

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1905.

PREMIER TWEEDE ANNOUNCES A SURPLUS OF \$16,500

Budget Speech Buoyant in Tone--Lumber Conditions Better--Changes in Game Laws and Succession Duties--The Great Industry at Grand Falls Is Certain--Guides' Association Rapped--Credit of the Province High--Company After the Restigouche Railway--Dominion Slow in Paying Fishery Claims.

Fredericton, N. B., March 21.—(Special)—Premier Tweede brought down the budget in the house this evening and, after speaking for little more than an hour, moved adjournment of the debate, which was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

The premier was in good form and his remarks were well received and frequently applauded. He said: "The financial statement of the affairs of the province is a matter of the greatest interest to persons on both sides of the house. It is of interest to the supporters of the government because it enables them to judge whether the government continues to be worthy of their support. It is of interest to the opposition of the government because it gives them material with which to attack it."

Lumber.—During the past year the condition of the province has been fairly prosperous although there has been a depression in the lumber industry. This depression cast a gloom over the operators for they feared that it was likely to last a long time. Unfortunately it came at a time when a change had been made in the rate of stumpage.

This house is aware that for many years the rate for spruce was \$1 a thousand and the millage \$8 a mile, with the right to renew each year for \$1.

After the twenty-five years system of leases was adopted a great many persons obtained leases at an upset price of \$5, which in a few years became extremely valuable for the price of lumber kept going up until it reached its highest point about three years ago.

When the depression came efforts were made by the lumbermen to have the stumpage reduced. It was argued that that trade could not stand the increased rates. But the government had been making a great deal of money for several years and that the lands they had leased had increased immensely in value.

One result of the increase has been that our territorial revenue was larger last year than ever before, reaching the large sum of \$2,948,424. There is, therefore, no reason to doubt the value of the timber lands of the province, nor is there any reason for saying that we are oppressing this industry.

Some people have affirmed that the policy of the Quebec government is more favorable to the lumbermen than ours, but those who have lumbered in both provinces and who have a right to know, prefer the conditions that exist in New Brunswick. The great increase that has taken place in our territorial revenue shows that we have in our lumber lands an asset of great value, and that is one of the reasons why our credit is the best of any province in Canada.

It is hardly necessary for me to go into a statement of debt and expenditure for the past year, for our friends opposite have been asking so many questions that they must possess most of that information already. They have a right to ask these questions and I am sure they will acquire the government of endeavoring to withhold information. On the fifth page of the auditor general's report will be found a statement of the liabilities and assets of the province. Taking up the liabilities of the province we have first the chief item of debt, being the provincial debentures representing a total sum of \$3,700,846.86, showing an increase during the year of \$54,500.

comparing with the estimates it will be seen that we made an excellent forecast of the probable extent of the province's receipts being something over \$12,000 in excess of our estimate. The territorial revenue was greater by \$21,000 than we estimated. The success duties exceeded the estimate by nearly \$10,000. There has been a great deal of criticism in regard to the collection of these duties. It is a very difficult matter to obtain accurate statements of the value of estates for no one wishes to pay more than he can help. From my own experience when I was acting attorney general I knew something of the work that the attorney general has to do to obtain correct information. I think a change should be made in the value of an estate liable to duty. In Nova Scotia the amount is \$25,000, here it is \$50,000, and there are very few estates which reach that sum.

A Change Likely.—Mr. Hazen—Do you contemplate reducing the amount? Hon. Mr. Tweede—The matter is not yet decided, but I think it would be wise to do so.

Our estimate of the amount obtained from the dominion government on account of wharves was nearly \$7,000 more than the sum received. This is due to the fact that there is a great deal of red tape and delay in paying such claims. The dominion government has agreed to pay one-half of the cost of certain wharves on the tidal waters of the St. John river. This is done on the report of their engineer and sometimes there is much delay in obtaining this report. The amount however, is due and it will be paid. There is a sum of upwards of \$12,000 on account of fishery leases due by the dominion government, which I estimated for last year. This sum has not yet been paid. I intend to keep this sum in the estimates and I expect to get it for the money has been promised. It was promised both by the minister of marine and the minister of justice, and I may say that every statement that has been made by the attorney general and myself in regard to our dealings with the dominion government has been the absolute truth.

There have been many changes in the fisheries department since this claim was first made. It was started in the time of Sir Louis Davies and now we are ending with Mr. Prentiss. Any one who goes to Ottawa to press a claim like this must often be sick at heart as I have been when on such missions. The only thing we can do is to keep continually pressing these claims and I feel that we can rely on the promise that have been made to us all these outstanding matters will be settled in a satisfactory manner.

Rights of the Province.—This is no reason why our fishery claims should be a debt. Under the decision of the Privy Council we own the land above which the fisheries are carried on. We could stop the leasing of oyster beds and we could stop the fishing for salmon, lobsters and smelts in tidal waters if we wished. We could limit the number of boats in all these fisheries, but we don't wish to take any such extreme steps.

Honorable gentlemen know that after confederation the dominion government had no right to control our inland fisheries, but the fisheries on our inland waters, and to sell the right to fish which belonged to us. We have been obtaining a revenue of from \$5,000 to \$12,000 a year for several years past from our inland fisheries, and we have a right claim against the dominion government for taking away our revenue from these fisheries for so many years. That is a claim which we are pressing and in which we ought to receive the support of both sides of the house.

Finances.—It is hardly necessary for me to go into a statement of debt and expenditure for the past year, for our friends opposite have been asking so many questions that they must possess most of that information already. They have a right to ask these questions and I am sure they will acquire the government of endeavoring to withhold information. On the fifth page of the auditor general's report will be found a statement of the liabilities and assets of the province. Taking up the liabilities of the province we have first the chief item of debt, being the provincial debentures representing a total sum of \$3,700,846.86, showing an increase during the year of \$54,500.

The increase arises as follows: St. John Inland, \$250,000; Beauséjour Railway, \$11,000; New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company, \$44,500; Bonds redeemed, \$28,000; Smallpox epidemic, \$3,500—\$34,500. The rate of interest on these bonds runs from three to six per cent, the average being nearly four per cent. There are now \$622,000 of six per cent bonds outstanding which will fall due up to the year 1911. Of these \$289,000 fall due this year and \$119,000 next year. Provision has been made to redeem these bonds which they fall due. The outlook at present is not encouraging for the sale of bonds, and it may be expedient for the province to resort to short term loans to meet these maturing bonds.

Our Credit High.—Some gentlemen are aware that when business is brisk and capital is in demand bonds cannot be sold so readily as in times of depression. In 1898 I sold upwards of a million dollars worth of three per cent bonds at 98. Last year the premier of Nova Scotia went to England to sell three million dollars worth of 3 1/2 bonds, and all he could get for that was 94 which, when all the

commissions were paid did not amount to over 90. I only speak of this to show I am not only a good time to sell bonds. In 1908 I placed \$50,000 worth of three and a half per cent bonds at 96, whereas the Nova Scotia loan of last year only realized 94. This is an evidence that this government is not neglecting the interests of the province and that its credit is good. No province of Canada has in recent years sold its bonds as well as we have. We do not require to go to England to sell our bonds, but we can dispose of them in our own dominion. We will see what is best to be done when these bonds mature. If, like the province of Nova Scotia, we owed the bank \$2,000,000, we might be in a difficulty, but that is not our case. We are not forced to sell bonds at a sacrifice. But if an opportunity should occur to effect a good sale I think it would be deemed these maturing bonds even if they were not all due at the time of the sale.

The amount of four per cent debentures contains an item of \$2,000, representing the amount of four bonds called in in 1898, but which were not presented for payment. Within the past few days these bonds have come in and have been paid, the holders alleging they were not aware the bonds had been called in. The government has decided that it would meet the equities of the case to pay interest at the rate of 3 per cent. I have not yet paid 4 per cent, it would encourage others to hold back their bonds after they had been called in.

The provincial hospital comes next, showing an over expenditure of \$17,794, the amount in the previous year was \$14,806, showing an increase in this liability of \$2,987.

Bridges.—The board of works accounts show a balance on ordinary account overdrawn of \$5,133, and an advance for permanent buildings of \$83,292. This question of permanent buildings has been discussed pretty often in this house. I think we are getting pretty near the end of our expenditure for this purpose. I am glad that the policy of using covered wooden buildings has been largely adopted. I think them almost equal to steel buildings in many cases, and they are much more economical. For steel buildings have to be painted every once or twice a year.

There is an item of \$2,585 in the department of that, for when a bounty was granted before it involved us in an enormous expense. They propose licenses for dealers in game meat and for taxidermists, and I think that is a good suggestion. They propose to prohibit the carrying of guns or rifles in the close season, and that also is worthy of consideration. It is also suggested that there should be a tag for moose heads corresponding with the number of the game license as to be able to ascertain if a moose has been killed by a duly licensed person. The guides also suggest a bounty on wild cats, but I think that we have had enough of that, for when a bounty was granted before it involved us in an enormous expense. They propose licenses for dealers in game meat and for taxidermists, and I think that is a good suggestion.

Grand Falls Development.—There is among the liabilities of the province an item of \$10,000 under the heading Grand Falls Water Power Co. This is a liability which was incurred by the act of assembly. The balance required, \$40,000, was deposited on the first of March this year by the company proposing to develop the water power at Grand Falls. We think this is a proof of the care of the government for province interests. We have established the principle of carrying out the development of valuable franchises should make a deposit with the government as a guarantee of good faith.

The condition of this deposit is that if the company carry out their proposal to complete their work and expend \$50,000 at Grand Falls within five years we will return them their money with three per cent interest. As the persons who form this company are business men there is no doubt that their scheme will be carried out. This is a matter of vast importance to the province, and the idea of the company is not only to expand a large sum in harnessing the water power but to supply electricity to places as far away as St. John's.

A Big Plan.—They have a minimum power of 30,000 horse power and they propose to build the largest pulp and paper mill in the world, with a capacity of 600 tons a day. Although gentlemen have already been made with American parties for the purchase of 400 tons of paper a day when the mill is in operation. This means also the taking over of the lumber lands of \$2,500,000 of the railway from St. Leonard's to Campbellton. The government, I think, can look with pride to their action in this matter.

But if we wish to have immigration we can obtain employment when they come here. If the industries to be developed by the Grand Falls water power could not employ the usual number of men, a powerful immigration agent will follow. I think the dominion government should pay more attention to these eastern provinces and attempt to bring in a portion of the emigration expenditure to them, instead of sending all the immigrants to the Northwest.

We expended \$2,000 on the Champlain terrace. Some people objected to this, and I had my own doubts. I think when people desire to get up a celebration they should help themselves. This province has more money to the people than any other in the dominion. The result is disastrous to public spirit, for the people expect the government to do everything. People ought to learn to help themselves. One good public spirited citizen is worth more than all the government can give.

The expenditures on account of the dead and dumb institutions, Fredericton, amounted to \$410,000. Mr. Hazen—What about the St. John institution? Hon. Mr. Tweede—We propose to give it the usual grant. Most of the dead and dumb children are there now, and the school is reported to be in a flourishing condition.

The expenditures for contingencies are about the usual figures. This account embraces the running expenses of the province for departmental and legislative equipment. The total amount was \$13,236, about one-half of which was expended on account of the legislative assembly. The expenditures for education was \$203,745, which was \$8,369 less than estimated.

The Matter of Our Universities.—Some people complain of the grant we give the university and say that Mount Allison and St. Joseph ought to receive a grant. I cannot see that these institutions stand in the same category as our university. It is a part of the educational system. Dealing with the estimates for the present year, Mr. Tweede said: Last night, when I moved the adjournment of the debate, I was speaking of the debt and assets of the province, and I drew attention to the fact that a large amount of six per cent debentures would fall due during the next six years, which would be replaced by bonds at a low rate of interest. Besides that, there will be a number of four per cent bonds coming due, and on the whole we expect to save at least \$15,000 a year in interest of these bonds. I will be glad to see the finance minister of this province, whoever he may be, to place a loan for an amount sufficient to cover them when a good opportunity arises, and to leave the balance at interest for the purpose of taking them up when they fall due. The whole sum will be retired in this way amounts to about \$225,000.

The order of the day being called, Hon. Mr. Tweede said: Last night, when I moved the adjournment of the debate, I was speaking of the debt and assets of the province, and I drew attention to the fact that a large amount of six per cent debentures would fall due during the next six years, which would be replaced by bonds at a low rate of interest. Besides that, there will be a number of four per cent bonds coming due, and on the whole we expect to save at least \$15,000 a year in interest of these bonds. I will be glad to see the finance minister of this province, whoever he may be, to place a loan for an amount sufficient to cover them when a good opportunity arises, and to leave the balance at interest for the purpose of taking them up when they fall due. The whole sum will be retired in this way amounts to about \$225,000.

Turning to the expenditure of the year, I find that the item for the administration of justice amounted to \$19,153, showing an excess of \$2,000 over the estimate. This excess was caused by an under estimate of the amount of jury fees. The expenditure for agriculture was \$35,510, or \$908 less than estimated. The particulars will be found in the auditor general's report.

Exhibition Salaries Too Much.—The sum of \$1,100 was expended on exhibitions. Sometimes doubts are expressed as to the utility of such expenditures. Looking at the St. John exhibition, where the receipts amounted to \$20,000, it has seemed to me that too much money was expended on salaries in proportion to the amounts given for prizes. In some places complaints have been made that exhibitions are degenerating into mere shows.

In Charlottetown we have a splendid exhibition building, in which three exhibitions have been held, and at which we have received altogether the sum of \$3,000. We are able to hold an exhibition in Charlottetown, and I regret that the persons to whom assistance was offered for the purchase of land in Charlottetown appear to have misunderstood our ability to help them and refused to take the money. I feel that satisfied from the failure of the crops are cutters to our sympathy and our aid as far as we can give it.

Additional \$1,000 for Mr. Duff-Miller.—For the agent-general in London we paid the sum of \$1,000. This gentleman expends much more than that on visitors from this province, who go to London. We propose to increase the amount to \$2,000. Every one speaks most highly of his courtesy at London to visitors from this province.

With regard to the question of emigration from London, three years ago I recognized the difficulty under which we labor in regard to obtaining immigrants. The policy of the dominion government favored sending them to these western provinces. I think a great pity there is not a suitable building in London connected with the immigration commissioner's office, in which each year to arrange it so that members of the legislature will visit that school.

I am pleased to find that ex-governor McClean intends to give a large sum to establish a consolidated school at Riverview. I hope other schools of the same class will be started. The expenditure on account of executive government was \$3,052, which was less than the estimate, for fisheries protection, \$3,332; protection of crown lands, \$1,078; factory commission, \$500.

Smallpox Was Costly.—An estimate of \$13,600 was made for public health, including smallpox. The expenditure reached \$18,672—the ordinary expense of the provincial board, \$1,005, and smallpox, \$17,667. The total cost of the smallpox epidemic to the close of the fiscal year 1904 was \$83,581. Authority was given to issue bonds to the extent of \$70,000 to provide for the unusual expenditure caused by this epidemic. Of this, \$65,000 have been paid off.

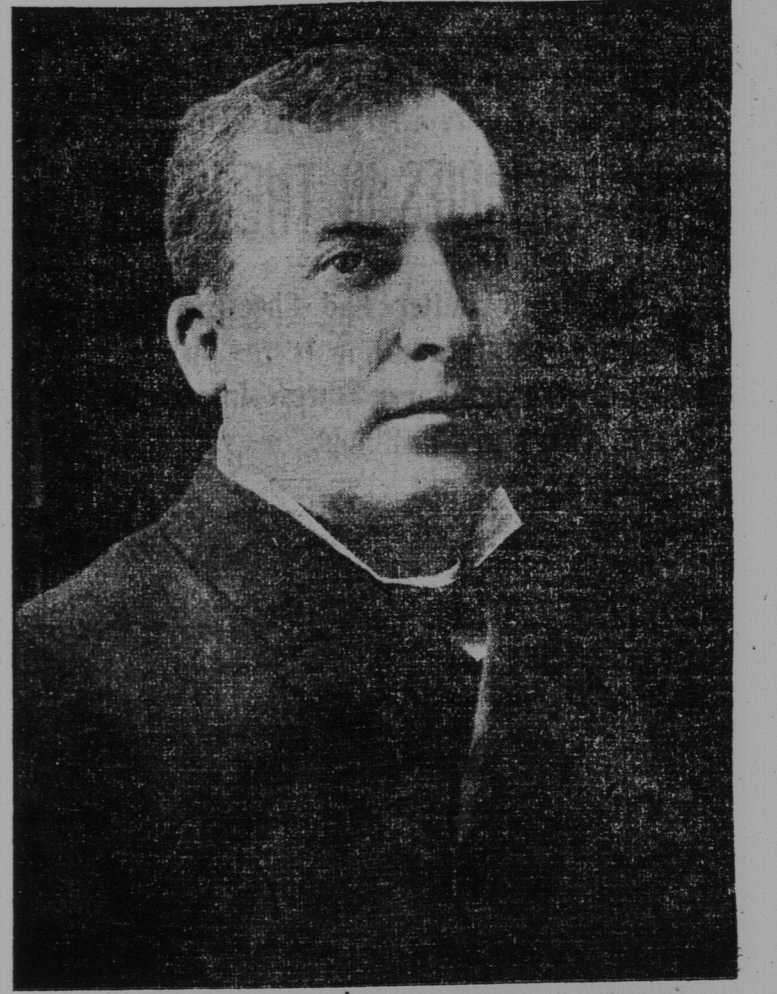
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The largest item in the interest account is the coupons upon the bonded debt. These to the amount of \$135,938 were paid last year, leaving \$5,510 of overdue coupons outstanding. The average interest paid upon the bonded debt was nearly four per cent but this rate will be materially reduced when the six per cent bonds now nearing maturity are paid off.

The expenditure on account of the legislative assembly was \$29,434. There was an increase of \$9,000 caused by the increase in the indemnity. The expenditure on mining account was \$9,579. Most of this expenditure was on account of the diamond drill which is almost constantly in use. It is now operating at Lepreau, where there are said to be large deposits of iron likely to become extremely valuable.

Perhaps Enlarge Asylum Annex.—The expenditure on the provincial hospital amounted to \$29,958 and the balance against the institution at the close of the year was \$17,754. We have appointed Dr. Anglin superintendent. I have every confidence we have made a wise selection. He has made many suggestions towards improvement. Two physicians were appointed to examine the patients and they report 51 per cent of the patients could be taken care of elsewhere. The difficulty has arisen from certificates of insanity being too freely granted by physicians. Some people seem to have feared we intended to turn these people out but there is no such intention. We realize they must be cared for and many can be placed in the annex, which can be enlarged and leave more room for the insane who can be improved by treatment. A bill will be introduced to carry out some of the suggestions. The effect will be to make it more difficult to get people into the hospital.

Dealing with the estimates for the present year, Mr. Tweede said: Last night, when I moved the adjournment of the debate, I was speaking of the debt and assets of the province, and I drew attention to the fact that a large amount of six per cent debentures would fall due during the next six years, which would be replaced by bonds at a low rate of interest. Besides that, there will be a number of four per cent bonds coming due, and on the whole we expect to save at least \$15,000 a year in interest of these bonds. I will be glad to see the finance minister of this province, whoever he may be, to place a loan for an amount sufficient to cover them when a good opportunity arises, and to leave the balance at interest for the purpose of taking them up when they fall due. The whole sum will be retired in this way amounts to about \$225,000.



NEW BRUNSWICK'S PREMIER, HON. L. J. TWEEDIE

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A reference to the educational report shows that our country schools are not increasing. It is difficult to get teachers, and 400 districts were without schools last year. I hope to see a change in the law increasing the county school fund to fifty cents, and I will also advocate the appointment of trustees for whole parishes, instead of for districts, to overcome the influence of uneducated men, who may be county district trustees, and who have no appreciation of the benefits of education or desire to see their children better educated than themselves.

We have now at Kingston a consolidated school, which has been founded by the liberality of Sir William Macdonald and the energy of Prof. Robertson. I visited it last fall, and was delighted at what I saw there. This school will be supported for three years by the Macdonald fund, after which the province will take charge of it. Prof. Robertson tells me that he intends to make it one of the finest schools in the world. I am sure you would all be delighted to see it, and in June I will try to arrange it so that members of the legislature will visit that school.

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