

POOR DOCUMENT

and Dem. Governments, there is no showing of the account with the People's and other Banks; no showing of the expenditure in connection with the construction of this Parliament building, said to have cost \$120,000; nor is there any proof that accounts existing prior to October are all in, in fact we know they are not. No matter how skilled an accountant a man may be it would be impossible for him to take up the public accounts and make up at any given time a statement of the actual condition of the affairs of this Province; for the accounts before this House and the country do not show facts by which the exact or a reasonably approximate condition financially could be ascertained. He called upon the Government to make some change in this connection, and pointed out that it was a matter that was entirely within their own hands. They would not have to ask the House to sanction this new departure, although he did not think that this would be deemed an obstacle in view of their action in the case of another new departure—that of the stock farm. He would not attempt to strike a balance for himself out of the mass of accounts before the House. That would be impossible; but he would call attention to one of the many announced yet unfulfilled intentions of the Government. An honorable gentleman who controls a newspaper, and from his seat on the Government bench speaks in their behalf, had announced in his paper of March last, shortly after the prorogation of this House, that the Government was about to inaugurate a policy of economy that would be of material benefit to the country. He then read a portion from the *St. John Daily Telegraph* of March 30th, 1881, a statement that the coach hired for the use of the members was to be done away with. This he thought was a good thing, as members were able to pay for their own coaching; but he remarked that as this item still appeared in the estimates, if the hon. gentleman had been taken into the confidence of the Government and ability and honesty instead, in the presentment of all public documents. The revenues of the Province, if wisely, judiciously and economically controlled, may be made not only to maintain and develop the country's resources, but to extend and improve the facilities for the further and greater accommodation of the people through the ways and means of the powers vested in this Legislature. He asked and contended for economy and economy in the maintenance of the Government. The Government has charge of all public affairs, and while meeting the engagements of the present should studiously and effectually guard against any expenditure that is not necessary for the maintenance of the public lands for trifling sums and converting the profit to current revenue, should with true foresight mark well the coming time when all the lands of this country, and the products thereof, would be greatly more valuable. Hon. gentlemen had referred to their coming back after the election. On this subject as on all else pertaining to our future there was much doubt, but who ever should be returned by the people, he hoped they would come back like giants refreshed with new wine, intellectually and fully prepared to discharge their duties as representatives of the people, honorably, independently, and in generous rivalry each with the other in the interest of the country. (Loud applause.)

MR. LANDRY.
The Hon. Chief Commissioner said he had followed with interest and great pleasure the remarks of his hon. colleague. He contrasted the expenditure in the past before he came in office, when the over-expenditures were enormous, particularly under the Emergency Act, with the over-expenditure for the past year, which he held was small, and had amounted to only \$1,000 in the large item of great roads and bridges, and he had been able to maintain the full efficiency of the Department. He would take no credit for this; it was his duty to do so, as he was paid to do the work by the people. He had been assisted by the other gentlemen in the Government, and in some instances by hon. gentlemen in the Opposition. He did not profess to say that the Department was unmanageable, but he criticized, and he did not court it. He held that whatever criticism may be given it, it could not be shown that there had been scandal, or that there had been any favoritism shown. Some things had cost more than was estimated, and he was prepared to defend all his acts since 1878, and also to sustain all his own acts and of those under him as right under the circumstances happening. He had never looked upon governments as being for the purpose of economizing in order to have sums of money merely to make a surplus showing, but for the purpose of administering the public money wisely and for the benefit of the people of the country. It had not been shown where there had been a cur of the people's money misapplied, unless we thus interpreted his hon. colleague's strictures in the expenditures for the stock farm. He was not a farmer, and was not able to discuss this freely; but he would say that his hon. friend had gone too far when he had said that the Government was not warranted in making this expenditure. The hon. gentleman had said that he was in favor of the grant for an importation of stock, and the sentiment of the House was that this \$10,000 grant for stock was a wise expenditure. The hon. gentleman had also said that the grant was for the purchase of stock to spread among the people, and not for a stock farm, and his main objection to the farm was that it interfered with the legitimate rights of private in-

porters. Why had not the hon. gentleman used this argument against importation of stock for distribution throughout the country? The principle applied with equal force, and in this case, he thought, with even greater force, and contended in support of this that the interference would have been greater had the whole quantity of the stock imported been sold and distributed over the Province instead of only a portion of it, and the balance placed on the stock farm when it was established. The hon. gentleman did not tell us how many people were importing stock, who they were that the Government were interfering with, what amount of stock had been imported, and what capital had been embarked in the enterprise. He contended further with the argument that the stock farm injured and interfered with private enterprise in this connection, and defended the farmers from this imputation. He could not speak in regard to the Prince Edward Island stock farm as he had no information on the subject; but he understood that the circumstances there were different from those here, and the conditions of that country 20 years ago when the stock farm there had failed must have been very different from those of the present day. He thought the reports from the Island were in favor of the stock farm as present, and said large quantities of horses were brought every year from Prince Edward Island and taken into the United States for sale, and if the figures of the number were collected they would astonish the House. If this was due to the stock farm, it was a justification of the establishment of the stock farm in this Province, and if it was due to private enterprise it showed that the farm had not interfered with the private breeders to any great extent. He could well understand why the hon. gentleman of the Opposition had held that the matter should have been decided before the Legislature. He then went on to show that the Government had acted on the views of the people in this respect, and in arguing in justification of the Government's action said that when they could not get the opinion of the people's representatives in the House in time, they had taken the best expression of public opinion they could find and had acted upon it. He believed that the action taken by the Government in this connection was endorsed by the people and leading agriculturists of the Province. There might be some who object because their own private ends might have been better served. He expressed the hope that the Government would be able to sell nearly large quantities of stock, and that the people would be convinced that the stock could be raised more cheaply at home than by sending abroad and purchasing it as occasion may require. In view of the fact that he would be followed by others who would deal with the matter of the figures mentioned by the hon. gentleman he would not touch upon them to any great extent. From the scope of the hon. gentleman's address he inferred that he had been enabled to take up the very books with which he had found so much fault and show how he would manage the affairs of the Province, and he contended that the books were not got up for the purpose of deceiving anyone or concealing anything, but that they showed an exact state of the affairs of this Province. The Government had tried to give the fullest information asked for on any subject. In regard to the balance sheet on 16th Feb. that had been laid before the House he said that it had been brought down in concurrence with a passage in the Governor's speech, and was to remedy the system which had heretofore only given a statement of affairs down to the 31st October of the year preceding the one in which the session is held. The account of contingencies had been spoken of, and it was large, but it would not be found that that part which came under the control of the Government was excessive. The legislative contingent expenses came within the control of the Hon. and he pointed out that the postage and telegraphing bills were large, and thought that something should be done to curtail them. He outlined the steps that had been taken in regard to telegraphing, to reduce the expenses, and said this would be noticed in comparing the figures of the accounts for a few years back. The matter being passed was discussed by the hon. gentleman, and he said that efforts had been made by the Government to enquire into the franking privilege and see if it had been abused. It would be seen that this matter of expense had been materially reduced. In regard to stationary strict rules had been made in May last that no one in any of the departments should order any such supplies on account of contingencies, not even for cork screws, bolt blanking, and jack-knives. He could explain why these last named had been purchased. A material reduction had been effected by all these contingencies being purchased by the Board of Works office and distributed to the various other offices. All this showed that the Government had taken hold of the matter and had done their utmost to regulate and cut off any extravagance in connection with contingencies, and had ameliorated the condition of the Province and raised it financially.

The debate was then adjourned until 2:30 Thursday afternoon.

The House met again at 2:30 on Thursday afternoon, when the debate on the motion to go into supply was continued.

MR. WILLIS.
I said the opportunity was again afforded him to discuss the matter of supply for Her Majesty, and while he had never before been more deeply impressed with the importance of the occasion, he noticed there was a disposition at this session to treat the matters involved with fairness and deliberation. In replying to the application made by the Hon. Provincial Secretary of the editorial in the *News* touching Dominion affairs, he said that it would give him as much pleasure to reiterate the same opinion with reference to the affairs of this Province did circumstances warrant it, but it did not lay in his power to say as much in relation to the financial condition of this Province on the floors of the House as he had in his professional capacity of the finances of the Dominion. The Hon. Provincial Secretary had made a showing of a surplus, but the returns laid before the House did not bear him out; but he was willing to give him any credit due for having reduced the deficit or having made a surplus. The revenues of 1880, less \$60,000 advanced in 1881, was \$615,284.55; and on 1881 \$553,584.31, or counting the advances to 1880, \$613,584.31; or a total revenue in these two years of \$1,228,868.86. The expenditures for 1880, not including \$48,526.51 over-expenditure for 1879, were \$609,671.29; in 1881, \$590,768.80, making the expenditures for the two years the large amount of \$1,200,440.09. If this amount was deducted from the revenue it would leave \$28,428.77, but this sum must first be deducted from the over-expenditure of 1879 of \$48,526.51, which would leave a deficit of \$20,097.74 in 1881, instead of the seeming surplus that was shown broadcast to the country. He said that the Hon. Provincial Secretary had taken much credit that the Government had kept within their appropriated income, and then went on to show that this was not a fact by giving some receipts of last year which were exceptional rather than ordinary, and also some extraordinary expenditures. The total receipts under this head for the year 1881 amounted to \$45,338.25 and the expenditures to \$21,444.04, which gave a showing of the former in excess of the latter to the amount \$23,894.24. The total of the exceptional revenue for 1880 was \$46,727.50 and the total for 1881 was \$45,338.25, which was \$19,096.08 and this amount deducted from the receipts gave another balance in favor of receipts of \$27,031.22; which, he thought, showed that the Government had not had extraordinary expenditures they would make out. In touching upon the point of keeping the public accounts, he pointed out the necessity of adopting a different system as the one at present in use was defective. From the balance sheet laid before the House it appears that the amount received from the close of the fiscal year 31st Oct. 1881 to Feb. 16th, 1882, is \$215,388.00, but he had paid out the sum of \$168,153.00, leaving a balance of cash on hand and in the People's Bank of \$47,235.00; yet by another return laid before the House it is found that the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Public Works had advanced on some \$56,059.00, thus leaving a deficit of \$8,824.00 by the statements of the Government. This was a system of keeping accounts which gave a corrupt government an opportunity of deceiving the people of Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec there was a different system which was more satisfactory to the people.

Hon. Provincial Secretary—But there is no audit.

Mr. Willis—Audit, audit! I would ask of the hon. gentleman of what value is the audit of the accounts of this Province, after what has been shown here? Any one who knew anything of figures knew that it was a confusing jumble of figures which required a vast amount of study to make anything out of. An inspection of these accounts revealed many curious things, said the hon. gentleman continuing, and he pointed out that a warrant issued as an instance of the manner in which the public affairs were managed. The Government had looked upon the statements made by the hon. gentlemen from Westmorland as being directed rather against bad book-keeping than against bad management, but he would like to say that very often bad book-keeping was a result of bad management. He charged that there had been expenditures made by this administration which were in no way authorized, either by vote of the House or by the Contingent Committee, and sustained this assertion by showing several items on which there should have been a re-vote of the House, but which had been expended by the Government without any authority. There was \$250,000 and from the 31st of October to 1st February, which had been paid out without authority. Perhaps this was caused by the fiscal year ending as it did, but they could remedy this by changing the term of the fiscal year, or by adopting the mode of asking the Legislature for a year and a half expenditure instead of for a year, and then they would have the necessary authority for a large amount of expenditure which takes place without any authority at all. As it is now they make these expenditures and then come and say we must sanction them. The hon. gentleman then took up the matter of the establishment of the stock farm and dealt with the action of the Government in regard to it, saying that if they had read all of the letters in regard to the Prince Edward Island Stock Farm they would find that there was not such a strain of comfort running through it as the Hon. Provincial Secretary would lead people to believe. He noticed among the expenditures for delegations that there was \$235 for the expenses of the Eastern Extension Claims Delegation to Ottawa. This delegation had handled in no respect of the condition of the claim, although a return had been formally asked for, and he pointed out that there was a want of promptness in this session in the matter of bringing down returns asked for by the House. But the expenses were small, he said, compared with the \$750 for the trip

of the hon. gentleman from Westmorland to Halifax to inspect the Lunatic Asylum there, and if it was productive of no more good than the former why it would have been better that the delegation had never started out from Fredericton. The travelling expenses of the heads of departments were touched upon, and while pointing out that it was a remarkable fact that the Surveyor General and Chief Commissioner of Public Works had each incurred \$250 on this score, he wondered how such a coincidence in the travelling expenses of the hon. gentlemen had occurred. He cited the expenditures for roads, and said he opened the matter up to show that the present system followed by the Government permitted them to militate against any County they wished, as money could be got during recess from the Government without a vote of the House for the purpose. Something should be done to check the system, and he thought that the members themselves should do something, by setting an example for the Government, in this connection, but he could not help remarking that some of them seemed to think that their only duty was to get all the money they could. In speaking of the debates he contended that while the Government could claim some credit for the figures at which they had placed the Provincial debentures on the market yet they could claim no material credit for it. He touched upon the telegraphing expenses of the heads of departments, and said that about all that the Government had done for the benefit of the country was to put up a certain quantity of them for sale. The Hon. Provincial Secretary had spoken of the censures of public opinion in regard to expenditures for railways, and he said that about all that the Government had done for the benefit of the country was to put up a certain quantity of them for sale. The Hon. Provincial Secretary had spoken of the censures of public opinion in regard to expenditures for railways, and he said that about all that the Government had done for the benefit of the country was to put up a certain quantity of them for sale. The Hon. Provincial Secretary had spoken of the censures of public opinion in regard to expenditures for railways, and he said that about all that the Government had done for the benefit of the country was to put up a certain quantity of them for sale.

idea of the policy of the opposition was that if the Government spent money they did wrong and if they did not spend it they were equally wrong.

The debate was then adjourned until Friday afternoon at 2:30.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.
The House met again at 2:30 and the Hon. Surveyor General continued his speech, having apparently fortified himself with an abundance of figures in the mean time. In continuing in reply to Mr. Willis he said that he would challenge every statement made by that hon. gentleman on the floors of the House, and would convince any reasonable person that they were wrong. He said that the transactions in the past two years left a surplus of \$74,214.78, if there had been no deficit in 1879, but deducting the sum of \$45,786, which was a loan from the Dominion Government, it left a surplus of \$28,428.78; or deducting the deficit of 1879, \$48,526.51, from the surplus of \$74,214.78, it left \$25,692.28. When we take also from it the loan of \$45,786.00 we find that it leaves an actual deficit of \$20,097.72 as against \$48,526.51 in 1879, or a reduction of our deficit of \$28,428, and the \$45,786.00 which was borrowed from the Dominion Government, is still untouched. He took up some time in defending his action in going into the Government, which he had been endorsed by the people when he went back for re-election, and then turned his attention to the efforts of the hon. leader of the Opposition to overthrow the Government, recalling the predictions he had made in regard to its downfall, and quoting from a speech of that hon. gentleman made in 1881. He held that he (Adams) was in a position in 1878 to go into the Government and to give it his full support, and defended the administration of affairs in his own department. In replying to the statement that he was absent from his office a great portion of the time, he said that if he expected to get a man to stay in the office all the time, he thought they would experience some difficulty in getting any one to fill the position. There were the Crown lands to look after, and the Free Grant settlements, and if any of the hon. gentlemen would look into it they would find plenty of work to do outside of the office, which would take up a great deal of time and attention. In speaking of these free grant settlements, he touched upon the remarks of the opposition in regard to them, and said that he would venture to say that the hon. leader of the Opposition did not know how many there were in the Province, and that his statement that they were of no benefit had been made at mere haphazard. He would say that there were forty-five of these settlements, embracing 7,000 souls, and should the hon. gentleman ever visit them he would find that the policy of the Government in this connection was a good one for the country, as would be evidenced in the improvements made by the settlers. He then took up the revenue of the Crown Lands department, and showed by comparison of the receipts for each year, that the revenue from them for 1879, 1880 and 1881 was \$128,101 over that of the three years preceding them. While making this showing he pointed out that in 1879—the bad year, the year in which there had been a deficit—the decrease in revenue amounted to \$36,133.78, which was nearly the whole amount of the deficit in that year. He then went on to show that the cost of collecting the revenue was smaller—day than it had been during any year since 1875, and that when his hon. friend was in office, he took the amount of stampage retired, and went back over the years since 1875, showing in each year what the cost of collection and other expenses had been, and indicated particularly how much less it had been in 1880-81 than in 1878. He wanted to know if this was what the hon. gentleman called extravagance, and if this looked like the management of an official who gave no time or attention to his office? He claimed that it was an exercise of economy, and that it had cost less to conduct the affairs of the department in 1880-81 than it had in any year previous. He also contended that while more work was done by the department this year the salaries were smaller than in any other year. He held that economy had been exercised in the matter of the travelling expenses of the department as compared with those of other years, and said that if his expenses were similar to those of the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Public Works; there had been no consultation between them in regard to it, and pointed out that the amount of stampage against the department should go to the country unanswered and unchallenged. In conclusion he said that results had proved that they were correct in their judgment, and that the Opposition should give the Government a certain need and measure of praise which was certainly due them for their management of the affairs of the Province. The discussion between the Government and the Opposition had so far this session resulted favorably to the Government in the impression conveyed to the people.

The Hon. Surveyor General then sat down and the applause of both sides of the House.

MR. RITCHIE.
Mr. Ritchie said in rising to reply to his hon. friend that all would agree that this was the first time they had heard him make such extensive remarks, and thought that they had often had resolutions before this House which affected the hon. gentleman and his department to a greater extent than had this debate; but never before had they had a three hour speech from him. What's in the wind? He had gone outside of his usual course on this occasion. For some reason or other his hon. colleague from the City and County of St. John had engaged the hon. Surveyor General, and he seemed to have forgotten what had been said by the hon. mover of the address—the gentleman who had received some of that whitewash of which the hon. Provincial Secretary seems to have such a large stock on hand. The mover of the address had said that he referred to our surroundings that we should treat our neighbor kindly, and this had been overlooked. The Hon. Surveyor General had presented a jumble of figures which no one knew the meaning of; but his hon. colleague seemed to be that the Government had not been extravagant but more economical, and he would like to know who it was they had excelled in economy. It had been charged here that this opposition was a

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