

REAL ESTATE THE BEST INVESTMENT IN CANADA

FINANCES OF PROVINCE HONESTLY EXPENDED BY FLEMMING ADMINISTRATION

Continued from page three.
Turning to expenditure he gave the following comparative statement of actual and estimated expenditure for 1911:

EXPENDITURE 1911.	Estimates	Expenditure in excess of Estimates	Estimates
Ad. of Justice.....	\$ 18,568.91	\$ 21,750.00	\$ 3,181.09
Agriculture.....	49,856.17	58,898.33	\$ 8,942.16
Aud. Gen. & Office.....	3,099.82	3,100.00	38
Boys Indus. Home.....	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Campbellton Relief.....	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Coronation Expenses.....	2,500.00		
Colonization Roads.....	939.25		
Elections.....	1,211.26	1,100.00	111.26
Exec. Government.....	47,942.03	47,262.00	680.03
Education.....	276,578.69	274,310.00	2,268.69
School Books.....	18,853.31	20,000.00	1,146.69
Factory Inspect.....	1,162.50	1,000.00	162.50
Free Grants Acc.....	791.03	1,000.00	208.97
Fish, F and G Protec.....	30,353.61	32,000.00	1,646.39
Guar. Bds. Gov. Offs.....	899.50		
Immigration.....	245,133.33	251,000.00	5,866.67
Jordan Mem. Sanit.....	9,566.40	9,000.00	566.40
Legislature.....	3,008.75	1 Geo. V. C. 13	3,008.75
Liquor Licenses.....	37,508.30	37,881.25	472.95
Mining and Min. Dev.....	28,257.01	28,000.00	257.01
N. B. Coal and R. In.....	1,848.80	2,000.00	151.20
Nat. His. Society.....	448.74		
N. B. His. Society.....	125.00	125.00	
N. B. Rifle Assn.....	300.00	300.00	
Public Health.....	8,236.50	7,700.00	536.50
Public Hospital.....	9,700.00	10,300.00	600.00
Probate Courts.....	13,063.63	13,063.00	136.97
Prov. Hos. (Inmate).....	83,942.50	84,000.00	57.50
Public Printing.....	13,798.92	13,800.00	1.08
Public Works.....	416,265.31	318,800.00	97,465.31
Refunds.....	1,542.32	2,500.00	957.68
Revisors.....	1,832.64	1,850.00	17.36
Roads Settlement.....	255.99	3 Ed. 7. C. 18	255.79
Stamps and Inspections.....	4,682.14	4,750.00	67.86
Stumpage Collection.....	30,855.82	30,000.00	855.82
Succession Du. Col.....	277.56	750.00	472.44
Sinking Funds.....	25,306.50	24,850.00	456.50
Superann. and Pensions.....	2,000.00	2,500.00	500.00
Tourist Assoc's.....	66.25	150.00	83.75
Tuberculosis Com.....	600.00		
Utilities Com.....	2,417.16	2,000.00	417.16
Unforeseen Expenses.....			

During the past year \$156,028 had been expended on permanent bridges. The following statement showed the expenditures on permanent bridges during the last three years of the old government, and the first three years of this government which added to the permanent debt of the province:

1906.....	\$ 74,872
1907.....	126,730
1908.....	172,591
1909.....	136,102
1910.....	148,322
1911.....	156,028

From the time that this government came into power in 1908 it had set its face towards meeting the ordinary expenditure of the country out of the ordinary revenue, and it would not depart from that position. The revenues are increasing from year to year through honest collection of what is due to the province. The revenue during the past three years had been as follows:

1909.....	\$1,259,826
1910.....	1,324,440
1911.....	1,347,077

Result of Honest Collection.
This increase was made up almost entirely through an honest collection of territorial revenue. The revenue

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which stumpage had been collected during the past six years:

1906.....	141
1907.....	149
1908.....	151
1909.....	204
1910.....	280
1911.....	3

For the last year of the old administration there was a yearly average of 141 million feet on which stumpage was collected, as compared with a yearly average of 265 million feet for the first three years under this administration. The stumpage collections had been increasing, but cut had not been increasing. The transatlantic shipments for the years in question were in millions of feet as follows:

1906.....	420
1907.....	355
1908.....	324
1909.....	325
1910.....	327
1911.....	285

The Provincial Hospital.

Turning to the provincial hospital, it was found that in 1907 there was due from Municipalities \$24,350. At the present time only \$3,505.98 was due, also while the cost of all food commodities had materially increased, the per capita cost for maintenance at the Provincial Hospital is less under the present administration than under its predecessors.

Under the present government the Royal Gazette had been placed upon a paying basis. There was received from advertising last year \$2,434, and in addition to this, government notices were inserted in the Royal Gazette and for which nothing was paid, to the value of \$539.30. The total cost of printing the Royal Gazette last year was \$1,744, leaving a balance to the credit of the King's Printer of \$689.61. Previous to the 21st of September last the Dominion government had not paid this province its one half cost of public wharves. That sum was paid since 21st September and has gone into the reports for the present year, \$5,011.62.

Overdraft Interest Wiped Out.

Under the present administration the interest on current overdrafts at the banks which, under the old regime averaged more than \$22,000 a year, had been entirely eliminated. The statement for several years was as follows:

1905.....	\$16,332
1906.....	19,105
1907.....	48,473
1908.....	6,724
1909.....	1,773
1910.....	2,450

In the year 1909 instead of interest paid out the province received for credit balances at the bank \$4,043. In the last four years of its administration the former government had paid a yearly average of \$22,650 to the banks for interest on current account. In the last three years of this government the yearly average had been only \$7,478. Last year \$26,500 was transferred to the Valley Railway survey account and on which no interest was received from May to October. This will be repaid on adjustment with the railway company of \$265 and this will practically wipe out all the present government had paid to banks for interest on current account.

School Books.
The school book accounts showed that through receipts of last year were not quite up to estimates, yet the showing was satisfactory. The amount received up to October 31st \$16,209. The expenditure in the same period was \$18,853, an expenditure less by \$2,644 than in 1910. The loss on the school book transaction in four years had been less than \$1,500 from which might properly be deducted about \$500 credited to the vendors by reason of further reduction in price of English readers.

Agriculture.

The total expenditure for agriculture last year was \$49,958. Of this amount grants to agricultural societies totalled \$13,741. The number of agricultural societies had doubled. New markets were being opened, a provincial horticulturist was engaged to teach our people how to make the best use of our fertile fruit lands, a poultry expert was going about to inculcate the best scientific methods in poultry raising and general life, activity and prosperity were manifest on every hand. This year's estimated expenditure for agriculture was \$61,315, the largest expenditure for this department in the history of the province.

Administration of Justice.
He would refer briefly to the cost of administration of justice. The controllable item of this expenditure was the amount paid out for criminal prosecutions. It was found that while the old administration provided liberally in that regard yet what was set down under the heading of criminal prosecutions did not nearly tell the whole story. For instance, while in 1907 it was set out that little more than \$3,000 was paid for criminal prosecution, another sum of \$5,000 that ought to have been charged to that account was hidden away under miscellaneous expenditures.

Here is the record:	
1907.....	\$3,258
1908.....	2,902
1909.....	1,931
1910.....	961
1911.....	1,294

Public Works.

The hon. provincial secretary said that he next approached the subject of expenditures on public works. The government is accused of spending more than its predecessors, and he admitted the accusation. The province is progressing, is doing twice as much business as several years ago, is collecting twice as much as several years ago. The government had money to spend and is not afraid to spend it on needed public services. He presented the following comparative statement of expenditures on ordinary bridges:

Old Government:	
Year.....	No. bridges.....Expenditure.....
1905.....	245.....\$82,893
1906.....	243.....83,885

Take the last three years of the

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1907.....\$375 98,408

Present Government:

1908.....	\$513 \$173,698
1909.....	642 154,916
1910.....	647 162,524
1911.....	675 236,158

To make these great expenditures for bridges doubling the number built and repaired by the old government without adding one solitary dollar to the bonded debt of the province on account of such expenditures, was something of which the government felt proud and which would commend itself to the great mass of the electorate of the province. Such a statement was specially gratifying to the people of the province. The day of concealment is past and after year the former administration for such repairs and work as they did were adding many thousands of dollars to the permanent debt of the country. They had absolutely to provide for ordinary expenditures on common bridges and to keep up the roads out of the ordinary revenue. This government was spending three times as much on public services as the former government, and providing for it out of ordinary revenues.

Wharf Expenditures.

What was true of bridges was also true of wharves. The present administration was spending about five times as much on that service as was spent by the old government, as the following statement would show:

1905.....	\$4,267
1906.....	5,937
1907.....	4,754
1908.....	13,311
1909.....	13,820
1910.....	23,178
1911.....	24,272

That was not extravagance. It was the soundest kind of economy. Public services required it and the public services got it. The present administration found the roads neglected, the wharves wrecked. These had been repaired and rebuilt and that out of the current revenue of the country. Not a dollar had been wrongfully spent.

THE DEFICIT.

The government came frankly before the House and the country and stated that last year they over-expended to the amount of \$56,469.80. This over-expenditure was more than accounted for by the large over-expenditure on the bridges. The government had nothing to conceal; the work was necessary, being the result of neglect in years gone by when the old administration was in power and allowed the bridges to become dilapidated. This work could not be caught up with at once but each year this administration had been making good progress towards getting the bridges in proper shape and it was expected that in a very short time the bridges of the province would not require any such large expenditures. But it was necessary last year and while necessity excuses this government will not shrink from its plain duty to the people.

It would be somewhat of a novelty for the people of New Brunswick to find a government admitting having had a deficit on year's operation. The old government never admitted having a deficit. Year after year they said to the House and to the country that they had had a surplus, in fact, Mr. Pugsley was often quoted as having described the "tidy little surplus."

When they given a true statement there never was a year but that they went deeper and deeper in the hole. Take the last three years of the

old government. In 1906 they bonded an over-expenditure on the Public Works Department which had been concealed when the legislature met in 1905 and no account was given of it whatever. The amount was \$197,065.97 and in the report of 1907 a statement of it appeared as follows:

Bal. ordinary acct. Oct. 31, 1906.....	\$ 47,122.24
Supt. of roads.....	79,146.57
St. John bye roads.....	3,963.97
Ordinary Bridges, wharves etc.....	52,994.66
Special Expen. on roads, etc.....	5,255.12
Public Buildings.....	1,653.78
Government House.....	142.80
Normal School.....	1,114.96
Prov. Hos. Building.....	5,272.17
Steam Navigation.....	400.00

Total.....\$197,065.97

This simply was an unloading of what were absolutely ordinary expenditures and making them a part of the permanent debt of the province.

An Untrue Report.

There had been a report sent to the St. John Telegraph since this House had been in session in which it was alleged that this government was concealing its expenditures. Every account, every item is, and has been, free and open for any hon. member or any person of the province to see. The day of concealment is past and will forever be a thing of the past so long as this government continues to handle the revenues of the province. One would have thought that such a holding of ordinary expenditure in reserve would have left even the old government with a clean sheet, but in 1908 when the change took place and this government came into power there were found hidden away in suspense accounts sums concealing which the legislature and the country had heard nothing, of which there had been no accounting and which amounted in all to \$250,000 of which \$157,879.89 was in the Public Works Department.

On the other hand since this government came into power there had not been a single dollar added to the bonded debt of this province on account of ordinary expenditure. There are the two systems side by side. The country must choose and hon. members cannot escape the comparison. The government does not fear the verdict of the people.

More Work Done.

Not only had this government kept up the ordinary services out of the revenue but he held in his hand the statement of bridges built by this government during the last fiscal year which under the provisions of 7 Edward VII. might with absolute propriety have been charged to permanent bridges but which this government provided for out of ordinary revenue and these amounted to more than \$20,000.

The old government on the other hand issued bonds on various occasions for specific purposes and without authority of any kind dumped portions of it into revenue account. The fresh loan of 1901 was for \$150,000; they spent \$131,375.54 and dumped \$18,624.46 into the ordinary revenue. Then in 1902 there was the permanent bridge loan of \$100,000; they spent \$81,491.69 and into the revenue they dumped the balance, \$18,508.31.

Take the record of this government. In 1909 there was a freshet of much greater extent than that of 1901. Hundreds of bridges were swept away but every bridge has been replaced with-

out the issuing of bonds or the making of any special loan and without adding one dollar to the debt of the province. These things must be matter of comparison with the people when they come to decide between the record of the government of the day and the old administration which the hon. members opposite so heartily supported.

Education Expenditures.

The comparative amount spent on education in the past five years was as follows:

1907.....	\$230,750
1908.....	264,836
1909.....	261,522
1910.....	265,892
1911.....	276,578

Last year, \$56,000 more was expended on education than in 1907. The estimated expenditure for education for the present year was \$276,350. The government cheerfully admitted that they had collected a larger revenue and spent more money than did their predecessors. The real question before the people was not how much money did the government spend, but how did they spend it. Take two items of public works and education, the two most important public services. In 1907 the expenditure on public works was \$230,421, and in 1911, \$416,265, \$185,843 more than in the latter year. In 1907, \$220,750 was spent on education, and in 1911 this had been increased to \$276,578. On these two services alone there had been an increase of \$241,672.

Mr. Sweeney moved the adjournment of the debate and it was made the order of the day for tomorrow. The House then went into committee with Mr. Munro in the chair and resumed consideration of the bill to amend the act to aid construction of the St. John Valley Railway.

After discussion the bill was agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Flemming in reply to Mr. Copp, said that upset prices on some of the fishing licenses to be sold tomorrow had been increased over prices of ten years ago. For instance, the Tobique Salmon Club had paid \$50 per year for their licenses, and the upset price had now been increased to \$250. The House adjourned at 6.30 p. m.

Pierp, has imported a lot of water colors, but John D. still leads in oils.

A Blow at The White Plague

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