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FOR SHORT. Visitor—What do you call your twins? Father—Willard. Visitor—But what's only one name? Father—One's Will and the other's Fred.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY PROPOSES PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC POLICY

Hon. J. K. Flemming in His Budget Speech Foreshadows a Period of Real Reform in Provincial Administration.

Fredericton, May 15.—Provincial Secretary Flemming finished his budget speech in the legislature today. He promised that the government would inaugurate reforms in every department and would endeavor to keep ordinary expenditures within income. His speech made a fine impression and he is receiving many congratulations. Mr. Flemming called attention to the nature of some of the increase in expenditures—\$30,000 more for education, including the University and the teachers' salaries, which he strongly commended, and \$80,000 more for interest charges and bridges, this last amount being incurred by the late government. Ex-premier Robinson will reply on Monday.

A very pleasant incident took place in the legislative assembly chamber just before adjournment this afternoon when the veteran Urban Johnston, for many years a representative for Kent, was called to the bar and presented with an address and a purse of \$150.

Speaker Morrison made the presentation on behalf of members of both sides of the house, and read the address which referred in flattering terms to Mr. Johnston's long public career as a member of the legislature.

He made reference to the fact that he served in the legislature under eleven premiers and nine lieutenant governors, a record which is scarcely paralleled in the history of the province.

Mr. Johnston returned his thanks in a vigorous speech which was frequently applauded. At conclusion of his remarks he received three rousing cheers and a tiger.

Fredericton, N. B., May 15.—The legislature met at 3 p. m. Hon. Mr. McLeod presented the report of the committee on standing rules. Hon. Mr. Hazen presented the report of the committee on law practice and procedure. Mr. Clarke presented the report of the committee on municipalities.

Hon. Dr. Landry, in reply to Mr. Sprout, said the bonds were required from other side of the account left a balance to the debit of the province of \$3,590,897.72. He had shown yesterday that this balance would be very much larger if all the liabilities of the province had been charged.

In connection with these liabilities he had, he said, a statement prepared by a chartered accountant of the highest standing, who had examined all the accounts and made a statement in full, giving day and date and authority. The schedules prepared by the auditor would be laid on the table of the house for investigation.

Even very large bills were coming in, one of over \$2,000. No doubt other outstanding accounts would turn up. A record was kept of all the bills and added to the schedules. When the total amount of all this floating indebtedness was known, the government proposed to ask for authority to issue bonds to cover it, so that the province might begin the next fiscal year without being loaded down with overhanging accounts.

Hon. gentlemen opposite would no doubt criticize the government because of its inaction in opposing a law which proposed to issue bonds for ordinary expenditures. In this, however, the government had the precedent of the government which came into office in 1885 and which was so warmly supported by the present opposition. That government had issued all floating indebtedness by bond issue. In this case the government was simply providing for the legacies handed over to them and for which they were not in any way responsible. In the past he had taken the position that all ordinary expenditures should come out of ordinary revenues and the position they would be in if they were to carry out this idea. He did not mean to say, however, that all large public works such as the proposed bridge over the falls at St. John should be maintained without adding to the debt of the province.

The policy of this government would be that when the ordinary expenditures had reached the limit of the revenue the expenditure must stop, or if it could not be then stopped the revenue would be increased year by year until the account was cleared up with a fair start and due attention to economy that could be accomplished.

Taking up the estimates for 1908 he said that up to the 23d of March the government was in no way responsible for the expenditure and in some ways they could hardly be held responsible for it since for the people were continually coming, telling of promises given them by the late government and urging that faith should be kept with them. Consideration had necessarily to be given to the promises which if acted upon would involve large expenditures.

If the late government had been as active in performance as they were in promises they would have had a much longer life. The income from Dominion subsidies was fixed and the amount named \$621,380.96, would be the exact sum received. The territorial revenue, on account of the decreased lumber cut, would likely be less than last year, but reports already received from scalars indicated that the returns would be about \$300,000. The fees from the provincial secretary's office and the receipts from private and local bills were pretty well known and could be estimated at \$16,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

Liquor licenses were estimated at \$20,000, less than last year. Miscellaneous receipts were placed at \$2,500. Ten thousand dollars would be printed from the surplus of the provincial court fund. The amount due on arrears from the Dominion of \$5,741.28 was known. The refund on account of fishery leases was due by the Dominion government and had been carried along in the estimates for some years. As an agent had been appointed by the federal government to arrange a settlement of these claims with the province it was hoped to receive the sum of \$13,980.05 this year. It was also hoped to have the settlement of a claim which the province had against the Dominion for other matters of \$130,000. This sum was not placed in the estimates. The government, however, would vigorously press all these claims. The estimates of \$5,000 from the international railway for forest protection was accurate as the amount had already been paid.

This made an estimated income for the year of \$1,028,800.

Taking up the estimated expenditures he said the administration of justice had been placed at \$2,000 in excess of last year account of the claim for jury fees carried from last year and only recently received. The cost for jury fees this year would be \$7,000 instead of \$5,000 and the other details of the account about the same as formerly.

Agriculture was allowed a total of \$35,465, \$10,000 of which was allowed for the expenses of the department. Before next year the government would consider the placing of this department under executive government where it properly belonged. Many of the items in the agricultural appropriation were already paid, such as that to the Stock Breeders Association. It would be a matter for consideration whether or not this grant would be continued.

Ten thousand dollars was estimated for exhibitions, although the late government had made promises great in excess of this amount. Delegations had come from St. John, Chatham, Sussex, Sackville, Woodville and other places all putting up excellent arguments for their claims and asserting they had had definite promises from the late government.

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HIGH COURT OF FORESTERS CLOSES ANNUAL SESSION

Geo. W. Mersereau of Doaktown, N. B., is Chosen High Chief Ranger—The Supreme Chief Ranger Says New Brunswick Has Adopted Do Nothing Policy in Reference to the Increased Rates.

The High Court I. O. F. brought its meeting to a close last evening. Supreme Chief Ranger Stevenson, in the course of an address to the members said that their decision against increased rates was a "do-nothing policy."

George W. Mersereau was elected High Chief Ranger and it was decided to hold the next annual meeting in Fredericton. The High Court resumed a little before 3 o'clock. H. A. W. McRae moved as upon the safety clause as it stands on the suggestion he had made in the morning, as an amendment to the safety clause in the constitution relating to extra assessments. The safety clause as it stands was declared by the royal commission to be useless, and he therefore suggested this amendment. This motion was seconded by Mr. Mersereau and adopted without discussion.

Mr. Stevenson went on to say that he was opposed to extra assessments because it was against the interests of old members, and which would be paid disproportionately. When the heat engendered by this controversy had calmed down and the members were able to see things differently. He regretted that the High Court of New Brunswick, which prided itself upon its intelligence, had declared for the do-nothing policy. He could say to them that twenty able men would meet in Toronto some days before the supreme court met to consider the same question with the various high courts; and if the delegates from this high court, or any member had a plan proposed which would be very different from the one which he had proposed, he would give it the most careful consideration. He thanked the high court for the courtesy with which it had heard him, and expressed the hope that he might meet the members again under happier auspices, after this controversy had been settled. The supreme chief was heartily applauded.

W. E. Skilleen, Geo. W. Jones and W. J. Ingram were appointed scrutineers. The election of officers was proceeded with. The following officers were elected:— H. C. R.—Geo. W. Mersereau, of Doaktown. H. V. C. R.—Columbus Craig. H. Sec.—J. V. Russell (re-elected). H. Phys.—Dr. W. H. Welling. H. Coun.—R. A. Borden. High Auditors—Thos. Murray and S. H. Fiewelling (both re-elected). Delegates to Supreme Court—H. W. Woods, M. N. Coakburn, W. B. Jones, D. G. Lingley, R. B. Hansen.

Fredericton was chosen as the next place of meeting of the High Court. On motion of High Sec. Emmerson, a recommendation of the high standing committee to the effect that the government should appoint an inspector of fraternal life insurance, to devote his whole attention to it, was endorsed.

A resolution was adopted instructing the delegates to the supreme court to urge that if an increase in the rates is determined on those old members who desire to do so should be permitted to take out a paid-up policy for the amount paid into the mortuary fund; also one that the high court recommend that the constitution be amended so that any members having the expectation of life benefit and let the payment of same lapse for a month have a chance to be reinstated on like terms as ordinary members.

R. B. Hansen reported for the finance committee approving of the policy of issuing cash prizes for securing members, and recommending that the supreme court be asked to continue the policy for the ensuing year; also that the high court continue to pay the expenses of the

The brief period since the government came into power prevented formulating such a policy this year. The estimate for the agent general in London was placed at \$1,000, because the amount had already been paid. It was not the intention of the government to ask the legislature to continue this vote. Contingencies, which cost last year \$10,582, were estimated at \$17,000. This was a controllable item, and the government was determined to effect savings in it wherever possible. Already some savings had been made in the stationary item alone. Beginning with the first of May exactly the same quality of supplies were obtained by a contract thirty-five per cent lower than the prices paid by the late government. For a full year this would mean a saving of about \$1,000 in this item alone. The Royal Gazette under the new contract was produced for \$1200 against \$1,800 under the late government, a saving of fifty per cent. This policy would be followed in all the contingencies and the best possible value obtained for the expenditure.

The estimate for education was about \$30,000 larger than last year, due to the greater aid to the University and the increased salaries to teachers. He felt that no expenditure would give greater satisfaction to the country than this increase to education, and he invited the newspapers criticizing the government for its extravagant estimates to criticize this item.

He was sorry that this grant could not be larger, but the policy was to put up with no stinted hand, realizing that upon the intelligence and education of its citizens largely rested the future welfare and prosperity of the province.

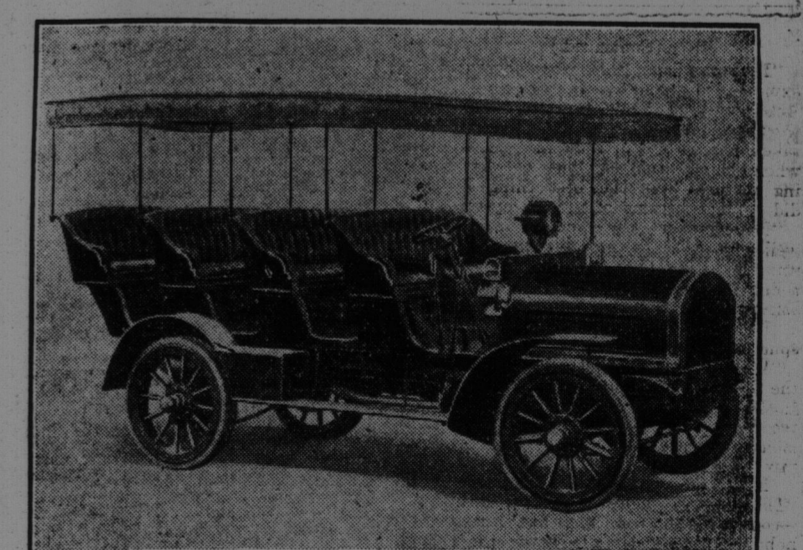
The election expenditure of \$11,400 most of the members of the house would be wise one. Emmerson vs. Maddison—\$500—was an old friend to which good bye must now be said. It was likely to appear again. Factory inspection \$1,000, an estimate of inspector's salary of \$600 and an estimate of \$400 to cover his expenses. (Continued on page 8.)

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