A SCATHING INDICTME

Of the Morris Government!

An Invincible Argument for Lower Taxation.

SPEECH OF THE RT. HON. SIR ROBERT

BOND, P.C., K.C.M.G.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

February 22, 1912. SIR ROBERT BOND,-I rise to in Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened this Legislature on the 14th inst., and in doing so I shall offer some criticisms upon that Speech. Having carefully considered the same, I am forced to the conclusion that it is more re markable for that which it does contain, rather than for that which it does contain, with one exception and that I shall deal with at a subse quent stage of my remarks. It seems to me that His Excellency's speech cannot fail to be disappointing those who have pinned their faith t the promises so profusely made, and which have been so often repeated, by the present Government. It cannot fail, I think, to be disappointing to every man, be he Tory or Liberal who has the welfare of this country at heart, for, it portrays a complete abandonment of policy and principles that have found expression in the opening speeches of the past three sessions. We stand to-day on the threshold of a new parliamentary year, the 4th session of the 22nd General Assembly. In the ordinary course of events this would be the last ses-sion before a General Election, but, as the present Government were rewe may witness another session of this Parliament before the curtain drops, and the People's Party make their final exit from this Chamber. Be this the last session or be it otherwise, it witnesses the near approach from the height of their ministerial from the dissolution of the governing Olympus look down in contempt upon Olympus look down in contempt upon expected therefore that in the Speech worse still. The extravagance of the ment to redeem the past, and to per-form works mete for repentance. It is well, I think, that the responsibility for this document, which is term-"the Governor's Speech," should be clearly defined, because, there are doubtless thousands in this country who verily believe that the pledges time in the opening Speech of the session are pledges and assurances for the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of which the representative of our Sovereign is responsible. We in this House, of course, know full well that the opening Speech is a document prepared by the members of the Government, and is supposed to foreshadow their policy for the information of this House. The Constitution which imposes upon His Excellency the Governor the duty of delivering this Speech on behalf of his Ministers, at the same time exonerates him from all responsibility in the premises, and, for every word in the open-ing Speech, places the whole respon-sibility upon his Ministers. It is well be clearly understood that it is so. for otherwise, during the past two or three years, the Crown, which is the fountain of honour and truth, might have been brought into contempt, for, Sir, the opening Speeches have contained the most solemn obligations and pledges that have not been ful-

the Government might pursue the Lest We Forget.

filled. Those pledges would appear to have been given but to soothe pub-

"Reduction of taxation so that it will ward to. The folly of the few has bear equitably on the working classes made hard the lot of the many. But, can be best accomplished by placing to pass to another point. In the open-on the free list such items as tea, ing Speech of the first session of the sugar, pork, and the other prime necossaries on which very high taxes are now imposed." If this language meant anything more than deception, then, we must regard it as a promise, that provided the "People's Party," so-called, was returned to power the tariff would be so revised as to place necessaries" on the free list. The paragraph in the opening Speech of the first session of this Parliament, to which I have had reference, was a renewal of that promise. Three a renewal of that promise. Three years have now passed since that promise or pledge was given, and still "the weary Titan staggers under the too vast orb of its fate." Still the 'overburdened fishermen and labourclasses," as the Government ad-"feel most seriously the increased cost of living in this country, must pay duty on "tea, sugar, pork and other prime necessaries."

We Have Now Entered Upon the Fourth Year Since That All-Import-ant Pledge Was Given to the Peo-

pledge finds no renewal in the Speech before the House, neither is there any House. The "weary Titan" must still stagger on, the "overburdened fishermen and labouring classes" must still bend beneath the weight of "increased cost of living," while the nine Deities from the height of their ministerial securing reforms." and, that present Government, their wasteful instrument Colony renders, such revision of the tariff as I have been referring to, almost, if not altogether impossible without a reduction of the Civil list. The placing of tea, sugar and pork upon the free list would reduce the revenue by the sum of THREE HUN-DRED THOUSAND DOLLARS per year. In view of the obligations with which the Colony has been burdened, erge amount of taxation may now be lived, declared that "One of the very highest duties of all who are intrusted with the administration of public affairs under all circumstances, and t all points, is to eschew and to reidiate the raising of any expectaions except what they know they can fulfill." This is a standard of po-litical morality that I regret to say the present Government fall very short of. Sir, I cannot refrain from contrasting the conduct of the pres-ent Government in this connection ent Government in this connection with that of their predecessors in office. During eight years of the late Government's administration taxation was reduced by nearly a million and a half of dollars, or about TWO HUN-DEED THOUSAND DOLLARS per they Represent the Advantages that

lic feeling, and to create a favourable atmosphere in which the members of DRED THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum. And I am in a position to state that if the late Government had een returned to power at the last Election, the burdens of taxation that now weigh so heavily upon all classes of the community would, long ere

present Parliament the Government bounty for the clearing of land so as "to induce a greater number of our cultivation of the soil." Three years bounty has been provided for the clearing of land, and as there is mention of such a bounty in the concluding that the Government have abandoned the bounty idea for the fulfilling their pledge and encourage ing "a greater number of our pe to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil, they have deemed it nore expedient to provide a bounty of five or six thousand dollars a year or three of their supporters in this House who are supposed to devote ieties for the promotion of greater nd to warning the "fisherman-farmer" against the danger of producing ankerous, or what the learned Minster of Agriculture last session so I had the pleasure last sesthe "new agricultural policy." I shall though no less an authority than that declares that "repetition is the public man's most effective instrument in of the dissolution of the governing Olympus look down in contempt upon body, and, we might reasonably have the people they have duped. But, tition." However, Sir, there will be of torture during the ses expenditure of public money, and the sion. At this time I would only ob-enormous and most onerous obliga- serve that the "new agricultural polwhich has taken the place "fishermen-farmers," promised in the opening Speech of the first session of this Parliament was truly a marvellous conception Inder it the Government may secure faithful allegiance by farming out positions of emolument to their supporters in this House, or, they may practice without fear of consequences the most extensive electoral bribery in the distribution of live stock and which the Colony has been purdened, it would puzzle wiser heads than those of the Government to devise a those of the tariff under which that worst phase. Under it the country worst phase. has been sacrificed to party politics dropped. In the matter then of this promised reduction of taxation the been put back at least a generation. promised reduction of taxation the people have been most wantonly and cruelly deceived. Mr. Gladstone, than whom no higher authority has ever foundation for a Model Farm and Experimental Station, where the boys of our country might receive a scientific our country might receive a scientific and practical training in agriculture. Every civilized country in the world is to-day endeavouring to advance agriculture by such means, yet here in this country of vast undeveloped resources, and where so few avenues of employment open out to the rising generation; in this country which perforce at the present time sends more than a million of money abroad for agricultural produce that might be raised at home, we find a Government which flaunts before the public as the "Receptle's Bearter". and practical training in agriculture.

they Represent the Advantages that are Everywhere else Afforded. Sir, can you conceive of anything more unpatriotic or unjust? Can you children, such as exist in the great conceive of a greater breach of conciders of the world, in this country, I Let us from the threshold upon which we have just stepped look backward for a few moments. In the, opening Speech of the first session of the present Parliament the Government, through the lips of the then Government of the present Parliament the Government the sequel of the present Parliament the Government through the lips of the then Government of the present Parliament the Government the sequel of the present Parliament the Government the sequel of the present Parliament the Government the sequel of the present of the sequel of the sequel of the present of the sequel of the sequel of the present of the sequel of the sequel of the present of t

way by the establishing there of farm ish Isles." "farming colonies" established along and the public have been left entirely in the dark as to the measures that were "being devised" to bring about the immigration referred to. were "being devised"? What class of emigrants did the Government propose to bring in here? For two years this House and the public have been living a state of expectancy, wondering what the scheme could be that was taking so long time to "devise," and what class of people we were to have added to the population of the Colony. Last year fifty-eight thousand persons emigrated from the rural dis tricts of Scotland owing to the in-creasing burden of rates or taxes. Was any attempt made by the Govern ment to induce those people, or any them, to settle in this Colony? It will be admitted, I think, that no more desirable emigrants could possibly be found than those brawny, brainy, thrifty Scotch folk. Was that that stream of emigration permitted to flow past our doors without any effort being made to turn at least portion of it this way? The Govern-ment have admitted that "the burden of taxation borne by the fishermen and working classes is too great. Then, if that is true, why do they not endeavour to induce suitable emi-grants to come here and share that burden of taxation with our people? In this matter they have been exhibiting less common sense than in their conduct of the financial affairs of the Colony, and that is saying a good deal. Are you unaware, sir, that instead of inducing a thrifty people to come here and help bear the bur-len of taxation, they have been actually aiding a scheme to bring pauper children here and which would entail ncreased burdens on this Colony? Such is the truth.

Let me Draw Aside the Curtain and

let in the Light on this Matter. Shortly before this immigration policy was announced by the Government through the lips of His Excellency the Governor, some philanthropic gentle men in England had inaugurated a scheme to procure the emigration, to scheme to procure the emigration, to the Colonies of the Empire, of pauper children, or the waifs and strays of the large cities of Great Britain. They laid their scheme before the Premier, of this Colony. It was approved by the Government, and the Premier, Sir Edward Morris, on behalf of the Government pledged this Colony to most extraordinary liberalty in the further-ence of the scheme. He undertook is difficult to conceive that such a scheme could have met with the approval of the "People's Party." Yet, sir, the facts as I have given them are vouched for in a pamphlet published by the promoters of the scheme. We have no waifs or strays or pauper

great things were promised to all those directly interested in the fish-eries. For instance, there was to be a standard and equitable cull" es-ablished by the Government; "new were to be opened for the of fishery produce, and rage" on an unprecedented cold storage" on an These most excellent promises have upon the fourth session and nothing in the direction indicated has been accomplished and so far as we may judge from the Speech before us the whole undertaking is as dead as Speech. We are not informed as to Speech. We are not informed as to the result of the Government's coal exploration scheme, or of their peat fuel enterprise. Why? Have they been a complete failure? But more ortant still, we are left completely the dark as regards the Govern ment's policy in respect to the export of bait fishes. In view of the rethat fish purchased by Americans will same tariff basis as American caugh fish, it is a matter of great importance that the policy of this Government should be clearly and promptly defined. We will now turn our atention to one or two matters referred to in the Speech before us. Firs the branch line of railway to Bonavis ta is considered by the Government a matter for great jubilation. They tried to make it appear such a few weeks ago by a lot of parade and nonsense, but I wonder how many of those who they termed so recently overburdened taxpayers" in that light, or how many level head ed business men do so. The branch line has been opened, but the expendi-ture in connection with its construc-

At Least Another Four Millions of Dollars Will Be Added to the Public Debt.

tion and full equipment has not been

finalized, and we do not know the measure of the Colony's liability in

the premises up to this hour. We know that it has cost far and away

more than the Government's estimate

placed before this House. We have reason to believe from the amount

that we know has already been ex-pended upon that branch line, that before the Railway Contract of 1910

through with the whole of its obliga-

is completed another loan must procured, and that before the Colony

have regarded, I still regard those ranch railways as a totally indefensible expenditure, entailing upon the people of this Country a liability for which there cannot be forthcoming a commensurate return. I have regard-ted the undertaking as a huge piece of tractors, who are subsidized public ed the undertaking as a huge piece of electoral bribery undertaken without regard to either cost or utility. And the remarks of the Premier, Sir Edward Morris, on the occasion of the ward Morris, on the occasion of the Recel pening of the branch line to Bonavista appeared to confirm the latter conclusion, for, he is reported as saving. "I promised you before the the Harbor Grace Standard furnishes last election that if my party was re-turned to power that within two ence and privations experienced by turned to power that within two ence and privations experienced by ernment knew anything about the years I would visit your town by rail. the residents of the South Side of train or mail service "the official in-

Carbonear. The evening trains do not Carbonear. The evening trains do not get in at either end of the line very frequently till all hours of the night. Matters are growing worse instead of better. Only those that cannot help themselves travel by these trains, and they grumble. The railway hands are like the public, only more so. The public are insistent for a change."

Imagine travellers wearied and worn by hours of travel in one of these trains finding themselves landed at a terminal station in the small hours of the morning with no means of conveyance at hand for themselves and baggage and every hotel and baggage and every hotel and carbon travel conditions have made it difficult to secure recombet the commencement of the New Year beggars description. While the year beggars description. The year beggars description. While the year beggars description. The year beggars description. of conveyance at hand for themselves and baggage and every hotel and boarding house closed, and you can form some idea of what the travelling public had to put up with. The Harbor Grace Standard allusion to the "railway hands" suggests the question as to whether in the interest of those custodians of the lives of the travelling public as well as in the interest of the properties. It will be found that the Broad Cove branch has been practically abandoned since Christmas. The Placentia service has been but little travelling public, as well as in the in-terest of those who travel by train, this House should not take immediate steps to pass legislation to regulate the number of hours that train officials may be on duty. I consider that before the session closes the matter should be dealt with.

Men Who are Worn Out for Want of Sleep and Proper Rest are not Competent nor should they be permitted to operate a railway train. The thing should end, and end it will if I can convince this House of its duty. I was exceed-ingly pleased to notice that at the an-I was exceedual meeting of the Board of Trade last month a very strong representation was made in the Report as to the unsatisfactory manner in which the Railway Contractors are carrying out their contractual obligations, for, it is to be hoped that the Government will now see the neces sity for discharging their duty in the remises. During the period that the late Government was in power political opponents declared tha was constantly fighting the Railway Company, and that as a consequence the railway service was most unsat-isfactorily performed. That owing to the relations between my Gov rnment and the Contractors their vast land grants remained veloped and their proposed hotel en-terprise was at a standstill, and it was urged and set forth as one of the reasons why the late Government should be defeated. Well, my Governent was defeated. Has the conduc of the railway and steam service been more satisfactory to the public or more unsatisfactory? Have the vas land grants or any of them been developed? Has the hotel enterprise appeared? I am willing to admit that during the whole of my term of office it was one continual fight to get conractional obligations carried out, and the Colony set aside. I am willing to admit that since the advent of the present Government to power all fighting with the Railway Contractors has ceased; that trumped up claims | John's now clear and regular train

The Recent Report of the Board of Trade Furnishes a Partial Reply.

(30 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60

Now Ready for Inspection

Our Line of Regular

WallPAPERS

for 1912.

second to none, patterns are excellent in design

and colorings, and cover a wider range than

MARSHALL Bros.,

Agents Watson, Foster Co., Ltd., Montreal.

ever exhibited before.

The selection this season will be found

officials, have become public masters.

The public feeling recently voiced by

and strays and paupers of Great Britain by this self-designated People's Party.

Try and realize if you can, sir, the magnitude of this political crime. While the boys of this country are dealed the benefit of a practical technical education, the taxes wrung from their over-burdened parents, is pleded by the present Government for the support and education of the pauper children of the wealthlest country in the world.

It is Evident that Governments like Individuals Sometimes go Mad, or, to put the same idea less forcibly I will use the language of the old Hebrew phillosopher, Elihu, "Great men are not always wise." This pauper boy emigration schemes to which I have referred, fortunately for us, did not materialize, the Governments for New Zealand, Australia and South Africa having, as I understand, declined to encourage it. Again, sit in the Harbor Grace Standard of the line between St. John's and Carbonear. The evening trains do not in the depending Speeches of previous in the Harbor Grace Standard of the line way the trains are run as on the line between St. John's and Carbonear. The evening trains do not get in at either end of the line very year beggars description. While the

vice the commencement of the Year beggars description. Whi meanderings between Brigus Junction and Whitbourne. Since last day week no train has been until Friday last. On Saturday the principal organ of the Government, the "Chronicle," announced that "the task of clearing the Placentia branch was resumed this morning. The snow blockade was heavy for 4 or 5 miles towards Placentia from Placentia Junction." Is that to be wondered at I would ask, after the line

ernment do not know how the railway is being operated, or they don't care, for on the 14th inst. I telegraphed the Colonial Secretary as follows:— WHITBOURNE, Feb. 14, 1912. "Hon. Colonial Secretary.

abandoned for more than a week? It is quite evident to me that the Gov-

"No mail received here since Friday. No train has passed through here since Saturday afternoon, although engine could come here on Monday morning at daylight, take on board coal and return to Brigus Junction. The present disgraceful conduct of service surely demands im mediate attention of the Government Although I have received no official notice of the meeting of the Legislature I am aware it is sitting and desire to get there. When may I hope that trains will be operated to this

To that message I received this reply:- "St. John's, Feb. 15, 1912.

Whitbourne ntimation opening legislature mailed you Monday. Am now informed by Reid Newfoundland Company that no actional obligations carried out, and train has got beyond Brigus Junction have preposterous claims against since Saturday owing to storm that afternoon which completely blocked derstand east bound express will run to-morrow. Am asking Government Engineer to report whether But, have the public benefited by the lines. Regret exceedingly inconveni ence to yourself personally. Owing not concluded. House adjourned til Monday.

It will be observed that if the Gov-

er is less than sixty dollars and thousands of whom subsist on the scantiest nearly three million dolla be wrung from them It is an aggravation of that those who are guilt obtained place and power u rejoice that during the pe vested in me and my colle bent our energies to lighter load of taxation upon this that they were relieved of the value of a million and a dollars during that period. their credit in the Bank of the circumstances I have rather for deep regret.

cretary's telegram woul

ted here for Whithour ove? Unless I am great! they might be found in an ing at Brigus Junction at of any highway robber ass that way. Is not that sefore we entered upon t of more lines of railway

ense would have suggeste dom of first securing the ficiency is secured jub firely out of place. Again nent informs us that t exceeded the Estimate.

a matter for much sur

when in framing that Estin count was taken of the rev derived from the expenditu

owed millions. The fact Revenue for the past two.

been largely abnormal. It part from the establishme

the gambling in timber la

Railway Loan. If the G

contend that there has been of revenue apart from this.

it is not a matter for boar but rather for a feeling of

it denotes bad statesmans

one hand and bad faith on It is of the essence of stat that burdens should be ligh benefits shared. If the G

are taking from those they

more in taxes than is re-

meet the actual needs of

service, then, the Governi

plundering those unfortunat

normal, then why do not th

ment fulfil their pledge and

people "tea, sugar, pork,

dence of bad faith, and of

and unwarranted betrayal

confidence. If on the other

of revenue is abnormal, the

of their enormous and incr

Bleeding This Country

Government appear to

of the trend of their policy

to believe that the mass

be concerted action on the

"overburdened taxpayers"

early end to the present car

litical crime. Sir. it is noth

with a population of less th

prime necessaries" they don't do this, then we

ligations, they are

clared "overburdened

Pulp and Paper Mills at Gr and Bishop's Falls; in

Where wealth accumulates decay.

I observe a paragraph in t before us having referen subject of tuberculosis of tion, and intimating that ment propose to introduce to deal with it, and that ury has received a gift fr corporation in this city ance of the movement. Speaker of this House are

A True

Would not give in your food.

But many persons own accord, dri k coff tea day after day -igr the fact that there is caffeine, in every cup.

Fries

True, you may be "stand it" for a time, b drug is there, and soon later is pretty sure to sh some annoying ailment. There can be no reli

till the cause is removed Simply leaving off and tea will work wor but it is much easier i shift to well-made

POSTU

contains no caffeine or harmful substance.

It does contain the phate of potash (grown i wheat) which Nature red for the proper nourishme Brain and Nerves.

"There's a Reason

Postum is made of Ca Wheat in a Canadian Facto Canadian Labor. Canadian Postum Cereal Con Ltd., Windsor, Ontario, Ca