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Longest and Stormiest Session of House.

Exposures of Government Wrong Doing--Sensational Administration Scandals--A Review of 1921 Proceedings.

(Concluded.)

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

It was on May 25th that the Prime Minister, in the absence, through illness, of the Minister of Finance and Customs, delivered the Budget Speech. It was towards the end of a lengthy night session, and most members were in a drowsy mood at the time the Leader of the Government rose, but it was not long before they became all attention, as he told how he was going to get his revenue for the coming fiscal year. The country was already suffering under an enormous burden of taxation. Under the new Budget this was to be greatly increased. As the Prime Minister explained, we are solely dependent for our revenue on the ad valorem duty on articles entering the country. There was already a surtax of 10 per cent. To this it was proposed to add a super-tax of 25 per cent, and furthermore, by means of a Sales Tax of 5 per cent. It was estimated that \$900,000 extra would be obtained. This in spite of the fact that importations had been reduced to an enormous extent, only bare necessities being imported.

The total revenue estimated was \$8,404,500.00, made up as follows:

Customs	\$4,470,000.00
Customs Surtax Increase	1,117,500.00
Customs Surtax on Liquor	30,000.00
Postal and Telegraphs	350,000.00
Crown Lands	50,000.00
Fines and Penalties	5,000.00
Inland Revenue Stamps	50,000.00
Guaranteed Interest	55,000.00
Broom Dept. Penitentiary	11,000.00
General Hospital	35,000.00
Taxes--	
Banks, cable, etc.	60,000.00
A. A. Telegraph Co.	60,000.00
Estate Duties	60,000.00
Liquor Sales	480,000.00
Income Tax	150,000.00
Arrears collectable under Business Excess Profits and Income Tax	100,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	150,000.00
Sales Tax, 5%	900,000.00
Proposed Reduction Civil Servants salaries	230,000.00
	\$8,404,500.00

In presenting the above the Prime Minister showed that he was blessed with a most optimistic nature. In the first place, with rapidly falling importations it is a practical impossibility to attain the estimated revenue from Customs duties, including Sur, Super and Sales Taxes. That is evident to anyone with even a bowing acquaintance with our economic affairs.

Yet, as has been said before, we are mainly dependent on these duties for our revenue. The large revenue which is estimated from liquor sales, is a glaring instance of the Government's attitude towards Prohibition. The worse part of the whole thing, however, is the reduction of the Civil Servants salaries. Enough has been said and written about this indecent action of the Government. If they are content to run the country with an efficient and underpaid Civil Service, then they have to take the consequences, and these are bound to be serious.

To enter into a disquisition on the Budget Speech is not possible within the space available. In a brilliant address in the House, Sir Michael Cashin, than whom none was more fitted for the task, tore it to shreds, but nothing can influence such an incompetent Government. Suffice it to say that it is undoubtedly the worst Budget Speech ever delivered in the local Assembly, but it is none the less worthy of the Government which introduced it.

CONCLUSION.

As stated in the foreword to this review, an endeavour has been made to give a faithful account of proceedings in the House during the past session. Everything that has been stated is correct, despite the derogatory remarks which appeared in a recent issue of the Advocate. If the Government has come in for some harsh criticism, it is no more than they deserve, for never before--and let us hope never again--has the country been administered by such an aggregation of incompetents.

Sessions of the Legislature of Nfld.

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1833--First Session from January 1st to July 9th.
1833--Second Session, July 12th to August 1st.
1834--Third Session, January 29th to June 12th.
1834--Fourth Session, September 1st to September 20th.
1835--Fifth Session, January 8th to May 8th.
1836--Sixth Session, January 7th to May 6th.

SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1837--First Session, July 3rd to November 19th.
1838--Second Session, June 20th to August 18th.

THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1839--First Session, August 20th to August 19th.
1839--Fourth Session, May 17th to October 12th.
1840--Fifth Session, January 3rd to April 29th.
1841--Sixth Session, January 2nd to April 28th.
1842--This year there was no Session.

FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1843--First Session, December 14th, 1843 to April 23rd, 1844.
1844--Second Session, January 28th to April 23rd.
1845--Third Session, January 15th to April 23rd.
1846--Fourth Session, January 14th to April 28th.
1846--Fifth Session, June 16th to August 4th.

FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1848--First Session, January 31st to June 15th.
1849--Second Session, January 31st to June 12th.
1850--Third Session, October 10th to November 30th.

SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1851--First Session, May 22nd to August 4th.
1852--Second Session, January 15th to May 12th.
1853--Third Session, January 29th to March 17th.
1854--Fourth Session, January 28th to May 14th.
1855--Fifth Session, January 27th to April 19th.

SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1860--First Session, January 31st to May 14th.
1860--Second Session, December 3rd to March 26th, 1861.

EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1861--First Session, May 13th to June 27th.
1862--Second Session, January 28th to March 27th.
1863--Third Session, January 28th to March 25th.
1864--Fourth Session, January 28th to April 7th.

NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1866--First Session, January 30th to May 1st.
1867--Second Session, January 31st to April 26th.
1868--Third Session, January 30th to April 29th.
1869--Fourth Session, January 28th to April 23rd.

TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1870--First Session, February 3rd to May 7th.
1871--Second Session, January 26th to April 24th.
1872--Third Session, January 26th to April 25th.
1873--Fourth Session, February 6th to May 5th.

ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1874--First Session, February 6th to April 29th.
1874--Assembly Dissolved, Sept. 19th.

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1875--First Session, February 4th to April 17th.
1876--Second Session, February 3rd to April 26th.
1877--Third Session, January 26th to April 25th.
1878--Fourth Session, February 7th to April 16th.

THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1879--First Session, February 6th to April 18th.
1880--Second Session, February 12th to April 11th.
1881--Third Session, February 17th to May 9th.
1882--Fourth Session, February 16th to May 20th.

FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1883--First Session, February 15th to April 21st.
1884--Second Session, February 14th to April 22nd.
1885--Third Session, February 12th to May 6th.

FIFTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1886--First Session, February 11th to May 19th.
1887--Second Session, February 17th to May 18th.
1888--Third Session, February 16th to May 9th.
1889--Fourth Session, February 14th to June 1st.

SIXTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1890--First Session, March 7th to June 11th.
1891--Second Session, February 12th to May 20th.
1892--Third Session, February 25th to June 1st.
1893--Fourth Session, August 11th to August 28th.

SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1894--First Session, March 7th to May 24th.
1895--Fifth Session, March 7th to May 24th.

EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1896--First Session, February 15th to August 9.
1897--Second Session, December 17th, to July 4th, 1898.
1898--Third Session, June 11th to August 6th.
1899--Fourth Session, March 18th to May 12th.

NINETEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1899--First Session, January 29th to May 30th.
1900--Second Session, May 11th to July 19th.
1900--Fourth Session, March 29th to May 4th.

Twentieth GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1901--First Session, February 21st to February 28th.
1901--Second Session, May 23rd to August 2nd.
1902--Third Session, February 19th to April 22nd.
1903--Fourth Session, March 5th to May 20th.

21st GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1904--First Session, March 20th to June 15th.
1904--Second Session, March 1st to May 10th.
1905--Third Session, February 7th to March 26th.

22nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1906--First Session, May 31st to June 12th.
1907--Second Session, January 31st to March 22nd.
1908--Third Session, February 8th to March 29th.
1909--Fourth Session, February 14th to April 18th.
1910--Fifth Session, March 5th to April 16th.

23rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1911--First Session, January 14th to March 11th.
1912--War Session, September 2nd to July 7th.
1913--Third Session, April 7th to June 5th.
1914--Fourth Session, March 23rd to May 4th.
1915--Fifth Session, May 30th to August 8th.
1916--Sixth Session, August 16th to August 20th.
1917--Seventh Session, April 29th to May 16th.
1918--Eighth Session, April 2nd to June 5th.

24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1920--April 20th to July 13th.
1921--March 30. Adjourned on August 12th, to Dec. 12th.

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