

THE BUDGET.

Manitoba

19

SPEECHES OF HON. MESSRS. JONES, GREENWAY (AS REPORTED BY THE "FREE PRESS") NORQUAY AND LARIVIERE (AS REPORTED BY THE "CALL") ON THE BUDGET, IN THE MANITOBA LEGISLATURE, ON MAY 18TH, AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

ALSO THE DEBATES ON THE FLOATING OF THE PROVINCIAL BONDS AND THE ABANDONMENT OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILWAY.

TREASURER JONES' SPEECH.

AS REPORTED BY THE "FREE PRESS."

At four o'clock Hon. Mr. Jones rose to deliver the budget speech. The applause with which he was greeted testified to his popularity and to the great things expected from his effort. He began by asking the indulgence of the House in view of his inexperience and the short time and unfavorable circumstances in which he had been engaged in looking into the financial situation of the Province. He believed the custom had been in former years, in laying the estimates on the table to deal largely with matters other than those which might be considered strictly financial. The practice had been to review to a considerable extent the past history of the province, and doubtless it would be expected by some that he would take this course, but such was not his intention. It would indeed be a pleasure to him, as to every member, to discuss the immediate past in this province, more particularly the past year with reference to the magnificent harvest produced, the large exportation made and matters in connection therewith; this, however, had been so ably dealt with by the member for North Dufferin in moving the reply to the Speech from the Throne that he did not think it desirable to discuss it further. He would, therefore, proceed to matters more directly connected with finance, including first the position of affairs when he entered upon his duties as Provincial Treasurer, and afterwards the supplementary estimates for the present fiscal year; the question of the loan which the House had authorized; the estimates of expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1889, making a few comparisons with past years; and matters which had come under his notice more especially and under the notice of the Government since they took office. He would first go over shortly matters with which the Government had dealt

try at the earliest possible moment a statement of the financial affairs as they existed. He believed this was usual when changes of Government took place; and it would have been only justice to the late government under any circumstances; but in view of the serious charges made during the past year, of recklessness and dishonest management, it became particularly desirable in the opinion of this Government that they should have auditors appointed to go over the books and see exactly the position they were in. Now he was free to say that, while many charges had been made through the public press and otherwise, with reference to the affairs of the Province, he had thought that considerable exaggeration had been made; but he regretted to add that his experience since he entered upon the duties of provincial treasurer, had convinced him that this was not the case, but the actual state of affairs would justify, if not all, almost all the statements made with reference to how the business had been managed. The Government found it very difficult indeed to make an audit, for the reason that the

BOOKS WERE SO FAR BEHIND that it took a great deal of time to write them up in order to be able to deal with some matters which it was particularly desired to deal with at the earliest possible moment. He desired to read a portion of two reports received from the auditors, dated April 19th, as follows:—

WINNIPEG, 4th April, 1888.

SIR.—We have the honor to hand you here-with statements showing the amounts at credit of Common Law Suits, and the amounts paid into the Court of Queen's Bench (equity) with interest to the 16th January, 1888, also a statement of interest credited to the bank account of Mr. G. H. Walker, Prothonotary, for which he has not accounted.

We have etc.,
(Sd) JOHN McDONALD, } Special
ALEX. MOFFAT, } Auditors.

Statement of interest credited to the Bank account of Mr. G. H. Walker, Prothonotary, and not accounted for.

Nov. 30, 1887, Interest on acc. from 24th	
March, 1882	\$ 35 30
May 31, 1883, Interest on acc. from 24th	
Nov., 1882	139 10
Nov. 30, 1883, Interest on acc. from 31st	
May, 1883	216 60

SINCE TAKING OFFICE.

About the first thing the Government did was to appoint auditors—in fact, the first duty that devolved upon him as Provincial Treasurer upon taking charge of the office was to recommend to the members of the Government that auditors be appointed to audit the books of the Province and lay before the

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