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JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

Subscriptions for 1902 and previous years are now overdue; and sub scriptions for 1903, are now payable. Our friends will please bear these tacts in mind

## Our Provincial Finan-

In our last issue we gave a brief statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Provincial Government during the year 1902. In this issue our readers will find the auditor's account of -receipts and expenditures. stated last week, and set forth in the auditor's report, the expenditure amounted to \$336,792,48 and the receipts were \$324,670.37. These figuees show a deficit on the years transactions, of \$12,-122,11. We may be very sure, however, that the real deficit for 1902 is considerably more than that shown by the auditor's figures. There are we may depend accounts and portions of accounts carried forward into the present year which should appear in the accounts of the past year. Our Grit friends have always done this in years past and not likely they have departed therefrom in the case under review. There is the quarter of teachers salaries falling due on Dec. 31. which properly belongs to 1902. This if itself amounts to \$30,000, or more and besides this probably ten thousand dollars more. These items added to the above acknowledged deficit of \$12,122,11, bring the shortage to upwards of \$50,000. The amount the Government added to the Provincial debt, during the past year, may therefore be placed in round numbers at \$50,000.

This deficit added to the previous debt of the Province will, own admission, bring the Provincial bebt up to more than \$700, 000. In the auditor's report on the public accounts for 1901, the Government admitted a debt of 642,177,72, and in the report under review the auditor places the debt at \$650.409.30. In the same report the deficit on the years transactions is admitted to be \$12,122,11. This admitted deficit added to the acknowledged debt at the end of the previous year should show the debt. According to this the pebt would be \$654, 299.83 instead of \$650,409,30. Of course the difference is not very much; but it is sufficient to show how unreliable the Government's figures regarding the debt and deficits are, and is additional evidence in favor of our contention that the deficit is in the vininity of \$50,000, and the debt at least \$700,000. The Government's statement of the Provincial debt is made up as follows:

Debentures issued (less sinking fund) \$240,308,45 Loans to the Govern-

ment.

Balance due the banks, 235,853,45

\$650,409,30 This is the amount the Government admit the Province was in debt on the 31st Dec. 1902. In all conscience it is quite large enough; but as we have shown above, the real debt must exceed these figures by about \$50,000.

The recklessness of the Government and their capacity for creating deficits and rolling up the public debt are shown in a most striking manner in the accounts under review. Last year they collected in taxes no less than \$82,861,77, within a few dollars of \$18,000 more than they collected in 1901. Besides that they obtained from Ottawa \$15,000 more than they did in 1901, having received the full additional \$30,000 subsidy. The amount received from taxation is made up from the following items:

Commercial Travellers' Licenses, Incorporated Companies, 13,067,70 Succession duties, 3,559.80 34.882.57 Provincial land tax, 8,441.29 Income tax Road tax 14,910.41

\$82,861.77 We have shown by the Government's own accounts, as repor- Peters said the matter was still ted upon by their own auditor under consideration. Mr. Arse- new industries coming into the City, \$1.65 to \$1.80 for the end, they received last year \$18,000 nault also asked if the Govern- and not in existence at the time of an more taxes than on the previous ment had taken steps to build a application for exemption is made will sell for \$1.-J. B. Mc-

THE HERALD year, as Dominion subsidy, \$33,- and if it was the intention of the years in the case of such l ubsidy to such a Government? They are bound to produce deficits and roll up the public debt.

Sessional Notes

The business of the session cannot be said to have been hustled with any ordinary degree of speed by the Government thus far, when you consider that three weeks have almost elapsed since the opening and there is as yet no sign of the budget speech.

On Tuesday, March 31st, the House sat but a few minutes in the forenoon, engaged principally in matters of simple routine. Mr A. J. McDonald Georgetown, asked: " if a petition page for the opening of a road on Boughton Island and of the re-establishing of a ferry from Launching to Boughton Island has been received, and if so what action does the Government intend taking?" petition had been received, building new wharves.

During the afternoon of Tues-

second reading of his bill to 6th.

amend the act for the encouragement of agriculture. He said that two years experience had convinced him that some of the institutes had not promoted stock improvement and had used but a small part of their funds for educational purposes. Consequently Legislature and read a first time he thought it a mistake to go on having for its object the exemption granting money to these institu- of the Dominion Packing Company tes. The amendments provide from civic taxation, for a period of 20 mum membership shall be 60. When the \$15 from the 60 members are paid the Government will the Government will give a grant empted from taxation by the said tribution of \$30-in all \$60 per A. D., 1903. year to be expended upon stock. It is provided the institutes shall be incorporated and made capable moved in amendment, seconded by of buying and selling, incurring debts and collecting debts owing them. The amendments provide that the calves shall be taken from the milch cows at the stock farm, when quite young and sold to the best advantage and that the cows' milk be sold to the Hospital for the Insane or the the Condensed Milk Factory. Considerable amusement was act do not go into effect until first caused by Hon. Mr. Gordon's pointing out a ridiculous error in This resolution was defeated on the in the very first sentence of the bill. It referred to the original bill as having been passed in the 64th year of her late Majesty's when reign. Queen Victoria did not reign 64 years. Mr, Mathieson factiously pointed to this as an evidence of extraordinary care in

Mr Rogers' bill was further considered in committee on Wednesday, when progress was again reported and permission asked to sit again. Towards the close of the sitting Hon. Mr. exemption from taxation for a period of twenty years, for the Dominion Packing Company. The bill had been prepared by the City Recorder, and the authority of the Legislature was necessary to empower the city to institute the exemption, The bill had

preparing the bill. The Leader

of the Opposition protested

against proceeding any further

with the bill until an opportunity

were afforded for reading it. The

bill reached the committee stage

and progress was reported. The

House then adjourned till the fol-

lowing day.

After routine on Thursday Mr. Arsenault asked if it was the intention of the Government to introduce a system of vital statistics. and if not why not? Hon. Mr.

of the City Council.

way behind, created a big deficit Cummiskey said that tenders for said industrieand largely increased the public former had been called for, and Therefore resolved, that this meetburdens by their addition to the for the latter the Government had Provincial debt. What is the use received a report that the bridge of paying taxes or increasing the is not impassable. The rest of Thursdays sitting was occupied agricultural bill. It was reported from comittee agreed to with

certain amendments.

had appeared in the Guardian newspaper. These articles were withdraw the said bill. all strongly opposed to the exferred to Mr. Whear as the "paid agent of the company." If he were guilty of what he was charged with by the Guardian he would be guilty of a misdemeanor and made against him by the Guardian to send for persons and papers and to examine witnesses on oath. The Commissioner replied that In his remarks, Mr. Whear also intimated that an official of the that he would go to Boughton Is- House, as well as the Guardian, and and see about the road and had made the statements of which at the same time see about the he complained. The Leader of ferry. Mr McDonald also asked the opposition, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. houncing upon it. It is not likely that a majority of citizens are opposed if it was the intention to build a McLean and others of the opposiwharf at Louis McPherson's shore tion called to the irregularity of a Company reasonable exemption from Grand River, Lot 55. To this the member moving in his own case, taxation; but the duration of emempt-Commissioner of Public Works re- as well as to the threat that had ion asked for seems altogether too plied that the Government had been made against an official of long, and the manner of procedure in not vet considered the matter; the House. The resolution passed the case does not appear to have been but would give it careful atten- however, and on motion of the by any means regular. Exemption tion, although not favorable to Leader of the Government a com- for five or six years might be granted Lean was appointed. The House day, Hon. Mr. Rogers moved the then adjoined till monday April

#### Packing Company Exemption.

As referred to elsewhere in this issue a bill has been presented in the tutes that promote stock raising, therewith shall be and is hereby ex of \$30, on condition these institu- city for a term of twenty years comes will make an additional con-mencing from the first day of January

Councillor Whear moved, the ad option of the bill: Councillor Hooper Councillor Lyons, that this bill be not presented to the Legislature until a vote of the citizens be first obtained by a plebiscite. This amendment was defeated, only the mover and seconder voting for it, and the main motion was carried. Councillor Hooper then presented a resolution. seconded by Councillor Lyons, to the lature passing the bill in question, the submitted to the citizens by plebiscite. presented to the Legislature, the bill was introduced it was pointed out by the Opposition that it did not come in the regular way; but was forced in by the suspension of rules. Meantime was unjust to the taxpayers of Charlottetown, as it overrode the powers and privileges of the City Council privileges to the Provincial Legislature. In order to afford the citizens an opportunity to express their opinions on the matter, Mr. George E Hughes, one of the City's representa meeting of the citizens for Friday largely attended and all present seem-Whear introduced a bill asking Nicholson moved and Mr Phillip Large seconded the following resolution, which after a full discussion was carried by a sweeping majority. In deed the vote was all but unanimous

Whereas by the Act of Incorporation the Local Government vested in been ratified by a majority vote the City Council of the City of Char lottetown the power to assess and to collect taxes on real estate and personal property and other taxes in the said City:

Whereas by a subsequent act the Local Government vested in the said City Council the power to grant exemption from taxation to any new hotel to be built in the City, and to Homespun and Tweeds worth year, and \$15,000 more than last new bridge near Louis Perry's, for a period not to exceed fifteen Donald & Co.

000 in these two items, and yet. Government to build a new bridge built, and for a period not to exceed in spite of all this they have run over Haldimand River? Mr. five years in the case of such afore

> ing of taxpayers respectfu'ly urge upon the present Legislature in Parliament assembled that the bill now before the legislature, praying that the Dowith consideration of Mr. Rogers be exempted from taxation for twenty years is unfair and unjust to the tax payers of the City of Charlottetown, inasmuch as it does not provide that the City Council of the City of Char-When the house met on Friday lottetown shall have the power to norning. Hon. Mr. Whear called grant such exemption under certain attention to certain articles that regulations; and further resolved that Mr Whear is hereby requested to

> The question of granting or refusemption of the Dominion Packing ing the exemption asked for, is a Company from taxation and re- matter that interests the taxpayers of the City of Charlottetown, more than anyone else, and the overwhelming vote cast against the exemption at the citizens' meeting, would seem to show where they stand in the matter. The laws governing the civic corporation ought to be expelled from the require that requests for tax exempt-House. He denied the charge ion should be published in the newspapers for a certain length of time beand asked for a special comittee fore the question comes up for disof five members of the house to cussion by the City Council; but it investigate the matter, with power appears that in this case this requirewhole business bears on its face the the public without sufficient notice, and of an attempt to force it through the Legislature before the citizens would have an opportunity of promittee composed of Messrs Rogers, and at the end of that period the ex-Read Simpson, Morson and Mc- emption could be extended, if it were found that everything was all right. We are of the opinion that no reason take exception to such action as this It now remains to be seen what course the Legislature will pursue with regard to the bill before it.

> > Fast Atalntic Service.

Montreal on the 5th from England. reduced to 25 cents, and the mini-City Council held on Tuesday even - probably be able to come to Canada ing of last week, March 31. The this year, he thought he would be over main provision of the bill is that "the packing and canning establishment of he required a short rest, and two weeks pay \$20. These two amounts the said company and all the pro the desired effect, there being very equal \$35, enough to defray orthe said Company in connection with his brief sejourn in Great Britain. While in London the transfer of the ships which C. P. R. had purchased It is a Very Superior fiom the Elder-Dempster Company was completed, and several of the fleet had already been made ready for the sea. Sir Thomas explained there would be a weekly service from the St. Lawrence to Liverpool, while the ships of the fleet would run fortnightly between Montreal, Bristol and London. The resident thought something had been done in Canada in connection with the success which had attended insuring these ships. The insurance rates to she St. Lawrence had been so high that the Canadian government were being urged to subsidize a Canadian Lloyde in order to lessen the burden upon the shipping trade between upper Canada and the old country, but at one stroke effect that, in the event of the Legis- of the pen the Canadian Pacific had been able to reduce the rate to a four guineas basis. This had been brought about by the good luck which had attended the company's ships on the Pacific, and it would, no doubt, same division as the first amendment have a beneficial effect upon Canadian On the following day the bill was shipping interests generally. Asked if conclusion of the fast line contract, Sir had met Balfour and Coambertain, but the matter was not discussed. It was a matter in which the Canadian government was more directly interested mutterings were heard that the bill Sir Thomas h d no confidence in the across Ireland preject now being advocated in certain quarters, as he con- buying at Taylor's will be siders that the British terminal point must be as near as possible to the in the matter of civic taxation and centre of population. His opinion on sought to transfer those powers and the question had not changed for eighteen years, and that the summer port on this side should be Montreal Post Office. or Quebec with Halifax as the winter terminal. He also announced that when the company's trans-Atlantic fleet was completely organized there tives in the Legislature, and Mr. might be a port of call at Antwerp or Whear's colleague, called a public some other continental port. The question of placing a contract for another Empress for the Pacific trade had eyening last. The meeting was very been considered, but nothing was yet done. The company feared the effect ed terribly in earnest regarding the of the antiChinese legislation now matter to be considered. Mr Donald | before the Canadian parliamest, as a measure so prohibitive in its character might provoke retaliation on the part of the Chinese territories and seriously interfere with the trade between Canada and that empire. Official England, in favor of the resolution. This is has at least awakened to the great possibilities of Canada as a home for the United Kingdom's surplus population, and he describes the change that has taken place in the public mind of England anent the resources of the Dominion as unprecedented. The Canadian

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