

general increase of salaries among the heads of departments and their chief clerks. The Provincial Secretary got \$125 extra that quarter, the Financial Secretary \$75, the Receiver General \$50, T. F. Knight \$50, H. W. Johnston \$50 per quarter, besides \$200 for extra services; W. A. Hendry gets \$600 for extra services; the Commissioner of Crown Lands \$1000. Mr. Rutherford had drawn for a time his salary as Inspector of Mines, at \$3000 a year, and also as Commissioner at \$2000, and had also made a small charge for travelling expenses. The delegates had also received about \$30,000 or \$5000 each. Another officer, Mr. Knight, had received \$400 for a pamphlet. The expenses of the Legislature were also extravagant. In Messrs. McKinlay's bill for the session of 1867, appeared some curious items, of which the following were samples; two silk umbrellas, \$3 each, twelve pairs scissors \$6, 25 paper knives \$12.83, 25 knives \$35.80, French dictionary \$2.75. For the quarter ending 30th June, \$931.50 had been paid for printing and stationery—among the accounts for which appeared the following items: 4000 official envelopes \$26, three gold pens \$4.50, six boxes pens \$15, one cabinet and furnishing \$49.50. A good many bills at that time had been paid without proper vouchers. Drs. Campbell and Ross charged \$33 for treatment of a gunshot wound for a person within a mile or two of the poor house, without any certificate being attached that the person was a pauper. Another curious item was a charge by a physician of Halifax against the Indian Commissioners, as follows:

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| To visits on Thomas Toney, on Nov. | |
| 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30. Dec. 2, | |
| 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, | |
| 26, 30, and Feb. 4..... | \$20 0 0 |
| Consultation with Dr. Slayter on | |
| Nov. 25..... | 1 5 0 |
| There Consultations with Dr. Garvie in | |
| Nov. and Dec..... | 3 15 0 |
| Medicine..... | 2 10 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$27 10 0 |

The gentleman who had rendered this bill modestly added that "surgical attendance was not charged extra, as it ought to be according to law." There was no voucher for this account, and nothing to authorise its payment, excepting what was at that time considered as good as the authority of the law, the words "Approved C. T." in the corner. A great deal of extravagance had prevailed in many of the departments—the Committee could not go into the accounts of the Works department this session, because they were not in a fit state to be examined. He would now turn the attention of the House to a matter which would be nearly, if not entirely new—that was the position of our railways. On the 30th June, 1867, the assets on hand in the Department were \$176,800, and the liabilities amounted to \$40,017. The assets were made up as follows:—

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|---------------------------|-------------|
| June 30, 1867. | |
| Surplus store on hand.... | \$66,770.32 |
| Arrears at Stations..... | 27,160.63 |
| Overpaid contractors..... | 6,046.73 |
| New Brunswick Railway | |
| survey | 10,100.39 |

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Annapolis Railway survey | 4,812.39 |
| Bills receivable..... | 110.86 |
| S. Fleming..... | 2,719.76 |
| Due from Colchester and | |
| Pictou..... | 42,341.93 |
| Suspense account..... | 10,826.87 |
| W. H. T. Sumer..... | 300.00 |
| L. P. Hill..... | 205.77 |
| Cash on hand..... | \$425.15 |
| Cash in Bank..... | 4380.07 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 4,805.22 |

\$176,800.92

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|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| The offset to these assets were lia- | |
| bilities | \$9,538.98 |
| Due Bank..... | 30,477.32 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$40,018.30 |

The amount due the Bank had, however, upon being paid by the Dominion Government been charged as arrears against Nova Scotia, while Nova Scotia was not credited with the amount of \$4,805.22 of an opposite character, being cash in Bank, &c., which the Dominion authorities had taken possession of. While the Dominion Government, as appeared by Mr. Tim's statement, had charged Nova Scotia with all these arrears paid out, they had not credited her with the item which made up the \$176,800. He trusted that the local government would insist on this sum being placed to the credit of the Province. He would next refer to the Education department for which an immense sum of money had been paid out. \$163,860.68 for the past year not including loans to counties, and while he agreed that the public money could not be better spent than in educating the youth of the country, important changes would be found necessary to place the educational system on a sound and satisfactory basis. There was much in the law as it now stood that was unjust and oppressive—at the same time it failed to give schools to the poorest districts—and was very expensive. His view was that the school inspection should be supervised so as to make it more thorough. At present the inspection in some counties was a farce, although it cost a considerable sum. He did not see moreover why the teachers should be placed in a different position from the other professions. He would apply the money at present required to keep up the status of teachers directly to the schools, and allow the services of teachers and their remuneration to depend like those of any other class on demand and supply. He agreed in the principle of free schools only to this extent—that the schools should be free to every child who was unable to pay for an education. Parents who were able to pay should be made to do so, and he thought that by the exaction of a small fee, many of the present objections would be removed, and the school be placed on a better footing than at present. He would suggest that every child whose parents had not sufficient property to make a voting qualification should be educated free. Persons having sufficient property to give them a franchise and not over \$1,000.00 worth might be made without any hardship to pay fifty cents per half year per scholar,—those rated over that up to \$4000 might pay \$1 per half year,—those rated above that to pay \$1.50. Such an arrangement would do away with sectional assessment,