

LOCAL HOUSE.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell in Delivering the Budget Speech

GIVES A CLEAR AND CONCISE EXPOSITION OF PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The Opposition Leader Moves Another Amendment.

House in Supply.

In moving the legislature into supply, Thursday afternoon, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, provincial secretary, said that he felt on the present occasion that he could congratulate the house and the country on the prosperous condition of affairs generally. The past year had been a fairly prosperous one. The farmers had good crops, and hundreds of people were returning to this province from countries where they had been seeking employment. It was after all there were many work countries in the world than New Brunswick. (Applause.) Of course, Canada had felt to some extent the wide commercial depression, but the people of this province should be happy in the knowledge that hunger and famine were unknown here, and every man who desired to work could secure it at good, fair wages. It was usual to accuse the government when the times were hard. He hoped at the present time when our people were so comfortably and so favorably situated there would be a disposition to give due credit to the government.

Turning to the matter more immediately before the house, he thought the hon. members should be very well satisfied with the manner in which the departmental reports had been brought down. At no time since he had been a member had they been brought down so promptly. The financial state of the province was a matter upon which hon. gentlemen opposite had already delivered themselves. One hon. member thought the debt had increased during the year \$20,000; another \$15,000, and another had even figured it up to \$30,000. That the debt had increased was undoubtedly true. The bonded indebtedness at the close of 1892 was \$2,383,500; at the end of 1893 it was \$2,627,000, making an increase of \$243,500. This increase was made up of \$35,000 bonds issued on account of the Woodstock bridge and \$5,000 on the Tobique valley railway bonds. The net indebtedness at the end of 1892 was \$2,168,228.76; at the end of 1893 it was \$2,183,563.43, an increase of \$15,334.66, which result was reached by changing to the account the bonds just referred to.

Redemption of Bonds

There had been placed in the sinking fund to the credit of the account for the redemption of the horse importation \$4,000; and there had also been placed in the sinking fund for the redemption of bonds for the construction of bridges under 54th Vic., chap. 3, the sum of \$12,399.14. This sinking fund did not merely exist on paper. The fund was represented by 4 per cent. bonds of the province, which the government had purchased, and which they held for the redemption of the same. The amount of the sinking fund at the end of 1892 was \$14,016.78, while at the end of 1893 the amount was \$125,296.58, showing a reduction in the year of \$20,720.21, which was quite a contrast to the dismal forbidding of certain optimistic members. Turning to the current revenue account, it would be seen that the total receipts for the year were \$730,877.49, while the estimated receipts were only \$693,769.68. This increase was chiefly owing to the sale of timber, and the receipts being largely exceeded.

The receipts estimated from territorial revenue were \$170,000, whereas the actual receipts were \$200,018.75. The government was certainly agreeably surprised at the result of the land sales which amounted to \$80,830, while the benefits from stampage came to \$105,739.59. The estimated expenditures last year were \$667,404.98. The actual expenditures were \$711,673; the surplus on current revenue account

Would be \$15,394.49. The hon. members would observe that in the public works department there was a large over expenditure, amounting to \$33,278.23. Had the outlay of that department been kept within the estimate there would have been a surplus on the year's operations of \$52,482.72. Many additional bridges had been demanded, and the counties would have the benefits of them. Had they not been constructed last year they would have had to be constructed this year, and he thought there were very few members who would say that too much money had been expended in this regard.

Under the head of administration of justice the expenditure had exceeded the estimate by \$2,448.50. This had been caused by an increase in jury fees of \$1,000, and in counsel fees in important criminal cases in Westmorland and St. John. The Welton and Stevens cases were very important and very intricate, and the government had felt that counsel should be employed in the case of the clerk of the court, who usually attended to the criminal business in the county court. In the Stevens case a certain amount of political feeling

Had been raised, and the attorney general and solicitor general felt that in the public interest of justice and of good feeling, it would be better for them to take no part. There had been a large increase in jury fees in the "Back" cases and the expenses at the examination had been large. Such expenditures were not unprecedented. It is not a great many years ago that \$1,820 was paid for criminal fees in a case in Westmorland and in the following year in the same case \$2,307 was paid.

Under the head of agriculture the government had expended last year \$21,799.34. Of this amount \$7,962.67 had been paid to agricultural societies, \$3,050 as bonuses to factories, and to local dairying associations and traveling dairies \$3,837.04. Mr. Mitchell then spoke at length in answer to the statement which he said had been made by members of the opposition that the government had done little for the cause of agriculture, and that all the credit was due the Dominion government for the development of the dairy industry. He pointed out that over 20 years ago the province of Ontario had initiated the present policy of stimulating the dairy industry. The Dominion government were now following the example of that great province. Their experimental farms were doing a grand work for the farmers. They had aided the farmers in this province somewhat, though not nearly to the extent that they had aided Prince Edward Island.

Due credit should be given them for the work they had done here, and especially to Prof. Robertson, who had

turned upon legislature had been \$19,875.20, and was about the same from year to year. The showing upon the item of lunatic asylum was better than it had been in previous years. The government had commenced last year with a balance against the institution of \$3,000. The grant had been the same as for 1892. The total number of patients during the year had been 501, as against 569 in 1892, and the daily average was 477 as compared with 458. The average cost per patient

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Than any other Province. While this province paid sixty cents per head, Nova Scotia paid forty-eight cents and Ontario twenty cents, all the other provinces in the case of the latter province, being borne by direct taxation. A new department had been made last year in regard to the examination of applicants for admission to the Normal School. Candidates were not now obliged to go to the expense of coming to Fredericton for this examination. The results had been very satisfactory. The expense was considerable, but was partly met by the fee of one dollar a head paid by the applicants. The expenditures upon the executive government last year had been \$26,275.49, as against \$26,036 the previous year. The increase was in part accounted for by the salary of the deputy receiver general having been raised, and also the employment of a stenographer. The fact was patent that the work done in the different departments was constantly increasing and the number of officials was too small. The clerks in many cases were overworked and their salaries were small when compared with what was paid for the same class of work in other provinces. Touching the item

Of Game Protection, Mr. Mitchell said that last year some hon. members had expressed their fears because a grant of \$2,000 was asked for. It would be seen, however, that only \$300 had been expended. Dr. Stockton—You only estimated \$250. Hon. Mr. Mitchell—That estimate was made before the act was passed. He felt that the subject of game protection was one which earnestly demanded attention. The interest on bonded debt, not otherwise provided for, had reached the sum of \$113,385.70, of which \$5,134.45 represented interest on over drafts caused by over expenditure of the board of works and partly owing to the fact that the government had held their bonds for a favorable time in which to sell. The expendi-

ture upon legislature had been \$19,875.20, and was about the same from year to year. The showing upon the item of lunatic asylum was better than it had been in previous years. The government had commenced last year with a balance against the institution of \$3,000. The grant had been the same as for 1892. The total number of patients during the year had been 501, as against 569 in 1892, and the daily average was 477 as compared with 458. The average cost per patient

showed a steady decrease since 1890 and now amounted to only \$7.30. He was satisfied if the hon. members who were wont to criticize that institution would only visit it, they would form an entirely different opinion. He had visited it many times and had always found it in the best of order. If any hon. member had been entirely unable to find them, he would be glad to accompany him on his journey in connection with the matter, but he had looked into the matter and had found the parties referred to willing to make a statement under oath at any time. If there were any hon. members who desired to see the similar institutions elsewhere, for the fact could not be denied that the cost of maintaining our lunatic asylum was less than that of maintaining any first class institution of the kind in America.

Upon public health there had been expended last year only \$1,326.20, as compared with \$2,167.91 in 1892. The saving was due to the absence of small pox or other contagious disease. It was to be regretted that there was an increase in the public printing. His experience was that printers and publishers were not most trustworthy class of people here, and he had to deal with them. They were never satisfied that they were paid enough. As explaining the increase from \$12,492.09 to \$14,002.72 he would mention that the school manual had been reprinted and the judicial act had to be printed at a cost of upwards of \$500.

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