

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO SUPPORT OPPOSITION ON ELECTED ROAD BOARDS

Accept the Resolutions Introduced by Mr. Kent.

AN F. P. U. PLANK

And a Feature of the Manifesto Issued by Mr. Coaker.

Yesterday was Budget Day at the House. For the past ten days it has been currently reported about the city, that the deficit in the Colony's revenue for which extra duties would have to be levied would exceed by a considerable sum the reduction in taxation of \$380,000, made by the Morris Government in the dying days of the first term of office of the Morris Government, and amongst business men the nature of the Finance Minister's proposals made public yesterday were freely discussed; but to the common people, the fisherman, the farmer, the mechanic, and all who work for a living, the announcement that the whole reduction, and an amount considerably in excess thereof must be raised by additional taxation came in the form of a bolt from the blue.

But Is It?

The conjecture, although carefully prepared statement of Mr. Cashin which was read to the Assembly yesterday afternoon is referred to by The Daily News, the mouthpiece of the Government, this morning as "a very encouraging presentation of the Colony's affairs," to us it appeared but the record of a carnival of five years extravagance. With a revenue for the past fiscal year totalling \$3,919,000, the chest is short, temporarily short, said the Finance Minister, but short according to calculations who are at least as competent to give an estimate as Mr. Cashin has proven himself to be, to the extent of quite One Half Million Dollars.

To get out of the hole into which it finds itself, the Government proposes a 10 per cent. raise, a surtax of 10 per cent. on the present import duties.

An increase of \$1.00 per gallon on

all liquors: 40 cents a gallon on all ale and beers imported and 5 cents per gallon on the local article.

On imported tobaccos 5 cents per pound; cigarettes, \$1.00 per pound; local tobaccos 4 1/2 cents per pound; on local cigarettes, \$1.72 per pound; an increase on butterine of one cent per pound. A royalty of one dollar per thousand on lumber cut by unlicensed mills, other than the small mills used by fishermen. Soaps of the better grade are also increased.

Wasn't Criticised.

No criticism of the Budget proposals was offered by the Opposition yesterday, as the speech had to be printed and will be in the hands of members for Friday's sitting.

It was quite apparent that the jubilation over Minister Cashin's Sixth Budget was more faked than real. The stereotyped language which occupied the House for one and three quarter hours fell on dull ears, the restless public in the galleries grew weary of the "song and dance" for which half a half million in extra taxation must be raised; truly the Morris administration fiddles while the independence of the Colony is being consumed.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries was, according to the Prime Minister's statement, absent unavoidably. He was sent for, but failed to put in an appearance.

The junior member for Hr. Grace did not enter the House until the Budget Speech had been delivered, and several of the Government members kept flitting in and out of the Assembly during Mr. Cashin's speech, much to the discomfort of the Prime Minister, who doubtless felt that all his noble band of patriots should be there, look wise and hear the story of achievement read.

Also Vaulted.

We had almost forgot to remark that condensed milk, shoe dressing, beaver board and adding machines have been scaled upward for revenue purposes, and in accord with Mr. Coaker's suggestion the pulp and paper manufacturers are to have a draw back on the duty paid on sulphur.

The introduction of Road Board Re-

What We Have to Face

Hon. M. P. Cashin, Minister of Finance, introduced his Sixth and Worst Budget in the House of Assembly yesterday.

He stated that the Morris Administration had brought about "economic and social revolutions" in the Country and drew on his fertile imagination to paint a glowing picture of the Country's prospects for the future.

He admitted that during their term of office the present Government had increased outlays by One Million Dollars in six years but claimed that the Masses of the People had got the prime advantage.

Then he got down to cold, hard fact,—and all the facts were against him.

He handed out statistics and the figures gave the lie direct to his vain imaginings.

For, according to his own showing, the revenue for the eight months of the fiscal year which end with this month will be \$150,000 short.

A very little calculation, therefore, will show that for the whole of the present fiscal year this Country has to face a deficit of \$200,000.

This is the Cashin estimate—and assuredly favors the Government as much as possible.

And it does!

Ten per cent. has been added to all our imports which means an increase of taxation totalling \$650,000.

The Morris Party, therefore, anticipate a much bigger deficit than \$200,000. Else, why not impose a surtax of Five Per Cent., instead of one of Ten Per Cent?

Notice carefully that the reduction of taxation to the extent of \$380,000 made previously to the election is more than offset by an increase of \$650,000 made after the election.

And the surtax is not confined to luxuries; it is put on clothing; on butter; on tobacco; on lumber and on other articles used by the average taxpayer.

The Morris Party "sowed the wind" by tinkering with the tariff for electioneering purposes. Now they are reaping the whirlwind of the condemnation of an outraged electorate.

And the end is not yet. It will come quickly and emphatically when our voters get the chance to voice their sentiments at the polls.

Let Morris dispute it, if he dare; and let him prove his sincerity by throwing open any two Protestant Districts and attempt to elect two men to fill the vacant Departments of Justice and Agriculture.

Meantime we face a shortage of at least a Quarter of a Million Dollars in revenue and must submit to the imposition of an extra tax of Ten Per Cent. on our imports besides extra excise duties on tobacco and on butterine.

And, with our finances in this disgraceful condition, we must enter the money market and attempt to raise a railway loan of Two Million Dollars.

No, the end is not yet! Doesn't every sign indicate that we are heading for Financial Ruin? Salvation from the Morris Government there is none; and even with the present Administration out of the way it would take very clever financing indeed to avert the impending disaster.

Here is how the Minister of Finance proposes to raise the necessary funds for meeting our financial obligations:

- (a) A surtax of 10 per cent. on the present import duties.
- (b) An increase in the duties on liquors of \$1.00 a gallon and on ales of 40 cents a gallon, local ales being also charged five cents more per gallon.
- (c) An increase in the duty on imported tobacco, five cents a pound, cigarettes \$1.00 per pound, on local tobacco 4 1/2 cents a pound, and on local cigarettes \$1.72 a pound.
- (d) An increase in the excise duty on butterine of one cent a pound.
- (e) A royalty of a dollar per M. feet on lumber cut by unlicensed mills other than those known as fishermen's mills.

This, according to Mr. Cashin's own computation, would bring in an extra revenue of \$770,000. Yet he says the shortage will be only \$200,000 for the current fiscal year.

Why, then, this extra taxation?

The awfulness, the absolute hopelessness of our financial position has, we fear, not yet been revealed.

Extra Taxes, \$770,000

BUDGET PROVIDES FOR EXTRA GENERAL TAXES THAT TOTAL \$770,000

solutions by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kent, along the lines outlined by the F.P.U., occupied the time of the House until 11 p.m., and caused the most heated discussion since the Assembly met. Some sharp cross-firing took place between the Prime Minister and Mr. Coaker before tea hour; the entente cordiale was resumed when the inner man had been satisfied.

Mr. Kent, in introducing the resolutions which follow, said it was the intention of the Opposition to press for legislation this session but he had adopted this course in order to direct the most serious attention of the House to the question of Elective Road Boards; the time in his opinion had arrived when the subject could no longer be shirked and, he would read the resolutions:

Road Board Resolutions

WHEREAS the present method of appointing Road Boards in this Colony is unsatisfactory.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to establish a better system of local administration.

RESOLVED that in the opinion of this House the several Electoral Districts of the Colony should be divided by law into a fixed number of administrative districts and the local affairs of such administrative district should be controlled by a local board elected by the electors in such district duly qualified under the Election Act, 1913, and that the local, special and other grants for public and marine works should be allocated to and expended by such boards, except in case of works presenting special engineering difficulties.

RESOLVED that it is the duty of the Government to prepare and introduce into the Legislature during the next Session legislation for that purpose.

RESOLVED that pending the preparation and enactment of such legislation all the members of Road Boards in the several localities where such boards are established should be selected at a public meeting of the electors in that locality, and be appointed by the Governor in Council

Extra Taxation on all Articles in Common Use

AMOUNTS TO \$770,000.

Revenue is Away Short of the General Expenditure This Year.

upon receiving from a Justice of the Peace or other person presiding at the said public meeting a certificate that such meeting had been held, and giving the names of the parties so elected and that the board so appointed be the board for that locality until the 30th of June, 1915, when the new legislation would come into effect, and that all vacancies on said boards be filled in the same manner and that all local, special and other grants for public and marine works be allocated to and expended by such board, provided, however, if the Government Engineer shall certify that any special work presents engineering difficulties, such special work shall be executed through and under the supervision of the Government Engineer's Department.

Strongly Advocated It.

The history of our present road board legislation was then briefly outlined by Mr. Kent, followed by a strong pronouncement in favor of the Elective system of Road Boards. The present resolution was in the form of a Modus Vivendi and provided a plan until legislation would be enacted dealing with the whole question.

The Prime Minister accepted the principle of the legislation asked for but pointed out the many difficulties which the problem presented.

Hon. Mr. Emerson saw the dawn of a new era in the public life of the Colony and would hail with delight the day when every district had the management of its grants and the pending of all local moneys through road boards of the peoples' choice.

Mr. Coaker arose to support the resolution and in so doing had to compliment the Hon. Mr. Emerson, member (Continued on page 4)

Little Jeff Had to be Shown.-

By "Bud" Fisher

