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RECORD REVENUE AND RECORD EXPENDITURE

Provincial Secretary McLeod Tells of Big Deficit in His Budget Speech

Government, With $400,000 Increase in Receipts Since It Came In Power, Fails to Make Ends Meet, and Admits $56,000 Over-expenditure for the Year—Valley Railway Bill Passes Second Reading—Hon. Mr. Maxwell Gets Son a Soft Billet.

Fredericton, N. B., March 19—Provincial Secretary McLeod delivered his budget speech this afternoon. It was in no sense a noteworthy effort, but it might be pleaded in excuse that he had to excuse a bumper deficit of $56,000, and an enormous expenditure since the close of the fiscal year.

His speech was remarkable for what it did not mention. He did not attempt to explain why the principle of letting all public works by public tender was departed from. He boasted rather of the heavy expenditures and placarded all of the transactions of the government as honest. His use of this term was so frequent that it caused a smile, for it seemed unnecessary to parade what should be the first virtue of every government.

His comparisons with the expenditures of the old government have been heard many times before. Only he had this unfortunate year to include. His ready way of passing over the deficit and the glib explanation that it was incurred in the public interest and would not be a debit on the province as it would be wiped out this year. It is carried over, in other words, and will be added to next year's deficit which is even more probable than that which faced the administration at the close of 1911.

The promises of last year's budget were even more glowing than the predictions of the new provincial secretary, and judging from the way the year has started the performances will be behind the record and the deficit larger.

High-sounding Talk.

Hon. Mr. McLeod started out with the statement that the people were entitled to the fullest information, which does not fit in well with the answers the government have been giving to the inquiries of the opposition respecting public work expenditures. He glossed over the fact of the increase in revenue of nearly $400,000 above that enjoyed by the old government, but kept continually boasting of how well the territorial revenue had been collected and the increase to $523,000 last year from this source.

In common with all the government speakers, he attempted to prove that this was not due to increased crown land cut but rather to an honest collection of the stumpage. The lumbermen could, and do, tell a different story. It is known to all that the crown lands are supplying the lumber now where it is impossible for an operator to save his granted lands. His lease has not long to run and uncertain, as he is, regarding its renewal, he is taking no chances and, encouraged by the government to cut the smaller growth. By their reduction in the size of the saw log the lumber resources of the province are paying the penalty and the revenue has increased.

Mr. McLeod in attempting to prove his case that there was no increased cut on the crown lands, quoted from the record of lumber shipped from the north shore across the water, but said nothing of the large amount sent to the United States.

Old Government Still Blamed.

The Central Railway added $102,763 to the public debt this year and this he laid at the door of the old government, because the road was there. He said nothing of the extravagance and inefficient management under the officials of his government. He blamed the old government also for the increase in the debt on account of $56,000 subsidies paid this year, omitting to state that this legislation was placed on the statute book by the Tory Hanington-Frager administration.

He took great credit to his government for less interest paid the banks, omitting, however, to say that the $400,000 increased revenue made temporary loans less necessary, and giving no credit to reduced rates of interest the world over since the financial panic of 1907, the last year of the old government.

His school book statement was not quite up to the mark, but he claimed a great saving to the people. He failed, however, to note the decreased size of the famous scribbler which did such duty at the last election and which today is less satisfactory than those used then.

When he touched the agricultural department he praised Dr. Landry. That seems to be the order from headquarters. Dr. Landry needs bolstering. The provincial secretary made the remarkable statement that the old government was not in touch with the farmers, that there was no connecting link between them, forgetting that there were the same farmers and dairymen's association, farmers' institutes as well as agricultural societies in those days.

The encouragement extended by the old government to dairying, to cold storage, to butter and cheese factories, to raising of wheat, to bonusing of flour mills, to illustration orchards, to winter lectures throughout the province upon improved methods of farming, all these were passed over, and he took credit for this government appointing a poultry expert, for assisting horticulture and for opening up new markets.

This last was an unfortunate phrase. He should have said for assisting in the rejection of the greatest market in the world for New Brunswick by helping to defeat reciprocity.

Facts Against McLeod.

"This government," declared Mr. McLeod, "has not spent its money for the use of its friends or for itself."

The records, as shown in the auditor's report of 1909 and 1910, and hidden in the same book in 1911, say otherwise. The inquiries in the house show that the government is looking after its friends and the members after their relatives.

Today the premier stated that J. Herbert Maxwell had been permanently appointed in the auditor-general's office at a salary of $1,000 per year. J. Herbert is son of the president of the executive council, Hon. Robt. Maxwell.

The provincial secretary spoke of the increased expenditures upon agriculture and education but he failed to note that a smaller percentage of the revenues was being appropriated for these important services than under the old government.

His speech was an hour and a half long. Hon. Mr. Sweeney adjourned the debate.

Valley Road Bill Given Second Reading.

It had been said by the members of the government that the Liberal members at Ottawa had made this important question a political football. What was their position today? The premier and the different members supporting him were holding out hope to certain sections that the road would pass through their territory. They were using it for political effect as a political football.

The premier had represented him as stating that the Valley road was an appalling proposition. But he failed to state why he said the proposition was appalling. If the road did not run from Grand Falls to St. John it was an appalling proposition. A most serious one for the province. The road must pay to protect the province. He was in Ottawa and had heard the minister of railways hesitate in his reply when asked if the subsidy had been granted to Grand Falls. He had finally replied: "Only to Andover," and he himself looking over the route map had noticed that the line from Andover to Grand Falls was only dotted.

The opposition leader pledged his support to the bill but he wanted all the information brought down. He thought such dress rehearsals as were seen the other day when the premier replied to Mr. Woods, who asked that the Valley road should go to Welsford, was for political effect.

During his speech Mr. Copp referred to Hon. Mr. McLeod's statement Friday in the house that F. B. Carvell, M. P. for Carleton, had voted against the Valley route and he read the following telegram from Mr. Carvell denying the statement:

"McLeod's statement absolutely false. Hansard will show no vote was ever taken since I have been a member of parliament. My first speech was as strong as possible in favor of the Valley route. During my second session I moved and varied an amendment to the Grand Trunk Pacific branch line bill giving them a charter to start a St. John branch anywhere from Grand Falls to Chipman."

Bills and Petitions.

Fredericton, N. B., March 19—The houses met at 3 o'clock.

From Mr. McLeod submitted the annual report of the provincial board of health.

Mr. Wilson presented a petition in favor of bills to fix a valuation on the tannery and personal property of C. H. Peters, St. John, also to provide for the construction and inspection of buildings in St. John.

Hon. Mr. Murray presented a petition in favor of bills relative to Auto Road Company and St. John Canal and Dock Company.

Mr. Munro introduced a bill to incorporate the Hartland Electric Power Company.

Mr. Hatheway introduced a bill to fix a valuation on the Edward Partington Pulp and Paper Company, St. John.

Mr. Hatheway introduced a bill to fix a valuation on the Maritime Nail Company, St. John.

Mr. Copp gave notice of enquiry regarding the public utilities commission.

Mr. Bentley gave notice of enquiry regarding stumpage estimates.

Budget Speech.

Hon. Mr. McLeod presented a message from the lieutenant governor, submitting the estimates of the current year, and moved that consideration of such message and estimates be referred to the committee on supply.

Estimated Expenditure, 1912.

Ad. of Justice	$ 21,250.00
Agriculture	61,315.00
Auditor General and Dept	3,100.00
Boys Industrial Home	1,500.00
Colonization Roads	1,000.00
Education	276,350.00
School Books	17,500.00
Elections	508.47
Executive government	47,750.00
Factory inspection, etc	2,300.00
Free Grants Act	1,000.00
Fish, Forest and Game Protect'n	32,000.00
Guarantee bonds—government officials	950.00
Immigration	10,000.00
Interest	257,000.00
Jordan Memorial Sanitarium	7,500.00
Legislature	36,803.00
Liquor Licenses	28,000.00
Mining and mineral development	2,000.00
Natural History Society	650.00
New Bruns. His. Society	125.00
New Bruns. Rifle Association	300.00
Public Health	7,700.00
Public Hospitals	10,000.00
Provincial Hospital (Insane)	84,000.00
Probate Courts	13,200.00
Printing	15,000.00
Public Works	344,998.30
Refunds	1,500.00
Roads and Survey, Settlement Lands Victoria Co	1,100.00
Revisors	1,850.00
Sinking Funds	25,285.00
Surveys and Inspections	4,750.00
Stumpage Collection	30,000.00
Succession duties collection	1,750.00
Superannuation and pensions	2,250.00
Tourists' Association	2,500.00
Utilities Commission	600.00
Unforseen expenses	2,000.00
	$1,357,385.02

Estimated Income, 1912.

Dominion subsidies—	
Balance due 1st July, on census of 1911	$8,307.20
Amount for 1912, on census of 1911	637,975.36
	$646,282.56
Territorial revenue	$500,000.00
Fees, provincial secretary's office	22,500.00
Taxes, incorporated companies	47,000.00
Private and local bills	2,500.00
Succession duties	35,000.00
King's printer	2,400.00
School books	17,500.00
Probate court fund	15,000.00
Supreme court fund	2,000.00
Provincial hospital	25,000.00
Jordan Memorial Sanitarium	1,000.00
Liquor licenses	42,000.00
Motor vehicles	5,000.00
Sales of agricultural live stock	2,500.00
Half cost of wharves from dominion government	6,000.00
Utilities commission	1,500.00
Factory inspector	2,500.00
Campbellton relief	5,000.00
Miscellaneous receipts	4,000.00
	$1,375,682.56
Memo:	
Estimated receipts	$1,375,682.56
Estimated expenditure	1,356,286.72
Unappropriated	$19,395.84

Hon. Mr. McLeod, in rising to move the house into committee on supply, said that he approached the task with some of that diffidence which any man felt in entering upon a new sphere, but with that confidence which he might well feel, knowing the unassailable position of the government. His conception of his duty in presenting the budget was that he should give the very freest, frankest and fullest information in his possession, and in the possession of the government to the house and to the country. The government acted as trustees of the people, and the people are entitled to know exactly how the money due them had been collected and how honestly it had been expended in their interests.

First of all, he wished to deal with the question of the net debt of the province. The question of debt was always a question in which the people were deeply interested. The net debt at the close of the fiscal year was shown as amounting to $4,648,857, an apparent increase of $246,260. Another item which at the close of the fiscal year was properly added to the make up of the amount of the net debt, was the sum paid for survey along the valley of the St. John river to ascertain the cost of construction of the St. John Valley Railway. Since the close of the fiscal year, a contract had been entered into for the construction of this railway, and there is provision in the contract for the repayment of the amount expended by the province for the survey by the company entering into the contract.

It was only right, therefore, that the two items, over-expenditure of $56,459 during the past year, and the cost of the St. John valley survey amounting to $84,574, should be deducted from the apparent increase in the net debt, and that would leave $161,684 as real increase in the net debt for the past year.

During the year two temporary loans by means of treasury bills had been floated. One was through the Bank of Montreal for £100,000 at 3 3-8 per cent, and the other was through the Bank of British North America for £65,000 at 3 11-16.

Hon. Mr. McLeod then read a comparative statement showing the estimated and actual receipts of 1911.

Revenue, 1911.

	Receipts.	Estimates.
Dominion subsidies	$621,360.96	$621,360.96
Territorial revenue	529,660.54	500,000.00
Fees, provincial secretary's office	19,820.90	18,500.00
Taxes, incorporated companies	48,278.03	47,000.00
Private and local bills	2,270.00	2,500.00
Succession duties	5,720.60	15,000.00
Kings printer	2,434.19	2,300.00
School books	16,209.05	19,000.00
Probate court fee fund	15,027.51	16,000.00
Supreme court fee fund	1,995.13	2,400.00
Provincial hospital	25,089.63	20,000.00
Sales of horses and other stock	1,402.00	3,250.00
Potato warehouses	1,462.80	2,000.00
Liquor licenses	46,631.67	44,000.00
Fishing leases—Quatawamkedgwick river	.....	15,167.53
Public wharves—one-half cost from dominion	.....	5,336.72
Miscellaneous receipts	9,714.64	4,000.00

Turning to the expenditure he gave the following comparative statement of actual and estimated expenditure 1911.

Expenditure, 1911.

	Expenditure.	Estimates
Ad. of justice	$ 18,568.91	$ 21,750.00
Agriculture	49,958.17	58,898.33
Auditor-general and office	3,099.92	3,100.00
Boys' Industrial Home	1,500.00	1,500.00
Campbellton relief	5,000.00	5,000.00
Coronation expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00
Colonization roads	939.25	930.25
Elections	1,211.26	1,100.00
Executive govt	47,942.03	47,262.00
Education	276,578.69	274,310.00
School books	18,853.31	20,000.00
Factory inspection	1,162.50	1,000.00
Free grants account	791.03	1,000.00
Fish, forest and game protection	30,353.61	32,000.00
Guarantee Bonds, govt. officials	899.90	950.00
Interest	245,193.33	251,000.00
Immigration	9,566.40	9,000.00
Jordan Memorial Sanitarium	3,008.75	3,008.75
Legislature	37,508.30	37,981.25
Liquor licenses	28,257.01	28,000.00
Mining and mineral dev	1,848.30	2,000.00
N. B. Coal & Railway invest	448.74	448.74
Natural History Society	650.00	650.00
N. B. His. Society	125.00	125.00
N. B. Rifle Association	300.00	300.00
Public health	8,226.90	7,700.00
Public hospital	9,700.00	10,300.00
Probate courts	13,063.03	13,063.00
Provincial Hospital (Insane)	83,942.30	84,000.00
Public printing	13,798.92	13,800.00
Public works	416,265.31	318,800.00
Refunds	1,542.32	2,500.00
Revisors	1,832.64	1,850.00
Roads settlement lands	255.99	255.79
Surveys and inspections	4,682.14	4,750.00
Stumpage collection	30,855.62	30,000.00
Succession duties collected	277.56	750.00
Sinking funds	25,306.50	24,585.00
Superannuation and pensions	2,450.00	2,450.00
Tourist associations	2,000.00	2,500.00
Tuberculosis commission	66.25	150.00
Utilities commission	600.00	.....
Unforeseen expenses	2,417.16	2,000.00

Hon. Mr. McLeod, continuing, said that this government would not hesitate to add to the debt of the province through the construction of permanent bridges for public service, and that justification from the people would be expected by administration in carrying on permanent bridges, and they were all permanent structures too, not bridges which should have been paid for out of ordinary revenue and which had been called permanent works as in days of old administration.

From the time that this government came into power in 1908, it had set its face towards meeting the ordinary expenditure of the country out of ordinary revenue, and it would not depart from that position. Revenues are increasing from year to year through honest collection of what is due the province. The revenue during the past three years had been as follows:

1909	$1,259,826
1910	1,324,440
1911	1,347,077

This increase was made up almost entirely through an honest collection of territorial revenue. The revenue from crown lands in 1907 amounted to $321,550. In 1908 it was increased to $343,292; in 1909, $395,283; in 1910, $494,491, and in 1911 he was proud to be able to say that the territorial revenue amounted to $528,439.

The honorable gentlemen opposite might say this was due to a larger cut of lumber on the crown lands, but the best available data were the trans-Atlantic shipments which were largely from the North Shore, did not bear out any such contention.

The government is accused of spending more than its predecessors and he admitted the accusation. The province is progressing, is doing twice as much business as several years ago, is collecting twice as much as several years ago. The government had money to spend and is not afraid to spend it on needed public services.

He came now to a matter which some honorable gentlemen opposite seemed to think should be approached with trepidation and that was the deficit on the current year's operation. The government came frankly before the house and country and stated that last year they over expended to the amount of $56,469.80. The government had nothing to conceal. The public works undertaken were necessary, largely because of neglect in former years. Work of building and repairing bridges and wharves could not be caught up with in one year or two and each year the administration had been making good progress towards getting the public services in proper shape. It was expected that in a short time the bridges would not require such large expenditures as were necessary the past three years. They were necessary last year and while that necessity existed the government would not shrink in its plain duty to the people.

Last year $56,000 more was expended on education than in 1907. It was interesting to know that last year there was largest attendance at public schools of any year in the history of the province and also a greater number of schools were maintained than in any previous year. These were matters for congratulation to members on both sides of the house. Estimated expenditures for education for the present year was $276,350. Chief superintendent of education states the truth when he says that according to its resources no country does more to provide its people with facilities for a good education.

He had admitted and the government cheerfully admitted that they collect larger revenue and spent more money than did their predecessors. People naturally asked what had they done with the money. The real question before the people was not how much money did the government spend but how and did they spend it. Take two items of public works and education, two most important public services. In 1907 expenditure on public works was $230,421 and in 1911 $416,265, $185,843 more in latter year. In 1907 $220,750 was spent on education and in 1911 this had been increased to $276,578. On these two services alone there had been an increase of $241,672 that showed where the money was going.

Taking the statement of estimated receipts and expenditures for the present year which had been placed before the house, it would be seen that because of increased population shown by the new census there was a larger revenue from the dominion subsidy. Fees from the provincial secretary's office continued to increase. The succession dues were estimated at considerably larger than last year and already nearly $24,000 had come in from that source. School books were estimated little less and the expenditure on that account was also less, and there was an estimated falling off from liquor licenses, and he thought that fact would be gratifying to the majority of the people. Under advanced temperance legislation two thirds of the province was now under prohibition and it could not be many years before legalized liquor selling was done away with in this province. He would welcome that day and so would the great mass of people welcome the day when the government had ceased to estimate as a source of revenue any participation in legalized liquor traffic.

Estimated expenditure showed a little more for administration of justice than in the previous year, agriculture was a large increase the greatest expenditure in the history of the province. The same was true of education as he had previously mentioned. The factory inspector would cost $1,300 more than in previous year. Immigration was $10,000 showing a considerable increase. A new plan was being worked out under the administration of the agricultural department, and he did not think there would be any objection to the province spending this amount or even more for the purpose of settling desirable immigrants upon our vacant lands. The public works expenditure would also be larger than in previous year, and if the revenues would permit the expenditure would be even larger than estimated.

This government believed in the future of the province. Too long it had stood still. With marvelous wealth of natural resources unexplored and practically unknown her young men had gone out to other lands. That was being changed now. The old feeling of despondency had been replaced by a buoyant optimism.

New Brunswick was entering upon a new era. No prophetic eyes was needed to see the glorious possibilities the future offered. Regardless of petty criticism and notwithstanding misrepresentations this government would do its part in writing large the history of the nation the name of the province all loved so well and all desired so sincerely to serve.

Mr. Sweeney moved the adjournment of the debate and it was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

House then went in committee with Mr. Munro in the chair and resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the act to aid the construction of the St. John Valley aRilway.

Mr. Copp said that the government should give some assurance that the road would be constructed from St. John through to Grand Falls, and not be built piecemeal and become a feeder for the C. P. R. Hon. provincial secretary had censured the late administration at Ottawa for its handling of the Valley railway project and had said that Mr. Carvell had voted against the St. John Valley Railway. He had received a telegram from Mr. Carvell in which that gentleman said that Hansard showed that he had never voted against the St. John Valley Railway, that his first speech in parliament had been in favor of it and that he had had a bill passed allowing the G. T. P. to build a branch line from any point between Grand Falls and Chipman to St. John. The engineers had gone up and down the St. John valley making surveys and by this time the result ought to be given to the house, stating definitely where the road was going to run. If ever the Valley railway was made a political football, it was allowed under such conditions as would permit the member for Queens and other members supporting the government to go about promising to bring the railway here there and everywhere else instead of having some route definitely determined upon. Men from different localities were going with petitions, said to be signed by thousands sticking from their pockets claiming they would do this and the other thing if the road did not follow some certain route.

As the country was furnishing the money he would like to know why it was not practical to have construction of whole road going on at once and have it all built together instead of being built in pieces. The house should have submitted to it the contract between the dominion and province for the lease and operation by the former. If a subsidy had been arranged for, the house should be advised, but he believed that no arrangement had been made for the payment of subsidy beyond Andover. Honorable members of this house are responsible as representatives of the people in arranging for this great undertaking and it was not right to ask the house to pass the bill with the route laid out in its present flimsy and slipshod way.

The section to which Mr. Copp was speaking was passed.

Mr. Copp asked if a fair wage schedule had been provided.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that the schedule had been provided the same as for the G. T. P.

Mr. Copp said that it ought to be attached to the bill.

After some further discussion the bill was agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Flemming, in reply to Mr. Copp, said that the upset prices on some of the fishing rights to be sold tomorrow had been increased over the prices of ten years ago. For instance, the Tobique Salmon Club had paid $50 per year for their licenses and the upset price had now been increased to $250.

The house adjourned at 6.30 p. m.

Fredericton, N. B., March 20—Hon. Frank Sweeney, in a two-hour speech upon the budget this afternoon, effectively replied to the statement of the provincial secretary yesterday. He criticized the present administration of affairs in a masterly fashion, showing that while there was a record revenue there was also a record debt; that it was a government of broken promises and boastful expenditure; of deficits and favoritism; of unbusinesslike methods; of a profession rather than performance; of a multitude of officials with increased salaries; of concealed accounts and wasted money; with no crown land policy but waste and depletion of the country's principal source of revenue, and nothing to safeguard the rights and privileges of invested interests in the lumber business.

This, with a forceful criticism of the agricultural department, and thoughtful suggestions upon educational affairs, were the principal features of the address, which was listened to with the closest interest by a well filled house and galleries.

He told the government that the people had placed them there to carry out certain pledges which included the keeping of expenditure within income; a reduction of the public debt and other reform measures. These they had failed to do.

They had also promised better roads, and who would say that with the increased direct taxation upon the people of the province they had done what they could? Too much money was wasted in public works; too much found its way into the pockets of their political heelers, structural superintendents and foremen and supply dealers.

With neiarly half a million more money to spend each year it should have been possible to prudently set aside sums for the reduction of the debt. Instead this year, with the largest revenue in the history of the province, there is an enormous deficit, a deficit which the provincial secretary carelessly brushed aside by stating that he intended to pay it off this year.

Wildly Extravagant.

The affairs of the province did not call for such tremendous expenditure. New Brunswick had no more territory and but few more people, and when the electors met the government they would say: "You should have been more economical, you should have saved money when you had good times and a flowing revenue. You have not carried out your pledges." The people would be recreant to their duty if this were not the answer to the appeal of this wildly extravagant administration.

No government collected every dollar of stumpage due the country. It would be impossible to do so without an army of scalers. Yet it was absurd for the government to claim a more honest collection of stumpage than the old government, while it had the same officials, the same deputy crown land department head, the same chief scaler, the same inspector and the same scalers. Why should these men have been dishonest under the old regime and honest under this government? The real reason which he had from licensees and from operators, from mill men, from workmen, from boom men and from stream drivers, was that the cut upon the crown lands was increasing, while private lumber properties were being preserved. Why? Because the lumber operators had no guarantee that their leases would be renewed.

Why wasn't there some policy outlined? Why not survey the crown lands and announce that they would be leased again upon the best terms for the country.

Mr. Sweeney had not finished his speech at adjournment, and will continue tomorrow afternoon. It is understood that Hon. Mr. Murray will reply.

Bills and Petitions.

Mr. Copp gave notice of enquiry for Saturday next regarding the secretary treasurership of the highway board of the parish of Shediac, also regarding the salary and expenses of the factory inspector in connection with the examination of stationary engineers, and the expenditure for printing since the close of the fiscal year, also as to the expenditure for immigration since the close of the fiscal year, also on behalf of Mr. LaBillois as to the bridge at Perry's Point.

Mr. Upham gave notice of enquiry as to the construction of a bridge in the parish of Wakefield, Carleton county, also about repairs for the Woodstock bridge.

Mr. Wilson presented a petition in favor of a bill to amend the act incorporating the St. John Railway Company.

Mr. Hatheway presented a petition in favor of a bill to provide for the removal of garbage in St. John, also to enable the city of St. John to expropriate lands for industries.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to fix the valuation on the personal property and tannery of C. H. Peters' Sons Ltd., St. John.

Hon. Mr. McLeod presented a bill to amend the act respecting the union of Baptist and Free Baptist churches in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell introduced a bill to amend the St. John city assessment act.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer introduced a bill to consolidate the municipalities act. There was nothing new inserted in the bill, which was merely a consolidation of the municipalities act and amendments.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to amend the act regulating construction, and providing for the inspection of buildings in St. John.

Mr. Sweeney Resumes Budget Debate.

Mr. Sweeney, continuing the budget debate, said that he wished to congratulate the honorable provincial secretary upon the able manner in which he had for the first time brought down the budget in this house. With the greatest revenue the province has ever produced, it was pleasing to be able to stand up in this house and say that the revenue was the largest in its history, and so long as this province has an expanding revenue that will be pleasing to the people. But the honorable provincial secretary had said that he had no fear, and that the government had no fear, of being assailed for having expended the money which they did. That might be true from the government standpoint, but it was not so with the opposition and with many of the people of this country who would demand some ex-

(Continued on page 6, third column.)

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VALLEY RAILWAY SUBSIDY REVOTED

Minto-Gibson and Other New Brunswick Lines to Get Federal Aid

Big Tory Row Over Patronage Aired in Parliament—Borden Sat Glum While Minister of Militia and Mr. Wilcox Had It Out—Col. Sam's "Moral Reforms" in Militia Service Told of in Parliament—Fired a Veteran Grit for a Tory Saloon Keeper at Woodstock, N. B.

Ottawa, March 19—The new government's first budget of transportation aid in the form of railway and bridge subsidies was brought down tonight and it amounts to $22,927,200. The subsidies provide for 3,433 miles of railway, the construction of which at the maximum aid of $6,400 a mile will involve government aid amounting to $21,971,200. The aid for bridges totals $956,000.

Of the total railway mileage subsidized, 1,882 miles are renewals of former votes, the subsidy amounting to $12,044,808. There are 1,551 miles of new line authorized to receive subsidies which at the maximum would receive aid to the amount of $9,956,400.

New Brunswick votes are:

Revotes—For a line from St. John to Grand Falls exclusive of a bridge across the Kennebeccasis and two bridges across the St. John, one near the Mistake and one near Andover 228 miles.

New Votes—To the Fredericton & Grand Lake Coal & Railway Company for a line from Gibson on the I. C. R. to Minto together with a branch to Marysville, thirty-five miles.

To the Southampton Railway Company from Millville to Pokiok bridge on the St. John, thirteen miles.

To the Northern New Brunswick & Seaboard Railway Company from Drummond Mines, Gloucester county to the I. C. R. and thence to Alston Point or Carron Point, Bathurst harbor, twenty-six miles.

To the North Shore Railway Company for the following lines: (a) from Adamsville, Kent county to Snowshoe Lake connecting with the G. T. P, twenty miles; (b) from Beersville via Rexton to Richibucto Head, twenty miles.

For a line from Albert Mines via Hillsboro to Moncton, twenty-two miles.

Tory Row Aired in House.

For a few startled moments tonight the curtain was drawn aside and parliament was accorded a glimpse of the "cordial" relations which exist between members of the Borden ministry and their supporters in the house.

Oliver J. Wilcox, Conservative of North Essex, assailed Hon. Col. Sam Hughes over the purchase of the twelve Ford automobiles for the officers of the militia department with a bitterness which brought the house instantly to an expectant silence. He had three objections to the purchase. They were not needed and the military staff was already getting sufficient salary for the services rendered. The purchase was not made by tender but by private sale and the government had paid $1,219 more for the machines than the advertised price. He absolutely refused to support it "because it is wrong and I know it." "I would not have brought this matter up at all," declared Mr. Wilcox, "if the minister had not spoken to me as he did when I approached him in Room 16, but now I absolutely refuse to support it because it is wrong."

Col. Sam Wrathy.

The minister of militia rose in wrath. "I will tell the house what occurred," said he. "When we made the purchase knowing that the Ford machine was manufactured in his riding, I notified him of what we had done. He turned round to me and said: 'Can't you put in a word with that concern to help me?' I told him I would and I notified the agent accordingly. Shortly after he came back to me and said he wanted the contract changed as the head of the Ford firm was a Grit. I told him that it made no difference, that I knew the employes would be intelligent enough to vote Tory anyway. He then said it wouldn't do that I must change the contract to some other firm manufacturing automobiles in his riding. I never heard of one of them before. His excuse was that the head of the firm we were dealing with was a Grit. I finally said to him: 'I don't know whether he is a Grit or not, and what's more I don't care.' Subsequently I met him again after other things had transpired, and I think he knows what view I take of him."

"Did the member for North Essex complain because the contract was not awarded by tender, as he alleges now?" asked Mr. MacDonald.

"The matter of tenders was never mentioned," replied Col. Hughes.

Mr. Wilcox angrily replied that he had not attempted to bulldose anyone but that, unless he was to be consulted when anything affecting his constituency was concerned he might as well stay at home.

During the whole incident Premier Borden and the other cabinet ministers sat glumly in their seats in manifest disgust at this repeated evidence of internal dissension and lack of discipline within the ranks.

Col. Sam as a Reformer.

Col. The Hon. Sam Hughes wrote parliament a letter to accompany his departmental schedules. He emphasized the communication with a speech. He paraded as an idealist and a reformer. He linked the militia with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other worthy organizations for the public weal.

The three great agencies for the upbuilding of a clean robust Canadian citizenship were the school, the church and the militia, in the order named. The demoralizing forces with which these agencies were energetically contending were the too generous use of liquors and tobaccos.

Col. Sam intimated that he had embarked on a national military revival, and spoke eloquently concerning "the evils of the improper language one hears on the street corners of every village in Canada and the harmful influence of the bars and low groggeries in the cities and towns."

But Mr. Carvell believed that faith without works was dead. He inquired of the minister as to the character of the caretakers he was appointing in charge of the armories, who would come closely in contact with the young citizen soldiery in the making, in their drills and recreations.

The Colonel was glad of the question. It enabled him to announce further that all caretakers must be seasoned soldiers of good standing.

Carvell's Poser.

"Then," asked Mr. Carvell, "why did the minister when he took office dismiss the caretaker of the armory at Woodstock (N. B.), a veteran of the 10th Field Battery and a man of unblemished character and appoint in his place a man who runs a beer saloon and billiard hall?"

And the worthy minister had to admit that the dragon which had vanquished his high ideals in this instance was politics. The Colonel explained that it was advisable to have "a good Tory" for such positions when one could be found. He knew the dismissed caretaker was an old and efficient soldier and had been reported to be "a very good man," but he had been most offensive in his allegiance to Laurier and Liberalism.

The minister announced that his initial aim was to get good Tories, "but," he added with unction, "if we can't get a good Tory I give notice now we will have to look around and find somebody else."

Mr. MacDonald was surprised to hear that Toryism was the first essential of qualification for the militia under the new regime. He had innocently imagined the minister would consider it a duty to keep the militia out of politics.

Mr. Nesbitt wanted to know if trouble should arise or the country be attacked would the militia be called out according to politics.

The Colonel claimed he had been misunderstood. "What I meant," he explained, "was that if two men had equal qualifications the Tory would get the job."

"Then we are to understand that there is to be politics in the militia in future?" queried Mr. Carvell.

"If that's politics, then its politics," was the Colonel's laconic rejoinder.

Both Messrs. MacDonald and Carvell questioned the wisdom of Col. Hughes' proposal to take all cadets between the ages of twelve and fourteen years into camp for training.

The Camp No Place for Boys.

Mr. Carvell was a bit cynical over the Colonel's idea of the camp as a saint maker nor would he desire a young boy