

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1899. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. JAMES MCISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

The Budget Speech.

The annual statement of the Provincial finances, commonly known as the budget speech, was made in the Legislature by Premier Farquharson, on Monday evening last. Ordinarily on such occasions there is a large attendance of visitors; but on Monday evening the audience was small. There was but a thin line of spectators in the gallery, and the available space for visitors outside the rail on the floor of the Legislative Chamber was by no means fully occupied. It was within a quarter of nine o'clock when the Premier commenced to speak. The first part of his speech was rambling in its scope, and it certainly is not easy to understand what bearing it could have on the question of our Provincial finances. He complimented the Opposition on their intelligence and good behavior. The Premier took occasion to say that, if his Government should succeed in obtaining all towards which legislation is directed this session, the Province would be better off than it has been for some time past. Our readers will remember that a similar story has been told on the occasion of each successive budget speech since the Grits came into power in this Province in 1891. Of course he claimed a "good deal" of credit for the Government in bringing here, during the winter, Professors Robertson and Macoun, and thought the Government "done" the farmers of this Province a good service in this matter. He intimated that, during the year, there would be one, two, or four elections for the Legislature. One of his most astounding statements was that the people would vote for the Government because "we are honest." Certainly anyone possessing sufficient tenacity to make a public announcement of that kind, regarding the present Provincial Government, cannot be accused of extreme bashfulness. The Hillsborough bridge project was made use of for all it was worth in commendation of the Government. Coming to the real question at issue, the financial outlook for the current year, the Premier made the announcement that he expected the revenue would meet the expenditure and leave a slight surplus. That is a pleasant anticipation and is much easier said than done. Regarding the present indebtedness of the Province, the Premier, enumerating the different institutions in which this debt was placed, stated that the Government had a loan from the Credit Foncier of \$20,000 at 4 1/2 per cent. Money for the Prince of Wales College and other permanent public works, not included in the \$296,597 estimated expenditure elsewhere published, would be raised by debentures, to be paid for by "our children's children." The Premier also stated that the public lands department would soon cease to exist, and a department of agriculture would be created in its stead. Among the principal items of revenue, apart from the Dominion subsidy, the Premier enumerated the following: From Public Lands \$12,000; from "a certain class of traders" \$14,500. This is supposed to refer to income from liquor license, to be specified in a revised bill about to be introduced. From land tax \$30,500 of revenue is expected, and income tax is expected to yield \$6,000. The sum of \$3,500 is expected in the form of a refund from the Dominion Government, for a wharf at Mount Stewart. Debentures are to be issued for \$26,000. The balance of the revenue necessary to square the accounts is expected to come from the ordinary sources. During the course of his remarks the Premier said he "appealed to the boys in the gallery." Well there were not a great many "boys" in the gallery on this occasion, and those in attendance gave no marked indication that they appreciated such an appeal. Throughout his speech of nearly two hours, the Premier seemed desirous of impressing on the House that the present Government, under his leadership, were not to be held accountable for any of the maladministration or broken promises of the previous Grit Governments since 1891. Under him, our finances were to come into a healthy condition, revenue and expenditure were to meet, and everything was to be lovely. Our readers will remember that rose-colored statements of this kind have been made annually since 1891; yet they have seen Premier after Premier leave the administration, without making the slightest effort to relieve the people from the heavy burden of public debt. One after another has sought personal and political emolument and preferment after doing his share to sink the Province deeper and deeper in debt. Now Premier Farquharson tells his hearers that everything is lovely, in face of the statement in his own estimates, that \$18,900 of the people's money will be required for interest on the public debt, during the current year. He, too, may have his eye on some public office of emolument, into which he may slip and let the ship of state drift farther into the breakers. The question is, are the people satisfied with this manner of conducting the public business?

As the evening was far advanced,

ed, the Leader of the Opposition said he would not detain the House very long. He considered the Premier's budget speech a fair illustration of Tallyrand's celebrated saying: "Language was given to man to conceal his thoughts." The late Hon. Joseph Howe had said that there was "a natural tendency in all Provincial Governments to favor the growth of a pernicious system of extravagant expenditure." We certainly had this tendency fully developed under the present administration of this Province. Previous Grit Premiers, after saddling the Province with \$185,000 of a debenture debt, made the ridiculous boast that "we owe nothing," and now the present Leader tells us that revenue and expenditure will meet. Everything was taxed: both the living and the dead were taxed. He, (Mr. Gordon) never expected to see the heavy burden of debt, under which we are groaning, reduced a dollar during his life time. The young men are leaving the Province, and it was not a cheerful outlook for the old men to remain at home and bear the burden of this debt. Cotes and those who worked with him, and on the same lines never put the Province in debt; they paid for everything they got as they went along. The party at present in power, not only went in debt, but used the revenue of the Province to keep themselves in power. The Premier said the Government were going to get \$3,500 from Ottawa, as a refund for a wharf. The Conservatives when in power, were denounced for putting into the ordinary revenue, money obtained in the shape of refunds. He notified there was not a dollar in the estimates for exhibitions; yet this Government claim to be the friends of the farmers. \$500 were put in the estimates for elections. Did this mean that the Premier was going to accept a Lieutenant Governorship, and the Attorney-General a Judgeship? The Leader of the Opposition had said much about the intelligence and education of the people. In the face of this, he was surprised to see so many people in Queen's County jail. Was this in consequence of their excellent adaptation?

Seasonal Notes.

Very little was done in the Legislature last week. Notwithstanding that we are well on in the month of May, the representatives of our agriculturists, many of themselves agriculturists, were kept looking at one another across the House for hours at a time, day after day, simply because the Government were not prepared to go on with the business of the session. For two or three days there were prolonged caucuses of the Government party, and it is hinted that some vigorous disagreements were the principal results. It was four o'clock p. m. on Monday 1st inst., before the House met, and little more than routine was done during the sitting. Hon. Mr. Gordon, Leader of the Opposition, asked the Provincial Treasurer to table a statement showing the amount due by the Government on 27th April, 1899, to the Banks, and the name or names of the Bank or Banks, and the amount due each respectively; the amount due by Debenture and Private Loans, and the amounts due for Loans from Companies, Corporations and private individuals, respectively, not included in Debentures or Provincial Loans. Hon. Mr. Farquharson presented the accounts asked for. Regarding the debentures he referred the hon. member to the public accounts. After the asking and answering of several other questions, an act regulating the registry of deeds and instruments relating to the title of lands and to repeal the laws heretofore passed for that purpose, was advanced a stage in committee. Further consideration was given this measure during the evening session, when the House adjourned till the following day.

The same apathy and listlessness that characterized the sittings of Monday, manifested themselves in Tuesday's proceedings in the Legislative Chamber. The House did not meet till 11 o'clock. After a number of questions had been disposed of and other routine business attended to, Hon. Mr. McDonald moved the third reading of the Hillsborough bridge bill. The House divided on the motion, which was carried on the following division: Ayes—Farquharson, H. O. Macdonald, McMillan, McLean, Richards, McLaughlin, McNutt, Rogers, Sinclair, Forbes, A. Peters, Wise, Reid, D. A. McKinnon, M. McKinnon—15. Nays—Gordon, Shaw, J. A. Macdonald, J. E. Macdonald, Anensault, Campbell—6. The bill relating to the deeds and instruments was reported from committee and ordered for a third reading. The act relating to short-hand reporting in certain courts of the Province was advanced a stage in committee. At six o'clock, the House adjourned till the following day.

Apart from the asking of questions and other matters of a routine character, the only matter of importance to engage the attention of the House on Wednesday was the bill, introduced by Hon. Mr. Farquharson, incorporating the Prince Edward Island Dairy Association. It provides that the Association shall have power to appoint an instructor or instructors with power to examine all factories and give such instruction as may be deemed necessary in order to promote

the dairy industry. It also provides that the directors shall have power to levy a tax according to the output of each factory, not to exceed \$600, for the payment of such instructor, and also make provision for carrying into effect such arrangements as may be necessary to advance the dairy industry including the formation of a Dairyman's Board of Trade. The House went into committee on the bill, with Mr. Reid in the chair. In committee it was discussed by the Leader of the Government, the Attorney-General, Mr. Birch, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Richards, Mr. M. McKinnon, Mr. D. A. McKinnon and others. In reply to a question asked by Mr. M. McKinnon, Premier Farquharson said he had stated at the dairyman's meeting last winter that the Local Government would pay one third at least of the instructors salary. Professor Robertson then stated that he believed \$300 would be voted by the Dominion Government, and it was only fair that the Association should incur the balance not to exceed \$600. Progress was reported after it had been agreed to let three or four clauses stand over for further consideration. After some other business of a routine character, the House adjourned till the following day.

On Thursday, Hon. Mr. McLean introduced a bill to authorize Sturis East School District, number 141, to borrow money for an extended term of years. The bill relating to the registration of deeds was read a third time and passed. The act amending the life insurance act was read a third time and passed. On motion of Hon. Mr. Farquharson a petition was read from Hon. Benj. Davies relating to the carriage of mails, passengers and freight from the continent to this Island by the way of Cape Tormentine and Cape Traverse. Mr. Davies' proposition is that the new iceboat shall be so constructed as to be able to take a train of railway carriages on her deck and carry the same across the straits to a harbor on the Island shore opposite to Cape Tormentine, a distance of about eight miles. In order to carry the proposal into effect a harbor would have to be constructed at this side and wide gauge established on the Island railway. The petition was ordered to lie on the table. Hon. Mr. Farquharson presented his report as delegate to Ottawa regarding the fishery rights of the Province. The bill relating to shorthand reporters, was on motion of the Attorney-General, read a third time and passed on a straight party vote. The bill incorporating the Prince Edward Island Dairy Association was further considered in committee.

During the evening session Hon. Mr. Farquharson moved the House into committee on a bill amending the Liquor Regulation Act. At the outset he wished the House to understand that the bill was in no sense a Government measure, but a strict, private bill. No doubt he was driven to this course as a result of the opposition manifested to the bill in caucus. It is quite likely he first intended to bring it in as a Government measure; but he found his party followers would not swallow it, so he was obliged to come to the Legislature as a private member and present his pet measure. The bill, he admitted was a stringent one, and contained some clauses he himself might not support. Among its provisions are some forbidding the sale of tobacco, cigars or oysters in a liquor shop; requiring that places where liquor is sold shall close at 4 o'clock on market days; that no treating be allowed except at the residence of the person treating and that clubs be prohibited from selling. Chemists and druggists are allowed to sell for medicinal purposes, a record of such sale to be kept which record shall be open to the inspection of the Stipendiary Magistrate and any taxpayer having written authority from him or any City Councillor for the purpose. Provision is made for fines and penalties, and for paying half the penalty recovered under the Act to the informer. The Premier made a strong plea for the adoption of his bill, and treated the House to quite a homily in evidence of his burning desire for the spread of temperance. He was followed by Mr. Campbell who thought that if the Leader was sincere he would have made the bill a Government measure. He, (Mr. Campbell) not only voted for prohibition but worked for it. Public sentiment was favorable to prohibition. But the government had not harkened to the wishes of the people as expressed at the polls. The Laurier Government gave us the plebiscite; but three members of the Cabinet had campaigned against prohibition. The members of this Legislature should do everything possible to suppress drunkenness in Charlottetown. He thought it would intensify the evil, let us pass some reasonable law for the city. If the people require this law there should be a petition from them. The country members do not know that the citizens want such a law. Some of the clauses in the bill are extreme. He thought that if the Leader of the Government did his duty he would introduce a license law to augment the revenue of the country. They had license in Ontario and the revenue was materially augmented by it. There did not seem to him to be such difference in Charlottetown and

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der the Scott Act and the existing regulation. He had failed to observe the alarming prevalence of drunkenness referred to by the leader of the Government. The members of the Legislature should set a good example, and he believed that if the Leader were to do his duty he would bring down a bill providing for the disqualification of every member elect bringing liquor into his district during an election. Such a law would have his support. Mr. Birch spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Arthur Peters was opposed to the measure, which should have been introduced by petition. He would support a proper license law. The principle of license was recognized in the present bill. Why pass this law when the province has the power to prohibit? There were clauses in the bill that were outrageous, and the club clause, in so far as it had a bearing upon the Charlottetown Club, was a piece of petty spite on the part of the Leader. It was admitted that the club was well conducted, yet it would be closed up while a man across the street could sell as much as he liked. He could tell the Leader that the measure would not pass. With regard to the use of liquor during election campaigns he thought the Leader of the Government and the hon member for New London were in about the same boat. The House went into committee on the bill, when considerable discussion took place, a great deal of opposition was manifested. Finally the Premier considered it best to report progress, and suggested that a conference on the measure should take place, with a view of framing a bill that might be less objectionable, using this one as a skeleton. The House then adjourned.

The attention of the House on Friday was devoted, for the most part, to matters of routine, questions and private bills. During the afternoon his Honor, the Lieutenant Governor came to the House and formally assented to the Hillsborough bridge bill.

THE ESTIMATES. The estimated expenditure of the Government of Prince Edward Island for the year 1899 is as follows: Administration of Justice, \$6,780; County Stipendiary Magistrate, \$600; Crown Prosecutions in Magistrate Courts, \$300; Jail, Queen's County, \$2,380; Jail, Prince County, \$980; Jail, King's County, \$470; Law Courts, Charlottetown, \$1,900; Court House, Georgetown, \$110; County Courts, \$2,830; Total Justice Administration, \$16,820; Boards of Health, \$60; Coroners Inquests, \$150; Department of Agriculture, \$50; Dairy Associations, bonus, \$200; Executive Council mileage of members, \$300; Printing, Stationery, and Miscellaneous, \$80; EDUCATION: Chief Superintendent's salary, \$1,200; Chief Superintendent's travelling expenses, \$100; Clerk to Chief Superintendent, \$600; Inspectors of Schools, \$2,400; Inspectors of French Schools, \$150; Principal P. W. College and Normal School, \$1,200; First Professor, \$1,000; Second Professor, \$1,000; Third Professor, \$900; Fourth Professor, \$800; Instructor in Book-keeping, \$200; District Teachers Salary, \$113,250; District Board, \$4,000; Scholarships, \$450; Printing, Stationery, and Miscellaneous, \$550; Fuel, repairs to P. W. C. and Normal School, \$710; Total Education, \$126,000; Elections, \$500; Hospital for the Insane, \$18,800; Interest on bonds, loans, debentures and trust funds, \$18,900; Inspectors of Houses, \$900; Legislation, \$7,630; Lunatic Asylum, \$3,500; Telephone Company, subsidy, \$50; Provincial Rifle Association, \$100; Queen Square Gardens, \$200; Institution for Deaf and Dumb, \$100; Halifax School for Blind, \$300; Fire Department, \$650; Mrs. Mary W. Jones, \$50; Miscellaneous EXPENDITURE: Papers, Legislative Assembly grants, \$2,630; Executive Council, \$750; Postage and rent of P. O. boxes, \$450; Poor House, Maintenance, \$3,500; Public Lands Department, \$1,135; Provincial Secretary-Treasurer's Department, \$3,880; Provincial Auditor's Department, \$1,175; Provincial Building, \$1,215; Registrar Office, Charlottetown, \$2,890; Registrar Office, Summerside, \$1,151; Transportation, \$25; S. engrossing, printing, etc., salary, \$1,000; Assistant, stationery & supplies, \$750; Public Works Department, \$3,475; PERIERS, QUEEN'S COUNTY: Cranberry Hillsboro' River, \$42; McNeill's River, \$45; Elliot River, \$100; China Point, \$50; Richard Kirwin, \$50; Floas, Charlottetown, Southport, Rocky Point, \$150; East and West River Ferry, \$1,000; Steamer Southport repairs, etc., \$200; Ferry str. Elliot, Ch' towns and Rocky Point, \$1,000; Hillsboro, Ch' towns & Southport, \$5,800; PERIERS, PRINCE COUNTY: Ellis River, \$95; Summerside & Hillsboro' Point, \$1,400; PERIERS, KING'S COUNTY: Poplar Point, \$100; Cardigan, \$100; Georgetown and Lower Montague, \$2,550; Annapolis, Lot 36, \$2,000; Beach Point, \$15; Total, Periers, \$12,877; Wharves for three Comities, \$2,000; Packets, \$2,245; Right of Way, \$2,500; Roads, \$14,000; Annapolis, \$2,000; Supervisors, \$20,000; Bridges, \$675; Telephone, \$215; Miscellaneous Public Works, \$400; Debenture sinking fund, \$2,770; Unforeseen, \$1,000; New Annex for Insane, \$15,000; New Vault in Provincial Building, \$80; Total, \$126,597.

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