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Provincial Legislature.

—

House met at 3:45 Tuesday

afternoon, 15th.

After petitions and ques-

tions, the Leader of the Gov-

ernment presented a bill to

amend the game act, 1906.

Hon. Mr. Arsenault presented

a resolution on which to found

a bill respecting certain de-

partments of the public ser-

vice. On motion of Hon.

Mr. Arsenault, the bill to im-

pose a tax on foxes held in

captivity in this Province was

read a second time and sent

to committee. The object is

to tax the annual increase of

young foxes. The tax is to

be one per cent on the market

value of these young foxes of

each year. The Speaker took

the chair and the chairman

reported the bill agreed to

with amendments. It being

six o'clock, the House ad-

journed till 8 o'clock.

—

House reassembled at 8:45

p.m. On motion of the Leader

of the Government, the de-

bate on the budget was re-

sumed. Hon. J. A. McDonald

containing. He went on to

discuss the financial position

of the Province. He said the

best showing that could be

made on Dec. 31, 1911, was a

deficit of \$128,000; but on

Dec. 31, 1912, the deficit was

only \$90,000. This was \$38,

000 better than one year be-

fore. Had the Government

not been hampered with the

incubus of debt inherited from

their predecessors, this \$38,

000 would be the surplus that

the Government would have

had to show. He next dealt

with the criticisms that had

been made of the Govern-

ment's showing by the Opposi-

tion and the Opposition

press. The history of the ex-

penditures in the department

of Justice was next taken up.

From this he pointed out that

the amount spent last year in

this department was quite

reasonable and moderate. The

expenditure for the Executive

Council, too, was proportion-

ately lower under the present

Government than it was under

the Liberals. The matter of

the amounts paid to the firm

of McLeod & Bentley by the

Government was next taken

up, and, as in the other cases,

he showed that the statements

made by the Opposition and

the Opposition press were

most misleading. Taking

into account the conditions

of the country at the present

time, he felt satisfied that the

road act would stand the test.

On the question of Salaries,

he thought it came with very

bad grace from the editor of

the Patriot to offer any criti-

cism. As to the cost of

delegations to Ottawa, he

showed that Premier Haszard

and other Liberal Leaders had

spent large amounts on dele-

gations to Ottawa, but had

nothing to show in return;

while the delegation from this

Government had a splendid

showing for their efforts,

splendid in the money added

to our annual receipts. He

defended the salary voted to

the Premier. He had ren-

dered admirable service to

the Province and had richly

earned all the salary he was

receiving. He gives all his

time to the duties of the

Premiership and is not get-

ting any more than he should.

—

Mr. McWilliams said he did

not wish to be a stumbling

block in the way of useful

legislation or to anything that

would be for the advancement

of the country. He read an

extract from the Family Her-

ald, defining the origin and

early history of the two great

political parties in Canada.

—

Mr. Myers continued the

debate. He reviewed the

operations of the Government

generally, during the time

they have been in office, and

showed what improvements

have been made in all the

departments of the public

service. All that has been

done is only a beginning.

Much greater things will be

accomplished this year and in

the future. Mr. Dobie fol-

lowed. After speaking a few

minutes he moved the ad-

journment of the debate. The

House then adjourned.

—

The House met at 3:20 on

Wednesday afternoon. Hon.

Mr. Arsenault presented a

petition asking for the incor-

porating the Centerville Blue

Fox Company. He also pre-

sented a petition from Ger-

rude M. Hdgson, praying for

an act to enable her to sell

land in Charlottetown Com-

mon. Hon. Mr. Stewart pre-

sented a petition on which to

found a bill to incorporate the

Eastern Trust Company. Af-

ter questions bills in accor-

dance with the above peti-

tions were received and read a

first time and referred to the

committee on private bills. On

motion of the Leader of the

Government the act to fur-

ther amend the Chancery act

1910 was read a second time

and referred to committee. The

Speaker took the chair and the

committee rose without report-

ing. The following bills were

read a third time and passed:

Dominion Trust Company; am-

ending the Interpretation

Act; incorporating the Upton

Black Fox Company; for the

better Government of Mount

Stewart; incorporating the

Kinkora Black and Silver

Fox Company; McDonald Sil-

ver Black Fox Company; Cas-

campque Silver Black Fox

Company; Taylor's Black Fox

Company and the County

Courts amendment act 1878.

The following bills were read

a second time and committed

to committee of the whole:

the act further amending the

act for the appointment of

Stipendiaries; the Souris El-

ectric Company; the Veterinary

Medical Association Act. In

the case of the last named act

the Speaker took the chair

without report from the chair-

man. The bill amending the

act to prevent frauds by tak-

ing secret bills of sale was

read a second time and refer-

red to committee, duly report-

ed and set down for third read-

ing. The following bills were

also read a second time and

put through committee; the

Royal Silver Black Fox Com-

pany; the North River Blue

Fox Company and the Souris

Silver Black Fox Company.

These bills were all duly re-

ported and ordered to a third

reading. The private bills

committee reported several

bills. The House then took

recess.

—

House resumed in the even-

ing at 8:30. The act incor-

porating the Freetown Fox

Ranching Company was read

a second time and committed

to a committee of the whole,

on motion of Mr. James Ken-

nedy. The bill to incorporate

the Beach Point Silver Black

Fox Company was also read a

second time put through com-

mittee and reported for a third

reading.

—

On motion of the Premier

the budget debate was resum-

ed by Mr. Dobie. He thought

it was a good change to bring

the end of the fiscal year to

coincide with the end of the

calendar year. He reviewed

the condition of our finances

when the present Govern-

ment assumed office. The new

Government had to assume

a floating debt of \$168,000.

—

So successfully did they grap-

ple with this that \$45,000

were knocked off by the end

of 1912. Our public works;

our bridges were then in a

deplorable condition. He in-

stanced striking examples of

this delapidation in his own

district. These bridges had

been improperly built; they

were too low. The new bridges

were built three feet higher

than the old ones. All this

involved large expense; but

it is to the great advantage

of the Province. The excellent

steel bridge policy of the pre-

sent Government was highly

praised. He considered the

new road act exceedingly

good. He thought our road

masters were a good class of

men, and thought the Leader

of the Opposition should

apologize for having applied

the term incompetent to these

men. Alluding to the increased

cost of living, he pointed out

that all classes depended on

the farmers. The Govern-

ment could not do everything

in one year. Referring to the

question of education, he con-

sidered that very much im-

provement has been made

since the present Government

came in. Our teachers are

receiving considerable aug-

mentations to their salaries

and have the benefits of the

supplements. The late Govern-

ment struck off the supple-

ments. Now the teachers are

paid monthly, instead of quar-

terly as under the old regime.

He thought the prospects in

the matter of transportation

were such as are destined to

prove to the world what we

are capable of. The car ferry

was a boon, such as we never

before dreamed of. When

these anticipations are real-

ized, our farmers would be in

touch with numerous markets.

The outlook for the Province

is very good and the future is

bright. Our Province is

such as to attract the best

classes of visitors from abroad.

We should feel proud of our

Province; for it is one of the

brightest spots under the sun.

—

Hon. Mr. Stewart con-

tinued the debate. The Leader

of the Opposition, he con-

sidered, had made a most re-

markable statement to the

effect that our present favor-

able financial condition was

due to a long period of Liberal

rule. The facts of the case

were that when the Liberal

Government came into power,

21 years ago, the maximum

estimate of the debt of the

Province was \$171,000. But

when they went out of power

the public debt was over

\$1,000,000. If the Leader of

the Opposition considers that

a good financial record, he

certainly has peculiar notions

as to what constitutes good

Government. The Liberal

Government had a fashion

of carrying forward large

amounts from one year to

another, and in this way kept

the people in the dark as to

the real condition of things.

He reviewed the financial

exposition presented by Mr.

Rossborough, showing the true

state of affairs. This com-

prehensive report shows

plainly that the net result of