

POOR DOCUMENT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The Debate on the Budget.

The debate on the Budget was resumed on Wednesday afternoon at 2:40, when Mr. Barberie continued his remarks. He spoke for nearly five minutes, and was followed by the

HON. ROBT. MARSHALL,
who said he would make some statements which would make some statements which would show the actual financial condition of the Province to-day, but he would mention something else first. He then took up the Tower Trial, and defended the action of the Government from the charge preferred against it in the matter of money paid to counsel other than the Hon. Solicitor General, holding it was right that in such an important case the Government should be able and well represented. He discussed the Eastern Extension Claims at considerable length, and said that it was his opinion that it would not be long before the money would be paid into the office of the Receiver General. The Grand Southern Railway question came in for a due share of consideration and the action of the Government was defended. The central and convenient location of the stock farm for all parts of the Province to make pilgrimages was dilated upon by the hon. gentleman, and how admirably it was adapted in every way for its purpose. He then turned his attention to the speech of the hon. gentleman from Westmorland, (Black) and said he would show the actual financial position of the Province to-day, and that it would differ from the showing of that hon. gentleman. The revenue of the Province for the present day, as he made it, was \$641,903.23, and he did not look for any material change in this amount in the next decade. Then there would be an addition of \$32,000 for increase in population in that time, which would bring the whole amount up to \$675,000 in round numbers. But perhaps it would be just as well not to go too far into the future at present. The expenditures at the present time amount to about \$604,600, which taken from the revenue of \$641,903.23, leaves a surplus of \$37,303.23 of receipts over expenditures. The liabilities of the Province were next dealt with, and the details of its indebtedness gone into. The debt at present, as he made it up, amounted to \$1,500,000, but deducting from it the Eastern Extension claim of \$150,000, which would be paid shortly, it left a total indebtedness of \$950,000 on the Province. He next referred to what the Government—or this House, as he put it—had done for the Province. He cited the expenditures for railway purposes, the public buildings, bridges, &c., and many other items which other hon. gentlemen had gone over, and said the grand aggregate of expenditures for public works and extraneous matters, such as the St. John fire, made by this Province since Confederation amounted to \$3,014,500. In speaking of the charges made against the Government in connection with the manner in which the public accounts are kept, he said that the Government had gone over, and said the grand aggregate of expenditures for public works and extraneous matters, such as the St. John fire, made by this Province since Confederation amounted to \$3,014,500.

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me now pass on to the matter of agriculture, which all will admit is one of the first magnitude. I will not seek to withhold from the Government the credit that is due for the increased interest they have taken in agriculture, but the question is, have they taken a policy that we can approve? It has seemed to me, sir, that when they have put a sum in the estimates they have done all that they considered necessary. I am not one of those who believe that the farmer needs a great deal of pampering from the Legislature, but I would ask how the Government pointed out to us a line to follow? Let us see what has been done in the past four years. They established a Board of Agriculture, argued upon them by my friend Mr. Black, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House, with his usual ability, and I have no reason to complain of that step. They entertained a couple of English gentlemen and travelled about the country with them. They made an importation of stock, and they established a stock farm. These things, sir, are what have been done for the interests of the farmer, and these things do not seem to me to have met the views and wishes of the farmers of the country. I do not believe in a Government doing for a people what they can do for themselves. I believe that the wants of the country can be supplied more cheaply and more satisfactorily by private enterprise. When I come to apply this rule to the action of the Government, it will be found not altogether to the approval of the country. I refer more particularly to this matter of the Stock Farm. I am willing to discuss it entirely on its merits, and I believe it does not meet with the approval of the farmers of the Province generally. It may be in King's, so intelligently represented by the gentleman who sits behind me (Crawford), that it commands the approval of the farmers, as it would, indeed, in any country where it might be located, but you will find it does not serve the interests of the farmers in more remote districts. When the members think over the names of the stock raisers—men of energy, skill and ability—who are scattered throughout the Province, I think they will not approve of the stock farm. If it does not satisfy people in all parts of the country, we may safely conclude that it was not entirely upon its merits that the stock farm was established. The Hon. Provincial Secretary tells us that the Government had obtained a great consensus of opinion in its favor. Where? In the Agricultural Society? In the papers? I don't think the farmers had an opportunity to express an opinion as yet, and they tentatively deny that there is any such feeling as he states. Another question comes up in connection with this. My friend (Mr. Black) has fully discussed this, and I will not trespass upon the time of the House. The Hon. Provincial Secretary has attempted to reply to him, but he became involved in such a maze and mystery that he experienced great difficulty in getting out of it, and left the House as much in the dark as when he entered. He has asked how P. R. I. had obtained such a reputation for horses had asked if it were not due directly or indirectly to the stock farm. It is known for a fact, sir, that you have to go to the Island for certain classes of horses, and the reason why they established the farm was to export them to the Island because the people there had imported a class of horses suited for the country, while our Government had not. Had our Government consulted the lumbermen as to the horses they had imported, they would have done better. Private enterprise had introduced improved breeds of horses into Prince Edward Island before a Government stock farm was established there. The reason why they established the farm was to export them to the Island because the people there had imported a class of horses suited for the country, while our Government had not. Had our Government consulted the lumbermen as to the horses they had imported, they would have done better. Private enterprise had introduced improved breeds of horses into Prince Edward Island before a Government stock farm was established there.

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