

# The Herald

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### Legislative Session.

The House resumed business on Tuesday 13th at 4.15. Before the regular order of business was taken up, Premier Matheson took occasion to refer to the continued absence from the House of Mr. James Kennedy the member for Kensington. He said it was much to be regretted that this continuous absence was due to illness. He trusted he would be sufficiently improved in health to be in his place before the House prorogued. After considerable routine business had been done and some private bills had been advanced a stage, Hon. Premier Matheson introduced a bill to amend the Road Act 1912. The estimates of expenditure were presented by message from the Lieutenant Governor. On motion of the Premier the estimates were laid on the table. The House then adjourned.

The House met at 12.20 on Wednesday. Routine business and the advancement of bills occupied the whole of the setting up to 12 o'clock. The House resumed after recess at 3.30. Several bills were passed through second and third readings and some other business of a routine character occupied the attention of the members up to 6 o'clock.

### THE BUDGET.

At the evening sitting Premier Matheson delivered his budget speech. He said it would be well now towards the close of the fourth session of this Legislature to take a retrospective view of the past. He said that on the 2nd day of December 1911 Liberal rule in this Province ceased after upwards of twenty years of office. He pointed out that on the eve of assuming office the present Government promised to terminate the era of deficits under which we had been groaning since Confederation. The first thing the present Government did was to appoint a commission of bankers to investigate the real financial condition of the Province, as far as possible. This commission reported that the debt and liabilities on Dec. 31, 1911 amounted to \$1,072,000. Each year since then the Government had reduced this indebtedness until on the 31st of December 1914 the debt was reduced to \$893,354. That is to say the present Government had reduced the debt of this Province to the extent of \$89,241. In addition to this the Government, paid the Walter Lowe claim of \$7,343, and a claim of which no record had been kept, making in all a total reduction of debt of \$100,000. The Premier here pointed out that last year the actual surplus over expenditure on the year's transactions was \$10,572 although the estimated surplus was only \$5,000. The surplus would have been much larger had it not been for the war, as the Government had contributed nearly \$21,000 on war account. The Premier said that in view of the above facts the Government surely had kept their promise to make revenue and expenditure meet. Besides all this the Government had added to the assets of the Province by the agricultural buildings and over \$100,000 in the department of Public Works in the shape of permanent bridges. All this required money and could not be accomplished under the old order of things with our small revenue

were placed at \$516,238. This would show a surplus of \$1,055. But to this must be added the sinking funds and interest thereon bringing the estimated reduction of debt up to \$19,323. Referring to the school supply department established by the Government, he said that under the superintendence of Mr. Landrigan, this new department had been a very much greater success than had been anticipated. Referring to the necessity of the preservation of health the Premier said it was the intention of the Government to establish a laboratory where tests and experiments would be carried on. Considering the importance of the duty placed upon us by the war he said he would ask the Legislature to allow the Government to have a wide discretion in making whatever financial provision might be necessary in this direction, during the present year. It was in connection with this, he said, that we should do our full duty in this matter. He hoped that there would be unanimity in this most important affair, and that we would not have any attempt at obstruction or opposition.

Mr. Richards, Leader of the opposition commenced his speech at 10.30. He offered a general criticism of the Government's operations. At 11.15 Mr. Richards moved the adjournment of the debate. The House then adjourned.

On Thursday the House did not meet until about 3.30. After advancing some bills one or two stages and some other routine business, the debate on the budget was resumed by Mr. Richards. He commenced speaking about 4.20. He devoted a considerable portion of his speech to a criticism of our educational system. He contended that the education now imported in our common schools was not as thorough as that of several years ago. He next criticized the Public Works Department. He said the expenses of the department, under the present government, were very much greater while the expenditures for public works were less last year than in 1911. He contended that the roads throughout the Province generally were in very poor condition. He next directed his attention to the Department of Agriculture. He said that whatever progress and advancement this department has made have been in consequence of its following the manner of administration pursued by the late Government. He supposed the ladies institutes were progressing very favorably. Meetings of ladies institutes, he felt sure, are always interesting, especially in the afternoon when a good cup of tea might be enjoyed. He thought drainage was a subject that might very well be developed by the Agricultural Department. He thought this Province had been ill-treated in the matter of providing horses for the war. In the other Maritime Provinces he said hundreds and hundreds of horses were bought for this purpose. He said the cost of the department of agriculture was now \$8,750 more per year than under the Liberal Government, but he did not believe he said, the work done was of equal expansion. He spoke for about a hour.

Mr. Simpson followed in the budget debate. He pointed out that the present Government had succeeded in making revenue and expenditure meet. In this they succeeded admirably, and nothing succeeds like success. He referred to the successful manner in which the present Government had presented our claims at Ottawa and secured the \$100,000 additional to our subsidy. In addition to this they secured \$25,000 a year for agriculture. Besides this we would have had a larger amount for our public roads, had not a partisan Liberal Senate prevented it.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon rose at ten minutes to six to take part in the budget debate. He said that before entering on the subject of the budget, he considered it proper to refer to a personal matter. This was in reference to a matter in which some members of Liberal administration which pre-

ceded it. The securing of \$100,000 additional subsidy; the \$26,000 grant for agriculture, and the other progressive operations of the present Government were passed under review. The Public Works department, the agriculture department, the education and other departments were eulogized by the speaker. He concluded at 10.10.

It was 12.30 when the House met on Friday forenoon. Routine business engaged the time until 1 o'clock.

The House resumed in the afternoon at 3.50. A number of bills were read a third time and passed. Then the Leader of the Government moved the House into committee for further consideration of the Prohibition Amendment Act. He prefaced his motion by stating that a movement was now on foot for affording to every member of the community an opportunity for taking a total abstinence pledge during the war. He said this movement was supported by his Lordship, the Bishop of Charlottetown, Canon Simpson, Rev. Dr. Fullerton, Rev. Mr. Dawson and other clergymen. Progress was reported at 5 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon resumed the debate on the budget. He thought the financial statement presented for last year was such as should satisfy any reasonable man. Notwithstanding the disarrangement of matters financial in consequence of the war, we have a substantial surplus on the year's transactions. We have had now three surpluses in succession something that we have not known since Confederation. After this getting what we wanted and what we hoped for in a financial way, we should be satisfied. This satisfactory financial condition was brought about by the wise management of the present Government. Dealing with a state of opposition to the effect that the salaries of the teachers for Dec. last had not been paid, but were carried over into this year, he pointed out from the records that all salaries due teachers for December had been paid except about \$500. He proceeded to controvert from authentic records other statements regarding education made by the leader of the opposition. Among other things he pointed out the great progress that had been made in agricultural education and women's institutes. He pointed out the advancement made by way of establishing agricultural buildings for Queen's County here in Charlottetown and for Prince County at Summerside. A like building would be provided for King's County in the near future. These buildings are to be the home and headquarters of the Professors in charge of the agricultural education in these respective Counties. Hon. J. A. McDonald spoke briefly on the budget and then moved the adjournment of the debate. After a report from the private bills committee, the House took recess.

House resumed in the evening at 8.45. Hon. J. A. McDonald continued the debate on the budget. He thought the present Government had kept its promises above all things, notwithstanding the statement of the Leader of the Opposition. Referring to the matter of transportation, he showed that the three short hauls, a grievance suffered for years and years, had been eliminated through the persistent efforts of the Government. But the great thing in this connection the car ferry, was practically an accomplished fact. He next referred to the great and constantly increasing improvements in the department of agriculture. The establishment of a supply department in connection with the system was of the greatest importance. The progressive system introduced into the department of Public Works next came in for laudation. He pointed out that the statement of the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that there was now a carnival of extravagance was wholly unsupported by any title of evidence.

Hon. Mr. Myers continued the debate commencing at 9.45. He went on to show by contrast, the superiority of the present progressive Government over the Liberal administration which preceded it. The securing of \$100,000 additional subsidy; the \$26,000 grant for agriculture, and the other progressive operations of the present Government were passed under review. The Public Works department, the agriculture department, the education and other departments were eulogized by the speaker. He concluded at 10.10.

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The news from the war during the last week has been meagre; but some of what did come was of a satisfactory character. Reports are coming these days of a very strenuous engagement between the Allies and Germans at a place called "Hill No. 6." This seems to be a point of considerable strategic importance in Belgium which was held by the Germans. The Allied forces attacked the position and drove off the Germans. They returned again and again; but each time were repulsed with much slaughter. Finally the Allies seem to have established themselves in complete control of the stronghold. In all other movements east and west the Germans do not seem to be making progress. The airplanes and submarines are taking part as usual. Late advices from Paris report the sinking of two Turkish torpedo boat destroyers in the Bosphorus.

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 Live Stock Breeders' Association,  
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(Continued from page 1)  
 and cabinet ministers proven thieves there toward two finest Conservative members ment against whom the breath of suspicion v What happened? Robert Borden defend Sir Wilfrid Laurier did in his party who were the most glaring fraud means. He had invest their conduct made satisfied that they had not clean, that they had in war contracts he country know that was no place for these day he read W. F. Garfield for Carleton and Arthur Foster out of the Conservative. Their constituents send them back to parliament. Hill, will be of them. And so Sir Borden has made a promise he made in d He told the people that he led must be clean government he formed. Bright. He has the having fulfilled his promise is wanted in his p is not prepared to ac standards he has set.

The Men of the Hour in Several of his mistakes added to their reputation the short session that is its beginning General was the man against whom of the attack was conceived. Today he is the man of the hour. He does things in a characteristic way, but he Hon. Dr. Roche has advanced public esteem. As the head of the Public Accounts Commission he has shown a straight He has been the man brought out truth and had placed the further in the hands of the Justice department. Hon. J. D. H. head of the naval service department had a trying especially at the beginning of the session, but he came the ordeal with colors. Perhaps he is another men of the hour. This war session other ministers less in evidence than the stands in the eye of the immeasurably higher did two months ago. It is which is a new thing, it is and it is British to the core.

Ottawa, April 15.—In his statement in regard report of the Public Accounts Committee, at the opening House this morning Sir Borden stated that the advance of the time, ordinary circumstances would have their review. He said, had been open government in connection investigation of one to rely on the stands in the eye of the immeasurably higher did two months ago. It is which is a new thing, it is and it is British to the core.