## PROVINCIAL

(Continued from Wednesday's Semi-

LEGISLATURE.

Weekly.)

Mr. Hazen followed Prov. Secretary Tweedie in the budget debate. He said he perceived it to be the duty of a member of the legislature to appreach the discussion of the public affairs of the country with industry and with as thorough en understanding of the subject as was possible. No duty which devolves upon members of the legislative assembly was more im-Portant than to see that the money of the province was spent with a due regard to economy and of the great public services of the country. It was as much the duty of the public men the province to see that all expenditures were properly made as it was the duty of members of a privale corporation to see that its finarces were honestly and justly administered. He believed it to be the duty of the opposition to criticize the conduct of the government's administration of the affairs of the province. This would endeavor to do fairly and without feeling. He desired, however, to say that in the past when the opposition have endeavored to point out where in their opinion an unwise policy has been pursued, and where the government of the day have spent more money than they should have spent, they have been the subject of ectures on the part of members of the government and their supporters

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as not having faith enough in the resources of this country. He would vield to no man in his confidence in the resources of New Brunswick and in the great wealth of its mines, forests, fisheries and other great sources of revenue. He had faith in the province, and in spite of being lectured as to his patriotism, he proposed to discharge the duty that rested upon him as leader of the opposition. It was not an easy matter to criticize the budget speech at any time, and the government had not made it easier for him because of their unwillingness to furnish information as to the state of the finances as early in the session as such information should be furnished. The auditor general's report was only given to the house some 48 hours ago, and as a consequence hon. members had not had time to study its contents, and were therefore not a position to know the true financial position of the country. Some years ago the fiscal year closed on December 31st. Legislation was passed changing the fiscal year from that date to October 31st. One reason was given for the change was that the report of the auditor general and other reports would by the new arrangement be placed on the table of the house immediately after the opening of the session. If that was the reason the results have not justified the change, because, as he had said, the house has had to wait for the auditor general's report, as well as other reports, until within the last couple were got ready. criticism, that in the future we will

of its contents

BEFORE THE HOUSE IS ASKED to go into committee of supply. The report of the auditor general is not arranged, nor printed, in a way calculated to give much information. A distinguished writer has said that language was given to conceal thought. He could say that the auditor general's report of the province of New Brunswick was arranged for the purdenving information. The report, which at no time had given very much information as to the financial condition of the province, has been very much curtailed during the past few years. In 1896, as would be seen by reference to page 227, there was a full and detailed statement in the auditor general's report of the interest on provincial debentures. That statement showed the interest on the debentures issued in connection with the Central Railway, the Grand Southern, the Caraquet and all other railways. It due and the amount in each case. The report of that year, as would be seen by reference to page 236, had a statement of all the provincial debentures, the statement showing the date of the bends, the date of issue, the number and series, the rate of interest, the amount of issue, the principal payable, the legislative authority under which the bonds were issued, what the bonds were issued in aid of, the debentures redeemed, as well as those cutstanding, and, in addition, general remarks on the subject. This was important information. During the past two years there was no such information either with respect to the interest on provincial bonds or to the provincial bonds themselves. If hon. members would turn to page 84 of the auditor general's report of this year they would find that the interest on bonded debt was placed at \$117,866.85. This was given in a lump sum, and there was no information to show to what account the interest was charg-A reference to page 97 of last year's auditor general's report shows that the only information given with respect to debentures redeemed was that the amount of debentures redeemed under act of legislative assambly was \$421.500. There were no details at all given, and not a word appeared respecting cutstanding debentures. This information is denied the house and country, and the only way that a member could obtain such information was to move a resolution asking that it should be brought down. The hon, provincial secretary had given what he no doubt considered a Pretty full exposition of the finances

> ng a statement which would more CORRECTLY SHOW THE REAL STATE

the province, and had congratulat-

ed himself upon the operations of the

past year. He (Hazen) proposed mak-

of the finances of the province, and from the statement which he would lutely necessary that all possible sav-

able to see that the apparent surplus, as shown by the provincial secretary, was mainly due to two items, an increase of some \$30,000 in the item of ternitorial revenue, the result of great activity in the lumber market, and to the increase in the amount received on account of succession duties. The current revenue of the province in 1893 was \$708,809.18. The current revenue for 1899 was \$764,229.49, or an increase in current revenue of \$55,430.29 in 1899 over 1898. The revenue in 1899 was, as he had stated, \$764,229.47. The expenditure for 1899 was \$749,644.35. The territorial revenue in 1898 was \$151,959.63, and for 1899 the territorial revenue was \$184,984.50, being an increase of \$33,024.83 over the year 1898. The hom. provincial secretary had claimed a surplus of \$14,595.12, and thought that this was a most satisfactory showing, but while he claimed this surplus there was the undeniable fact that during the year we have added \$114,-430.93 to the public debt of the country; in other words, we were that much more in debt than we were at the close of the fiscal year in 1898. The net debt in 1898 was \$2,621,867.26 and in 1899 the net debt was \$2,736,-298.19, making the increase already mentioned of \$114,430.93. The bonded debt in 1898 was \$3.012,113.33, and in 1899 the bonded debt was \$3,078,846.66 or an increase during the year of \$76,-733.33. The gross debt in 1898 was \$3, 198,859.31, and in 1899 the gross debt was \$3,224,986.21, an increase during the year of \$126,126.90.

While the provincial secretary claimed a surplus of \$14,595 on the year's operation, he believed it would be impossible to figure out any surplus at all if all bills due at the end of the fiscal year had been paid. When he heard the statement of the provincial secretary today, his mind was carried back to the time that he was a reporter on the floors of this house. and when the public debt was at that time considered to be a most serious matter, but in comparison to what it is today it was then insignificant. The present minister of railways and camails.

THE HON. MR. BLAIR.

when he was in opposition in this house, considered the debt to be an enormous affair, and yet it was trifling compared to the present debt. The net debt of the province on October 31, 1884, was \$757,697.12. The net debt at the close of the fiscal year 1899 was \$2,736,298.19, showing an increase of \$1,978,601.07, or an laverage imorease per year since 1884 of about \$125,000. The provincial secretary said he did not intend to institute a comparison between the expenditures of this government and of the old administration. It was fortunate for the hon. gentleman that he had not undertaken such a comparison. It was said that comparisons are odious, and the correctness of that statement would be very apparent had the provincial secretary attempted the effort. On a former occasion he (Hazen) had spoken of the large amount of revenue available to this government that had not been available to the government previous to 1883. He was not now going into details of these increased revof days. There was no reason why enues, and would content himself by these reports should not be ready be- stating that the additional revenue fore the opening of the legislature, and had in a large measure come from it was inexcusable that four months the taxation measures of this governshould elapse before these reports ment, such as the succession duties, the hope, not in the way of carping porated companies and the fees from have the report of the auditor general large sums from the crown lands by reason of the increased stumpage, and sufficiently early in the session so that members may inform themselves had enjoyed very additional revenue by reason of the increase in the emounts obtained from Ottawa in consequence of the redistribution and because of the increase in population. 'The total increase in revenue enjoyed by this government over what the old government received was \$144,000 per year, and notwithstanding this fact, they had added \$125,000 to the permanent debt every year since 1884. This was a very serious matter, a condition of things that required the best pose of not giving, but concealing and attention of the representatives of the people. Our revenues are largely fixed, and while there may be an occasional year when the territorial revenue is much larger than usual, yet we must not lose sight of the fact that our revenues are not elastic and that the condition of the province calls for the most prudent management on the part of the government. If it had not been for the much lower rate of interest since this government came into power their management would have added most serious burdens to those already borne by the province. showed that when the interest was The provincial secretary had claimed a surplus of \$14,000 on last year's operations, but if that statement were correct the result was due more to good luck than good management on the part of the government or the pro-

vincial secretary. The provincial secretary had NOT BEEN VERY CORRECT in many of his estimates for the year 1899. On territorial revenue he had estimated \$190,000. The actual receipts were \$184,984.50, showing an amount of over \$5,000 less than estimated. He had estimated from liquor licenses \$21,500. The actual receipts were \$20,-743.32. or \$756.68 less than estimated On miscellaneous items \$133.08 less than estimated were obtained, and no part of the fishery license estimate of \$8,000 was realized. The total sum of these items was \$13,905.26 less than estimated. Then, on the other hand, he received in connection with other estimates \$17,570.60 more than was estimated, and this included \$15,232.70 more for succession duties than had been estimated. If it had not been for this very large litem of over \$15,000 on account of succession duties more than was estimated: if it had not been that a very wealthy man had died before the close of the fiscal year, and his estate adding some \$24,000 to the revenue of the country, the provincial secretary's surplus of over \$14,000 would have been a deficit of some \$10,000. We find the refund of \$8,000 on account of fishery licenses in this year's estimates, but he would advise the provincial secretary not to count too much upon having the amount paid in anything like the near future. As he had said, the showing of the provincial secretary was more the result of good luck than good management, and as we were sailing close to the wind, it was necessary that the greatest possible economy should be shown in the management of the finances of the country. It was abso-

expenditures of the province if we are to have the funds necessary to carry on the work of education, the road and opposition were charged with dealing with small matters, but departmental expenditures were largely made up of small items, and these in the aggregate amounted to large sums. He took up the item of contingencies, and pointed out several items which he years 1897 and 1898. The accounts showed that upwards of \$600 had been paid for coach hire for members of the executive. Of that sum \$61 had been paid to Mr. Blackall and \$598 to John A. Edwards. This latter amount was quite a large item. We are all familiar with the fact that members of the government spend very little of their time in Fredericton, and, considering the fact that their hotel is but a short distance from the depart-mental buildings, it would strike most people that the sum of \$598 was a most extraordinary sum to pay for coach hire under the circumstances. WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED

that a coach is furnished for the use

of members of the legislature for \$5

per day during the sitting of the

house, it will be observed that the

magnificent equippages furnished by Mr. Edwards cost the province a good round sum. The accounts also showed that the member for Klings (Pugs-ley) had been paid \$50 for one service and the sum of \$350 for his work in connection with the Eastern Extension claim. It also appeared that Mr. Landry was paid \$100 for translating the debates into French, and that Mr. Ventot had been paid \$200 for a similar service. He doubted the propriety of paying individual members of the house for services, and said it was a question whether it was not infringing upon the rules of the house. In most parliaments such action would certainly be an infringement upon the independence of parliament act. If the province was to pay for the translation of debates it was not right that the money should be paid for translations for papers not published in the province, and he believed that one of the items that he had spoken of was for the translating of the debates for a paper published in the province of Nova Scotila. If the money was spent in order to give our Acadian citizens information as to what was going on in the legislative assembly of New Brunswick, then such a paper as the Monliteur Acadien, with its large circulation and influence should be put on at least as good a footing as the Evangeline, published in the province of Nova Scotia, which he had reason to believe had only a limited circulation in this province compared with the Moniteur Acadien. The \$200 given to Mr. Veniot was for the translation of the debates for publication in a paper at Bathurst. The money seemed to have been expended more with the idea of getting votes for the government than in the public interest. The accounts showed He would express liquor license fees, taxes on incor- that the Fredericton Gas Co. had been paid \$1,355 last year, as comletters patent. They had also received pared with \$419 paid the previous year, and 'last year's accounts show that \$599.81 of the amount paid the Fredericton Gas Co. was for the quarter ending May 1st, 1898. There should be some explanation as to why this amount had not been paid in 1898. It appeared that the sum of \$698 was paid for sorting out papers, but no explanation was made with respect to the matter. By reference to the Auditor General's Report, page 49, it appeared that S. D. Simmons was paid \$60 for services night sessions. There was no explanation of this item, and if it was for work in connection with reporting the night sessions, this amount should have been paid by the official reporter. Under the heading of exe-

> the surveyor general. The account shows that in addition to the travelling expenses of \$800 last year for the provincial secretary, there were items of \$250 and \$500 on account of the travelling expenses of the provincial secretary for 1898. No reference was made to the travelling expenses of the chief commissioner of public works, but he assumed that these appeared in connection with the miscellanecus expenses of the department of public works. Why did not the total travelling expenses of the provincial secretary for 1898 appear in the accounts of ince upwards of \$4,000. that year, and why was it that the travelling expenses of the present provincial secretary cost the province \$800, while the travelling expenses of the late Hon. Mr. Mitchell while he was provincial secretary amounted to cally \$250? There was no reason why there should be such great difference in the amount paid Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Tweedie on account of travelling expenses. Some reason for this great difference should be given, as it was unreasonable that the present provincial secretary's travelling expenses should exceed those of the Hon. Mr. Mitchell by the rate of three to one, and why was it that the amount charged by the present provincial secretary for travelling expenses was carried over in a large part from 1898 to 1899? Was it that he did not wish to swell the over-expenditure of 1898? The total travelling expenses of members of the executive for the year amounted to the encrmous sum of \$4,700, and that did not include the travelling expenses of the chief commissioner, which, placed at \$800 more would make a total of \$5,500, and this was an amount far more than the services warrant. Pessing on we find under the head of miscellaneous items the sum of \$150 reid Mr. Skinner for services, and another amount paid Mr. Friel for services in 1898, and then there were sums of smaller amounts in connection with succession duties. This was work that might be fairly done by the law officers of the crown.

THEN THERE WERE ITEMS

WE WERE TOLD make the house and country would be ing should be made in the controllable the other day by the leader of the

sovernment of the enormous work done by the present chief commissioner when he was the auditor general of the province, but when it was the area of \$100 paid W. K. Reynolds on account; on what account is not stated; and items of \$53 paid C. C. the independent position occupied by the auditor general of the dominion.

At Ottawa the auditor general of the dominion.

At Ottawa the auditor general can only be removed by a joint vote of the senate and house of commons. As cn the work of education, the road and bridge work and the other great public services. The apparent surplus would have been greatly lessened, if rot entirely wiped out, if all the bills of the past year had been paid and not carried over into the accounts of this year, as he believed many of them were. The accounts as submitted showed that many sums due in 1898 were not paid until last year. The opposition were charged with dealing should be paid for the preparation of government measures or for the settling of succession duties. Public printing last year had been estimated printing last year had been estimated an Englishman to the mother country, at \$11,000. The accounts showed that and his labors were without results. \$11,785.30 had been paid out in connection with this service. Of this sum said should have been paid during the \$4,991.10 had been paid the Fredericton Herald, the organ of the government in this city. There had been paid to R. D. Robinson & Co., \$919.69 for 300 copies of the agricultural report, \$84 for bills for the legislative assembly and \$76 for printing the commission Queen's counsel parchment. The Daily Telegraph of St. John, which had published the educational and auditor general's reports, had been paid \$2,158.54. Mr. Bowes received upwards of \$1,300 for various items of printing, including 1,200 copies of the auditor general's report. J. & A. McMillan had received \$332 for public printing, and D. G. Smith had been paid \$270, \$150 of which was on account of the lunatic asylum report. Various other items of public printing, which did not appear under the regular heading, would bring the printing bill of last year up to \$12,685, instead of \$11,000 and odd, as given in the auditor general's report. This question of public printing was a somewhat serious one, and it could rot be denied that some \$13,000 was a very large amount to pay for public printing.

HE HELD IN HIS HANDS a memoranda furnished by a reputatle printing establishment in this province showing that at least 40 per cent could be saved to the province on the matter of public printing if a different system prevailed from the present. If the work was put up to competition instead of giving it to political favorites, as is the case present. The memoranda which he had showed the cost of printing of some of the public reports for the year 1896. The public health report had cost \$387.05. According to his memoranda the cost of the 1,200 of this report should have been \$235 instead of the \$387. The auditor general's report. 2.000 copies, which cost the province \$1,085, should have cost \$600. The board of works report, which cost \$335 for 1,200 copies, should have cost \$168. The agricultural re pert, 2,500 copies, which cost \$1,169, should have cost \$716. The educational report, 2,000 copies, which cost \$1,259, should have cost \$624. The surveyor general's report, 2,000 copies, cost the province in 1896 the sum of \$354, and should have cost only \$208. The lunatic esylum report, 1,000 copies, which cost \$225, should have cost but \$90. These various reports in 1896 had cost a total of \$4,047.11, and, according to the memoranda which he held in his hand, the total cost should have been \$2.641. which would show a saving of more than 40 per cent to the province. The memoranda which he had read was accompanied by a letter from the publishing house offering to do the work at the lesser amount named. In this letter the following statement was glad to do the work for. Auditor genwould be printed for \$600; could be smaller type, such as is used in the cominion auditor general's report. As were put more closely together; is pages. Public health report, 1,200 cutive government the travelling expenses of members were placed at though not more than six or so pages printed for \$168. At least 10 or more he made right there, to put in a first of \$450, as the travelling expenses of the attorney general, \$800 as travelling pages could be saved if properly printed. Agricultural report, 2,500 copies, would give him a bonus, but they will expenses for the provincial secretary, and \$770 as the travelling expenses of 308 pages, worth for printing \$566,

> THERE WAS NO REASON why the public printing should not be put up for public competition, and under this system thousands of dollars could be saved to the province. Although the rate of postage had been reduced recently, we find the postage in connection with the public offices of this province had only been reduced the past year by the small sum of \$27. While this government went into office with a declaration that they would be economical, the record shows that they have not carried out their promises in this regard. The expenses of many of the departments have very greatly increased during the past several years. In 1892 the salaries paid in the public works department aggregated \$3,300, and last year the salary list in that department amounted to \$6,870. Why should there be this great increase of \$3,570 in the expenses of the public works department? The only additional work on the department was in connection with the preparation of plans for the permanent bridges, and that could not possibly justify such an enormous increase in the expenses of the department. What was said with respect to the office of chief commissioner could also be said with respect to the expenses of the

do for \$2.641 work which cost the prov-

of immigration, and he doubted very much if this expenditure would result in a single soul being added to the settlements of New Brunswick. Some few years ago the government. sent and there was very little accomplished as a result of the dominion government's sending Mr. Devlin to Ireland country. It appeared to him (Hazen) that better results to the province would be obtained if efforts were made by the government to keep our own young men at home by providing good roads and increased educational advantages than in seeking immigration from other countries. FAULT HAD BEEN ROUND

with the surveyor general for not do-

the surveyor general's stocking of

Loch Lomond with trout at an expense of \$300 to the province would be productive of beneficial results. (Laughter.) Turning to the items under the heading of agriculture, it is made to appear that upwards of \$34,000 were spent for that service. Under this item are included the salaries paid the commissioner of agriculture and all the other officers of the department, as well as the travelling expenses of the commissioner of agriculture, and in this way a much larger sum is made to appear as being, expended for agriculture than is really expended. Why should the salaries of the commissioner of agriculture and his assistants not be charged under the heading of executive government, as was the case with the other departments, with the exception of the travelling expenses of the chief commissioner of public works, to which he had already called attention? The object of this method of bookkeeping seems to be to create the impression among the farmers that more is being expended by the government for agriculture than really is being expended, and at the same time to leave the impression in the country that less i being paid out for executive government than is really the case. The amount paid out of the agricultural grant for salaries was quite a large item, and in the performance of their work some of the officials in the pay

of the agricultural department seemed

to have a larger eye with respect to

the political fortunes of the government than to the interests of the farmers. He had RECEIVED A LETTER from a prominent gentleman residing. in Carleton, and he would read extracts from that letter for the information of the house. The writer said: "To my mind, agricultural meetings should be free of politics, but Mr. Labilliois devotes his time in this county to talking about what the government has done, just as if we did not know who had done the work. If the people's money is to be used to pay him to go around speaking for the government, under the pretext of institute work, it is time we knew it. They have taken the institute work out of made: "Books arrived yesterday, the hands of the association, and will roon, and we have gone over them not recognize us because we chose men pretty carefully. In making up the for officers that were conservatives in estimates the figures given show a politics. A strange fact in connection good profit, and which we would be with this is that nearly all our best men are conservatives in politics. eral's report, 2,000 copies, 306 pages, It amounts to this: We can support the government, pass esolumade nearly a third less pages if in tions to suit them and their followers, or pack our grips and get out. word about our flour mills. In Woodit is, it is spread too much and could stock they have given a bonus to a be put in 12 or 15 pages less if type mill that is only an old rat trap. You should get a picture of it and show clearly spread out to make more it in the house of assembly, to let the members see where the people's money copies, 140 pages, could be printed for is spent. In the upper part of th \$235. This is also spread out too much, | county, at Bristol, is a miller by the name of George Brittain: has now an could be saved. Board of works re- excellent mill in good running order: port, 1,200 copies, 108 pages, could be does good work; has the means, which class flour mill if the government not. He don't support them in elecbinding \$150, making a total of \$716. tions. The government claim that he This report is also too loosely set. has not the power to drive the mill. Educational report, 2,000 copies; 276 but that is too thin. Brittain is not pages, worth \$624, well printed. Crown the man to expend money on a mill land report, 2,000 ccpies, 100 pages; without knowing where his power worth \$208. Report lunatic asylum, was coming from. In the meantime 1,000 copies, 64 rages, worth \$90; we have to get along in the old way lengthened out too much; could be. because Mr. Brittain will not sell ou made at least 12 pages less. As menhis principles. I regret very much tioned before, these prices are first that the government has made a policlass. Money could be made by detical issue of their agriculture. They ducting ten per cent from the figures have given a blow to the Farmers' we give." Here we have an offer to and Dairymen's Association, from which it will not readily recover. Continuing, MA Hazen said if reforms were necessary in 1882, when the present minister of railways and canals moved his resolution in this house setting forth that the controllable expenditure of government should be cut down, there is greater need for a policy of economy at the present time Mr. Blair commenced his policy of reform, on assuming the leadership of the government, in good faith, by cutting down the salaries of the members of the executive, and promising

of the government. AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, however, the cost of government be gan to increase and has kept on increasing ever since. The government should turn its attention immediately to the reduction of controllable expenditure. Why should this province have six paid members of government, when in the province of Nova Scotis they are able to get along with three executive heads? It might be a wise policy to increase the salaries of de partmental heads, if that was neces sary, in order that the number of the executive should be reduced. The representation in this house of 46 members was very large in comparison with Nova Scotia, where the member ship of the legislature was 38 or 39. provincial secretary's office. In 1891 He was in favor of a redistribution of the salaries in connection with the the seats and a reduction in the provincial secretary's office amounted number of the representatives in this to \$3,456, while the salary list in that house. He felt that the public acoffice last year was \$5,800. It is not counts of the province did not give desirable that these salaries should go the information that they should, and on increasing in this way, and it was in saying this he made no reflection necessary in the public interest that | upon the gentlemen who occupied the

a reduction in the number of member:

the auditor general at Ottawa was able to cave large sums of money yearly by his supervision of the ex-perditures and by his criticisms of amounts which he considered excessive. No matter what party was in power at Ottawa he was able to call attention of miristers to what he considered mistakes, and to even criticize their conduct, without feeling his position was in danger. In this province he believed that the auditor general often did not have the accounts for his investigation. His duty seemed to be only to see that there were vouchers for the bills, and he had no authority to decide upon the question as to whether the bills were xcessive or not.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL of this province should be put in resition by which he could not be reing his duty to the fullest extent as moved from his office except by a twocitizen, but he (Hazen) hoped that third or three-fifths vote of the house. In his budget speech the provincial secretary had not given the house a ray of hope that the controllable expenditures would be reduced. He advised the government not to be too angrine of the early settlement of the Eastern Extension claims, or of the refund of the fishery licenses. It was time for us to proceed cautiously, as there was more necessity now for reform than there was when the hon. gentleman who then represented York moved his resolution of reform upwards of sixteen years ago, notwithstanding the fact that we have now many sources of revenue not then available to the province. (Applause.)

> Mayor Sears has received for the New Brunewick fund for the second contingent \$10.15; the proceeds of a collection at a patriotic entertainment held at Elgin, N. B., a few days ago.

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