases in the post office were gratifying, notwithstanding the two cent postage rate, brought about a year or two ago. This reform has been fully appreciated in the country.

"If, therefore," he said, "for a time our revenue from that source fell it would not be altogether a cause for regret. But Canada turned the corner in that respect. Up to that date our revenue under the two cent rate was not quite so large as it was under the three cent rate, but in January, 1900, the postage revenue reached \$386,229, while in the corresponding month of 1898, under the three cent rate, the revenue was \$363,941."

Under the head of miscellaneous revenues there was a considerable increase, the largest item being in respect of railways, showing an increase of \$23,344 under that head.

The revenue of the I. C. R. in 1899, was \$2,957,944. The revenue for last year was \$4,552,071, showing an increase of \$1,594,431.

Canada's total revenue for last year was \$51,729,894. The total expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund, that is for the ordinary purposes of government, was \$42,975,279, showing a surplus of \$8,054,715.

## Mr. Fielding's Budget Was "The Most Satisfactory Financial Statement That Ever Fell to the Lot of a Minister of Finance to Make in the Dominion of Canada."

This surplus was the largest that has ever been known in the history of the Dominion.

Under Liberal Rule. Since 1896 the surpluses aggregated \$14,615,075. Deducting on the debit side for the year 1896, which was partly under the Conservative regime, there was a net surplus for the four years, as between the revenue and ordinary expenditure of the government, of \$14,095,114. The expenditure on account of capital, including public works, railways, railway subsidies and various special items of an unusual nature, was \$7,468,843. To this must be added for railway subsidies (including \$340,000 paid during that year to the Crow's Nest railway) \$272,721, also a further item of \$1,547,023 on account of the expenses of the South African contingents and of the Halifax garrison corps. These capital and special expenditures of the year amounted to \$9,742,183. Despite all these large expenditures the public debt was not increased but reduced to the extent of \$79,689.

Decreased Debt. The net debt on June 30, 1899, was \$206,273,446, the net debt at the same date in 1900 was \$235,493,806. In only two years prior to this in the history of Canada was a finance minister to announce a decrease in the public debt. I estimate that the total revenue for the current year ending on the 30th June next will be \$32,750,000, or an increase of \$1,700,000 over the revenue of the previous year.

Coming to the expenditure for the current year, and there was expended up to the 10th March on consolidated fund \$27,731,603, while we have an increased revenue we have also some increases in expenditure. I estimate when the year's affairs are closed, including supplementary appropriations, we shall find the expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund amounting to \$46,400,000.

With an estimated revenue of \$29,750,000, and a probable expenditure of \$46,400,000, I reached the conclusion that, at the close of the present year, we shall be able to show another surplus amounting to \$6,350,000 (Hear, hear). This is a surplus which may be regarded as very satisfactory.

The Current Year. Proceeding, Mr. Fielding said: "Turning now to the affairs of the present year, which closes on June 30 next, I find that our revenue up to the 10th March was \$34,942,177, an increase over the corresponding period last year of \$1,227,493. The customs revenue, which is always an item of chief importance, is substantially the same as it was a year ago and I do not expect that from this time forward any material increase in that item.

In railways, post offices and excise we anticipate that there will be some further increase before the year closes. The customs revenue up to the 10th March last was \$6,399,906. We have still to pay considerable sums on account of railway subsidies, etc., and I estimate that the total expenditure chargeable to capital for the current year will reach \$10,700,000. If we deduct from this our surplus and our sinking fund I am of opinion we will have to make some addition to the capital debt, but it will not exceed \$1,800,000. That is small when compared with the additions to the debt in days gone by. Our administration in four years old and the increases to the debt were as follows: 1896-7 . . . . . \$3,041,163 1897-8 . . . . . 2,417,802 1898-9 . . . . . 2,315,047

In 1899-00 the debt was decreased by \$779,000. Good to See. The total increase of the public debt in four years was \$6,996,373, making an average increase for four years of \$1,749,000. The average annual increase for 18 years of Conservative rule was \$6,568,000. Therefore, deducting a decrease, we find that in the four years we have increased the public debt to the extent of \$6,996,373.

The Future. In regard to the next fiscal year, beginning on the first July next, it is too soon to make anything like a close estimate. The estimates we have submitted to parliament for that year on consolidated fund amount to \$44,102,323 and \$32,250,000 on capital account, making a total of \$80,388,000.

Bounties on Steel. In addition to considerable expenditure in the usual way we would have to provide for a very considerable sum in the shape of bounties on iron and steel. Hitherto these bounties have not in any one year amounted to any great sum, but the industry is now being developed on a very large scale and as a consequence we shall have to pay a very considerable bounty. I assume that we shall have to pay next year at least \$1,000,000 on boun-

## Surplus of Nearly \$6,500,000 In View—The Country on the Crest of Prosperity's Wave—Business Like Delivery By the Finance Minister.

Estimated Revenue, 1900-1901,	\$ 52,750,000
Estimated Expenditure, 1900-1901,	46,400,000
Estimated Surplus, 1900-1901,	6,350,000
I. C. R. Revenue, 1896,	2,957,644
I. C. R. Revenue, Last Year,	4,552,071
Canada's Exports, Increase in Four Liberal Years,	155,698,213
Total Trade Canada, 1899-1900,	381,517,236

ties on iron and steel and I shall not be surprised if the sum be somewhat larger. Perhaps a Period of Rest. As to reduction, I do not expect that we can keep on at the rate of increase in expenditures, which have been so marked during the past three or four years. I think we have probably now reached the crest of the wave of prosperity. I do not expect that we shall have any serious reverses. I think the business of Canada has been developed during the past four or five years upon very safe and sound lines, and I think there has been a very large extent an absence of that inflation which is so apt to mark a period of good times. I am of opinion that the business of the country as a whole has been so carefully conducted and in such a sound manner, that we are not likely to suffer any reverses, but I do not think it is increasing our business so rapidly as we have during the past two years. We might suffer a check. Perhaps it might be best described as a period of rest, not going backwards, when Canada, like a young giant, will gather new strength and advance again by leaps and bounds as she has during the past four years.

while the aggregate trade of Canada for the last year exceeded the previous one by over \$30,000,000 and nearly \$60,000,000. In view of the discussions which had frequently taken place in the house with regard to the increase of the imports from Britain, Mr. Fielding had placed together the figures for a series of years of these imports for home consumption as follows: 1896 . . . . . \$11,131,757 1897 . . . . . 12,979,712 1898 . . . . . 13,500,917 1899 . . . . . 17,500,125 1900 . . . . . 44,789,750

The imports from Britain had been declining steadily when the preferential tariff was adopted. That decline was immediately arrested. From that time on, these imports began to increase, so that now, as compared to 1897, there had been an increase of some 50 per cent. He submitted numerous tables to show that there had been a steady increase in our foreign trade, import and export. The increase in 1900 over the previous year had been in connection with the operation of the preferential tariff, Mr. Fielding said that the government's wish was that goods coming from Britain and purporting to be British goods, should be of bona fide British production. If any information could be produced to show that advantage had been taken on behalf of foreign goods, the government would be glad to possess such information, because it was determined that the preferential tariff should be carried out in good faith.

Mr. Fielding gave figures of the increase in our produce, showing an increase in the last four years of \$155,698,253. Taxation Reduced. Taking up the question of the rate of

taxation under the customs tariff he said that on the basis of the imports for home consumption and the duty collected thereon, the proportion of duty collected in 1896 was 18.28 and that in 1900 it was 15.98, a difference of 2.30 or one-fifth of the whole duty. Thus the difference between the operation of the Liberal tariff and that of the Conservative tariff on the imports last year would have amounted to \$4,161,918, making a deduction with respect to the amount paid inasmuch as large quantities of corn entered for home consumption are afterwards exported, the average rate for last year was not 15.93, but 16.41. On this basis the Liberal tariff as compared with Conservative tariff reduced the taxation for last year by \$3,292,250.

The finance minister read a series of tables to further show the growth of business in Canada. These were arranged in periods of five years, from 1870. The circulation of dominion notes in 1870 was \$7,450,334. In 1900 it was \$28,113,229. The circulation of one and two dollar notes in 1875 was \$3,480,830 and in 1900 was \$10,283,116. The circulation of the notes chartered banks in 1870 was \$18,642,805 and in 1880 was \$33,198,777. The exports of Canadian produce in 1899-70 were \$97,045,868 and in 1899-1900 were \$170,642,339. The total imports for home consumption in 1899-70 were \$71,237,003 and in 1899-1900 \$130,854,316.

The total trade of Canada in 1899-70 was \$148,357,339, and in 1899-1900 was \$381,517,236. The Yukon Made Money. Mr. Fielding next quoted figures with respect to the receipts and expenditures in the Yukon. The royalties from the Yukon were as follows: 1888, \$257,453; 1899, \$375,812; 1900, \$730,771 and six months of current year, \$446,184. This made the total royalty \$2,040,193. The revenue in 1896-97 totalled \$4,370,673. The ordinary expenditure in the same period was \$3,679,280. The excess of receipts on consolidated fund was therefore \$697,393. Capital account expenditure was \$568,574. The excess of receipts over all expenditure was \$128,808.

The Contingents. At the close of the fiscal year the account will probably stand \$2,000,000 expended for the contingents in South Africa and \$387,000 on account of the garrison at Halifax.

Our Credit Abroad. He was able to make a very satisfactory statement in regard to the credit and standing of Canada abroad. Under all circumstances Canada's credit abroad for a long time stood high, but during the past two or three years, there were circumstances that had helped to weaken it to some extent. For instance, in connection with an imperial act, arrangements were made for placing Canadian securities upon what is called the trustee list in England. Two and a half per cent. loans which he placed in London in 1897, were issued at a little more than ninety-one and a half per cent. and a fraction. Securities went as high in 1898 as 94 and a half, and they have been as low at times as 89. In the latest

not exercising his duties as chief law officer of the crown in bringing the criminals to justice. Mr. Hazen read extracts from the St. John Globe and the St. John Freeman to show that these papers do not approve of the attitude of the attorney general in that which was attempted in this province has dared to come to the defence of the transaction and that paper is the St. John Telegraph, the name of a member of whose staff is prominently mentioned in connection with the affair. In order that the house might have the facts of the case before them he would read the affidavit of Mr. Oty and of Mr. Milligan, manager of the St. John Telegraph. Mr. Hazen also read his own affidavit made in court at the same time, and the affidavits of Mr. Bliss Barnes, Oty's clerk. He had thought it best to read these affidavits in view of the violent attack made upon the Supreme Court by the attorney general in order that the house might see what facts the judges had before them.

In delivering judgment the chief justice made the following remark: "For its enormity it is unparalleled in the history of this country and I do think that the law officers of the crown, if there are any law officers of the crown, ought to take some steps to bring the guilty parties to justice." These allegations are made and it appears that they are true, and I say then that some person has been

FIGURES SHOWING PROSPERITY. One Year Liberal Nearly Equal to 18 Under Conservative Rule—The British Preference.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

Mr. Fielding then proceeded to quote figures on the trade and navigation returns to show Canada's prosperity. He described it as a fruitful year, so far as the trade and commerce of the country was concerned. He reminded the house that the increase in the whole of the 18 years of the N. P. was only \$66,000,000.

quotations our Canadian 2 and a half-centure are quoted at 92, and this is only a fraction better than they were when they were placed on the market. But to correctly understand Canada's best position in this respect, they will have to look at the price of standard British securities, the consols, as they stood in 1897 and as they stand now. In 1897 the loan was issued at 92-1/2, British consols were quoted as high as 113-7/8. Today Canada's securities stand a little better, a fraction better, in consequence of the conditions today, it will be discovered that, while in the actual conditions of the money market, British securities have fallen to a considerable extent, the securities of Canada have held their own and stand today a fraction better than when the loan was placed in 1897.

CHANGE IN BOOKKEEPING. Finance Minister Shows Some Defects in Present System. In connection with the bounties on steel and iron, Mr. Fielding said: "The policy of paying bounties on steel and iron was adopted a good many years ago, and by some strange process, the exact reason for which one cannot easily find, there was never made a direct payment from the treasury. A curious process was adopted, whereby the payments were treated as rebates or drawbacks in the customs department. Now if I have not made a mistake, the amount of the bounty on steel and iron was really not a refund of money, but a payment out of the treasury, and why it should come out of the treasury in the form of a refund or payment in that way I have not been able to ascertain. However, that was the method established and we have followed it up to the present time. The consequence has been that our actual revenue has been reduced somewhat less than it really was, because it was charged with these sums. So far the amount paid has not been a matter of considerable consequence. But with the prospect of having to pay very large sums for several years to come for that service, I think the house will agree with me that it is time there was a change in the method of book-keeping. Beginning with the first of July next I propose, when payments are made in the way of bounties, that they shall be paid directly from the treasury, and be shown in the public account in a way instead of appearing in the audit general's report.

There is one other point in connection with the matter. If these bounties were to be paid continuously from year to year as part of our ordinary expenditure we could not count on the revenue of the year. It is aware that we are keeping this as a temporary subsidy for the purpose of book-keeping, and we propose to terminate this subsidy as we do our railway subsidy. That will make a slight deficit.

In regard to the tariff, Mr. Fielding said: "I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to make any changes in the tariff. In saying that, I do not for one moment assume that the tariff is perfect. I quite realize that imperfections may be shown. I realize that here and there some special interest would be pleased if we were to make some changes. I am not prepared to say that there are not some cases in which there are inequalities which might be better remedied. But there are not many items in the tariff which can stand absolutely alone. A man comes to me and says 'Mr. Fielding, I entirely agree with your policy in having a stable tariff, we do not want to make changes generally, but we want you to make this particular change and everybody will be perfectly satisfied.' But I have not found everybody will be satisfied with the particular change which my particular friend would desire. As a rule, the tariff items have a relation one to another, and it is not easy to make any considerable number of changes without opening the door to a wide revision of the tariff. I think the business men of the country have appreciated fully the advantage of having a stability of tariff. I have again and again expressed the opinion that it was better we should bear some imperfections and some inequality than to be constantly engaged in the process which is irreversibly described as tariff tinkering. Therefore we say, considering the tariff has been in force only four years, we think it is not unreasonable if I shall continue for the present without any of the changes that some have desired, as some will always think it would be a little better for them and are patiently waiting for the day to come when there should be a wider revision than is possible today and when possibly we may be able to do some of the things they desire to have done today. I think that while here and there some particular set of people or some particular interest would prefer that we should make changes, the judgment of the country will be that it is better to have some stability about the tariff and not make any changes at the present time.

BEET ROOT SUGAR INDUSTRY. Modification of Tariff to Allow Free Machinery for One Year. I have said that we shall make no changes, but that is not strictly correct and I shall qualify that statement with respect to one item, which is scarcely in the nature of a change but rather in the nature of an explanation of a feature of the tariff adopted last year. We have been asked to consider the question of establishing a beet root sugar industry in this country. We have been asked to grant bounties to that industry, and we have not been able to comply with that request. We found that the bounty system was

(Continued on Third Page.)

(Continued on Page 7.)

## LEGISLATURE VOTES CONFIDENCE IN ATTORNEY GENERAL.

### Hon. Wm. Pugsley and Mr. J. D. Hazen Deal With Rothesay Lists Matter Thursday—Opposition Leader Was Rather Beaten in the Debate.

Fredericton, March 14.—In the house this afternoon on moving to take his motion re the Rothesay election lists matter, notice of which had been given, Mr. Hazen said that before making the motion he was only right that he should recall the circumstances which led up to the outrage perpetrated in Kings county where it was sought to add 400 names to the voters' list by forgery and theft, if not by perjury as well. He felt all the more constrained to do so by the unwarranted attack made by the attorney general upon two justices of the supreme court. It was well-known to the house that a vacancy occurred in the representation of the house of assembly of Kings county by the resignation of Hon. A. S. White. After the federal elections were over last November a convention was called of these opposites to the present local government, and Fred M. Sprout was selected to contest the county in the election which was then believed was shortly to be held. Soon afterwards the government supporters held their convention and selected Ora P. King, and it was announced in the government press that the writ was to be at once issued and the election held.

It is well-known that the lists upon which elections are held are made up and filed on the 2nd January. The lists in Kings county were so filed on January 2nd and everybody thought that the election would immediately be brought on. Much interest was aroused by the statement made in the St. John Globe about wrong doing in connection with the non-resident voters' lists of the parish of Rothesay. A few days later the Globe published a list of names copied from that list and which contained over 300 names, whereas the non-resident voters' list of the year before had contained only 96 names. As soon as that list was published men whose names were upon it began to state publicly and through the press

that they had no right to a vote in Kings county and had made no application to be placed on the voters' list. The matter was brought up in the county council of Kings county, and Mr. Hazen, the attorney general, took the matter to the house and asked that the government press thought the province stated that the attorney general would not delay take proceedings by certiorari to quash the illegal list. Day after day went by and no steps were taken by the attorney general and at last when it became evident that the head of the bar had no intention of proceeding in the matter, Mr. Geo. W. Fowler had proceedings taken in his own name.

It will be noted that up to that time the bogus list was the legal list of voters for Rothesay and that list is now on file at Ottawa as the legal list. Acting as counsel for Mr. Fowler he (Hazen) got a rule from a justice of the supreme court to stay proceedings, and afterwards brought the matter before the supreme court and got a rule nisi to quash. Now it will be specially noticed in his remarks upon this matter that a few days ago the attorney general had not a word of condemnation for the perpetrators of this crime, but he made an altogether unwarranted attack upon the supreme court which quashed this bogus list.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"I did not make an attack, either upon the court or upon the judges. What I did do was to resent the attack made upon myself by the chief justice."

Continuing, Mr. Hazen said that the attorney general must think that this house and the people generally are very gullible if they do not take his language used in the house a few days ago as a violent attack upon a supreme court judge an attack which he (Hazen) believed was the

most serious ever made upon a superior court, either in this legislature or in any parliament in Canada. The attorney general, who is the chief law officer, should sustain the dignity and reputation of the bench and not try to drag the good name of the judge down in the eyes of the people. He (Hazen) could well understand that the attack against the court was made by the attorney general to divert attention from himself. He (Hazen) made application for rule nisi for certiorari on the 24th January. The attorney general told this house that it was then too late to file affidavits in the case, but that a rule of the court was waived in order to help his case. He knows that that is not so, and that affidavits do not have to be filed in advance in an application for rule nisi certiorari. The court then adjourned for one week, but no affidavits in reply were filed, Mr. Skinner, who represented Mr. Oty in the case, and who was acting, it seems, for the attorney general, stated to the court that he had no affidavits to file, and he admitted the facts as stated in the affidavits which he (Hazen) read to the court. Mr. Skinner, instead of assisting in the case to prevent this fraud upon the electors of Kings being perpetrated, took the ground that there was no remedy by law and only by legislature. He argued that the court had no legal right to quash the list.

He (Hazen) had no doubt and there could be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man that the bogus lists were made up in the attempt to assist the political party with which the attorney general is at present associated, and with the view of making absolutely certain the election of the government candidate, Ora P. King.

This matter has attracted much attention and has aroused the people and the independent press of this province. The independent press everywhere condemns the attorney general and censures him for

not exercising his duties as chief law officer of the crown in bringing the criminals to justice. Mr. Hazen read extracts from the St. John Globe and the St. John Freeman to show that these papers do not approve of the attitude of the attorney general in that which was attempted in this province has dared to come to the defence of the transaction and that paper is the St. John Telegraph, the name of a member of whose staff is prominently mentioned in connection with the affair. In order that the house might have the facts of the case before them he would read the affidavit of Mr. Oty and of Mr. Milligan, manager of the St. John Telegraph. Mr. Hazen also read his own affidavit made in court at the same time, and the affidavits of Mr. Bliss Barnes, Oty's clerk. He had thought it best to read these affidavits in view of the violent attack made upon the Supreme Court by the attorney general in order that the house might see what facts the judges had before them.

In delivering judgment the chief justice made the following remark: "For its enormity it is unparalleled in the history of this country and I do think that the law officers of the crown, if there are any law officers of the crown, ought to take some steps to bring the guilty parties to justice." These allegations are made and it appears that they are true, and I say then that some person has been

## ATTORNEY GENERAL.

### Hon. Wm. Pugsley and Mr. J. D. Hazen Deal With Rothesay Lists Matter Thursday—Opposition Leader Was Rather Beaten in the Debate.

Fredericton, March 14.—In the house this afternoon on moving to take his motion re the Rothesay election lists matter, notice of which had been given, Mr. Hazen said that before making the motion he was only right that he should recall the circumstances which led up to the outrage perpetrated in Kings county where it was sought to add 400 names to the voters' list by forgery and theft, if not by perjury as well. He felt all the more constrained to do so by the unwarranted attack made by the attorney general upon two justices of the supreme court. It was well-known to the house that a vacancy occurred in the representation of the house of assembly of Kings county by the resignation of Hon. A. S. White. After the federal elections were over last November a convention was called of these opposites to the present local government, and Fred M. Sprout was selected to contest the county in the election which was then believed was shortly to be held. Soon afterwards the government supporters held their convention and selected Ora P. King, and it was announced in the government press that the writ was to be at once issued and the election held.

It is well-known that the lists upon which elections are held are made up and filed on the 2nd January. The lists in Kings county were so filed on January 2nd and everybody thought that the election would immediately be brought on. Much interest was aroused by the statement made in the St. John Globe about wrong doing in connection with the non-resident voters' lists of the parish of Rothesay. A few days later the Globe published a list of names copied from that list and which contained over 300 names, whereas the non-resident voters' list of the year before had contained only 96 names. As soon as that list was published men whose names were upon it began to state publicly and through the press

that they had no right to a vote in Kings county and had made no application to be placed on the voters' list. The matter was brought up in the county council of Kings county, and Mr. Hazen, the attorney general, took the matter to the house and asked that the government press thought the province stated that the attorney general would not delay take proceedings by certiorari to quash the illegal list. Day after day went by and no steps were taken by the attorney general and at last when it became evident that the head of the bar had no intention of proceeding in the matter, Mr. Geo. W. Fowler had proceedings taken in his own name.

It will be noted that up to that time the bogus list was the legal list of voters for Rothesay and that list is now on file at Ottawa as the legal list. Acting as counsel for Mr. Fowler he (Hazen) got a rule from a justice of the supreme court to stay proceedings, and afterwards brought the matter before the supreme court and got a rule nisi to quash. Now it will be specially noticed in his remarks upon this matter that a few days ago the attorney general had not a word of condemnation for the perpetrators of this crime, but he made an altogether unwarranted attack upon the supreme court which quashed this bogus list.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"I did not make an attack, either upon the court or upon the judges. What I did do was to resent the attack made upon myself by the chief justice."

Continuing, Mr. Hazen said that the attorney general must think that this house and the people generally are very gullible if they do not take his language used in the house a few days ago as a violent attack upon a supreme court judge an attack which he (Hazen) believed was the

most serious ever made upon a superior court, either in this legislature or in any parliament in Canada. The attorney general, who is the chief law officer, should sustain the dignity and reputation of the bench and not try to drag the good name of the judge down in the eyes of the people. He (Hazen) could well understand that the attack against the court was made by the attorney general to divert attention from himself. He (Hazen) made application for rule nisi for certiorari on the 24th January. The attorney general told this house that it was then too late to file affidavits in the case, but that a rule of the court was waived in order to help his case. He knows that that is not so, and that affidavits do not have to be filed in advance in an application for rule nisi certiorari. The court then adjourned for one week, but no affidavits in reply were filed, Mr. Skinner, who represented Mr. Oty in the case, and who was acting, it seems, for the attorney general, stated to the court that he had no affidavits to file, and he admitted the facts as stated in the affidavits which he (Hazen) read to the court. Mr. Skinner, instead of assisting in the case to prevent this fraud upon the electors of Kings being perpetrated, took the ground that there was no remedy by law and only by legislature. He argued that the court had no legal right to quash the list.

He (Hazen) had no doubt and there could be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man that the bogus lists were made up in the attempt to assist the political party with which the attorney general is at present associated, and with the