Mr. Flemming on Budget Real Deficit of $300,000

Provincial Opposition Will Never Oppose Any Legitimate Scheme for the Development of the Province and Its Resources---Public Debt Increased Nearly $900,000---The Provincial Subsidies---Misleading Reports---Government's Railway Policy---Highway Act and Grants in Aid of Agriculture.

In the House on Friday afternoon and evening Mr. J. Kidd Flemming, M. P. P., of Carleton, the brilliant and earnest financial critic of the Opposition, added another success to the already large number that he has scored while in the House as the representative of the County of Carleton.

Mr. Flemming spoke for about three hours and his effort was declared by the many who thronged the galleries to be an excellent one and characterized with unusual fairness.

Mr. J. K. Flemming.

The order of the day being called, Mr. Flemming said: On rising to make some observations to the House upon the financial affairs of the province and in answer to the statement of the Attorney General, I wish to be governed as on previous occasions I have been governed, by moderation and regard for accuracy of statement. I hope the debate begun by the Premier may be carried on in so conciliatory a tone that when he replies, as he will, he will not allow himself to lose his temper as he did last year and resort to such extreme language. So far as I am concerned, I want to be fair and candid, to make no statement that I cannot substantiate by the records, so that hon. gentlemen cannot deny the correctness of my statement, though they may draw other conclusions than mine from them. Last year I held in my hand the report of the Public Accounts and I said no more.

Inaccurate and Misleading Reports

could be produced by sane men.

That statement may be applied to the report of this year. Last year the hon. Solicitor General, replying to my criticism, said the system followed in the report was a system in vogue since Confederation, and therefore apparently not open to criticism because of its age.

All listened with pleasure to the remarks of the Premier during the past few days. Naturally, there was more than the ordinary pleasure because of his eloquence and the flowery language in which he clothed his ideas. I lack the flowery eloquence of the hon. gentleman, but the stern logic of facts stands in my support. His remarks were interesting largely because old friends were discussed, familiar stories told. He even went back to the eastern extension claims, the Halifax award, and with the same eloquence, paragraphs and phrases, as in the past four years. One old friend was absent. There was no reference to the representation case, the means of bringing so many dollars in the Attorney General's way. In the past we are told by the hon. gentleman that the case to be submitted by him to the Privy Council in reference to this matter was absolutely unanswerable. Well, he went before the Privy Council and presented his case. So unanswerable was it that their lordships decided offhand and did not even hear the argument of the opposing counsel. But the province paid $5,000 for the Attorney General's failure and his four weeks' trip.

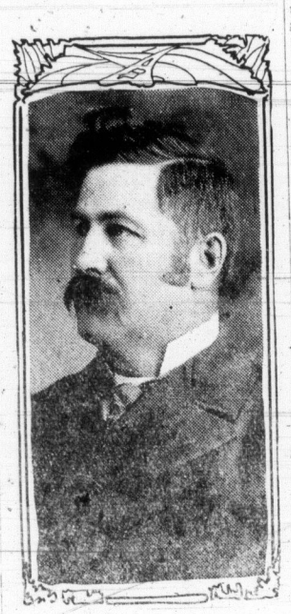
Hon. Mr. Pugsley's Politics.

In presenting the financial statement he gave much time to the increased subsidies. He went back to 1887 when the Quebec resolutions were passed, and was most condemnatory of the Ottawa Administration that held power from 1887 to 1896. One would have supposed that in those years this brilliant man would have been martialling forces against that administration. The facts show otherwise. During those years the hon. gentleman supported the government he now condemns. More than that, in 1896 the Conservative party of Kings tendered him the nomination as federal standard bearer. He accepted and in doing so declared his sympathy with the party. Now he condemns what he then upheld. But a few months from the date of the elections he withdrew from the fight and in a letter to the Kings Conservative Association he expressed his adhesion to Conservative principles and his wish for the success of the party. Further he said he retired to promote harmony. Shortly afterwards he went to St. John. There he adopted a new course. Two independent candidates were nominated, one of them the hon. gentleman. Was his desire to promote harmony in Conservative ranks? No, it was discord! Now you see him a Conservative in Kings, now an Independent in St. John, and again when Liberals are in the ascendancy he is a Liberal. He is, however,

A Liberal Pro Tem.

If the Liberals go out of power he will no doubt go back to his first love.

The Premier has tried hrad to give the impression that the Opposition leader and his supporters have been opposed to the increase in the subsidies. That, of course, was necessary for political effect, elections being on the near horizon. I take the first opportunity to correct the impression he has sought to give. In 1903, as shown by the synoptic report of the proceedings, Mr. Hazen, seconded by myself, put forward a resolution that an increased amount should be granted to the province by the Dominion for the maintenance of government and Legislature. Our position has not been that the subsidies should not be increased. Unfortunately, the condition of provincial finances make such increases desirable and necessary. That motion of 1903 simply voiced the opinion that the arrangement then proposed by the Tweedle government was unfair. The Opposition take the same ground to-day.



MR. J. K. FLEMMING.

Incidentally, I may say that it seemed remarkable to me that a challenge should be flung at the leader of the Opposition, for he is not a man to challenge with impunity. More will probably be heard of this challenge at a later date.

We Have to Pay $146,244.66 to Get $130,000.

Some months ago when announcement was made of readjustment of the subsidies, the St. John Sun rightly pointed out that the arrangement was not one to cause very great enthusiasm on the part of the people of the province. Since that time, its tone has inexplicably changed. When the Sun made its first comment it gave figures as I shall do in making the same point. In its later comments figures are avoided.

The province is to receive each year from the Dominion Treasury $130,000. The total amount given to it and other provinces is $2,372,068. Where does the money come from to make up this amount paid from the Dominion funds? Every dollar comes from the people of the provinces. The population of the Dominion, according to the last census, was 5,371,315. Therefore it may be calculated that the per capita amount paid from the increased subsidies is forty four and one-sixth cents. New Brunswick has a population of 331,120 and receives a total of $130,000, thus it will be seen the sum per capita paid the province is 39 cents. The province pays to the Dominion $146,244.66 and in return receives $130,000. The people of New Brunswick contribute as much per capita to the Dominion treasury as any people of the country. But let me emphasize that under the readjustment, for which the Premier takes such credit they pay $15,000 more than they receive. We on this side of the House are willing to abide by the judgment of the people. I have made our position clear. It seems to me that after all there has not been accomplished by the government such a great feat of financing. The people of the provinces have paid into the Dominion treasury $146,000, and after all the Premier's pleading the great philanthropists at Ottawa are good enough to hand back $130,000.

Provincial Debt Increased by $888,785.87.

The stranger coming into the House while the hon. gentleman was speaking might believe the province to be wonderfully strong financially. I will show that a country as strong as the Premier would have us believe New Brunswick to be should not have such large overdrafts on nearly all accounts. If as a practical man would do, we review the finances of the province we find the matter of debt not a very pleasing one. The Auditor General gives the debt at the great sum of $5,216,510.39. When people of a province of this size have such a depth it is time for thought and for capital attempts to better conditions. In 1905 the debt was not $5,216,510.39, but $4,327,724.52, an increase in the gross liabilities of $888,785.87. In fairness I must say that part of the increase is $700,000 for New Brunswick Coal and Railway bonds. There remains, however, $188,785.67 not accounted for in this way. Moreover, in the statement of liabilities there is no reckoning of the $150,000 guaranteed by the government on the bonds of the International Railway. I submit that this amount should be included. The province has endorsed that $150,000 and should be included among the liabilities. Added to $5,216,510.39, this $150,000 gives liabilities of $5,366,510.39. On the credit side of the account there is the balance at Ottawa of $5,299.39, sinking fund investments $147,907.63, consolidated revenue fund $77,616.09, Agricultural Department $1,847.91, and a less noteworthy item, estimated value New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company, $1,150,000. Let me demand the Ballot in passing that yesterday, when the Premier referred to the asset credited to the province at Ottawa, I asked him how much money the province had borrowed

(Continued on page 7).

A Woman's Back

Has many aches and pains caused by weaknesses and falling, or other displacement, of the pelvic organs. Other symptoms of female weakness are frequent headache, dizziness, imaginary specks or dark spots floating before the eyes, gnawing sensation in stomach, dragging or bearing down in lower abdominal or pelvic region, disagreeable drains from pelvic organs, faint spells with general weakness.

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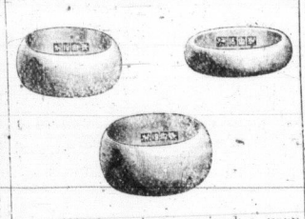
Fowler's



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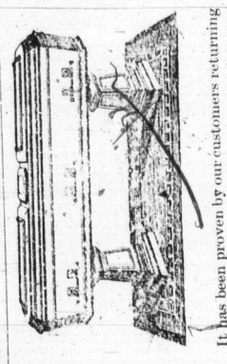

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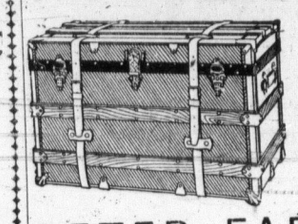

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