

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1897. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR, JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

Provincial Finances. The Public Accounts of the Province have been submitted to the Legislature. Owing to the pressure on our space this week, we are unable to discuss them at any length. We submit, however, for the information of our readers, the following figures: The total receipts for the year 1896, as per the auditor's report, were \$273,495.92, and the total expenditure, \$287,631.37, showing a deficit of \$14,135.35. It is safe to say, however, that these figures are far from showing the real deficit in the year's transactions. Amounts due for last year are, undoubtedly, carried forward to this year, and payments made this year have been credited to last year. What these really amount to we cannot of course tell just now, but we feel sure we will be within a mark by putting them at \$20,000, that would make the deficit \$30,000, in round numbers. According to the auditor's showing the debt against the Province at the end of the year was \$392,036.50. It is thus plain that our Provincial debt is upwards of \$400,000. In addition to this the present Government has taken from the people taxes, fees, etc., which promised not to exceed, about \$200,000. Thus the work of rolling up the debt goes gloriously on. Next week we will deal more fully with this question. We will then also refer to the report of the Superintendent of Education and other reports.

Provincial Legislature.

As we have already briefly stated, the speech put into the hands of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, by the Provincial Executive, at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, is a very vague and indefinite document. Whatever merits it may possess, are of a decidedly negative character. From a literary point of view, it is certainly not to be regarded as classic. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how the most liberal interpretation of the canons of criticism could accord it the merit of mediocrity. Important legislation and the enactment of beneficial and permanent public improvements, that the speech manifests in numerous and grave defects, as a state paper. Of course, it contains a paragraph expressive of deep gratitude for the bountiful harvest of the past year. That is quite right; all good Christians are thankful for favors of this kind. It must be said, however, that the farmers of our Province do not appear to be overly thankful for the prices of their products, that have ruled of late. Possibly the Government or their friends at Ottawa may, in some degree, be responsible for this. The sentiments expressive of loyalty and devotion to her Majesty Queen Victoria in connection with the approaching celebration of the sixtieth year of her reign, are all right, although they might be expressed in better form. The portions of the speech in which the tax-gathering interest, as those relative to our claims against the Dominion Government, and the construction of public works; but it must be confessed that the references to these important matters are made in the greatest obscurity. The framers of the speech, when preparing these paragraphs, evidently had in mind, the celebrated saying of Talleyrand: "Language was given to man to conceal his thoughts." This is what the speech says regarding our claims at Ottawa: "My Government, during recess, has been vigorously prosecuting these demands with the result that will in the near future prove that our claims were well founded, and such as could not under the present combination of circumstances be successfully denied us." It would require a subtle mind to discover in the "result" of the Government's vigorous prosecution any definite advantage to this Province. The "combination of circumstances" would seem to be the crucial point in the whole matter. If a future "combination of circumstances" should defeat Mr. Peters' Government at the polls, his friends at Ottawa would say "you will get nothing; because you did not return the Liberals to power." But should the "combination of circumstances" result, unfortunately for the Province, in continuing the present Government in power, the Premier could say "you will get nothing; because nothing was promised in the speech." It will thus be seen that whichever way things go, the Leader of the Government has left himself an

avenue of escape. As regards the bridging of the Hillsborough, the speech has this to say: "You will be pleased to learn that my Government is considering the question of constructing some of the public works of this Province with materials of a more enduring nature, and with that object in view they are about to co-operate with the Federal Government in the anticipated construction of a bridge across the Hillsborough River thus connecting the City of Charlottetown with the northern terminus of the proposed Belfast and Murray Harbor Railway." The same argument applies to this as to the paragraph relating to our claims against the Dominion Government. It is plain in this paragraph, as well as that referring to the claims against the Federal Government, was inserted for election purposes. Anticipation refers in a very indefinite manner to the future, and we may be sure that "anticipated construction of a bridge across the Hillsborough," is a very remote possibility in the estimation of the Government. Taking it in all, the speech cannot be regarded in any other sense than a subtly constructed election card.

On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., Mr. Aitken, from Committee to prepare an address in answer to the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the session, submitted the draft address and moved that it be forthwith considered. This precipitated an unexpected debate. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that this motion was unusual and contrary to the usages of the Legislature. In this contention he was supported by Messrs. Campbell, Shaw and J. A. McDonald. It was quite plain that the Opposition had the best of the argument. The Premier came to the rescue of his supporter, Mr. Aitken, and after some discussion a compromise was effected by which it was agreed that the mover and seconder of the address should make their little speech, and then the Leader of the Opposition would be at liberty to move the adjournment of the debate till the following day. Mr. Aitken seems to be a very respectable gentleman, and is, we understand, a successful farmer; but his oratory does not appear to be adapted to the halls of the Legislature, and seems to be quite sophoric in character. Mr. Wise was the seconder of the address, and his speech was rather a poor affair. He was delighted with the paragraph in the speech referring to her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, and thought "our good loyal Queen" was worthy of all the honor that could be given her on that occasion. As regarded the bountiful harvest, he was not particularly enthusiastic. He considered the crops had been nothing extra for the past few years, and the farmers had a hard struggle. Perhaps the most unexpected feature of his remarks was that which referred to the conduct of the Government. He acknowledged the Government had made some very nice promises, which they had not fulfilled. He regarded the land tax as most unjust. The Premier, he said, had promised to amend the act, but had not done so. Some farmers were called upon to pay a much higher rate per acre for their land than others in the immediate neighborhood. Some paid one cent an acre, while others, with properties no more valuable, were compelled to pay six cents an acre. That was an injustice that should not exist. The most peculiar part of his speech was its conclusion. He made the extraordinary statement that David applied the following words to Sampson: "My father whipped you with whips; but I will whip you with scorpions." Admitting for the sake of argument that David had made use of those words, which he certainly did not, by what process of reasoning could the speaker justify the anachronism connecting David with Sampson? Perhaps he had the bridging of the Hillsborough on the brain, and felt justified in figuratively bridging this chronological hiatus; or perhaps he made the quotation in good faith, imagining himself to be correct. It is very irrelevant to trifle with the Scriptures in that way.

Hon. Mr. Gordon paid the usual compliment to the mover and seconder of the address. What David said to Sampson, as stated by the seconder, was very appropriate. He himself had not seen the words in the Sacred Volume, and he imagined Mr. Wise must have taken them from the Koran. He moved the adjournment of the debate. The House then adjourned till the following day. On resuming the debate, on the 1st inst., the Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that the seconder of the address had pursued a course most unusual for a seconder. He would naturally be expected to bless the Government, but he undertook to utter what the seconder and the Leader of the Government might settle between themselves. He expressed his regret that the Leader of the Government had not been in the Province when the speech had been prepared; as in that event the speech, he felt sure, would have been in better literary form. He then proceeded to point out some of its literary defects. No "prediction" was necessary to show that it was an accomplished fact. The reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, he said, is the most glorious in the British Empire, or anywhere else. The marvellous progress made in inventions, steam, electricity, etc., during her reign was undecipherable. It was a matter of deep regret to know that our fellow subjects in India were suffering from famine and pestilence. No great fault could be found with the paragraph in the speech in reference to this matter, except that it might seem a little too much like blowing our own horn. Outside of this Province a great deal more, proportionately, had been done towards the relief of our fellow subjects in far-off India. As to the harvest, he had to remark that prices of farm products were low; consequently the farmers were not as prosperous as otherwise they might be. On the question of cold storage, he said, the Opposition took the ground that the matter should be left with the Dominion Government. Regarding the matter of our claims at Ottawa, he was aware that former governments had pushed them, but was glad to know that such pressure was kept up at Ottawa "that will in the near future prove that our claims are well founded." He certainly could not understand this. Our claims had been admitted long ago. The question of bridging the Hillsborough seemed to indicate that an election was near at hand. A bridge and a tunnel had been advocated before now; but both were abandoned as not feasible. He regarded the matter as a mere election kite. The importation of chemical fertilizers should, in his opinion, be left to private enterprise; and the road machines, he considered, had been an injury, rather than a benefit to the roads. He hoped the era of deficits was past, and that the time promised by the premier had arrived, when revenue and expenditure would meet. It was a matter of surprise to hear the seconder of the address attack the Government as he did. It was also surprising to read in the newspapers a speech made in the Bedouche district. He hoped this year would see an end to these complaints.

Hon. Mr. Peters replied to the Leader of the Opposition. He said he and his friends would be glad if nothing harder would be said of the Government than was said by Mr. Wise. Although actually absent from the Province, when the speech from the throne had been prepared, he accepted full responsibility for everything in it. The Premier soon changed from Provincial to Dominion issues. He grew very eloquent in his references to the general elections in June last, and expressed the highest satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Laurier had settled the school question. He claimed that he had solved the question as to whether or not "one class of people should be set up against another class." A "settlement" had been reached "by a fair compromise." "That question was settled, and it was something to be proud of during the year of jubilee, that Canadians could live side by side." We trust our readers will particularly note the exclamation of Premier Peters regarding Mr. Laurier's "settlement" of the school question. Evidently, according to him, the effort of the Manitoba minority to have their constitutional rights restored to them according to the judgment of the Imperial Privy Council, is to "set one class of people against another class;" and the refusal on the part of Mr. Laurier to restore to the minority the rights of which they had been robbed, is evidence "that Canadians can live side by side." It is quite true that this is living "side by side;" but after the manner of the lion and the lamb, the lamb, represented by the Manitoba minority, inside. It was quite a new thing to hear the Premier declare that it was impossible for Canadians to trade with the United States; that the politicians of the Republic had made this quite plain. All will remember that he and his friends, in the Legislature have for years been saying that it was the "Tories" who kept us from obtaining advantageous trade concessions from the United States. But the Liberals have the regulating of the matter now, and here the Premier comes and confesses, unwittingly of course, that during past years he and his friends have only been fooling, and that the "Tories" were right when they said the United States were unwilling to act fairly with us in the matter of trade. Regarding the bridge across the Hillsborough, he said he felt no

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Mr. Bell gave Mr. Farquharson a certificate of character, as acting Premier. The Government of the day he said, should not spend more money than what was voted by the Legislature. Farquharson was the only man, in the capacity of Premier, who had acted on this principle. He felt sure the deficit of 1896 would not be as large as that of 1895. This would be largely to Mr. Farquharson's credit. He thought the paragraph relating to the bridge was very vague. He thought that if the clause in the speech referring to our claims at Ottawa meant what it said, it meant nothing. The validity of our claims had already been proved. In this connection he referred to what had been done by Messrs. Sullivan and Ferguson. Something more tangible than what was in the speech was wanted.

The House then went into committee on the draft address. It was reported agreed to, and the House adjourned. On Saturday forenoon the House met, and the address was presented to His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor.

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against the Dominion. They told us that Prince Edward Island had been very liberally dealt with, and Sir Richard Cartwright had referred to the Maritime Provinces as "shreds and patches." All the promises the Government had made to the people had been broken; they gained place by deceiving the people. If by refusing to pay poor people for their work, the Government may make a good showing; was that a sign of success in financing? Of late years large amounts had been spent in public works, yet only now speak of constructing permanent public works. He would not be against building a bridge; but where were we to get the money? The men now advocating the building of the bridge across the Hillsborough formerly scouted the idea. Why was this important matter left to the present hour? He disapproved of the Government going into the chemical fertilizer business. As the House adjourned six o'clock, Mr. Campbell continued his speech on the following day. Five years of office had shown that the present Government legislated for the classes and not for the masses. He pointed out the public works that had been made in built and new buildings had been erected at the stock farm, yet the expenditure, in no year was as great as these years, when the present government have nothing to show. With them it was party first, last, and all the time. He did not think any more road machines should be purchased. So far as his district was concerned, he had seen the machines tied up to the gates of the supervisors and the men lying under the trees. They had spoiled the roads in that part of the country. He pointed out that the statements regarding the debt of the Province, when the present Government came into power, as made by the Grits were not correct. At the last election, the Premier said he had not been able to fulfill his promises up to that time, because his majority was so small. What was to prevent him now when he had a large majority?

Wm. Cherry, of Owen Sound, Ont., writes: "For the past two years I have been troubled with weakness of the heart and fainting spells. I tried several remedies, and consulted best physicians without any permanent relief. I noticed testimonials of great cures made by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, procured a bottle, and the first dose gave me great relief. The first bottle did not cure me, but the second did. There are none of the symptoms remaining what ever. I think it a great boon to mankind." SOLD BY GEO. E. HUGHES Dominion Parliament.

Mr. Foster's speech. (Speech and Empire.) The mail delivered in the House of Commons by Mr. Foster on Friday night, 26th ult., in reply to Mr. Laurier, was one of the ablest ever delivered in the House. It was calm, logical, and convincing, and in marked contrast to the fervid oratory which fell from the lips of the Premier. A cutting from the "Morning Post" of London, which was very disagreeably felt by those on the Government benches, and it was with manifest relief that they welcomed the close of the formidable indictment framed by Mr. Foster. Mr. Foster said it was patent to the House, and would be patent to the country at large, that since months of Ministerial responsibility, had not had the effect of either diminishing Mr. Laurier's verbiage or adding to the weight or logic of his remarks. The Premier had given an example of the debating school of reply, instead of the grave, reasonable, and dignified response he should have made to the indictment of himself and his party.

MR. FIELDING'S FAVOURITISM.

"To take the first point," said Mr. Foster, "my hon. friend pointed out a distinct disagreement which prevailed between the hon. gentleman and his Finance Minister with respect to a certain tariff in regard to the tariff. Is the tariff an important matter to hon. gentlemen opposite? If the hon. leader of the House thinks it an important matter the commercial interests have not thought it an important matter during the last nine months, and to-morrow when the business men read the light and slip of the newspaper they will be glad to see the remarks of my hon. friend; they will be no more satisfied and no more set at rest and at peace with respect to the way in which the hon. gentleman treats matters of this kind, which is one that would not be expected from him as leader of his party on this the greatest question which is today before this Parliament for consideration. I ask the leader of the Government—'If it were, not, that his Finance Minister went down to Montreal the other day and took it upon himself to make an announcement with reference to a duty on coal, evidently with the consent of the Government—unless the Prime Minister allows the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to do what the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) declared he would do, namely, to do what he pleased and have a free hand in everything. But if there is to be any solidarity to government, and if the strong grasp of the glove-hand is to typify my hon. friend as leader of the Government, let me ask him—Why his Minister of Finance was down to Montreal a little while before the tariff was to be brought down, and made a public reference to one industry, while he has for nine months sealed his lips with reference to every other industry in this country? Does my hon. friend (Mr. Laurier) think this a practice which is honest or decent?"

THE TARIFF.

Upon the tariff Mr. Foster said:—"In his airy, delightfully airy, nothing but airy way, the leader of the Government says there is not a man or woman in this country who does not know to-day that the Government is going to do with the tariff; and then, to show how easy and necessary it was that every man in the Dominion of Canada should know just what they are going to do, he denied, in just so many English words, what they are going to do. Here it is:— To alleviate the burdens of the people, and impair no present business interests. Delightfully definite. (Opposition cheers and laughter). The president of the Board of Trade in Ontario knows now exactly what this tariff is to be; the new members of the Board of

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Trade in Montreal knows what the tariff is to be; the roll men can now put in their frames start their fires and roll along, for they know exactly what it is to be. The great mischief of the wonderful deflator of this tariff, has made his definition definite. (Opposition laughs.) No longer will the official papers say that the cost of the country is relaxed, it is relaxed and is becoming demoralized count of prevailing doubts and taint. Dan, Wiman and Co. and Bradstreet and Company will be delightfully explicit, and say "All doubts removed, and the whirl of the wheels of commerce on right merrily since the day of March, 1897, when the of the Dominion gave this explanation of just what the tariff and the detail of the tariff is (Opposition laughs.) And others, one of whom, by the way, to me the other day, said to me end of the letter: "Help them through the tariff as quickly as possible, for everything is hung up certainly." I am going to send the morning the very words definition and ask him if he cannot now be taken off the pin allowed to roll along. (Opposition and laughter.)

**FIXING THE ELECTION**

Mr. Foster scored the Premier having violated the principles of simultaneous by-elections he had announced when he proposed as shown by the dates fixed for Bonaventure, Champlain, Wrig Colchester elections. What was reason given for holding the

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