

In the Legislature.

(Mr. Prowse's Speech.)

Mr. Prowse thought the Premier's budget speech must have been regarded by every member of the House as a most grievous disappointment. He considered the statement given by Mr. Hughes regarding our Provincial debt, as extremely childish. The debt of the Province when the Liberals gained power, twenty years ago, he showed, was but \$128,000. The commission subsequently appointed by the new Government could only trump up \$171,000 total debts and liabilities. Several months after, the balance was struck at \$124,000. On the 31 December 1891 the Liberal Government had a deficit of \$30,000. But the debentures issued by the Liberals funded the whole debt which proved to be only \$158,000. Referring to the \$200,000 withdrawn from capital, he quoted the late Premier Farquharson as favoring withdrawing enough from the \$500,000 placed to our capital by the Conservatives, to wipe out the debt against the Province. Referring to the statement made by the Commissioner of Public Works who asserted that the amount of money to credit at Ottawa was put there by successive Liberal Governments, he pronounced the declaration ridiculous and untrue. In proof of his statement on this point, he read from official documents to show how and when the capital to our credit at Ottawa was placed there. He pointed out that of late years, the auditor appends a note below the statement of our Provincial debt in the public accounts, showing how much money is to our credit at Ottawa. This was for the purpose of over-shadowing, in some measure the uninviting contemplation of the figures showing our enormous debt. He quoted from the official figures to show how our capital at Ottawa decreased while our debt increased, narrowing from year to year the margin between the two. He quoted the figures of receipts and expenditures for the Conservatives and Liberals respectively, showing that the average annual expenditure of the Liberals was \$300,705 while that of the Conservatives was \$265,000. Summing up these comparisons he showed that the Province was \$1,412,000 worse off than when the Liberals came into power. He also showed the sinking fund account was not strictly correct; but contained credits that should not be regarded as cash. On the interest question, he pointed out that the Conservatives during all their years of office paid only \$37,467 in interest to the Banks. On the other hand the Liberals have paid over \$443,000 in interest. The Liberals pay more interest in one year than the Conservatives paid altogether. He showed that in every department of the administration the Liberals have been extravagant and incompetent. It was by means of deception that the Liberals managed to keep in power. We have great and substantial claims against the Dominion Government, and it was surely high time some of these should be realized. As the present Government have utterly failed to collect our undisputed claims it was high time they were sent about their business and men placed in power who would attend to this matter. He quoted the words of George E. Cartier, on the eve of confederation, to the effect that no direct taxation was to be levied for local purposes. He quoted the words of Laurier to the same effect. He next referred to the amount of over \$3,500 spent on Government House before Sept 30, last, although only

\$800 of the amount are charged in last year's accounts. He read the accounts containing the price of shingles at \$6 a thousand. One return tabled by the Commissioner of Public Works showed a contract had been entered into for the painting of Government House; but a return tabled later stated there had been no contract. Among the items of expenditure was to be found a charge of \$325 for an "adding machine." In conclusion he moved the following amendment to the motion to go into committee supply:

Resolved that this House affirms its absolute right to give or withhold supplies for the public service and that the expenditures made with out such authority are unconstitutional and contrary to the rights of the people as secured under responsible government. Further Resolved that in the opinion of this House the practice of delaying payment of accounts from one fiscal year to another is calculated to lead to confusion, extravagance and corruption. And Further Resolved that this House views with alarm and condemns the avowed policy of the Government to issue further debentures to meet the requirements of the public service.

(Mr. McKinnon's Speech.)

Mr. McKinnon ridiculed the silly statements made by several members on the Government side, to the effect that our roads never were in such excellent condition; that the Premier deserves congratulation on the splendid financial showing etc. Let Mr. Crosby for instance, go to the Public Works department and ask for a small grant for some necessary bridge or piece of road and he will be told there was no money. He severely scored the Liberals on their expenditure of public money to win their elections. Mr. Crosby, he said, pretended to be willing to leave the public questions to the consideration of the people. If he was willing to do that, he was the only Liberal of that mind. The whole history of the Liberals and their manner of winning elections contradicted any such willingness on the part of our Liberal friends. They never succeeded in keeping in power by any other means than by corruptly spending the people's money to secure votes. He pointed out that on every occasion when ever there was question in the Legislature of readjusting taxation, the members of the Opposition always advocated the best methods; but the Government invariably refused to adopt any of these correct methods. This was notably true in regard to the readjustment of the tax on farm lands. He went on to show how unfair and unjust were the methods now in force in this matter. He further showed that the Opposition had not opposed the cold storage proposition. On the contrary the Opposition favored a cold storage system that would benefit all the people of the Province. He fully exposed the Government's false position on cold storage and other matters. In any matter pending between the Provincial and Federal Governments our Local Government invariably take the part of the Federal authorities against the people of the Province. The present Liberal Government, he pointed out, had demoralized our educational system. Our education was costing more and more, from year to year, but the number of children at school were less and less and matters generally in the country schools, were going from bad to worse. He thought the Government's position on the matter of education, as well as other matters, was very humiliating.

Ottawa Correspondence.

OTTAWA, April 11.

The reasons why it would be unwise for parliament to ratify the reciprocity agreement so hastily entered into by Messrs. Fielding and Paterson may be summed up as follows: All men agree that we are enjoying unprecedented prosperity as we are, with almost absolute certainty of a continuance thereof. Abundant harvests and high prices amply reward the tiller of the soil, whose income increases much more rapidly than his outgo. The manufacturer thrives with large orders and satisfactory profits. Artisans and laborers are fully employed at good wages. Commerce is rapidly expanding and accounts are promptly paid. Transportation facilities are increasing to meet the growing demand therefor. Interprovincial trade is active and strengthening the bonds of commercial friendship and national unity. Trade with the Motherland is growing and adding to the vitality of the Empire. We govern ourselves and enjoy all the rights and privileges of British institutions without the cost of monarchy. For the upbuilding of its various parts it is desirable to establish a system of preferential trade within the Empire, which this agreement would retard or prevent. This was the concise summary given by Mr. T. W. Crothers of West Elgin in his speech in the House of Commons against the pact. All moderate men will agree with him that the effect of the adoption of this agreement upon these various conditions is absolutely uncertain—that it might be adverse to many if not to all of them. Probably one half at least of our most capable experienced and patriotic citizens of all classes regardless of race, creed or political affiliations sincerely believe that many, if not all of these laudable aspirations and happy conditions would be thwarted and injuriously affected were the agreement enforced. Its adoption would tend, as Mr. Crothers points out, to the separation of our provinces rather than to help unity—would mean a practical surrender of our fiscal independence, and would be followed by an irresistible demand for the free admission of all manufactured goods with its inevitable accompaniments, political as well as commercial action. Glance for a moment at the record of Mr. Fielding, the free trader at heart, who is responsible more than any one else for precipitating this disturbing factor into the national and commercial life of Canada. Is his judgment on this question any sounder than it was when he advocated that it was the best interests of Canada to tear up the British North America Act and for the Province of Nova Scotia to secede from the Dominion? It was Mr. Fielding's judgment that all it would cost to build the National Transcontinental from Winnipeg to Montreal was \$51,000,000; but he added "in order to make it a first class road it would probably cost some \$3,000,000 more. The judgment of the Finance Minister was nearly about \$150,000,000 out in this particular instance. Were the dealings with Manager Travers of the Farmers Bank in 1906 a kind to inspire confidence in the business ability or sound judgment of the minister who by his disregard of solemn warnings gave this institution ranging rights which they used to rob the farmers of Canada and a large number of other shareholders and depositors. Not Mr. Fielding by his record was the last man in whom Canada would have confidence. It has been openly boasted by the Government that the reciprocity agreement will not only benefit the farmers of Canada but the fishermen, particularly those of the Maritime Provinces as well. So far as the fish is concerned, practical farmers like Glen Campbell have condemned it from a western point of view, and Messrs. Thornton and Broder from the standpoint of the Ontario agriculturalist. Speaking on behalf of the fishermen of Nova Scotia, Mr. Clarence Jamieson, of Digby, declares from his place in parliament that after fully considering the pact he is hostile towards it as it is not in the best interests of the toilers of the sea. Mr. Jamieson was emphatic in his opposition to the agreement from the fishermen standpoint. He showed that the Government was paying the United States three pence for their market—first by continuing the licensing system in force, second by giving practically free licenses to United States fishermen, third by giving them the Canadian market for their fish. This threefold payment to the Americans for their market makes more difficult the obtaining of bait for Canadian fishermen, robs them of their own market, and hampers them of securing the market of the United States and will drive them to United States vessels. Mr. Jamieson pointed out that the lobster fisheries in the Bay of Fundy and three miles off our coast are open to United States fishermen, and during the close season when Canadian fishermen cannot legally take them American

All Stuffed Up

That's the condition of many sufferers from catarrh, especially in the morning. Great difficulty is experienced in clearing the head and throat.

No wonder catarrh causes headache, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, polishes the breath, deranges the stomach and affects the appetite. To cure catarrh, treatment must be constitutional—alterative and tonic. I was ill for four months with catarrh in the head and throat. Had a bad cough and raised blood. I had become discouraged when my husband bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla and persuaded me to try it. I advise all to take it. It has cured and built me up. Mrs. Ross Rogers, West Lincoln, N. S.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures catarrh—It soothes and strengthens the mucous membrane and builds up the whole system.

Fishermen can catch lobsters off the coast and sell them in their own market. Another reason why Mr. Jamieson opposed the agreement was that while our fishermen only get the United States market—and that does not seem under the circumstances to be much of a privilege—the fishermen of the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Japan are given the Canadian market. Also Canadian fishermen are not guaranteed such favorable treatment in United States ports as American fishermen will have in Canadian ports.

The more this Fielding-Tat pact is looked into in the eyes of business men and experience the more extraordinary does this sudden rushing of the Laurier Government into the arms of Uncle Sam appear. There was no need whatever of jumping into this quagmire. Canada was prosperous, her development along her own individual lines was proceeding apace, and yet with one stroke of the pen Fielding the "little Canadian" has upset the apple-cart of national progress and unity.

OTTAWA, March 6.

Mr. Fielding's annual budget speech was a disappointment even to his staunchest supporters. There was little of that bombastic utterance which has always been a feature of his financial statements. Even when he produced his surplus of \$30,300,000, the listless members seated behind him refused to throw themselves into spasms of enthusiastic ecstasy, and from the start to finish of the financial pronouncement of the Finance Minister a spirit of gloom seemed to hover over the Liberal ranks. When in 1896 the then opposition denounced the Conservative Government for taking some \$36,000,000 out of the pockets of the people, it might have been expected that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power he would carry out the promise he so eloquently made, but there has been an increase of taxation amounting to 195 per cent. between the years 1896 and 1911. During the past fiscal year this Government took from the people in taxation \$52,000,000, so that in the matter of taxation and in the matter of revenue including taxation there have been vast strides forward. And yet with all his much vaunted book-keeping surplus Mr. Fielding was forced to admit that the increase to the national debt was in the neighborhood of \$4,000,000. The debt today is \$100,000,000 greater than it was when these bold free-trading financiers came into power in spite of the surplus balloons which have been so industriously inflated by Mr. Fielding during the fifteen years he has been Finance Minister. It should strike the people of Canada rather forcibly that this Government has increased the expenditures over and above what they would have been on the normal rate of 1896 by \$427,000,000, and they have increased the taxation by \$250,000,000. That is not a record which any Government should be proud of, and the claims of Laurier, Fielding and Company that they have administered the affairs of Canada in a sane business-like way falls to the ground when the facts and figures are scanned for a moment. The debt of \$336,000,000 weighs heavily on the people and the present habit of taking something like \$80,000,000 from the public pocket a year in taxation. This Government is taking from every man, woman and child in Canada over \$40 a head. It is small wonder that Mr. Fielding was somewhat troubled about that surplus of \$30,000,000. He thought it was so large, as Mr. Foster pointed out, that the taxpayers might demand the lessening of these taxes, especially that large portion of them who were brought up under the teachings of the Finance Minister himself. When Mr. Fielding was perambulating the country telling the people what he was going to do he was a sturdy opponent of surpluses. He and Laurier cried out in opposition that as soon

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